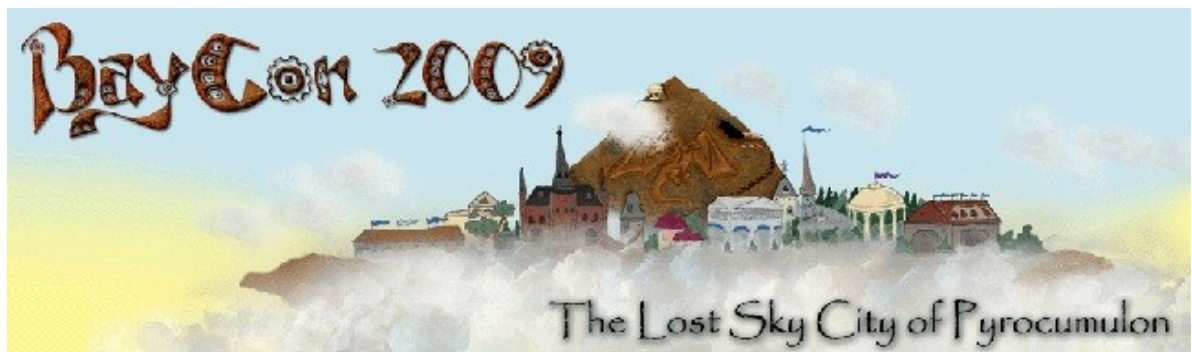


Virtual Tucker Hotel



Issue Twenty-Four

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/the-virtual-fan-lounge>

<http://tuckerverse.livejournal.com>

From: Peter Sullivan (“ceemage”), peter@burdonvale.co.uk
Boring webpage at <http://www.burdonvale.co.uk>
Slightly less boring livejournal at <http://ceemage.livejournal.com>

VTH is primarily an electronic fanzine, available on <http://www.efanzines.com>. Paper copies of this fanzine do exist, however, and are available for the fannish usual.

Thanks to: Bill Mills (“FanLounge”), without whom the original Virtual Fan Lounge would never have happened. And to Steve “for TAFF” Green, Danie Ware, James Bacon, Peter Harrow and Max for all their help setting up the arrangements for Eastercon.

Member fwa. A Startling Press Production. Today is Wednesday 20th May, 2009.

Looking Back

The LXtra series of webcasts from Eastercon were generally felt to be a great success. We started with coverage of the Fan Guest of Honour interview with Bill and Mary Burns on the Friday evening (a write-up of which follows later on in this issue). On Saturday, we webcast two panel sessions, starting with the Fanzines 101 panel, and followed later on by the Fan Funds panel. On Sunday night, our friends from Forbidden Planet borrowed the channel to broadcast their Guitar Hero II event. Finally, Monday lunchtime featured a panel discussing the nominees for the Fan Hugo Awards.

Over the weekend, we also did an interview with the two TAFF candidates, Steve Green and Tom Womack. This has been kept for posterity at <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/1370880>. And we also did an impromptu piece about the Reno in 2011 Worldcon bid, which was promoting itself at the Eastercon. Ben Yalow at the convention and Geri Sullivan live via Skype answered questions about the bid at <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/1371192>.

As with previous events, we kept an (almost) complete transcript of what was going on in the chat room over the weekend. As I'm not 100% sure everybody realised that we were logging, I'm not going to publish them on a web-page or any other kind of public forum. But, if any interested fan wants to ~~know what we were saying about them~~ see it, I'll happily e-mail a copy of the transcript on request.

Looking Forward

Our next series of events in The Virtual Fan Lounge will focus around Baycon 2009.

Baycon takes place over this weekend (Friday

22nd to Monday 25th May, 2009), with the ground-work all being done by Kat Templeton. We are still building our exact schedule for the weekend, but will definitely have two hours of live coverage from the convention, starting at noon local time, on each of the Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Other events may be added over the weekend, and we will post any updates during the convention on the web at <http://tuckerverse.livejournal.com>

Caveat: All of these plans are subject to us getting a sufficiently good internet connection to be able to stream video live from the convention. However, assuming everything works, we will be aiming to stream video from the Baycon Fanzine Lounge, plus maybe one or two panels,

Joining the Virtual Consuite

To use the chat-room for LXtra, just go to either our livejournal community at <http://tuckerverse.livejournal.com> or the actual ustream show page at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/the-virtual-fan-lounge>

On the left hand side of the page is the live video feed – replaced by a slide show when there isn't anything happening. On the right is the interactive bit. By default, this opens in “Social Stream” mode, showing any linked twitter feeds. However, you can still click on the “Chat” tab to get to the actual chat-room. You can see what everyone else is typing in the top window, and add your own contribution in the smaller box at the bottom.

You will be assigned an initial user name in the format “ustreamer-12345.” If you'd rather change this – to your real name, livejournal name, or whatever – you can do this by clicking

the “Sign Up” link at the top to register for free. Some people have been slightly put off by the amount of information that the registration form asks for, which I can empathize with. But registration is entirely optional – you can simply stay as “ustreamer-12345” if you prefer.

