

# THE NEWSLETTER

JUNE A.D. XLII VOLUME XV ISSUE 6



Published on behalf of the shire of Falcon's Keep  
and student members of Falcon's Gate

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## Disclaimer

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Submissions are accepted until the 15th of the previous month, preferably as a Word document inserted into an email. Send to both the Chronicler and Deputy Chronicler. The last Thursday of the previous month is the mailing date. Submissions are the property of the contributor and may not be used without permission of the author or artist. Contact the Chronicler for further information.

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Greetings from your Seneschal!

At our last meeting we had much to discuss. Mistress Ealasiad is still looking for articles to fill our Mewsletter. If you have a story, poem, or even a short report on an event you went to she would like to hear from you. We discussed posting information for members on the web. If a member wants their contact information on the web they will need to fill out a release before their info can be listed. If you have any other questions please contact our Web Minister Lady Reina. Lady Sahb will be taking over as Autocrat for Poorman's. So if you have any questions or wish to help please contact her. Due to changes in the SCA rules we brought up a vote to cancel any organized childrens activities. We felt that until the SCA, Inc.comes up with a procedure for the new requirements of youth volunteers we should temporarily suspend organized youth activities. The vote was passed unanimously. If however things change a revote could be brought before the event. The next meeting will be June 3rd @ Baron Guttorm and Mistress Ealasiad's . We also voted on the tent company for Poorman's. Due to the retirement of the previous tent company we voted to rent our tents and tables this year from Stevens Point tents. The vote was passed unanimously. We discussed Coronation. The possibility of having bagpipes. We also discussed a possible demo at the library in WI Rapids on the weekend of coronation. If you have any other ideas to make coronation a unique event please contact Lady Reina, the event autocrat. We also are looking at giving the Royals an extra night at the Mead due to the long distance they will have to travel. We will discuss this more at the next meeting bringing it up for vote. Lady Reina has requested that if you have registered devices that you bring them to coronation for decoration. We also discussed the lunch food options available for the Coronation. We would like to start discussing Haire Affaire at the next event with a vote on the event Autocrat. If you are interested in Autocrating the next Haire Affaire please come to the meeting or contact me so we can put your name in the hat. We would like to vote on the site for Haire Affaire as well.

YIS

Lady Mary, Seneschal of Falcon's Keep

# The Chronicler's Quill

Greetings onto the folk of the shire of Falcon's Keep,

May was a busy month here in the Keep. On May 6, we had a newcomers meeting hosted by Alex and Janvier. Alessandro gave a talk on SCA camping (see his summary in this issue). On May 12, while Crown was being fought in North Dakota, we had a shire picnic and moot hosted by Reina. While feasting on hamburgers, we learned that Sir Cecil Hagen and Ailis mac Maurice are the new Prince and Princess (and will be crowned here in the Keep in September). The main issues that arose at the moot included communications (major suggestion was to provide a directory available from Reina if you have not already received it via email), status of the MOAS office (due to personal issues Rawnie is not able to be active so Oz as deputy will be acting as MOAS), children's activities (none to be held until further notice due to requirements for mundane background checks—corporate is in the process of setting up a mechanism), Lady Sadhbh was named the new autocrat for Poor Man's (Rawnie is unable to serve and asked her to take over), tent rental for Poor Man's was approved (a new company since the old one is out of business but the price is only slightly higher), general plans for Poor Man's were discussed (Alex-marshall for light, Ealasaid fashion show, Oz-A&S tent, many others too numerous to list). Preliminary plans for Coronation were also discussed. Autocrats will request a meeting with the Royals, possibly at WW.

As always, we need material for the Mewsletter. I would like to encourage everyone to develop his or her personna and write the story for "Folk of the Shire" and to submit questions to THL Lady Alex for her new "Ask Alex" column. Other submissions including cover art, A&S articles, and event reports are needed every month for the Mewsletter. If you do not yet subscribe to the Mewsletter, it is never too late. This years Mewsletter is available at reduced subscription prices of \$10 for paper and \$5 for electronic (prorated for issues missed). (We must bill for both electronic and paper since both help to support the required copies to royalty and corporate officers). Subscriptions should be sent to the Exchequer.

