

THE BI-CRANIAL BEAR

JULY 2007 / A.S. XLII



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Currently Vacant Positions:

Pied Piper

Rapier Marshal

Please contact the Seneschal if you
are interested in becoming an officer
or deputy for the Barony.

Dates to Remember

July 3rd – Scribal Night, 7 – 9 pm. Hosted by Angharad Bach and Alysandre Welden d'Ath. Location: 84900 S. Willamette St., Eugene, OR *Directions: To reach our house, go south on Willamette Street. You will pass Spencer's Butte on your left. About a mile later, you will see a "Slow" sign on your right. Slow down, because next you will see a "30 mile" speed limit sign with a 90-degree turn sign on the same pole. Our driveway is at that sign. We share a driveway, and our house is at the very end. You will come to a gate that says "MOORE" on it. Please follow the directions on the call box on your left, and we will let you in! Call me at 541-484-3086 if you have any questions.*

July 5th – A & S Workshop, 7 – 9 pm. Hosted by Lady Valdis Osborne. Location: Northwood Christian Church, 2425 Harvest Lane, Springfield, OR. An informal social is planned; bring your ongoing projects and enjoy the company of your fellow artisans!

July 6th – Archery Practice, Hosted by Johann Friedrich Spies. Location: 84900 S. Willamette St., Eugene, OR. See directions for Scribal Night above.

July 7th – A & S Social, 10 am – 9 pm. Hosted by Alysandre Welden d'Ath and Angharad Bach. Location: 84900 S. Willamette St., Eugene, OR. See directions above. In the evening there will be a barbecue; feel free to bring whatever you would like to grill!

July 8th – Nordholt Council Meeting, 6-8 pm. Location: Ray's Food Place in north Albany.

July 19th – A & S Workshop, 7 – 9 pm. Hosted by Lady Valdis Osborne. Location: Northwood Christian Church, 2425 Harvest Lane, Springfield OR. Tentative schedule for July is Blackwork Embroidery, taught by Alysandre Welden d'Ath.

July 23rd – Adiantum Baronial Council, 7 – 9 pm. Location: Northwood Christian Church, 2425 Harvest Lane, Springfield, OR, room #15. (the northeast corner of Hayden Bridge and Harvest Lane).

July 25th – Tymberhavene Council Meeting, 6:30 – 8 pm. Location: Coos Bay Library, 525 Anderson Lane, Coos Bay OR, the Cedar Room. (541) 269-1101. Garb Optional, many choose to wear garb however. Wifi access available. Espresso kiosk nearby is open late.

Upcoming Events

St. Eggburt's Tourney and Feast Shire of Myrtle Holt (*Grants Pass, OR*) July 27 – 29, 2007

The time has come once again to celebrate St. Eggburt. This year will be a camping event, with our traditional feast and Gatekeeper tourney. The feast will be the product of cooking classes taught by HL Felicia. The recipes are based on 14th c. English cuisine, and sure to be delicious! (For menu and class schedule, see the shire's website at <http://www.geocities.com/myrtleholt/>)

Or you can compete in our Gatekeeper tourney. Come test yourself to win the honor and title of Keeper of the Gate. Other events to be announced.

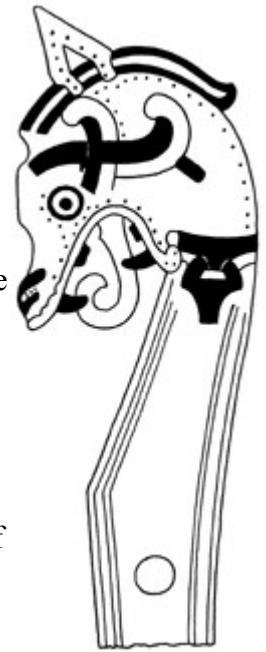
The site will open Friday at 3:00 pm, and close Sunday by 4:00 pm. Site fees: \$10.00 adults, \$8.00 youth 13-17, \$6.00 children 5-12, under 5 free, family cap of \$30.00. Make checks payable to 'SCA, Shire of Myrtle Holt' \$3.00 NMS applies.

Directions: From North on I-5, take exit 58 to Grants Pass. Go 3 miles through town to OR 238, stay straight. Go about 12 miles to Water Gap Rd, go 5 miles and take a right onto Williams Hwy. Go 1.5 miles to Cedar Flat Rd, go 1.7 miles to Davidson Rd. Turn left. The Greyback Brushriders Arena is on the left, 155 Davidson Rd. Follow SCA signs.

From South on I-5, take exit 30 to Medford, turn left. Follow road out of town toward Jacksonville, 2.5 miles. Turn left onto Hanley Rd, go 1.3 miles, turn right onto Hwy 238/Jacksonville Hwy. Continue through Jacksonville, making a right turn on W. California St. Continue for 19.4 miles to Williams Hwy, turn left and follow until it meets Water Gap Rd, turn left and continue as above to Cedar Flat Rd..

Autocrat: Lady Monique de Toulon (Laura Dollarhide) 7776 Leyden Circle, White City, OR 97503, slkbjd@charter.net or (541) 826-9994. No calls after 9 pm, please.

