

RAPID-FIRE QUESTIONS WITH A [toggle] REGULAR

THIS MONTH: Neal Stack



WHAT COLOR DO YOU PLAY?

GREEN, OR BLUE BUT I AM FLEXIBLE

WHAT'S A GAME YOU ALWAYS ENJOY?



AMERITRASH, EURO, OR PARTY GAME?

Ameritrash, typically. But I love the catharsis of winning a Euro!

WHAT'S A GAME YOU REALLY DON'T ENJOY? (BUT EVERYONE ELSE DOES?)



BORES ME TO TEARS

IF YOU WERE A D&D CHARACTER, YOU WOULD BE...

ROGUE
Because we all know: **NEAL IS A SPY.**

TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE

- I hate emojis. Gifs are substantially better.
- I am house Slytherin, for sure.
- I have never completed Legend of Zelda, Ocarina of Time

A BRIEF NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Greetings, friends!

Around my house, autumn means crazy back-to-school schedules, the welcome arrival of crisp air (still waiting on that one), and thinking about the coming holidays.

But it also heralds a season of autumnal games and gaming. I don't have a copy of Uwe Rosenberg's *Indian Summer* or the new Floodgate Games title *Bosk* to celebrate with, but I do find myself keen to play some *Agricola* in solidarity with our farmer pals. What games does this season inspire you to play? Perhaps you might try some of our **FEATURED GAMES OF THE WEEK**, those hot new titles we got at GenCon.

Happy harvest! **And [toggle] your inner geek!**

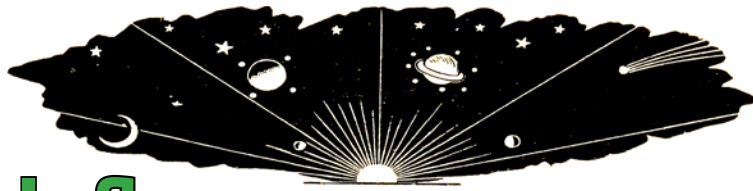
ps - Apologies that the newsletter was a bit late this month. A side effect of the crazy schedules I mentioned above.

[toggle] sponsors

XYZ GAME LABS, [toggle]'s generous sponsor, is running a kickstarter campaign for their new game, **ArchRavels**, until 10/19. Consider supporting them! kickstarter.com/projects/xyzgamelabs/archravels



And as always, thanks to the many generous gamers who put cash in our donation box each week and donate games to the library.



Under the Influence

by Master Iko Saghan



LIBRA (September 23-October 22): We are all knit together from the stuff of stars and woven into a tapestry that is as beautiful as it is ineffable. Help find your path and place by being not only the woven but also the weaver. Practice a fiber art and seek out and support a new game that reflects that theme.



SCORPIO (October 23-November 21): If the little voice in the back of your head is pestering you about what your Halloween costume should be, find the answer on the table of game. Ask a trusted Pisces to choose a game in the week of the next new moon and the answer will become clear. Do leave time for construction!



SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21): Sagittarius, you are a fire sign. Sometimes fire is a tool, sometimes it is a scourge, now it is to be a beacon. Let your inner light draw others as the days grow shorter and let your outer brilliance guide them through the transition from light to dark. (And you just know better.)



CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19): There is a tree with an unusual shape that you notice whenever you pass it. The perfection of its adaptive formation in response to its trials and tribulations quietly calls out to you. Spend time in its presence and it will offer insight into optimal abstract game strategies.



AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18): Change is in the air! Surrounding you and supporting you. Don't be afraid to embrace it! Apply for the new job, upgrade your wardrobe, donate games that have disappointed you, and seek out new games that may thrill you. For you seizing the day now will reward you deeply for years!



PISCES (February 19-March 20): As the web of stars influences us, it also connects every living thing. The trials of one are the trials of just as the joy of triumphs, small and large, reverberate through the spheres. So in a very real way when you lose a game you have really won... right?