Yours in service, ealasaid

## Anachronist's Bookshelf

I recently finished Jack Whyte's *The Eagle*, Which is the concluding Volume of the *Camulod Chronicles*. This is an Arthurian saga that has taken the author eight volumes to tell. One of the volumes was made into two books for readers in the U.S. The first book in the series is *The Sky Stone*. I came across this early in 1996. For years I have bought the paperback versions of the tale for my grandsons. I wished to share my love of the legend with them. When it comes to King Arthur I have yet to find a version I do not like. How about you?

Peter Tremayne has given this lover of the medieval mysteries genre a new Sister Fidelma mystery to enjoy. *Master of Souls* is his latest book featuring Sister Fidelma; a dalaigh or advocate of the law courts of seventh century Ireland. Sister Fidelma is also the sister of the King of Muman. She and her companion are sent to investigate the murder of an Abbess and the disappearances of six young female religieuse. Before they get to the Abby another brutal murder has already taken place.



Lady Eve is glad to once again being able to read fine print, there is not very much available in large print pertaining to our time period.

## **Camping in the SCA**

By: Lord Alessandro of Falcon's Keep

Camping in the SCA is a wonderful experience for the well-prepared camper. However the novice camper is often less than adequately prepared. A camper will begin to learn and understand some of the 'tricks of the trade' that apply to SCA camping through trial and error. Perhaps this article will help you to pick up on some of the things I have learned in my SCA camping experience without the headaches that come from 'learning experiences'.

First and foremost is planning. Before you pack anything or get in the car you should plan your trip. You should have your packing list ready and go over it to make sure you didn't forget anything. To reduce the amount of things you need to pack plan ahead with friends to share resources. I often share my cooking equipment with one of my friends. You can do this with many things, food, tools, cooking utensils, etc. Prepare adequate menu for the amount of time you are going to be camping. Don't rely too heavily on meals that you have to heat; if the weather is inclement you may have to eat without being able to cook. For trips to unknown sites make sure you have good directions to the site. Nothing is worse than finding out you've been driving the wrong way for nearly an hour. Ensure your vehicle and, if applicable, trailer or other cargo carrier are in good working order. Make sure you know the site rules ahead of time and obey them.

Second comes actually packing for your adventure. What you bring is up to you and is often limited by the amount of space you have. Remember to leave a little space for anything you plan on buying at the event! A good tip that I should heed a little more myself is to pack the things that you need first, last. I cannot count the number of times I have had to pile up blankets and other gear on the ground to get to my tent to set it up. This also applies to packing your food. If you've made up a menu, you should know what you are going to be making for each meal. Pack your food so that you don't have to dig through half of it to get what you need for your first meal. If you are heading through tollways ensure you bring adequate change

to pay your way through. You could pay with large bills or even credit cards but why make your self wait through all that? Remember that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure and pack your sunscreen and bug spray!

When you arrive to your location it is time to pay your way in and set up. Before you grab out the tent that you packing in last you need to find a good place to set it up. Using trees for shade is great, be aware that a tree blocking the sun when you set up at 2pm may not provide any shade in the early morning hours! Look at the tree and ensure that there are no branches hanging that may be in the way or may fall, damaging your equipment to injuring someone. Be wary of places that may experience flooding if it rains hard. Try to find someplace level and dry and remove any sticks or sharp rocks from the area. Be thorough, you don't want your air mattress deflating at night! A good practice is to put down a tarp. It is almost essential in period pavilions as they don't have a bottom, but it's also useful in modern tents to provide a little bit of extra protection to keep your tent from getting a wet floor or tearing. Make sure you know where vital areas of the campsite are, ie: surgeon's point, porta-potties, and showers. After this you should be ready to set up your tent and unpack your other belongings. Enjoy your event!

