



Goat Droppings

The Official E-Newsletter of Phandemonium / Capricon

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February 10-13, 2011

Pre-registration: \$55
Through January 31, 2011

At the door: \$70 for full weekend
One Day Rates are on the website

Online Registration is
available!

Visit us today at
www.capricon.org

Capricon 31: Escape! Progress Report #2

Great googly mooglies! There are only a few weeks left before Capricon 31: Escape! We have some amazing Guests of Honor this year, with Author GoH **John Scalzi**, Artist GoH **John Picacio**, Fan GoHs **Stephen Boucher** and **Janice Gelb**, and Special NASA Guest **Bryan Palaszewski**.

What should you know right now? So glad you asked. Here are the highlights:

- **Pre-registration closes January 31.** Register online right now! Stop reading! Go! Go now!
- The Hotel room block is technically closed. However, the hotel has agreed to honor the convention rate (\$103 / night) until the hotel is sold out, because they're awesome that way! Reserve your room online today!
- We will once again be having a **food drive** and a **book drive** at Capricon. More information on Page 2.
- Capricon 31 is hosting a **North American Catan Championship qualifier** on Saturday. Details on Page 2.
- We will be running the **Time Travel Review Board LARP** on Friday night. Details on Page 2.
- Want to throw a **party**? Fantastic, because we want you to throw one! It's great when a plan comes together, isn't it? Suites are \$149 / night, and we have a few left. Email parties@capricon.org to reserve your party space now!
- Information on exhibiting in our **Art Show** is up on the website, or email artshow@capricon.org
- **Our Dealers Room is sold out!** The shopping this year shall be glorious!
- Our Exhibits area has been growing each year! If you have anything to loan us that you feel represents Capricon's history, please email exhibits@capricon.org.
- Fan tables are still available. Email us at fantables@capricon.org.
- Volunteers are always needed to help out at the convention! If you are interested in volunteering and earning your registration fee back, email volunteers@capricon.org and let them know.
- Our main **programming** is done! Well, as done as a con program ever is. Visit <http://www.capricon.org/capricon31/CC/index.php/reports> to view the full program, including panels, teen programming, anime, gaming, filk concerts, special events, and children's programming.
- The **Dance Returns!** Not just any dance, mind you. No, we're escaping back to the 80's for a **Geek Prom!** Dig out your skinny ties and zippered parachute pants and come dance Friday night away! Don't forget to vote for Prom King and Queen, and see who wins for Biggest Hair!
- The **Midwinter Faire** returns on Thursday evening for games, crafts, and general carousing, plus pizza! Interested in helping out? Email us at faire@capricon.org

Capricon 31
will be held at:

**Westin Chicago
North Shore
601 N Milwaukee
Ave, Wheeling, IL
60090
847-777-6570**

[www.westin.com/
chicagonorthshore](http://www.westin.com/chicagonorthshore)



Join us Saturday night for THE event of Capricon 31: Escape! We are proud to present a LIVE performance of
Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog

Saturday night at 7pm.

You do not want to miss this! It's going to be HORRIBLY awesome!

NACC Catan Qualifier

Capricon 31 will be hosting a North American *Catan* Championship (NACC) qualifier on Saturday at 10:00am in the Curtain Room of Consuite.

A maximum of 32 players will be seated. Players will compete on Saturday by playing four (4) games of *Settlers of Catan*. The players are then ranked and the top 15 players will play one semi-final game, with the top four playing a final round to determine the winner.

The winner will be sponsored by Capricon and Mayfair Games to compete in the NACC at GenCon 2011.

The prize for the winner includes travel, room (based on double occupancy), badge, and a seat in the NACC competition at GenCon 2011 in Indianapolis. The winner of the NACC is invited, paid for by Mayfair Games, to play in the World Wide *Catan* Championship in 2012 for the World title.

Players must be 18 years of age, and should expect to play the entire tournament. Cost for the event is the purchase of a badge for admittance to Capricon 31.

