



For the Love of the Game

KELLEY L. MOORE SHARES HER SECRETS FOR A WINNING NIGHT OF FUN WITH THE BLUE HIGHWAY GAMES TEAM

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOM BARWICK

A giant-sized chess game from Archie McPhee makes a fun centerpiece to gather around for an adults vs. kids playoff. Queen Anne-based Blue Highway Games' co-owner Scott Cooper and his wife, Laura (in black), family friend Tami Greenshields (in orange), Scott and Laura's son Sam (on couch) and neighbor Maddie Glanville (sitting on chair) watch in anticipation as Andrew (Tami's son, standing left) and Casey (Scott and Laura's oldest son, standing right) plot their next move



Kelley sets a playful table for game night. She created the colorful table linen by punching holes around the edges of large playing cards and tying them together with ribbon. Once on the table, crease the corners to drape





This page, clockwise from above: Create festive game night awards by adorning silver trophies from Archie McPhee with dominoes or dice and congratulatory messages you can print on your computer; Sam tucks into a cup of hot chocolate topped with whipped cream and lemon zest; mini travel-sized games make great prizes for winners; a mini dodgeball game from Retrofit Home adds character to the tabletop. Opposite page: Under a game night chandelier crafted by using ribbon to hang playing cards from the existing lighting fixture, Scott and Laura (center) and Tami face off with fellow Blue Highway co-owner Brian Bennik (right) and his parents, Carroll and Dorothy Bennik (opposite).



AS MUCH AS I ENJOY the occasional date with my couch, a Blockbuster rental and a bottle of Cabernet, sometimes it's nice to tune out the TV and tune in to your loved ones. A fun and lively way to make this happen is to host a game night. On a recent game night, I enjoyed the company of Blue Highway Games co-owners Brian Bennik and Scott Cooper, his wife, Laura, and their family and several of their Queen Anne neighbors. Scott and Laura's home is a cozy retreat from the drizzle outside and the ideal backdrop for a gathering. 🍷 While the concept of game night isn't exactly new, it's easy to put a twist on the sit-around-the-table tradition. For starters, get off your seat and onto your feet with a supersize version of chess. Players love getting involved with these large pieces and the Twister-esque game mat. And for the champions, give game night prizes such as miniature trophies, playing cards, dice and travel-sized games. Your guests will appreciate the effort you put in and will walk away with a memorable victory. 🍷 Keep your guests engaged by creating "stations" in your home that will keep the party moving



(literally). Have baked treats and mugs of hot chocolate in the kitchen and use the dining room as a game parlor. Add to the night's theme by substituting the usual tablecloth for one made with jumbo cards: Simply punch holes in the corners of the cards and bind the cards together with ribbon to create a gaming canvas that spans the tabletop and spills over the edge. For a fabulous finish, select a few tabletop accents such as vintage-looking timers or card-suited snack bowls. ♣ Game night is a chance to enjoy your family in a whimsical atmosphere that encourages everyone to be a little silly—how often do we get to swap adulthood for a round of Doodle Dice? And when in the daily routine of traffic and conference calls can we create our own zoos (Zooreka), travel the globe (Xeko) or search for gold (Pirates at Ocean's Edge)? Whether you're a gaming pro or a complete novice, you'll be hard pressed not to indulge the child in you when your biggest competitors barely clear the table.



Clockwise from top right: Front Porch Classics: Baseball! is a fun take on a vintage favorite; carnival-themed snacks like cookies, peanuts and popcorn fresh from an old fashioned popper (this one available at Macy's) make festive nosherers; a beautiful Tuxedo cake from Macrina is a delicious dessert



Seattle Unplugged

For quality games (without the controller) you needn't travel far from home.

Halo 3's debut last September may have had Bill Gates manning cash registers at Best Buy (and penning his billion-dollar signature on a few lucky copies), but the success of **Blue Highway Games** (Queen Anne, 2203 Queen Anne Ave. N; 206.282.0540; bluehighwaygames.com), which opened last summer, proves to Seattle's game lovers that it's still fun to play around the table. And did we mention that some of 2007's top names in games hail from our own backyard? From pirates to pinball, here are a few local games recommended by Scott Cooper, game aficionado and co-owner of Blue Highway Games. *Tara Spicer*

AROUND THE WORLD

(\$29.95, Around the World LLC) **Object:** The first player to fill in his or her Global Scorecard (by traveling the world, answering questions and gaining tokens) wins.

CRANIUM: ZOOREKA

(\$19.95, Cranium) **Object:** Race to build your ultimate zoo. The first player to complete a zoo gets to celebrate Opening Day.

FRONT PORCH CLASSICS: BASEBALL!

(\$99.95, Front Porch Classics) **Object:** Players young and old launch the pinball and swing the bat to hit singles, doubles, triples and home runs.

KILL DOCTOR LUCKY

(\$34.95, Titanic Games) **Object:** Kill Doctor Lucky. Find a weapon, track the good doctor down and do him in.

XEKO

(\$29.95, Matter Group LLC) **Object:** Travel to exotic destinations and be the one to win the most "eco-points" by the end of the game.

PIRATES OF THE CURSED SEA

(\$14.95, Wizkids) **Object:** Be the first player to get more than half the starting treasure (measured in gold) to his or her home island.

