

New games arrive at local bookstore

BY TINA MCDUFFIE

Special to the Journal Scene

Local gamers gathered around two card tables at Here Be Books & Games to enjoy the newest games from game publisher Steve Jackson.

Randy Scheunemann, Playtest Coordinator for the company, introduced five new and soon-to-be released games to Here Be Books & Games' visitors during his 4-hour visit.

The five games Scheunemann introduced during his visit to Here Be Books & Games included a political area control game, a push-your-luck Zombie dice game, a quick, portable game you can carry in your pocket, a unique spatial puzzle game and a bidding/push your luck party game similar to Liar's Dice.

Here's a closer look.

Cthulhu Dice

The name of this very portable game is a misnomer as it consists of a single, large, beautiful custom 12-sided die with Lovecraftian symbols. The single die is all you need to play and comes in a variety of luminescent colors. While the Cthulhu Dice package also contains 18 glass "marbles," any tokens handy, including pennies or peanuts, can be substituted to keep track of each player's "sanity." Play is quick, 10 to 20 minutes, making this another great humorous filler. The goal: be the only player with any sanity left. Each player chooses a player to "attack" then rolls the die. The

defender gets his chance to respond, rolling the same dice in the hopes of thwarting the attack. Play is quick and lively. Again laughter and groans are to be expected. Lose all your marbles and you're mad. If everyone goes mad, Cthulhu wins! Ah, ha, ha, ha. Best of all, the single-die component of the game makes it extremely portable, so you can play it anywhere: while you're waiting for food at a restaurant – use the sugar packets for sanity tokens, at the park – a few pebbles will do.

The Stars Are Right

In this puzzle game, your goal is to arrange the tiles which represent a starry night sky, complete with suns, dark suns, full moons, half moons, quarter moons, dark moons, star clusters, shooting stars, and asteroid belts. Your goal is to rearrange the sky by invoking various Minions, Lesser and Greater Servitors and Old Ones (you use their powers to swap adjacent tiles, push a row or column, and flip tiles) so you can summon other Minions, Lesser and Greater Servitors and Old Ones to work for you and gain the points you need to win. Just when you think you've got the sky arranged just right, the player before you can rearrange it to suit his goals and mess you up, so you might want to ignore the

board (tile layout) until just before your turn.

These games, and many others by a variety of publishers, are also available for play at Here Be Books & Games' monthly Game Night, the first Saturday of every month from 6 p.m. until midnight and for demos any-

time. The owners, Tina and Tim, often take a break in the afternoon about 4 p.m. to play, learn and teach games. The public is always welcome to join them. Visit www.herebebooks.com for more information or call (843) 695-1498. Store hours are Tuesday thru Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.