View the complete Capricon 31 schedule at:

<http://www.capricon.org/capricon31/CC/index.php/reports>

Time Travel Review Board

Tragically killed puppies. Embarrassing TV gaffes. Burnt toast. These everyday tragedies are relics of the past now that time travel has been invented! But who will safeguard the past from those who would tamper with it for malicious purposes?

The Time Travel Review Board of the NSF will review all applications for time travel permits leaving during the year of 2104. Please come prepared to explain your project and the larger impact of your work. History will be made (and unmade) as a horde of world-be time travelers descend upon our beleaguered review board. What will the past be tomorrow?

Time Travel Review Board is a light comedy horde LARP dealing with everything from the politics of Ancient Egypt to the King of Rock and Roll. In this game, players will either play members of the review board or various applicants trying to get permission to time travel. Everyone will see the results of the trips as the game progresses. 12-24 players, 3 hours. Friday, 7:00pm in the Curtain Room of the Consuite.

It's Easy Being Green!

We introduced our Greening Initiatives at Capricon 29 and have been thrilled with the response we've gotten the past two years. For Capricon 31, we continue to make Capricon a lean, green Sci-Fi Machine!

What You Can Do to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

There are many ways to help reduce the carbon footprint of the convention! Participate in 3 or more of the Greening action steps listed below, and you will earn an "It's Easy Being Green" ribbon! Just come to the Greening table across from Registration to collect your ribbon.

- If you're traveling by car, try to carpool! Post a ride share notice on the forums - you'll reduce your footprint and meet new people!
- Look into public transportation to get to the convention. Check out www.transitchicago.com for more information.
- Instead of using multiple disposable cups throughout the weekend, bring your own re-useable water bottle or coffee mug.
- Bring your own bag for use in the Dealers Room.
- Commit to eating vegetarian or vegan during the convention.
- Donate an item (or more!) to our food drive or book drive.
- Purchase a carbon offset.

We will have a display next to Registration with information on ways to offset your carbon footprint, plus details on the convention and average attendee footprint so you can see how the numbers were derived, as well as information about the project that we will be funding with our carbon offset dollars.

If you would like to get involved, please contact us by e-mailing greening@capricon.org.

Caffeination Station

The end has come - Escape to the Caffeination Station located in River A&B and fuel up!

Our café offers a selection of flavored coffees, espresso, mocha, tea, hot chocolate, and baked goods to help you on your way. While fueling up, let your mind escape and enjoy our live concerts and readings by authors.

Opening Day Open Mic!

We'll be hosting an Open Mic on Thursday from 5:15pm - 7:00pm. 10-minute slots will be available on a first-come, first-served basis; just sign up at the control table (to the right of the cafe stage). Music (accompanied or a cappella), spoken pieces, comedy, etc. are all welcome.

Capricon's Book Drive: The Science Fiction Outreach Project

A team of science fiction fans is planning to go to WonderCon, April 1-3, 2011, and give away six pallets of **FREE BOOKS!** WonderCon, held annually in San Francisco, attracts 34,000 people to a celebration of comics and fantasy media. This team of fans, affiliated with the World Science Fiction Convention, intend to establish an outpost at WonderCon, and reach out to the science fiction and fantasy readers who pass through the exhibit hall. Along with a free book, these readers will be given information about the amazing things going on in the "fannish" community, including Worldcons and regional conventions.

Many fans have often contemplated a trimming of their book collections. Don't just recycle your books — donate them to this project so they can be the lure for new fans! **Books can be dropped off at the Greening table, next to convention registration.**

For more information on the Science Fiction Outreach Project, visit their website at <http://tinyurl.com/SFO outreach2011> or "like" them on Facebook (Science Fiction Outreach Project USA).

