

THE WINTREATH

ORENDI

REGIONAL DISPATCH

Wintreath: @Hydra
Wintreath Nation: Lernaed

NEWS IN BRIEFS!

- Evelynx shall be representing Wintreath at the Mafia Championship Season 5, held by Mafia Universe. We are certain she will do both the Wintrean and NS communities proud. Wish her luck!
- The RMB roleplay is rebooted, with a new 18th-century tech theme and more gamified elements.
- A territorial dispute over land claims occurs between ROBIN Corp and Corp TRADER on the Minecraft server.

REGION GAME NIGHTS!!



By GATTOARTICO

So hello NationStates world! It's me, ya boi, Gatto! I'm back this month with another Article! Since last time I've been reelected as Thane of Gaming and kept my Region Game Nights going. So this article is being written about the success of those games.

We had some issues admittedly. However we have figured out a new system going forward, which involves browsing free Steam/Browser games and choosing one to play. As an initial test run, we played *Realm of the Mad God* (RotMG) for four hours one Saturday. You can find the first of four parts here: <https://youtu.be/V3-21vkjOII>.

This also brings me to my next point. Wintreath now has a YouTube channel courtesy of yours truly! You can find the channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCF->

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I plan to upload twice a week after each game, with videos ranging from half an hour to an hour long. So pop on by and listen to us fool around in the latest game we try!

As another point (I have a surprising amount of points in this one) I would also like to extend an invite to all of you:

come game with us on Saturdays! In the RotMG play through we did, two of the voices belong to members of another region! I'll try to have dispatches sent over a week or two be-

fore each game as an advert on what game is being played and when. So feel free to pop onto Wintreath's Discord server and join in on the fun!

However I would also like to extend a warning: these games/videos are meant to be fun things, not super serious. So when you come, expect to have fun and enjoy the games with us.

I hope to see as many of you as I can in our next game! This is Gattoartico, Thane of Gaming, signing off until next time!

Wintreath: @Gattoartico
Wintreath Nation: Gattoartico
Graphic courtesy of GATTOARTICO

CULTURE REVIEW pg. 2
Wintreath's Jarl of Culture recaps some events going on in the cultural areas of the forums, such as Ministry news, forum games, and contests that took place during this past winter season.

ELBSSAS INTERVIEW pg. 3
Two-time Yarn Fest champion shares her thoughts about her experience with the festival and writing in general!

"In September of last year, Wintreath received an invitation to attend Yarn Fest, a writing contest held by the region Lands End. Three Wintreans participated, with Emoticonius placing seventh, Gattoartico placing fifth, and Elbbsas winning first place. Then, in March, Elbbsas returned to take the championship once more in Yarn Fest II! I caught up with Elbbsas to learn more about her experience with Yarn Fest and writing in general."

Also in this issue:

STORTING UPDATES pg. 3
The Underhusen has been elected for 27th session! The Underhusen filled its seats with the default five while six candidates stood for election.



Ministry of Culture

Cultural insights that drive ideas and innovation

The Culture Review:

By GERRICK

Jarl of Culture

This is the fifth installment of the Culture Review, written by me, Wintreath's Jarl of Culture. I'll be talking briefly about some events going on in the cultural areas of the forums, such as Ministry news, forum games, and contests that took place during the month of April.



Wintreath's Finest is the name for Wintreath's citizen of the month. Nominations are for those who stood out as contributing or showing dedication to the region or having been extra active, caused activity, or been a good influence on others. The winner of March 2018 Wintreath's Finest was **Hydra** for his impressive work at redesigning the Orendi and making it look as great as it does. Though Hydra was the only nominee, it's likely because people thought he was the citizen most deserving.



Avatar Theme of the Month is, unsurprisingly, the theme (or themes) nominated and voted on by citizens who then incorporate the winning theme(s) into their avatars for the month. Themes are often related to current events, though they may also include themes nominated at the random whims of citizens. April 2018's winning themes were **Marvel Cinematic Universe** and **Jesters**, the former nominated for the upcoming release of Infinity War and the latter for April Fools' Day. With these themes in mind, several citizens sported new avatars, including taulover with Hawkeye, Hydra with Red Skull, Kane lives with the Wasp, and me with IASIP's Frank Reynolds as Spiderman. Other nominations for avatar themes were Fantasy Characters and China.



Wintreath Card Contest was a game created and organized by **Wintermoot** during this year's April Fools' event. In the game, each Wintrean citizen's nation card was given a point value depending on the rarity of the card and what position that citizen held in the Wintrean government, with rarer cards and higher positions worth more. Players then tried to collect as many cards as possible. There were also quests added throughout the week that offered bonus points for completing, including "The Gift of Charity" for selling someone their own nation's card for as cheap as possible, "Spamming the Deck" for collecting cards of citizens who play spam games, and "The Rarer Than Green Cards of Wintreath" for collecting rare, ultra-rare, and epic cards of Wintrean nations. At the end of the event, out of the 16 players, the clear winner was declared to be **taulover**.

Wintreath: @Gerrick

Wintreath Nation: Geramundo

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SORTING OUT THE STORTING

THE 27TH UNDERHUSEN IS ELECTED!