I have included a number of tips that I have picked up from my camping experiences and the stories of others. I now pass them on to you.

#### Tips:

\*It is cold at night, even when it's 95 degrees during the day, even when your camping in the desert, make sure you pack adequately for bedtime.

\*Padding under your sleeping bag keeps you warmer than extra blankets.

\*Making soups ahead of time and freezing them cuts down cooking time.

\*Cooking over a fire is sometimes not allowed due to burn bans.

You may wish to have a backup in case of rain or lack of firewood.

\*Keep your campsite clean to keep the creepy crawlies out and prevent fires.

\*Period is nice, but not necessary, you don't need a pavilion to go camping in the SCA.

\*Cloth draped over coolers and chairs makes for a better, more period, looking campsite.

\*Be aware of the rules set forth by the host, know what 'wet', 'damp' and 'dry' mean in relation to SCA camping.

\*Quiet in the quiet area.

\*Know what time you need to be out by on the last day and be out before then. The hosting group needs to clean up the campground before they are able to leave.

\*Many SCA sites don't have potable water or the water they consider potable may not be up to your personal standards. I suggest that everyone bring their own water supply for drinking and cooking.

\*\*\*\*\* Campfire safety is especially important considering how close together we often camp in the SCA. Remember you are wearing garb when working around the campfire. Many period outfits had poofy sleeves that may catch on fire when cooking or adding wood. Also remember that fires throw sparks. You may wish to change into plain garb when sitting close to the fire. Ensure your camping equipment is far enough away and that there are no trees directly overhead. Be sure to have something handy to extinguish the fire should it get out of hand. A fire extinguisher is preferred for emergencies while water should be used for merely putting it out before you leave camp.

I hope this article helps to make you a well-prepared camper and your SCA camping trips more enjoyable.

Happy Camping!



Thanks to Mistress Thora  
Sharptooth for the photo of  
the her Anglo-Saxon geteld.

**Folk of the Shire:  
Herr Janvier der Wasserman**

Greetings to the good and honorable populace of the Shire of Falcon's Keep from Achtbar Herr Sheriff Janvier der Wasserman.

Many in the shire have met me in your trade and travel throughout the lands of Northshield and our shire. However most of folk who now live in the shire, were not about the last time I told of who I am. To know me though, you must first know where I came from, my family.

I will start with my family's merchant company, Wasserman and Strough. It was built by Rhinehold Wasserman and Robert Strough. The company grew to two warehouses and four trade ships. When the Strough family fell victim to a plague brought back from a distant land by Robert, the Wasserman family took over the corporation and the lone Strough survivor, an infant girl. Herman Wasserman at the age of 14 found himself as the man of the house when his father's ship wrecked returning from a trading mission with the Franks. Herman grew to the task. Herman had many sons. The one that follows my line was known as Janush der Wasserman. Janush took up the sword and the charge of the leader of the now unified tribes of the Deutsch. There, he was put on crusade to the holy land. After spending eight years in service, Janush returned to live as a lord of an estate overlooking the town in which his brother worked the family company. Janush was my great great grandfather. The Wasserman family has worked the land and the river Rhine for many generations. My father, also named Herman, now runs the family business I am the sixth son of my father, I have been taught the art of the sword and the way to turn the grape to wine. On returning from a long campaign and finding life in my home confining, and I went in search of my place in the world.

I left my home lands on a trade mission for my family. However due to my lack of seamanship our ship ended up grounded on a sand bar off the shore of France. When a French frigate "Argent Dolphin" offered assistance, I did not trust the captain. We refused their help and the ship sailed away. When the tide returned, our ship with its shallow draft was

*(Continued on page 14)*



## Ask Alex

I go to the Renaissance Faire, is this the same thing?