Feasting/class info: HL Felicia of the True Layne (Rebecca Perkins), (541) 830-6850.



Sport of Kings: Academy of Armored Combat Three Mountains (*Estacada, OR*) Milo McIver State Park August 16 - 19, 2007

'Sport of Kings: Academy of Armored Combat' is a four-day learning event presenting to students of all interests and backgrounds an opportunity to learn about all the activities that support and glorify the tournament, and an opportunity for aspirants to martial skill to learn from accomplished practitioners. Pre-registration with payment is only required for those taking classes. See our webpage for more on class content and class sign-up at: <http://www.sportofkings.org>

This is a camping event. Site opens at 2 pm Thursday and closes at 4 pm Sunday. Site Fee for overnight camping: \$15 adult member, \$8 minors (5 to 17). Under 5, free. Site fee for day tripping: \$10 members, \$6 minors. There is no family cap. Non-member surcharge of \$3 applies.

Class fee: \$5 total for any number of classes. Make checks payable to 'SCA, Inc. Barony of Three Mountains'.

Discreetly wet (period containers only). Permanent biffs, potable water available. Fast moving river on site. Off the ground campfires, open flame (torches, candles) okay, subject to fire hazard conditions at the time. Mundane leash laws apply. See FAQ on website for information about RV restrictions.

Site Info: McIver State Park, 24101 S. Entrance Rd, Estacada, OR 97023.

Directions: From north or south travel to Portland, Oregon and take I-205. Take the Clackamas/Estacada Hwy 212 Exit. Follow Hwy 212 toward Mt. Hood. Take a right turn onto Hwy 224. In the town of Carver turn right, crossing a bridge and then turn left onto Springwater Road. Travel 9 miles to park entrance (on left). Driving map available on website.

Autocrat: Baroness Khalja Khorkhoi, OP (Lara Baker-Olin), 3915 SE Oak St., Portland, OR 97214, (503) 963-8538 (no calls after 9 pm please); autocrat@sportofkings.org

Marketplace Steward: Talia, merchants@sportofkings.org

The Long And The Short Of It Barony of Terra Pomaria (Salem, OR) August 24 – 26, 2007

Their Excellencies, Sir Roland and HL Emma von Bern, the Baron and Baroness of Terra Pomaria, invite you to attend 'The Long and the Short of It'. Come and witness or participate in the Baronial Defender tournament or the Baronial Archery Championship, as well as other activities including the new Baronial Children's Championship, youth armored combat, pet garb contest, classes, bardic activities, merchants, and much more.

Please see our website at www.terrapomaria.antir.sca.org/events for additional information on the Defender Tournament, Archery Championship, and other activities.

Autocrats: Amlyrin Mac Talis (Sandra Gray), 6024 Fircrest St. SE, Salem, OR 97306, (503) 362-7798. E-mail: slgray3@comcast.net ; HL Lynnarra (Eleshia Ledridge), 4372 Pullman Ave. SE, Salem OR 97302, (503) 540-8685. E-mail: lynnarra@hotmail.com No calls after 9 pm please.

Merchantocrat: Jillian (Jo Ledridge) (503) 630-6491. No calls after 9 pm please. E-mail: rkcdist@cascadeaccess.com

Site: Willamette Mission State Park, Mission Lake B, 8 miles north of Salem on Wheatland Rd; 10991 Wheatland Rd. N., Gervaise, OR 97016.

Directions: From Interstate 5: take exit #263. Turn west on Brooklake Rd. for 1.9 miles. Turn right on Wheatland Road for 2.4 miles to park entrance. Turn left into park. Follow signs to Mission Lake B section.

Site will be open to Merchants at 1 pm on August 24th. Site opens to populace at 3 pm on the 24th. Site closes and we must be gone at 12 noon on August 26th.

Site fees: Adults \$15 (day trip \$10), Youth (12-17) \$10 (day trip \$5), Children (5-11) \$5, Babies (under 5) free, Family cap \$35. Make checks payable to 'SCA Inc., Barony of Terra Pomaria'. The \$3 Non-Member Surcharge will apply. Day trippers will be required to purchase a \$3 State Parking Permit when they enter the park.

Feast Upon the Day of Saint Hedwig IX Shire of Herons Reach (*Astoria, OR*) October 6, 2007

Come join the Shire of Herons Reach in celebrating our moss harvest. A feast will commemorate St. Hedwig, patron saint of moss gatherers. Bardic Competition, Pun Contest (Punny-Bunny looking for new home; winner must return next year), contests in needlepoint and calligraphy, games, and other activities.. In addition there will be catapult wars for all, two categories: 15" or under, and 16-22"..
Crash space available; contact Autocrat.

Potluck feast indoors. Suggested food amount for your contribution is feed your own, plus 5 more. Shire will provide main dish and fruit, cheese and bread. Feast at 6:00 pm, bardic to follow. Remember feast gear!