By TAULOVER

Thane of Embassy Dispatches

As March drew to a close, the campaign season began! With no seating legislation being passed, the number of seats in the Underhusen defaulted to five. Six candidates stood for election:

- **Dawsinian**, incumbent Speaker pro tempore, pointed to his experience as Speaker in the formative terms of the Storting. He also served as acting Speaker for part of the previous term, having returned last fall from a lengthy departure from the region.
- **Pengu** published a campaign pamphlet in PDF form, including roleplay and real-life biographies detailing his extensive time in both NS and Wintreath.
- **Mathyland** referenced his experience serving as Skrifa for the past six terms, including his Grammar Check of Wintrean laws, and stated his goals of continuing and revisiting past ideas from earlier Underhusen terms.
- **Barnes**, having recently returned to the region, cited his service as Speaker in some of the most active Underhusen terms in Wintrean history.
- **Chanku**, incumbent Speaker, stood for election, but appears to have taken a leave of absence from the region soon thereafter without any campaigning. As a consequence, he received only a single vote.
- **Crushita**, another incumbent Skrifa, did not put up a campaign, but was elected with many votes regardless.

As Monarch Wintermoot noted upon closing the vote, this election saw a record high of thirteen abstain votes being cast, likely due to the low number of candidates and the lack of campaign posts for a few of the candidates.

Following the election, three Skrifas stood for Speaker: Dawsinian, Pengu, and Mathyland. **Dawsinian** was ultimately elected Speaker with 4 votes, while Pengu came in second with 1 vote. Speaker Dawsinian then appointed **Pengu** to be his Speaker pro tempore and **Mathyland** to be his Secretary.

Shortly thereafter, the Underhusen began continuing an unresolved issue from the previous term: the **granting of a citizenship exemption to AJ'BLarg**, a noted member of the community who is currently undergoing Basic Training in the United States Navy, and as such cannot actively meet citizenship nation or posting requirements. Earlier attempts at establishing a protocol for granting such an exemption were rejected by the Overhusen for being too vague in their wording in some places. The newly modified **The Citizenship Requirements Exception Amendment Act**, drafted by Pengu, now requires that a citizen who is granted an exemption be unable to access the Internet long enough to maintain citizenship requirements, and places time limits on how long an exemption can be given, among other things.

Wintreath: @taulover

Wintreath Nation: Alcubierre

AN INTERVIEW WITH ELBBSAS, TWO-TIME YARN FEST CHAMPION

By TAULOVER

Thane of Embassy Dispatches

In September of last year, Wintreath received an invitation to attend Yarn Fest, a writing contest held by the region Lands End. Three Wintreans participated, with Emoticonius placing seventh, Gattoartico placing fifth, and Elbbsas winning first place. Then, in March, Elbbsas returned to take the championship once more in Yarn Fest II! I caught up with Elbbsas to learn more about her experience with Yarn Fest and writing in general.

What are your thoughts on winning Yarn Fest two times in a row?

Initially? Ecstatic, shocked, and various other words with positive and startled connotations. Both times, it felt like a seagull swooped up my stomach when I saw the scores had come out, and both times I was pleasantly surprised. But after the initial surprise and pride... I do feel a mix of regret that I seem to be hogging the title of Greatest Yarn-Spinner thus far, and pressure that I have to keep this streak up.

The first Yarn Fest was open to any short story submissions, while Yarn Fest II had a winter-themed prompt. Which style of competition did you prefer?

I'm quite fond of both options. Free for alls let people experiment and really play with their writing (not to mention write to their strengths), while prompts can poke people into posting prose! On the other hand, open oceans can be intimidating while a cup of water isn't as welcoming to take a dip in. Personally, I prefer prompts. It's interesting to see how everyone interprets them and how all the stories end up in different places.

I believe you've said before that you're currently studying English at university. How did you become interested in writing, and what are your aspirations in this area?

You are correct! I am majoring in English, finishing up my third year in November. I've always been interested in telling stories. Most kids are. At least, the ones I've interacted with are. I suppose I just graduated from being a pudgy five-year-old delightedly yelling the adventures of "Doctor Arachnid, who wants to doctor the animal kingdom, but because she's a spider this is very difficult," to writing them down. Writing was more a hobby throughout intermediate and college (that'll be 11 to 17 years old) than anything else, and then it hit me in a science class that hey, I really like writing, maybe I should pursue that. Admittedly it is difficult to kick off a legitimate career in writing, but it'll be something to do on top of whatever job I fall into. That's... pretty much been my aspirations for the past three years. "Learn to write, get a job that'll actually feed you, write stuff."

What would you like to see in future rounds of Yarn Fest?

MORE PEOPLE. All of the people! Two thirds of the fun is reading the submissions everyone else puts in. Even if it's just a paragraph or a dialogue or a thousand words painting a picture, they've been a blast to read so far. I'd also like to see more Wintreans participate. I know there are some great writers here and I'd like to see what they come up with.

You can read Elbbsas' first Yarn Fest story [here](#), and the rest of the stories [here](#). As for Yarn Fest II, the stories can be found [here](#).

Wintreath: @taulover

Wintreath Nation: Alcubierre

Graphic courtesy of ISTOCK.COM