The answer is, kind of. Many of the people at the Renaissance Faires are theater students or professionals. What we do is our hobby. We do this for fun! There are some other differences that I have observed as well. They usually focus on a very short time period. For example the MN Renaissance Faire recreates the years 1586 – 1600, and the Bristol Renaissance Faire is Elizabethan England in 1574. We focus on pre-17<sup>th</sup> century Europe, mainly from 600 – 1600. That is over a thousand years to choose from. Most individuals have a persona based on somewhere in Europe, but it is not unusual to meet Japanese or even a Mayan at an event.



Much of the fighting at Renaissance Faires is choreographed performances put on by professionals. The SCA has two forms of contact combat (armored and rapier), and archery and equestrian. None of these are choreographed. The individuals participating in these activities go through a training period, and then can compete in tournaments and other competitions held within the Kingdom. Many local groups have contact people for each of these areas called marshals. In Falcon's Keep, contact THL Alexandra der Wasserman for information on Rapier combat, Mace of Falcon's Keep for information about armored combat and THL Anna z Pernstejna if you are interested in equestrian. Currently, the archery marshal position is vacant, but we have several people who can help you get started. If you have any interest in these areas, please contact any of these people. Their contact information is located in this newsletter and also on our web site. We can get you the information and the equipment to get you started, or just answer your questions. We love having new people to play with!

We also do many other non-combat related activities, commonly referred to as A&S. The arts and sciences cover a wide range of activities, from making wine to making armor. Embroidery, cooking, weaving, leather work, calligraphy and illumination are just a few of the areas our local members are involved with. Almost any activity you may be interested in can have an SCA equivalent. On the Falcon's Keep web page, the list of our members also lists their interests. A good place to start is our Minister of Arts & Sciences.

From the outside, we may look like a Renaissance Faire but we are a society passionate about learning history and putting that knowledge into practice, not just performing. We do this year round, so there are ample opportunities to participate in the experience that is the current middle ages. Above all, we have fun and enjoy the camaraderie of people throughout the known world.

Tune in next time for the answers to more questions. If you have anything you don't understand or feel uncomfortable asking someone, sent it to me at [terris@tznet.com](mailto:terris@tznet.com)" [terris@tznet.com](mailto:terris@tznet.com)

#### EDITORIAL COMMENT:

In addition to what Alex says above, I think it is helpful to understand that when you attend a Renaissance Faire you are basically a spectator who is paying to be entertained. If you go as a performer, your job is to entertain rather than to teach. The goal of the organizer is to make a profit. When you attend an SCA event you are participating in a re-creation of certain aspects of medieval and renaissance life. The goal is to have fun while learning about the time period. This means you need to get involved and try new things if you want to find out what the SCA is really about.

Ealasaid

## CALENDAR

### June 2007

- 1-3 Quest for the Summer Sun [Windhaven-Algoma, WI]
- 2 Feast Day of Old Favorites [Castel Rouge, Winnipeg, MB]
- 8-10 - Mermaids Retreat 2007:Woodland Wars-The Ultimate Surf and Turf [Turm an dem See - Valders, WI]
- 15-17 - Castle Fever [Silfren Mere - Oronoco, MN]
- 22-24 - Naadam: Schutzenfest on the Steppes [Nordskogen - Waconia, MN]
- 22-24 - Border Skirmish IV [Caer Anterth Mawr-Lakemore, IL]
- 22-24 - Thatsa Mare [Mare Amethystinum - Thunder Bay, ON]
- 22-24 Mad Dogs [Border Downs-Parker , SD]
- 29-1 - Moorish Tavern XVII [Midewinde - Bottineau, ND]

### July 2007

- 5-8 Warriors and Warlords XIV [Jararvellir-Black River Falls, WI]
- 21-23 Rabid Yale Hunt VIII [Coldedernhale-White River, SD]
- 21 River Revel II Oeneach [Stromfels-River Falls, WI]
- 21 BOD Meeting[Nordskogen, Minneapolis, MN]
- 27-12 Pennsic War 36 [Aethelmearc, Slippery Rock, PA]