Autocrat: Sorcha Fitzpadraic (Diane Hankins) 450 Floral St., Astoria, OR 97103, (503) 325-1118, sorcha_fitzpadraic@hotmail.com

Site Info: Netel Grange, 90525 Logan Rd., Astoria, Oregon 97103. Dry site, no smoking in building 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

Adults (17+): \$8, Children (5-16): \$4, Babes (0-4): free, family cap: \$20; \$3 non member surcharge for adults. Checks payable to 'SCA, Inc. - Shire of Herons Reach'.

From the North: Hwy 30 & 101. Go through Astoria, cross Young's Bay Bridge (101 South). Continue through 2 traffic lights. Turn left at intersection indicating the Airport and Fort Clatsop (Marlin Ave.) Putman's Prolube on the far left. Turn left at the T intersection (.2 miles). Follow road 4.7 miles. Gas-station/store on the right where road divides. Go straight, just past store, turn right and follow road for 3.2 miles. Sign 'Logan Chapel Road'. Left at first driveway, just past Logan Chapel Road, to Netel Grange. SCA signs posted!

From the South: Hwy 101 & 26. North from Seaside to milepost 8.4, turn right at the sign indicating the Airport and Fort Clatsop. Continue as above after the T intersection.



June Council Minutes
June 25th, 2007 / A.S. XLII
Northwood Christian Church
2425 Harvest Lane, Springfield, Oregon
Room 15

Council began after 7:00 pm...closer to 7:15 pm, as Maura waited and waited for a quorum of Officers to arrive. We have had a problem with reaching quorum. Please, if you are an Officer, show up to Council!

The Baroness started us out with a brief update as to what all Their Excellencies have been up to. They have had some modern changes in their respective lives that have precluded them attending Investiture, but these have been happy changes. His Excellency is now a college graduate, hurray! And her Excellency is anticipating the birth of a new Baronial Bulldog, woo! They were able to attend Egils and had a pleasant and relaxing time. The site looks amazing and they are grateful for those who have stepped up to work on it throughout the year. They are planning to attend An Tir/West War. Her Excellency loaned out her helm a while back to someone and now she needs it back (for the aforementioned War)...so if you have it or know who has it, get in touch with her ASAP. She also expresses her thanks to those officers who have been trying to recruit deputies – deputies are important and you never know when you might need one to fill in for you in a pinch, so Officers, recruit early and often!

One office which needed not only a deputy but a whole warm body was that of **Chronicler**. Aesa Sigtryggdottir (that's me) applied for the position and apparently people thought I'd be okay for the job because I got it! Woo hoo! As soon as I had scribbled down all the necessary things in the necessary blanks on the officer form I was ready to write down minutes and we could get on with the meeting.

Copies of the grievance and financial policies have been uploaded to the Yahoo group list. Maura has been asked to go over the **Grievance Procedure** with us in Council, so we reviewed it. In summary the procedure goes thusly:

1. Speak with the person that you are having an issue with. (It's okay to bring along a neutral third party if you feel it necessary.)
2. Write to the person you're having an issue with, outlining just what about the issue is troubling you, and what you would like to see done to resolve the issue.
3. Write a more formal letter to the person you're having an issue with, and send a copy to the officer at your local level that oversees the area of expertise your issue falls into. For example, if it is a problem centering around combat-related issues, send a copy to your Marshal.
4. Write directly to the officer at your local level that oversees the area of expertise your issue falls into, and send copies to the person you have a dispute with, the Seneschal, and your royal representative (in Adiantum that would be the Baron and Baroness).
5. Write to the corresponding officer in your Principality, sending copies to all the parties already mentioned.
6. Write to the corresponding officer at the Kingdom level, sending copies to all the parties already mentioned.
7. Write to the Board of Directors of the SCA.

If things are getting resolved at a certain step, do not feel obligated to go further up the ladder. The point of having these steps is to take all measures possible to resolve issues at your local level, NOT to carry them all the way to the BoD. If the BoD must get involved, the steps they will have to take will

be far-reaching and are almost guaranteed to make no one happy, simply because they must be so broad in scope. It is vastly preferable, therefore, to resolve things as early and as locally as possible. Have trust in the process. This sort of thing is partly what your Seneschal and Baron and Baroness are here for. Let them serve you as they have sworn to do.

The Seneschal is requesting Officers to put together **Officer Handbooks** containing information pertinent to their positions. This will be very important and helpful to those who apply to such positions in the future. Essential information would be a description of the position, resources and reference materials necessary for the job, whom at the Principality and Kingdom levels one is expected to report to, and what, if anything, one can be expected to do at Egils. Basically, it should be a history of things that one should know to do a good job.

Maura appreciates that all the officers are giving their reports, but she doesn't need multiple copies of them. From now on, Officers simply need to post their **Officer's Reports on the Yahoo group**.

Bids for Midwinters will be taken at Council in July. If you want to have a shot at hosting this event, get a bid ready and come to Council to share your ideas!