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The stars are on your side in your life's journey. Look for their gifts on your path and honor them. They can present as obstacles. Forgetting is one such gift, eroding pain and sorrow. Next time that they remind you that it's your turn, tell them that you are embracing your gifts.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20): This is a favorable moment for you, things can fall into place for you just as if you had ordered them. This will only come to pass if you are true to your inner self. Don't get pulled into games that don't speak to you. Your heart is strong, your aim is true, and Werewolf is awful.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Tarnished silver is not without value. The story of years told in an object's patina need not be looked past or polished away for them to be of value. Keep this in mind when choosing games this month. See past wear and tear to the deeper worth and enduring pleasure that they offer.



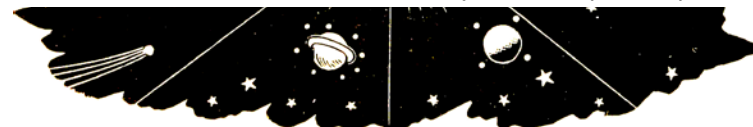
CANCER (June 21-July 22): At times we must swim against the current, spending all of our strength. Other times the path of wisdom is marked by stillness. Now is your time to float like a feather born on the bosom of the sea carried to your destiny. Play what is set before you and reap great rewards.



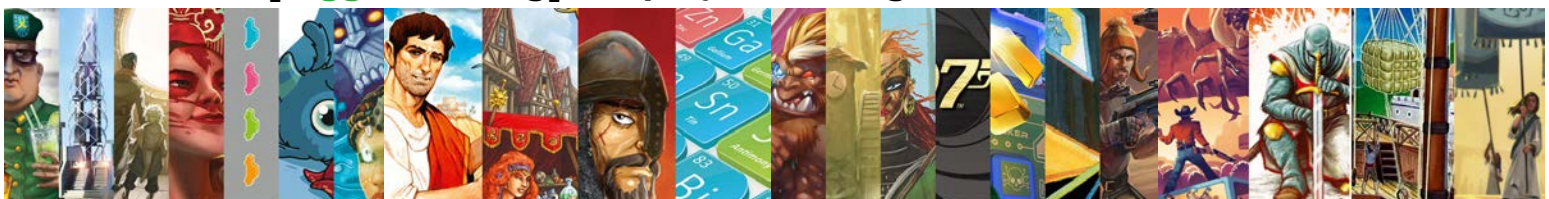
LEO (July 23-August 22): An unusual means of prognostication is available to you at this year's autumnal equinox. A tree belonging to XYZ Game Labs' new game will indicate your thirstiest foe's spring challenges. Which is to say, *Arch Ravels* larch reveals a parched rival's March travails. Put it to good use!



VIRGO (August 23-September 22): While Bauza is in Cathala they stand in opposition to Fryxelius! What does this mean for Virgos who want to weather the equinox with both their dignity and win/ loss ratio intact? Favor euros at full player count, futuristic themes are a plus, and don't be shy with the queso dip!



Last month at [toggle Gaming], we played these games and more!



Join the [toggle] Tour!

Taking a trip? Get a picture in your [toggle Gaming] gear! Post it online or send it to us at info@togglegaming.com.

Boy howdy, did we represent at Gen Con 2019!



Top section, clockwise from top left: Paul Luri & friends; Jason & Brady Brooks; Alan Greenberg & David Hoppe (President of Gencon); the XYZ Game Labs crew; Melissa Conroy, Ryan Myers, & friends.

Bottom section, clockwise from this box: Wes Grotjan, Brendan Riley, Rob Huber, & Jeff Nason; Tim Wadzinski; Larry Wickman; Francois Jolie; Melissa Conroy & Ryan Myers with GEAR; Jeff Chin & Andrew Nerger.



Library Spotlight

KINGDOM BUILDER

by Donald X. Vaccarino, 2011

When people-- okay, when people *like us*--talk about Donald X. Vaccarino, it's usually in the context of *DOMINION*, his design that popularized the modern "deck building" game. Few games have that much reach or cast a bigger shadow across the industry.



But Vaccarino is no one trick pony. In 2011, Queen games published his light-weight puzzler, *Kingdom Builder*. This theme-light Euro game casts players as settlers of new kingdoms, expanding their settlements to claim special tiles, connect with cities, and fulfill special goals.

