

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Boardgame Players Association
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Shall we play a game?

This time, though, instead of Joshua's thermonuclear war in the 1980's movie *Wargames*, let's make it face-to-face, over a table, at the World Boardgaming Championships on Aug. 1-7 in Lancaster, PA. More than 1,500 people from the United States and several other countries are expected to attend, with pre-registration running higher than the past two years, when it reached record levels. Don Greenwood, convention director, "When it comes to boardgame tournaments, no one has ever done it better," says Don Greenwood, WBC Convention Director.

Lake Ariel, PA, resident Andrew Murphy agrees. He attended WBC for the first time in 2006. "I was a bit fearful of the name and players, as I doubted I was 'World Championship' material," he says. He found the players were friendly and understanding and reached the semi-finals in a tournament that year. "Beginner's luck perhaps!" Murphy says. He continues to make the trek to Lancaster each year and brings his family for a summer mini-vacation.

Ashley Collinson, who grew up in Friendship, MD, and recently graduated from University of the Arts in Philadelphia, first attended WBC when she was 11 years old. She's turning 23 in September. "I consider it the best week of the year. Where else can you hang out with hundreds of smart, competitive people and just learn and play games for an entire week?"

Jim Carvin from Hamburg, PA, first went to WBC on a lark. "A friend of mine suggested it, and we decided to check it out," he says. He's returned every year since then. "I loved meeting the people, getting to play my favorite games with experienced players, and trying out new games. Don't let the name scare you away!"

Paul Weintraub of Aberdeen, MD, agrees. "If you have never attended a gaming convention, this is the one to start with." There have been many changes since Weintraub started attending the convention 21 years ago—including a name change from Avaloncon. "In the beginning, only a couple of females attended. Today whole families return year after year."

In addition to more than 150 tournaments—many for both beginners and experienced players, WBC offers open gaming (playing for fun) with a well-stocked game library, demonstrations to teach games, opportunities for children 12 and under to match up against each other, a vendor's area to try-out and buy new games, and an auction to acquire used copies of old favorites. Familiar titles include *Risk*, *Acquire*, and *Settlers of Catan*.

For more information—including extensive tournament previews and an advanced look at the program, visit www.boardgamers.org or e-mail info@boardgamers.org.

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NOTE: Contact info@boardgamers.org for high resolution photographs. Sample photos and captions follow.



Caption: Moose wading returns to Lancaster. Dave Meyaard, a three-time defending champion of the World Boardgaming Championships *Elchfest* tournament dons the symbolic antlers of victory after demonstrating his flicking skills. Gamemaster Dan Dolan Sr. calls *Elchfest*—published by Mayfair Games—a true test of skill. For more information about the convention, which returns to Lancaster, Pa., from Aug. 1-7, visit boardgamers.org.



Caption: Time to play at the World Boardgaming Championships, which returns to Lancaster, Pa., from Aug. 1-7. Attendees can get out of the summer heat and take advantage of an extensive game library and the Lancaster Hosts' 13,000 square foot dinner theater from Monday through Friday. For more information on the convention, visit boardgamers.org.



Caption: Face-off on the ice with Colombia Games' *Slapshot* at the World Boardgaming Championships. Above, last year's top finishers from the almost 200 players who participated show off their plaques. It took Josh Githens of Greenville, SC, a full seven games in the play-offs—four of those in overtime—to defeat Ken Gutermuth of Hickory, NC. Jessica Foster of New York City and Hans Christian Kirketorp of Denmark finished third and fourth, respectively. For more information about the convention, which returns to Lancaster, Pa., from Aug. 1-7, visit boardgamers.org.



Caption: Will an alternate history prevail? John Pack of Parker, CO, and Bill Thomson of Dallas, TX, trade air raids in Avalon Hill's classic game *Victory in the Pacific* at the World Boardgaming Championships. The tournament, which has been running for 20 years, attracts players from across the United States and the world. For more information about the convention, which returns to Lancaster, Pa., from Aug. 1-7, visit boardgamers.org.