A general reminder to autocrats: **Event Copy to the Kingdom Calender must be submitted no less than 3 months before the event, and must be submitted by the 28th of the month.**

Officers' Quarterly Reports to Principality are due by July 5th

Discussion turned to the topic of **loaning out Baronial equipment**. The Barony has the option of charging certain fees for the use of its equipment, but for the most part it has chosen not to collect these fees. Unfortunately we have had some less than happy experiences with this situation. A couple of pavilions that were loaned to Nordholt came back to us damp and damaged; Big Green has a corner that got very badly twisted, and another piece of another pavilion was broken after being used improperly (e.g. as a crowbar). They will be charged for the repairs, and the possibility of suspending their ability to loan gear at all from the Barony is being considered. A few suggestions and thoughts were aired. Angharad suggested that the gear be loaned out under the supervision of an Officer; however, Maura pointed out that this has the almost guaranteed possibility of creating undue stress and work for a person throughout an event. Johann asked why we were not charging the fees that we are entitled to. The answer to this is because they are a canton of Adiantum and therefore part of us. Rachel inquired as to the response Nordholt has given at hearing news of the damage to the pavilions. There has been no response, though this is probably due in part to the fact that the canton has no acting seneschal or chatelaine at the moment. Iurii suggested enacting the fee structure so as not to require an Officer's presence for babysitting equipment. Radien wondered if we could simply explain what was necessary to be done to any Officer who volunteered for duty, and if there was no volunteer then there would be no loaning of equipment. Drake pointed out that Nordholt has had a history of mishaps with borrowed gear and that it was because of this that fees were considered in the first place. In his opinion they need to be charged so that they will learn a lesson. Furthermore he states that, as Chamberlain, he will refuse to loan them any more Baronial gear. Juan wondered if we could charge a deposit that could be refunded on condition of the safe return of gear. This is not currently in our financial policy but it could be written in if necessary in the future. (The Barony's financial policy is reviewed every November.) Finngall pointed out that ultimately the time it will take to repair the gear transcends any monetary cost that is assigned to it. Valdis agrees with Juan; she has an issue with charging a fee for each and every use of gear, but feels that charging a deposit – and making it a deposit for a substantial amount – will still get the message across that items need to be properly cared for. Katerine pointed out that although we as the 'parent' in this relationship have the right to review and approve of autocrats for

canton events, we have not been exercising this right. Perhaps now is the time to do so. Alysandre strongly suggested that we put our lending policy in writing and send it to Summits, and generally make it as clear and publicly accessible as possible. He also pointed out that some Baronial items, such as the pegs for the Gold Key tent, have not been properly tempered, so that damage could occur to them without negligent or malicious use. He did agree however that the damage to the pavilions was not a result of faulty construction and stated that Nordholt would compensate us for the repairs.

Alysandre and Johann then stepped forward to give their **Autocrats' Report on Egils**. This was a very abbreviated summary. Those who wish for more detail may review the Egils Debrief in the library section of the Adiantum website. They are also planning to post their report in its entirety to the Yahoo group.

In all, 680 people attended Egils. They collected \$11,335.51 and spent \$11,245.29. They are still waiting on a bill from Buck's and the refund from the parks department. They are missing one radio headset that was rented for the event. **This item is sorely needed!** It is valued at \$100...and, if one does the math above, the return of that headset pretty much determines whether or not the event actually made money. If you know where it is let someone know ASAP!

The site is in great shape and the parks department is very happy with us. They do not want us to camp around the ponds, however. In the future, people will need to remember to contact the Campmaster about any reservations they will want to make for their campsites. The autocrats had trouble getting the agreed-upon amount of water in; they had just enough space for trash and had plenty of toilets.

Johann pondered whether the Barony should just buy FRS radios to use instead of renting them. Ultimately however it will be up to next year's autocrat(s) to decide which option they want to use.

Both autocrats recommended either ordering fewer tokens or making tokens that are easier to recycle – this year we had 100 tokens that were unused, and at a dollar per token that adds up.

Activities went well, though there was less turnout overall for the Ithrotir. They pondered rolling all A/S activities into one division rather than having juvenile/youth/adults divisions, as the younger groups generally have very low turnout for these activities. Youth combat needs more equipment. In the future we will need to outline judging criteria, scoring and point reporting for the Horn of Valhalla competition. For the volunteer raffle they will need to use one type of ticket and make more efforts to distribute them to everyone; there were issues with confusion this year. Pre-Reg and Gate went smoothly, but the sign-in sheets are old and defective and generally evil and need to be replaced. No major accidents were reported by Chirurgeon. The Constable had issues with security in the parking lot and with a 16-year-old needing to be removed from the tent of her 18-year-old guardian in order to adhere to modern laws.

Rachel did a great job on the website. Katerine strongly suggested that future teams be prepared to launch the website and pre-reg in January – right after Twelfth Night.

Alysandre finished by stating that though we more or less broke even on the event, there were many variables that we got lucky on – the merchants renting enough yardage to help us cover costs, the weather being good and encouraging attendance. With the possibility of a competing and almost-identical event two hours north of us on the same weekend, as well as modern travel costs, the Barony may need to consider one or more of several options: raising the fee for attendance, planning for a smaller event, or changing the makeup of it to make it more unique. Future autocrats and the Barony as a whole will need to consider this.