Right, the kids stay engaged when you create play stations where different games are set up; below, cinnamon stick-garnish mugs of spiked coffee make toasty treats for adults

RECIPE

Drink Up

Spice up your game night with Muse Coffee Company's signature spiked coffee recipe.

Serves 4

- 6 ounces brandy or rum
- 2 ounces Cointreau (or other orange-flavored liqueur)
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 6 to 8 cloves
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 1 strip of lemon peel and/or 1 strip of orange peel
- 24 ounces strong hot coffee
- Cinnamon sticks and orange rind for garnish (optional)

Gently heat the brandy, Cointreau, sugar, cloves, cinnamon sticks and lemon peel in a large saucepan. Stir continuously to dissolve the sugar. Pour hot coffee into the mixture. Stir and pour into 4 cups to serve. Garnish each cup with a cinnamon stick and orange rind.



Find it

PAGE 134: Giant chess game, \$99.95 at Archie McPhee (Ballard, 2428 NW Market St.; 206.297.0240; mcphree.com). **PAGE 135: Dodgeball game**, \$19.95 at Retrofit Home (Capitol Hill, 1419 12th Ave.; 206.568.4663; retrofithome.com); make a vase by glueing **dominos**, \$12.99 at Fred Meyer (various locations including Greenwood, 100 NW 85th St.; 206.784.9600; fredmeyer.com) to a **Highwall box**, 4x4x6, \$1.75 at Packaging Specialties (Georgetown, 515 S Michigan St.; 206.762.0540; pkg-spec.com); **flowers**, prices vary, from Metropolitan Market (various locations including Queen Anne, 1908 Queen Anne Ave. N; 206.284.2530; metropolitan-market.com); **Rio orange glass vase with lid**, \$130 at Whimsy Home Décor (Capitol Hill, 1535 14th Ave.; 206.324.4679; whimsyhomedecor.com); make a tablecloth of **large playing cards**, Beistle Company, \$3.60 per set of 4 at Display and Costume (various locations including Northgate, 11201 Roosevelt Way NE; 206.362.4810; displaycostume.com); create a chandelier of **playing cards**, \$2.50 at Fred Meyer, and **Midori red ribbon**, 90 cents-\$1.25 per yard at Packaging Specialties; **Buddha Desk Organizer**, \$18.95 at Retrofit Home; **three-minute glass timer**, \$8.95 at Retrofit Home; **medium hourglass**, \$18.95 at Retrofit Home; **Tally Ho**, Rio Grande Games, \$22.95; **Monza**, HABA, \$16.95; **Whoonu**, Cranium, Inc., \$16.95; **Villa Paletti**, University Games, \$29.99; **Settlers of Catan**, Mayfair Games, \$42; **Ticket to Ride**, Edge Entertainment, \$39.95; **Monopoly**, **The Mega Edition**, Hasbro, \$39.99; all at Blue Highway Games (Queen Anne, 2203 Queen Anne Ave. N; 206.282.0540; bluehighwaygames.com); **Gourmet Art in the Kitchen All Star Poker Snack bowls**, \$27 per set of 4 at City Home Store; **Waechterbach small cherry and black bowls**, \$4.50 at Whimsy Home Décor. **PAGE 136: Doodle Dice**, Jax Ltd., \$14.95 at Blue Highway Games. **PAGE 137:** Clockwise from top left: **silver trophies**, \$1.50 each at Archie McPhee; **Basic Fund Travel Twister game pieces**, \$4.99 at Communique Cards and Gifts; **dominos**, \$12.99 at Fred Meyer; mini dice, 10 cents at Blue Highway Games; **French Bowl Funky Monkey plastic cup**, \$7 at Burnt Sugar (Fremont, 601 N 35th St.; 206.545.0699); create a basket out of Toysmith **mini deck of cards**, 99 cents at Communique Cards and Gifts (Queen Anne, 2211 Queen Anne Ave. N; 206.284.4111) and a **Highwall box**, 4x4x6, \$1.75 at Packaging Specialties; **Chessex dice**, various sizes, \$9.95 per box of 12 at Blue Highway Games; Anchor Hawking **square two-quart jar**, \$9.99 at Fred Meyer; various dice, 10 cents-\$1.75 at Top Ten Toys (Greenwood, 104 N 85th St.; 206.782.0098; toptentoys.com); **Travel Backgammon**, \$26 at Whimsy Home Décor; **Travel Chess**, **Cadoo** and **Aggravation**, \$4.99 at Communique Cards and Gifts; **large calligraphy tag**, \$6 per package of 25 at Packaging Specialties. **PAGE 138: Tuxedo Cake**, \$37 at Macrina Bakery & Cafe (Queen Anne, 615 W McGraw St.; 206.283.5900; macrinabakery.com); **assorted cookies**, \$1.60 each at Macrina; **Front Porch Classics Baseball!**, \$99.95 at Blue Highway Games; **popcorn bowl**, \$3.95 at Archie McPhee; **red polka-dot bowl**, \$10.95 at Archie McPhee; **Nostalgia Electrics Old Fashioned Popcorn Popper**, \$79.99 at Macy's (various locations including Downtown, 1601 Third Ave.; 206.506.6000; macys.com). **PAGE 139: Fiesta red mugs**, \$12 each at Macy's; **The Poker Collection glass olive picks**, \$9.50 per set of 4 at Whimsy Home Décor. **S**

