

ACE Game Club Newsletter

February 1997

Minutes of the Jan 19, 1997 Meeting

The January 19th meeting began with a short presentation from Jim D outlining upcoming ACE store events. On Feb 22, Jim said that Decipher Inc will be running demo games of the Star Wars trading card game. With the upcoming re-release of Star Wars in theater's, this ought to be a big event! Jim said that he hopes that there will be a big turn-out for the Decipher event, and that he expects that it will lead to sanctioned tournaments at ACE stores in the future.

Jim also said that the Club needs to buy new shirts. The store will pay half of the shirt purchase, while the club pays the other half. Jim reminded club members that they need both an active membership card and a shirt on their back to get a discount at the cash register. The new shirt purchase will make it possible for new members to finally get their club shirts. New sign-ups for the club are averaging about a dozen per month, according to Jim. Lonnie needs to contact recently expired members via phone as soon as possible.

Jim mentioned several other bits of news. He said that he would like to see some more tournaments being held, especially role-playing events. RPG events, he said, are great to play in but terrible problems to judge. With good sportsmanship from the players, however, they can be a great time. Jim also said that Games Workshop is buying back old Epic figures and games from stores in preparation for issuing a second edition of Epic. If you want Epic stuff, get it quick before it is totally unavailable. He also said that he hopes volunteers can be found to assist in cleaning up the game room before Feb 22nd.

A couple of trouble alerts were issued: someone has apparently been stealing figures from Campaign Headquarters in Norfolk. Beware of buying cheap second-hand figures, as they may be hot! Also, someone may be raiding the club lockers using an unauthorized key. You have been warned!

Paul has loaned the club lots of new terrain. It is available for use--until it shows signs of being damaged. Be a good citizen and thank Paul for his generosity when you see him. Mike Menard offered to reimburse Paul for his work with club funds.

Members should be aware that the club bought a new board for D&D and other role-playing games after the December meeting. It is a hex grid under Plexiglas for mapping during adventures. Remember, any game group can get materials at a discount from the store with authorization from the club.

The next BattleTech tournament will be Jan 26th. The February BattleTech tournament will be Feb 16th.

Andy Joines made a pitch for club members to sign up for RPGA. In addition to receiving Polyhedron and the other benefits of RPGA membership, the club could become eligible for RPGA play-testing programs. Memberships are

\$20 per year; forms are available from Andy or in many magazines. Andy also mentioned that he wants players for a new Planescape campaign.

No news was available about the status of the much talked about Warhammer 40,000 tournament, as Jim Morris was not present at the meeting. We hope to have some exciting stories for you, dear readers, as the campaign takes off.

Liz Green, a representative of John Con '97, spoke to the group. She invited the club to attend John Con in Baltimore on the weekend of Feb 21-23. Michael Stackpole, famed BattleTech author, will be the guest of honor. She said that John Con is looking for GM's who will work in exchange for reduced admission. The usual rate is 1/3 off your weekend admission for each four-hour session that you run. Contact Chris and Brian, John Con gaming chairs, if you are interested. Mike Menard suggested that a van or caravan could be organized if enough members are interested. John Con will be held on the campus of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

Will Williams asked for a show of hands from members interested in organizing some Anime viewing. He volunteered to organize this event. Will also offered to pass his traditional hat, but Mike asked him to hold off this month.

Mike reported that no money has been taken out of the club treasury to pay for extra-thick terrain making foam. He surmised that this means that Frankie has not yet purchased the foam.

James has a flyer up for the Necromunda event that he is organizing. He hopes to start in late January. There is supposed to be a demo of Necromunda, but no details were available.

There is a new layout on the game room bulletin board. All members are invited to check it out.

Mike reminded members to be careful about the scheduling of their sessions. He feels bad that congestion in the Hampton game room has apparently run some of the D&D players out. He also offered a word of warning: if you choose to run a tournament or campaign, be aware that it is a life-altering commitment if you do it right, filled with long hours of thankless, unsupported work.

Fifteen members attended this month's meeting. Tell other members to come out for next month's exciting episode!

Next month's meeting will be followed by a demonstration game of TWERPS (The Worlds Easiest Role-Playing System) by Will Williams.