Speaking of future autocrats, it is never too early to begin planning for Egils. If you would like to take a stab at autocratting this very important Baronial event, start working on your bid now! Information on past Egils can be found at the Team Egils Yahoo group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/team_egils/

An Tir/West War: Nothing seems to be needed of us; the Kingdom Herald personally requested to borrow our herald pavilion, but it may be too late to accommodate her. The main issue is how to actually transport the pavilion there. Drake wants **requests for equipment to be submitted at least 2 weeks in advance to an event** so he can make those arrangements. It was agreed to discuss our equipment-lending policy at Council next month.

Amergins'/Tymberhavayne Birthday Bash: Brendan sent in a revised bid write-up that accounted in more detail for site costs. The bid estimates that a profit of \$173.50 would be made with an attendance of 75 people. They need \$482 for the park reservation and various pavilions. Iurii had to step down as co-autocrat due to modern reasons; Ariana is now overseeing the bardic activities. The bid was unanimously approved.

The autocrats for **11th Night** could not be with us but it has been reported that we are good to go on the site for that weekend. A menu is being planned.

Another major Baronial project has been our **Customary**. Brainstorming sessions have been held, and now that information is being condensed and written. There are still people who wish to make input for this, so Katerine will see if she can obtain Bryan de Albeghni's email address so folks can communicate with him directly.

The site that we have been using for the Barony's **A & S Socials** is booked up all the way through July. Alysandre and Angharad offered to host it at their place on Saturday, July 7th from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM. They will even host a BBQ...bring your own meat to throw on the grill and chow down!

It was now time for **Officer's Reports:**

Youth Combat Marshal (Diel) – The two youth who have been participating have not been able to of late but there is one very enthusiastic and promising young lady who has been able to start practicing. Actual combat at Egils could not be held due to a lack of equipment, and he would like to rectify this.

Work Parties (Maeve) – She needs a deputy and a backhoe (it's really hard to dig through rock without the latter). There is a rogue biffy still roaming the site, but she will get Buck's to round the sucker up soon. Speaking of Buck's, Katerine wants to hook them up with the Baronial P.O. Box as a contact address so that they will stop sending her the bills. Aside from herself, no one attended the work party on the 23rd. Work parties will be put on hiatus for a while.

Webminister (Rachel) – She has put a closing page on the Egil's website. Fine The Lucky stepped forward to be her deputy. Yay!

Waterbearer (Iurii) – Save for one small communication glitch, Egils went well. He had plenty of supplies. He has been attending the work parties and in addition to providing sustenance for the humans attending them, he's been bringing doggie treats for the pooches in the neighborhood to help foster good will. He is looking into trying to streamline the way waterbearing gear is stored. He has a way-cool 'portable rain' sprayer with a large backpack tank courtesy of Alysandre. He attended True Artes of Defense but did not provide any waterbearing services.

Thingmaker's Guild (Unna) – She couldn't be present but will be sending in her report soon.

Seneschal (Maura) – Modern life has had a variety of changes for her, both good and bad.. She too could use a deputy, and is accepting applications; since Seneschal is such a prominent and work-intensive position she wishes to have any deputy to be voted on in Council.

Scribe (Angharad) – There were no Scribal Nights in June. She is working on getting the seals for various scrolls, particularly for Band of Briars awards. Some have yet to be painted and they will be worked on at Scribal Nights. As for Scribal Night, it will now be held one Tuesday a month. She is working on a handbook for future reference and has also been brushing up on heraldry. She is stepping down in December but has plenty of deputies (neener neener!) , so hopefully one of them will be able to take her place, and she's quite willing to give advice to her successor and to continue hosting the scribal nights at her place. She also likes kumquats. Who knew?

Rapier Marshal – This position is vacant. If you'd like to fill it, contact the Seneschal!

Pied Piper (Ariana) – This was her last report. Being Pied Piper was an enlightening experience for her, and she will be happy to work with and give advice to anyone who fills the office after her. For the time being, however, she wants to take a break. Regarding Egils, she had lots of participation by excited kids. Pillow jousting was the smash hit of the year/event. While there were problems at times with supervision (or rather the lack thereof) of parents over their children and messes that had to be cleaned up, she also had help from some very nice families. She will be moving the materials she used for her position to the storage unit. If you are interested in this position, get in touch with her and the Seneschal!

Park Liason (Fearga) – The modern regional manager made a point of coming to court and congratulating the Barony on its fine work in cleaning up and caring for the site, and he stated that we are the only large group allowed at Lynx Hollow. He would like to meet with Fearga and Alysandre to find better ways to continue working with us. We will be renewing the Friends of the Park agreement in August.

Master of Stables (Aaron) – He could not stay for the meeting, but dropped his report off in person. He hasn't been in the office long and therefore has nothing to compare it to, but there haven't been any injuries at practice yet which we can all agree is a good thing. He wants to set up a good system for processing paperwork and would also like to have a couple of loaner suits of armor on hand for practices. He has a possible deputy lined up.

Librarian (Alysandre) – He still hasn't gotten hold of the actual library yet, but admittedly he hasn't been trying too hard to get in contact with the prior Librarian due to Egils. Drake plans to visit with her this week and to get her mailing address to those who might have need to get in touch with her. In the meantime, Alysandre has been able to procure some books that were being discarded from a school library; some of these have found good homes elsewhere, some have been shared with the populace at A&S nights, and in general they will make lovely and welcome additions to the library.