Alternatively, we have discovered another way of changing your screen name without having to register. Simply type in the chat window

`/nick your_chosen_name`

The main constraints on this seem to be that:

- a) Your chosen name must be one word (i.e. including hyphens or underlines, but not spaces)
- b) If your chosen name is already in use somewhere else on ustream, it will get a random number added to the end to make it unique.

Technical gubbins

You will probably need at least a low-spec

broadband connection to watch the video stream. (Dial-up users in the past have reported that the video gets very choppy without a broadband connection – but the text chat room still works.)

If you are using an internet connection at work or college, be aware that the chat room uses port 6667, which is often blocked by work or college firewalls. Mainly because systems administrators know that it is used by chat room software – so asking them to unblock it is unlikely to be successful! Home users should usually have no problem, however.

Further Information

For more details about Baycon in general, see their website at:

<http://www.baycon.org/2009/>

Art Credits:

Front Cover: Baycon logo, from the con website.

Schedule for the Weekend

Saturday at Baycon

Two hours of live coverage from the Fanzine Lounge at Baycon.

- Saturday 23rd May 12 noon PDT (Pacific Daylight Time)
- Saturday 23rd May, 3.00 pm EDT (Eastern Daylight Time)
- Saturday 23rd May, 7.00 pm UTC (Co-ordinated Universal Time)
- Saturday 23rd May, 8.00 pm BST (British Summer Time)
- Sunday 24th May, 3.00 am WAST (Western Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 24th May, 5.00 am EADT (Eastern Australian Daylight Time)
- Sunday 24th May, 7.00 am NZDT (New Zealand Daylight Time)

Sunday at Baycon

Two hours of live coverage from the Fanzine Lounge at Baycon.

- Sunday 24th May 12 noon PDT (Pacific Daylight Time)
- Sunday 24th May, 3.00 pm EDT (Eastern Daylight Time)
- Sunday 24th May, 7.00 pm UTC (Co-ordinated Universal Time)
- Sunday 24th May, 8.00 pm BST (British Summer Time)
- Monday 25th May, 3.00 am WAST (Western Australian Standard Time)
- Monday 25th May, 5.00 am EADT (Eastern Australian Daylight Time)
- Monday 25th May, 7.00 am NZDT (New Zealand Daylight Time)

Monday at Baycon

Two hours of live coverage from the Fanzine Lounge at Baycon, possibly including a panel session as well.

- Monday 25th May 12 noon PDT (Pacific Daylight Time)
- Monday 25th May, 3.00 pm EDT (Eastern Daylight Time)
- Monday 25th May, 7.00 pm UTC (Co-ordinated Universal Time)
- Monday 25th May, 8.00 pm BST (British Summer Time)
- Tuesday 26th May, 3.00 am WAST (Western Australian Standard Time)
- Tuesday 26th May, 5.00 am EADT (Eastern Australian Daylight Time)
- Tuesday 24th May, 7.00 am NZDT (New Zealand Daylight Time)

And There's More...

Other events may be added to the schedule over the weekend – watch the channel, or <http://tuckerverse.livejournal.com> for more details.

Eastercon Fan Guest of Honour Interview

(as reported by Bill Mills Las Vegas, NV.)

The Guests of Honour at the 2009 Eastercon were seated at a table at the front of the room distanced, as if in fear, another table length away from their genial host Greg Pickersgill. To the slowly assembling crowd, Greg, who by his own description has "been around a bit", introduced Bill and Mary Burns, the deserving fan couple who are the con's Honored Guests.

Greg's own fannish history apparently began, as he confided to us, in 1967 at the tender age of fifteen. He wrote a letter to a BNF who was running memberships for the 1968 Eastercon. The wizened elder fan to whom he wrote was actually an ambitious and energetic twenty year old named Bill Burns!

Now actually wizened and elder, Bill explained that his start in fandom goes back to 1963 and "The Delta Group". He talked about meeting Harry Bell in 1964. And about the Delta Group having a deal to produce some short amateur films for the 1965 Eastercon. He talked about meeting Mary's sister Rose and he and Mary

talked about how they became a couple, got married and moved to New York.

They talked for nearly an hour and told many wonderful personal stories and shared some entertaining fan history. There was some disappointment that the conversation never got around to Bill's wonderful on-line fannish resource eFanzines.com, however it was still a wonderful way to dissect, er, I mean become acquainted with two very special Trufen.

I was very happy to see and hear this great GoH 'interview'. Especially since I wasn't even at the convention or anywhere near Bradford, England. I watched and listened via webcam feed in the uStream LXtra channel while chatting with a number a fans in the adjacent chat room, all from the comfort of my home in Las Vegas, Nevada USA. And all thanks to the efforts of the persistent Peter Sullivan, who has carried the Con-Cam torch from Corflu Silver In America to Bradford and England's first live convention broadcasts.

However, as wonderful as being able to virtually attend the con in this fashion, in the end it's biggest result, is to make me wish I was actually there!