The next Game Club meeting will be held on Feb 19th at 1:00pm.

BattleReport from the January Btech Tourney

The latest installment of BattleTech Tournaments was an attempt at "something completely different". Calvin once again proved the great innovator and provided a way by which people could play for points and not just "the blood lust that is in us all." The rules were quite simple:

1. You were assigned an opponent.
2. You killed that opponent-- or lost trying!
3. You were awarded points for damage inflicted (win or loose) + 50 if you are the winner.
4. You could choose to repair your mech at the cost of 1 point per point of damage you want repaired.
5. You fought three more battles.
6. The winner was the one with the most points.

This new and improved system greatly increased the speed of the tournament and everyone's enjoyment of the game.

Some minor adjustments will be added to future editions of this scoring system to provide even more fun for all.

The winner of the Tourney was Jim D (the owner of the store). I guess we have a new person to go after in February!

-- --

ACE Game Club Events

February

7 Jim D's D&D Campaign, 900pm - midnight

14 Jim D's D&D Campaign, 900pm - midnight

14 Turn 1 moves are due in Jim Morris's new **Warhammer 40,000** tournament. For more info call Jim at 850-0896.

14-16 **Constitution 5**. Weekend con events including RPGA events with new Living City scenarios, more role playing than you can shake a stick at, *Duelist*-sanctioned Magic, annual game auction, tons of collectible card games, the Return of the Return of the Continuous Intermittent Clay-O-Rama Battlepit of Death! Call (301)608-0744 for info. Quality Hotel, Arlington, VA. Ph (703)524-4000 for rooms.

15 **Dominion 3**: The ODU Science Fiction and Fantasy Club's annual Con. Events include Anime, Necromunda, Battletech, GURPS, Vampire, and open gaming. Webb Center, ODU, 9:00am - 9:00pm. \$5.00 non-student, \$3.00 student. Call 440-9397 for info.

21 Jim D's D&D Campaign, 900pm - midnight

21 Start of new **Magic Arena** league at ACE I

in Hampton. A plaque and special prizes for outstanding performance will be awarded.

21-23 **John Con '97**: Johns Hopkins houses this annual Sci-Fi, Fantasy, and Comics con in Baltimore.

Guests of honor will be Michael Stackpole, Lissanne Lake, and Stan Sakai. Discounts for GM duties. Panels on every subject from nukes to kiwis. AD&D, Chthulu, Shadowrun, Rifts, paranoia, Vampire, BattleTech, Warhammer 40K, Magic, Shadowfist, On the Edge. Art show, dealer's room, constant gaming, movies, and constant Anime. No hotel info available. Located at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland. Call Sarah, Julian, Marc, or Marcus for info at (410)467-3137 or check the web at http://hops.cs.jhu.edu/~marcus_d/johncon.html.

22 **Decipher Inc.** will demo their Star Wars collectible trading card game at ACE I in Hampton. Don't miss the fun!

28 Jim D's D&D Campaign, 900pm - midnight

March

1-2 **Big Sale at ACE I** in Hampton. Door prizes, game discounts, comics discounts, and lots of fun! Don't miss it!

15-16 **Big Sale at ACE** at Super Kmart Center in Tabb. Door prizes, game discounts, comics discounts, and more!

22 **Wizards of the Coast** demonstrate the BattleTech trading card game at ACE in Denbigh, 10:00am - 2:00pm.

22 **Wizards of the Coast** demonstrate the BattleTech trading card game at ACE in Tabb at Super Kmart Center, 4:00pm - 8:00pm.

23 **Wizards of the Coast** demonstrate the BattleTech trading card game at ACE in Hampton, 12:00n - 4:00pm.

February BattleTech Tournament

Listen up, you Mechwarriors yearning for *fame!* The next Btech Tourney is scheduled for Feb 16th. Play will start at 1:00pm. The following rules will apply:

1. One Medium or Heavy, 3025 Mech, Inner Sphere.
2. Battles will be fought in single elimination matches. A roster of who will battle whom will be posted. Winners of the first conflicts will go on to fight each other and so on, much like in a tennis match.
3. Only level 1 and 2 rules apply. (What's in the BattleTech Compendium).

Be there early so we can lay out who is to fight whom.