Herald (Juan) – Heraldry consultation was held at Egils and he also did some court heraldry. Awards were bestowed to various members of the Barony, and a Principality award was created to honor merchants. There will be a heraldry consultation night this Thursday, June 28th.

Gold Key (Alys) – She couldn't be present due to modern work but mailed in her report. Many items were loaned out at Egils, and all were returned.

Gamemaster (Radien) – At Egils, the kids' games went great, the Ithrotir went okay, and croquet resulted in awesomeness. He also received some inspiration for a request to make for his budget/equipment. His current games-chest is overloaded and hard to transport – it's heavy, and yet is difficult for more than one person to assist with. He spoke with Uther at House Eisen about constructing a collapsible cart that has wheels, can carry 200 lbs of gear, and collapses into a table as well as for storage. This item could be constructed for \$150. Maura expressed curiosity as to how easy this item would be to transport to events. Radien says that it would not fit well in a compact car, but could be carried in a minivan. Alysandre wondered just how much of the games-related stuff we actually -need-, and wondered if it might not be time to just get rid of some of it. Ariana moved to delay any decision on this matter until next council, and pictures and dimensions of the proposed cart were requested. Otherwise, he has spent \$20 of his \$50 budget. He would like to get hold of some croquet sets in the future for the Barony so that he doesn't have to lend out his own – not that he minds letting us play with them.

Exchequer (Alyn) – He could use a deputy. He would like to get one ASAP so he can train them in the coming year before his term expires. He ran out of checks and will order more. The Barony has \$10,326.07 in the bank. Storage is paid for through January 2008.

Dance Mistress (Jana) – She could not be present but she mailed in her report. Dance Night will be held every Monday except for Council Night at her place, from 7:00 – 8:30 PM. If you are interested you can email her at tantalizintaqsim@yahoo.com for directions. She advises would-be dancers to wear comfortable clothes that will allow her to keep an eye on your hip and spine alignment as you practice. She's very excited about getting this started! As soon as she figures out how to add Dance meetings to the Yahoo calendar, she will.

Constabulary (Fezzic) – You can call them 'Fire Watch' or 'Courtesy Patrols'. You could also possibly call them 'Space Cowboys' or 'Gangsters of Love'. It is probably not advised to call them 'Maurice', however. And, well, 'Constabulary' is right out. Fezzic himself was not present to make the report, which is pretty much why you're getting Steve Miller lyrics instead.

Chronicler (Aesa) – We have one now! That would be me. Yay me.

Chiurgeon (Ieuan) – He couldn't be present but mailed in his report. There were 10 boo-boos and 3 bug bites at Egils that required his attention – nothing major.

Chatelaine (Rhiannon) – Newcomer's Camp was used lightly at Egils. A news crew dropped by and filmed some footage, and Maura very capably answered their questions. The piece was very complimentary and would be informative for moderns. Hopefully we will be getting a copy from KVAL soon. We continue to get several newcomers, the majority of them being transplants from other branches, as well as a couple of merchants. Demos have been requested for three Wednesdays in a row at Orchard Point Park. Another possible demo may be held in August. She hasn't spent any money and has \$305.01 left in her budget.

Chamberlain (Drake) – While he is unhappy with the damage that occurred to our pavilions, he and Alysandre are working to repair them. Alysandre has been a great help in getting them de-molded and ready for use again. Age and wear have taken their toll on our castle; they are replacing screws with heavier-duty hardware and seeing if they can't lighten the load of the item as a whole by using thinner wood wherever possible. The equipment we loaned to Southmarch for Investiture came back

safe and sound. Alysaunder has donated shelves to use for the storage unit, and they help, but space is still a challenge. Drake would like to either store our trailer outside of the storage unit (in the same acility), or, preferably, get a new (to us) trailer, which he says he could buy and outfit for \$800. The increased cost for space rental would be \$35 for 6 months. Katerine requested a write-up of the trailer and the benefits thereof for review at next council. He also needs to get in touch with Fearga soon.

Arts and Sciences Minister (Valdis) – The Ithrotir at Egils went well. A & S night will be an informal social held here at Northwood Christian Church in Springfield next Thursday, July 5th. Alysaundre may be teaching blackwork embroidery in July. She is looking for folks to teach anything at any of the future meetings. She will be stepping down in January.

Archery (Johann) – The first practice of the season will be held on Friday, July 6th at Alysaundre and Angharad's residence.

Branch Reports: These are a mixed and bittersweet bag. Tymberhavynne has been busy assisting with preparations for An Tir/West War and appears to be doing well in general. Nordholt, on the other hand, has issues, the greatest of which is an insufficient officer corps. This in addition to factionalism is severely threatening the viability of the canton. Their council will be held on Monday, July 8th and may be their last. It is entirely possible that they may be dissolved and reabsorbed into Adiantum. If this happens, we get their resources and members as well as their responsibilities. Will we, for example, want or be able to hold Stinky War on its traditional date two weeks after Egils? This will be a decision we will have to make should Nordholt cease to exist. We are hoping for the best, but preparing for the worst, just in case.