The game prevents analysis paralysis through its simple selection mechanism. On your turn you draw a terrain card and must play three houses there, next to previous houses you've played, if possible. Then, if you've claimed one of the special bonus tiles, you might also be able to play a couple extra houses. The game continues that way until someone places their last house, then the round finishes.

Don't let *Kingdom Builder's* simplicity fool you--the game is full of interesting choices, and there are enough different bonus tiles, that the strategy of the game changes with each play. So if you're looking for a good starter to go with those Nellie's Nachos you ordered, consider pulling *Kingdom Builder* off the [toggle] shelf. It's an easy game to learn, it's fun, and it wraps up in a half hour.

Is there a game in the [toggle] library you don't think gets enough love? Promote it here! Submit a 300-word piece telling others why they should play the game, and we will probably run it in a future edition of THE [tOGGLE] TIMES. Send it to brendan@togglegaming.com



Percy the Penguin's [toggle] Tips

Dear Percy, My favorite advice column is missing this month! What's a bewildered gamer to do?

Dear Bewildered, Send your questions to percy@togglegaming.com and I'll be back in a future issue to answer them. - Percy

September-October calendar

UPCOMING [toggle] EVENTS



Tabletop Tuesdays

September: 17, 24 October: 1, 8, 15

@ *Durty Nellie's*, 6pm-Midnight

Join us for our weekly game meetup in Palatine, chock-a-block full of fun games, great people, and tasty victuals. See Meetup or Facebook for more.



FEATURED GAMES OF THE WEEK

Descriptions at: toglegaming.com/events/gotw/

September 17 - *Raccoon Tycoon*

(donated by Forbidden Games)

taught by Elizabeth & Ray Slover



September 24 - *Dinosaur Island*

(donated: Pandasaurus Games)

taught by Kristen Strok and Kris Hickman



October 1 - *Periodic: A Game of the Elements*

(donated by Genius Games)

taught by Alan Greenberg



October 8 - *New York Slice*

(donated by Bezier Games)

taught by Paul Imboden



October 15 - *Everdell*

(donated by Starling Games)

and taught by Paul Luri



October 22 - *Q.E.: Quantitative Easing*

(donated by boardgametables.com)

taught by Brendan Riley



Save the date:



[toggle Game Day]

Saturday, 18 January 2020

Join us at Nellie's for our annual winter gaming extravaganza.

Suggest events for the calendar to us: andrewn@toggleGaming.com

Upcoming Chicagoland Gaming Events

Be sure to wear your [toggle Gaming] gear to spread the word, and send us pics or post them on our Facebook group!



Tabletop Games Takeover at Tap House Grill - Des Plaines

1472 Market St, Des Plaines

Wed 9/18 @ 630pm



Board Game Night at Palatine Public Library

Library Story Room AB, 700 N North Ct, Palatine

Thu 9/19, Thu 10/24 @ 6:30-8:30pm



Algonquin Area Board Game Night at Daily Projects Coffee Bar

124 South Randall Road, Algonquin

Fri 9/20, Wed 9/25, Fri 10/4 @ 6pm



Friday Night Pathfinder at Grognard Games

839 N Roselle Rd, Roselle

Fri 9/20, Fri 10/4, Fri 10/18 @ 6:30pm



Saturday Euro Games at Atlantic Bar & Grill

5062 N Lincoln Ave, Chicago

Sat 9/21 @ 11am-5pm



Playtest Night at Lou Malnati's Pizzeria

1 Roselle Rd., Schaumburg

Mon 9/30 @ 6pm



Board Game Day at Round Lake Area Public Library

906 Hart Rd, Round Lake

Sun 9/22, Sun 10/6 @ 12-6pm



Board Game Night: Elgin Area Tabletop Group at Blue Box Café

176 E Chicago St, Elgin

Sat 10/5 @ 5pm



Games for Grown-ups at the Vernon Area Library

300 Olde Half Day Rd., Lincolnshire

Sun 10/6, Sun 10/20, @ 1230-4pm



Geeky Chat, Dinner & Boardgames at Denny's- Vernon Hills

890 Milwaukee Ave, Vernon Hills

Fri 10/11 @ 6:30-10:30pm



EAGLES Open Gaming at Izaak Walton League

899 Jay Street Elgin

Thursdays @ 7-10pm

Publishing info

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