



HEROICS

The Newsletter of the Eastern Pennsylvania Gaming Society

Upcoming Meetings

Meetings are held in the Oxford Valley Mall Community Room the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month unless otherwise announced.

The address for the Oxford Valley Mall is 2300 E. Lincoln Highway, Langhorne, PA.

It is located just under two miles from Exit 44 of I-95, proceeding north on US Business Route 1.

Club Information

The website for the Eastern Pennsylvania Gaming Society is www.epgs.org.

The two main Yahoo! groups for the club are [epgs](#) and [epgs_announce](#).

Our MeetUp link is <http://www.meetup.com/Eastern-Pennsylvania-Gaming-Society/events/226958756/>.

Also, search for the club on Facebook until its full name, Eastern Pennsylvania Gaming Society.

GREETINGS FELLOW GAMERS

Pandemic tournament held at EPGS this past May

Congratulations are in order to the following members for their victories in the *Pandemic Survival* tournament held at the EPGS meeting of May 21, 2016:

John Mellon and Jenn Mellon - 1st round

Mike Vessel and Jen Burton - 2nd round

Mike Vessel and Jen Burton will be attending GenCon for the national tournament. Good luck to you Mike and Jen!

Thanks go to Tim O'Flynn for organizing, setting up, and running the tournament. Thanks also go to all the winners as well as Darren Armstrong for performing referee, switchover, and teardown duties.

Stay tuned to the club information sites for information about an upcoming Carcassonne tournament.



Upcoming Conventions

Washingcon 2016

September 10-11, 2016

Washington, DC

www.washingcon.com

EuroQuest 2016

November 2-6, 2016

Pikesville, Maryland

www.euroquestcon.com

Thygeekdomcon 2016

November 5, 2016

Wilmington, Delaware

www.thygeekdomcon.com

Prezcon Winter 2016

Dates to be announced

Charlottesville, Virginia

www.prezcon.com

More information about gaming conventions in 2016 can be found here:

[http://
www.upcomingcons.com/
gaming-conventions](http://www.upcomingcons.com/gaming-conventions)

My Presidency of EPGS, or, being Benjamin Harrison to Steve Cameron's Grover Cleveland

In this issue, I would like to share an article I wrote about my experiences as president of the Eastern Pennsylvania Gaming Society. I thought this would give club members a good sense of the many responsibilities and unpredictable situations that can result from leading such an organization. Despite my setbacks, I do not regret the experience.

After being the publicity director of EPGS for a number of years in the 2000s, in 2009 I decided to run for president of the Eastern Pennsylvania Gaming Society. I did this primarily for two reasons:

1. I wanted to contribute my time and efforts to an organization that I believe represents the best of a hobby that has been my passion since my days in grade school.
2. I wanted to give Steve Cameron a break from running the organization for so many years. (I know he has not been president of EPGS for all of the years of its existence, it only seems that way.)

I was elected without opposition and ended up serving two 18 month terms as president. Straight away, however, I encountered unexpected situations and crises.

When I decided to run for president, I was thinking long term, wondering what ways I could change the club to make it more vibrant and welcoming to even more gamers. However, I quickly came to realize that



Some Games Recently Played at EPGS

Amun-Re

Here I Stand

Sword of Rome

Code Names

Port Royal

Concordia

Triumph & Tragedy

Tiny Epic Galaxies

any leader can become involved in the “minutiae”, the daily and operational tasks of maintenance that are necessary to the survival of an organization but do not grab headlines or look scintillating in a newsletter or flyer. Here are some examples.

- There were more than a few times that the Oxford Valley Mall asked for use of the Community Room on a meeting day, and I had to make a decision as to whether and how to move to another area in the mall or just not have a meeting that day. (Does this sound familiar?)

- There was a time when members used the freight elevators or other means to get their games and carts up to the second floor. Mall management was not happy about that and requested that this stop.

- The doors to the closet where extra tables and chairs were located were more often than not locked when I arrived. This required a “seek and search” mission of the nearest available mall cop to request that the doors be unlocked.

As much as possible, I always sought input from the members as to how to handle these and other such situations. For the most part, the members offered advice and were generally forgiving of situations that they knew I did not create. I sensed they trusted my efforts, even if those efforts were lacking or did not always produce the desired results. For that, I am sincerely grateful.

Beyond this, a significant challenge rose early in my presidency that I did not foresee. Our treasurer at the time, Rick Cambron, became seriously ill and was not able to attend meetings for a few months nor participate in the treasurer’s tasks that are so critical to the success of our organization. Consequently, I had to become



acting treasurer as well as president. This required more use of my time at meetings performing club duties, time which took away from gaming. However, I knew the tasks were important if I wanted the club to survive, and that ultimately gave me some satisfaction in doing them. It also helped me appreciate the important tasks our treasurer conducts.

Beyond all this, however, being president (and for a time, treasurer) of EPGS helped me appreciate firsthand the fiscal and financial state of our club. While running such an organization is not the same as running a business, I have come to appreciate the similarities between the two on matters of cash flow and expenses. The day I announced an increase in dues was not a happy day for me, but I understood the math and believed (or perhaps hoped?) that club members would understand. Thankfully, pretty much all of them did. After that announcement, I distinctly remember a member stating that we gamers pay so much more for games than the increased dues I was asking. However, the dues allow the continued existence of an organization where we can come together regularly to enjoy these games. I was especially grateful and comforted by that remark.

Knowing that I would begin my MBA courses in 2012, I made a decision to decline another term for president of EPGS in 2011. I would like to say that I left the club in better shape, but sadly I do not feel or believe this. EPGS was in bad fiscal shape when I turned the reins of power back to Steve Cameron, with little surplus money in its treasury. Also, I was not able to think of new ideas for the club or create a renewed energy or dynamism for our meeting. Despite this, I do not regret the experience. We were not in catastrophic shape, and we



still had a core membership that continued to meet at the mall. What's more, I do not think we are a club where members to be "entertained" or given ancillary reasons to attend. We are here because we do what we love to do, and that is to play games, period. In the end, being part of that experience in any kind of leadership role was very fulfilling.

I am glad to be a member of EPGS. I would like to thank everyone who helped me and gave me advice, encouragement, and renewed purpose during my time as president. What's more, I am glad the club has welcomed me back as an officer, editor of our newly republished newsletter.



DUES STRUCTURE AND OPTIONS

In 2016, the following due payment options will be available for current and prospective members.

Option One

\$50 payment for the entire calendar year, due by the end of January 2016

Option Two

\$30 payment for the first half of calendar year 2016, due by the end of January 2016

\$30 payment for the second half of calendar year 2016, due by the end of July 2016

Option Three

\$7 per meeting due by the end of the meeting

As always, the first meeting of a new and lapsed member is free!

For further information about the dues and the club, or if you wish to write an article for the newsletter or disseminate information through the newsletter, please contact any of the following officers of the club:

Steve Cameron, President

blueroutegamer@gmail.com

610-721-5507 (cell)

Mike Kaltman, Treasurer

coyotek44@aol.com