On this note the meeting was adjourned. The next Council Meeting will be held Monday, July 23rd. Same bat time, same bat channel.

If you are wondering how to get to the Barony's webpage and its Yahoo group, go to adiantum.antir.sca.org and there you are! Click on the link that says 'Yahoo Group' on the left-hand side to see the Baronial message board. Membership there is free and necessary to post, read the archives, and get in touch with fellow members.

I forgot to bring a sign-in sheet for attendance, so if I missed anyone I am very sorry. The list I got is as follows:

Maura Cethin

Katerine Martel

Ariana Aislynn

Alysaundre Welden d'Ath

Angharad Bach

Johann Friederich Spies

Alaina de Castillo

Rhiannon

Saethryth Seolforlocc

Anyanka of PeaceHaven

Rachel Vashnia + adorable baby

Fine The Lucky

Aesa Sigtryggdottir

Maeve Cunningham

Drake McGuffin + lovely lady + cute baby

Diel of Norwich

Finn gall McKetterick

Valdis Osborne

Kristine

Radien the Redundant

These notes were taken, compiled and edited by Aesa Sigtryggdottir.. If you feel there is an inconsistency between what you remember and what happened, you may contact me at silverwolfadiantum@yahoo.com. . Auf Weidersehen!

Adiantum Welcomes Its Newest Member!!!

On July 3rd, THL Tadhg O'Murchadha the Wanderer and Lady Morrghan O'Siodhachain were blessed with the arrival of their son, Griffin Edward Alexander Simmons. The little one weighed 9 lbs, 2 oz...well, perhaps he's not so little! Congratulations and warm wishes to the proud parents! May little Griffin soar high and proud, wherever he chooses to spread his wings!



A Good Time Had By All At An Tir/West War

The incipient shire of Tymberhavynne was invaded by warriors from the Kingdom of the West, and An Tir's own gallant fighters rallied to her defense!

The Summits was praised for the courage, skill, and chivalry of its fighters during the many battles that occurred that weekend. Many times the warriors of the West were pushed back from any front guarded by those fighting beneath the griffin banner, and many a foe of An Tir fell from a blow from a skilfully-wielded blade. And, of course, in the midst of these was a contingent of fighters from Adiantum, doing their part to uphold the glory of both An Tir and the Summits, as well as to defend our prized baby shire. In the end, An Tir proved victorious!

After the dust of battle had settled, however, both An Tiran and Westie alike gathered to enjoy themselves in more peaceable pursuits. No longer thirsting for blood, their dry throats were slaked with refreshments of all kinds, and there was much merriment. Their Royal Majesties Sven and Signy of An Tir even hosted a Viking Luau that doubtless was the first of its kind, and home to joyful music and graceful dancing as well as tasty food.

By all accounts, things ran smoothly, and many people pitched in to volunteer with various endeavors. Tymberhavynne's very own Brendan ap Llewelyn was awarded a Goutte de Sang, and Mehitibel was granted an Award of Arms. Much praise is due, not only to the members of the shire who pitched in to put on this event, but also to those representatives of the Kingdoms who coordinated their efforts with those of the shire, to overcome the many challenges that present themselves during the execution of any huge event.

A modern reporter also attended the War, and wrote an excellent article on it for the local newspaper. The full text can be found at http://www.currycountyreporter.com/news/story.cfm?story_no=2675 - but a brief excerpt from it should summarize things very well:

The events of the SCA are made to be as much fun as possible...The goal, beyond historical accuracy, is socializing and fun. Members refer to dressing up as "playing" and as Nedzhda said, "One thing I find really neat is I meet people through this that I'd never have met any other way. You don't have to worry about looking people in the eye; you can just strike up a conversation. And it's amazing how much we all have in common, how much we're all just human."

Three cheers for all the valiant fighters, merchants, autocrats, and volunteers who devoted their time to making this An Tir/West War a great event! It could never have been done without all of you!

This article was gleaned from various accounts of the War. If you would like to write your own account of this or any other event, the Chronocler would love to hear from you! Please see the submission guidelines on the inside cover of this issue to find out how. ~ Aesa Sigtryggdottir



Bear Essentials: Medieval Beliefs About The Natural World (And Our Friend, The *Ursus*) By Aesa Sigtryggdottir

Our medieval ancestors held beliefs about their surroundings that are sometimes rather far-off from how we view them today. Much of this lore was contained in bestiaries, or 'books of nature'. Such tomes contained many things which we would consider beyond the bounds of natural history, however; very often, mystical meanings were assigned to various animals, and a description of an animal was more often than not accompanied by a homily meant to convey a lesson to the reader. The authors of such works believed that each and every inhabitant of Creation was an instrument specially designed to teach mortals about the Divine. As a result, bestiaries can be quite interesting and illuminating to read, for even if one does not subscribe to the religious beliefs espoused in them, they are a valuable way in learning how people in the Middle Ages viewed the world around them.