The Ides of Phandemonium



We're starting something new! On the 15th of each month (or darn close to it), we'll be hanging out at various restaurants / pubs around the Chicago area, rotating between the northern and southwestern suburbs, as well as in the city proper. Join us for **The Ides of Phandemonium—Et tu, Capricious?**

On **Tuesday, February 15** at 7:00pm the fun begins—or continues, really, as the Dead Dog Party becomes the Zombie Goat Party! Join us at Ram Restaurant and Brewery across from the Westin, at 700 N. Milwaukee Avenue in Wheeling.

Monday, March 14 at 7:00pm—Brixie's, 9526 Ogden Avenue, Brookfield

Friday, April 15 at 7:00pm—Fox and Hound, 910 W. Dundee Road, Arlington Heights

Sunday, May 15 at 7:00pm—The Paramount Room, 415 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago

The three locations will continue to rotate in the same order (i.e. Brixie's in June, Fox and Hound in July, Paramount Room in August, etc.)

Follow Capricion On the Web!

In an effort to stay in touch with our members and to keep you all informed of the latest news and happenings with Capricion and Phandemonium, we have several online options that you can utilize.



For many years, Capricion has had an online bulletin board community—the Forums. Anyone can read the posts without creating a login. Our forums can be found at www.capricion.org/forums

This year we've also added a blog where we'll post items of interest about Capricion, Phandemonium, or Science-Fiction in general. You can find the blog at www.capricion.org/blog

On Facebook and Twitter we are under the name Capricious G Oat.

To add us as a friend on Facebook you can use the following address: <http://www.facebook.com/addfriend.php?id=1437232679>

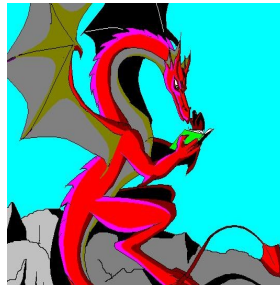
Follow us on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/CapriciousGoat>

On LiveJournal we have an RSS feed coming from the What's New Section of the Capricion Website. The RSS feed can be found here: <http://syndicated.livejournal.com/capricionupdate>

We promise not to abuse the privilege you've given us by letting us reach out to you in new ways.

Questions? Email capricious@capricion.org for the answers!

Phandemonium Book Club



Welcome to the Phandemonium Book Club! We've been having a great time for over five years, and hope you'll join us!

We meet bimonthly at **Borders Books & Music**, 1700 Maple Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201 (Phone: 847-733-8852). We meet upstairs in the café. Look for the Capricion t-shirts! (If we aren't there, look across the street in The Rhythm Room.)

We will be holding our February meeting at Capricion on Saturday at 10:00am in the Elm room. We are reading *The God Engines*, the Hugo nominated novella by our Guest of Honor, John Scalzi.

In March, we'll be back at Borders on March 27 at 6:30pm. Our book will be *In The Garden of Eden*, by Kage Baker.

For up-to-date information, check the Capricion forums regularly (www.capricion.org/forums). There is an email list that you can join as well—just email bookclub-list-join@phandemonium.org and you will get email notices about the club. You can also email bookclub@phandemonium.org. See you soon!

Phandemonium Euchre Club

The Euchre Club meets on a bimonthly basis, Sundays at 5:00pm.

You can also subscribe to our email list, which will send you reminders & updates about the euchre club. Just send an email to euchre-list-join@phandemonium.org and you'll be all set! You can also email euchre@phandemonium.org if you have questions.

Join us at Capricion for our Euchre tournaments on Friday at 8:30pm and Saturday at 11:00pm in the 16th Floor Lounge.

Our next meet up will be on **Sunday, April 10** at **The Grafton**, 4530 N. Lincoln, Chicago. Shuffle up and deal!



Out of CON-text

"Erik blows up sh*t." - Isabel Schechter

"We can always raid the virgin." - Sondra de Jong

"I need a dead white guy." - Helen Montgomery

"He has no beak and he must chirp." - Leane Verhulst

"Have goat suit, will travel." - Tim Dinan

"We tried everything but personal lubricant." - Helen Montgomery