

Seven of us wrapped up the weekend at our "Monday after" breakfast. We rehashed events and discussed the future of *Midwest Open* before departing back into the "real world". The major topic of conversation was simply, what is it going to take to keep *Midwest Open* going? Second were weather considerations.

*Midwest Open* continues to be a gathering of camaraderie and friendship we have come to expect and relish. With personal changes in my life over the past three years, I asked myself, "Can keep doing this?" With responses I continually receive, how can I not! These are my friends. To quote my wife, "Characters of your own caliber".

*Midwest Open* has been seriously compromised by severe weather two years in a row, four times total. A half-dozen other times, serious consideration, Our 2009 contract can not be changed, although I did ask. It does appear that we can move future years to the first of May for better weather.

Even as I write, many are preparing for the World Boardgame Championships at Lancaster Host Convention Center in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. This year's dates are August 5-10, 2008. John Sharp is again serving as GM for *Victory In The Pacific* pre-con, August 3-5, titled *Rising Sun*. Unfortunately, I am again unable to be there. I encourage all to attend. My heart and my prayers are with you.

#### **And the winners are:**

**PHILLIPS AWARD:** Barry Shutt, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. Have you ever played Barry? There are no suitable words to describe Barry's attitude. It is an honor to all of us to call him "friend".

**Our Champion:** Ted Drozd, Chicago, Illinois. 6 USN wins! Only the second time that this has been done!

**Second Place:** Andy Gardner, Fairfax, Virginia. 3 USN wins, 2 IJN wins, 1 IJN loss. The one loss was against the champ- on the last die roll!

**Third Place:** Nick Markevich, San Bruno, California. 3 USN wins, 1 USN loss, 1 IJN win, 1 IJN loss. The losses were to Ted and Andy.

**Halsey Award:** Ted Drozd, Chicago, Illinois. 6 USN wins! He just done it all.

**Nagumo Award:** Patrick Richardson, Warrenton, Virginia. 4 IJN wins, 2 IJN losses. Both losses to the Drozd team - on the last die roll!

#### **Next Year:**

*Midwest Open 2009* will remain at the Executive Inn, Kenosha Junction, directly behind the Brat Stop and McDonalds.

The dates remain the same. The first Saturday and Sunday in March (March 7 and 8). The game room will be open for gaming after 3:00 Friday, March 6.

The room rate remains at \$60 per night. The pre-registration fee remains \$40. This includes lunch at noon on both days: Subway sandwiches on Saturday, and Pizza on Sunday.

While there is no restaurant on the premises, light breakfast is included with the room rate in a lounge area. Of course all of the establishments of Kenosha Junction are available and in walking distance for lunch, dinner, and later in the evening.

Monday morning brunch at Perkins has become a tradition. Join us about 9:00 am on Monday, if your schedule permits. We will literally pass the hat down the table, without counting checks or change. Put in what you feel appropriate, or are able, and *Midwest Open* will cover any difference.

***Midwest Open 2009***

**March 7 & 8, 2008**

**Kenosha Junction!**

***Be there!***

Hobby resources to investigate:

A.R.F.A. Web Site: <http://wolff.to/area/>

Wargame Academy: <http://www.wargameacademy.org>

ConQuest: [rayfreeman3@comcast.com](mailto:rayfreeman3@comcast.com)

BoardGame Players' Association: [www.boardgamers.org](http://www.boardgamers.org)

Play By Email competition: [John@gameaholics.com](mailto:John@gameaholics.com)

Pre-Con: <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzn05zmf/johnsdad/VITP>