The direct ancestor to the bestiary was the *Physiologus*, a Greek text that originated in Alexandria in the second to third century CE. It was a relatively small text in that it described fewer than fifty animals, but set the stage for bestiary text; written by a Christian, it followed a brief description of a beast with its allegorical assignations. The *Physiologus* was a very popular text, and was translated into many languages; it is said to have been the second-most widely-distributed book in Europe after the Bible itself. Over time, additional animals and spiritual meanings were added to the text, and sometime after the seventh century the form of the *Physiologus* began to be mixed with that of the *Etymologiae*, an encyclopedic text which based its contents on the writings of Classical authors. It was then that the texts which we now know as bestiaries came into being. What differentiates a bestiary from its predecessor is that it annotates its allegories with the observations of other authors; so that, while the descriptions contained in bestiaries could be wildly different from how a modern zoologist would classify a beast, they were nonetheless a form of 'natural history', in that they were at least basing their conclusions on the writings, observations, and suppositions of many different people.

A good example of this mixture of allegory and observation can be seen in bestiary writings about Adiantum's very own dear creature, the bear. The bear was believed to be born as a shapeless and nearly-lifeless lump, which its mother then had to lick into the proper shape and to imbue with warmth and life by nestling the cub close to her body. (The name for the bear, *Ursus*, was said to be derived from the term *Orsus*, which basically means 'born of the mouth'.) They were born in the winter, the bear's natural mating time, during which the male and female cohabited; in chaste respect for his mate's pregnancy, the male would dig a trench to separate himself from the would-be mother. In another display of virtuous love, they would embrace during the act of mating, like humans do. After mating, they would fall into a sleep so deep that not even blows from axe or spear could rouse them. When they finally awoke, they would eat a special herb to cleanse their bowels, would gnaw on tree stumps to stimulate feeling again in their gums, and would let bees sting their eyelids to rouse back their sense of sight. Bears were quite versed in the medicinal properties of herbs; if wounded, they would seek out a plant called mullein or flomus, the mere touch of which would cure them. They could even eat of poisonous mandrake root, provided they ate ants first. However, the breath of a bear was pestilant, and anything it breathed upon would quickly spoil or rot away. They had exceptionally-strong bodies and limbs, but a weak head (perhaps it was meant that bears were weak-minded). They could be cunning in battle, for when they fought with bulls, they would hang off of the horns of the animal, letting its weight drag the bovine down, and would reserve attacks for its tender nose.

While such a description can appear fanciful at first glance, there are kernels of truth contained in it. The 'deep sleep' that bears enter into is their hibernation during the winter, a state of sleep that is so deep that they don't rouse to eat or excrete for months. It -is- possible to rouse a bear during this time, but the quickness with which it wakes up is thought to be related to the speed of its heartrate; if a bear's heart is beating quickly, it is close to waking, whereas during deep hibernation the heart will slow down to a mere eight beats per minute. A female bear will give birth during this time, and her babies do at first glance look like blind, hairless lumps. The mother will rouse to lick them, which is to clean them and to stimulate circulation and bodily functions, not to lick them into shape.

The mating habits of the bear were construed as instruction as to how married couples should comport themselves. Procreation was considered the Divine plan for relations between a man and a woman, and elaborate rules were established by the Church to dictate just when it was appropriate to pursue this end. It was widely believed that intercourse during pregnancy was against natural law; therefore the designation of the male separating himself from his mate with a trench. Interestingly, such an interpretation is not a complete conjecture from thin air, for bears have been known to dig their own dens, which can resemble trenches, and a mother bear will allow her cubs to sleep with her in her den for several seasons in a row, until they are mature enough to strike out on their own. It is possible that a mother and her cub or a pair of cubs might have been observed digging such a den, and the assumption made that they were a 'husband' and 'wife'. The mention of bears 'embracing' each other as humans do could be a further point made to illustrate the ursine's chaste behavior - though anyone who has seen bears wrangling with each other will notice that they are very limber, and can grab at each other much like a pair of wrestling humans...whether they are feeling amorous, or not.

Being omnivores, bears will eat plants and insects as well as meat, and will tear apart logs and root up plants as well as eating grass. And, of course, they love honey, which brings them into contact with bees. Such activity is done to satiate hunger, and probably not because the bear knows exotic medical lore that the rest of us don't.

Much mention is made of the bear being very strong in the body, and 'weak' in its head. It is not very clear, however, whether bears were viewed as being a sort of virtuous, medically-gifted idiot savant, or if by 'weak' the authors just meant that bears have small heads. Compared to the rest of a bear's body, its head -does- look rather small.

The connection made between bulls and bears is likewise unclear. Perhaps it is merely a residual memory of the various sports made of animals in Roman arenas, when bears probably were set against bulls as well as many other animals. It is interesting to note that the modern world still preserves this connection between the two beasts, only now it pits them against each other in the stock market, and not a combat arena.

Overall, *Ursus* was viewed as a strong, capable and virtuous creature, and it would be safe to assume that it was often admired. We in Adiantum can therefore stand proudly beneath shield, banner, and pennon, all decorated with the fierce, noble bear.