### August 2007

- 3-5 Poor Man's Pennsic [Falcon's Keep, Pittsville, WI]
- 17-19 BYOM V [Vilku Urvas- Deer River, MN]
- 17-19 Woodland Romp V [Skerjastrond- Gwinn, MI]
- 31-3 A Viking Odyssey-Love on the Fjords! [Castel Rouge, MB]
- 31-2 Autumn Rose [Rokeclif-Galesville, WI]

### September 2007

- 8 Northshield Fall Coronation [Falcon's Keep-Wisc Rapids, WI]
- 13-16 CeCil's Siege III [Svatý Sebesta - Vermillion, SD]
- 21-23 Siege the Day III [Shattered Oak-Hixton, WI]
- 29 30th Baronial Birthday [Windhaven=Green Bay, WI]

**Fighter practices for Rapier and Armored will rotate between Marshfield, Wisconsin Rapids, and Wausau. Please see the website for details. (Practices at UWSP will resume in the fall)**

**JUNE MOOT**  
and  
**BREWING, VINTNING, AND COOKING GUILD**

Sunday June 3

Meadmaking workshop begins at noon

Moot starting at 1pm

Brewing, Vintning, and Cooking Guild meeting to follow  
at the home of

Baron Guttorm & Mistress Ealasaïd

C3808 Heartland Hills Road, Stratford, WI 54484

715-687-4870

Directions:

**From the South:** North on 97 (toward Stratford) for 5.5 miles. Turn right (East) on C toward Rozellville, continue for 2.7 miles. In Rozellville turn left (north) onto M at the four way stop. Follow M north 3.3 miles. M will curve to the right (East), then left (North) toward 153. Go straight onto Balsam Road, a gravel road. **\*\*Continue approximately 1.1 miles.** Turn right (South) onto Heartland Hills Road. Our house, with cedar siding, is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles down the road at the bottom of the loop.

**From the East:** West on 153 (toward Stratford). Turn left (south) on M (note the church on the right). After about a mile, M will turn right, but you turn left onto Balsam (gravel road). Follow directions from **\*\***.

## Web pages of interest:

[www.sca.org](http://www.sca.org)

[www.northshield.org](http://www.northshield.org)

[www.falconskeep.org](http://www.falconskeep.org)

[www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/falcon/index.htm](http://www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/falcon/index.htm)

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freed, and we were on our way. Over the next two days we hugged the coastline, spotting this ship on the horizon. In port I took charge of a cargo delivered by the de Cellini Trading house. That night in an inn I met with a few sea captains including an attractive red haired frau. After a few bechers of bier and a bar fight she offered me a position on her ship. Since my vessel was returning home without me, I accepted her offer and made arrangements to meet with the ship at the mouth of the Rhine. When returning to the docks I saw her off to a three masted fat merchantman named oddly enough "Argent Dolphin". A week later I joined the dolphin's crew as an armed marine, and I found out the secret of the two argent dolphins. Not only do the ships share a name, but also, the two ships captains have a striking physical similarity. Both are attractive red haired frauen. Furthermore, they work together as the fat merchant takes on the cargo of the frigate. Then the frigate acquires new cargo from ships at sea that are over burdened and in risk of floundering, or in need of protection in pirate infested waters. Somewhat to my surprise, I found myself on the frigate Argent Dolphin, not the merchant. I now serve as first mate under Captain Alex of the frigate Argent Dolphin.

## **Arts and Sciences in the Keep**

We will be having the first meeting of the Brewing, Vintning and Cooking Guild in conjunction with the June Moot (see notice page 13). If you wish to participate in the meadmaking workshop led by Janvier please try to arrive by noon.

Due to personal issues, Lady Rawnie de Douglas has been unable to perform her duties as MOAS. Her deputy, Oz the Baker will be assuming a more active role in organizing A& S activities. Please contact him if you have something you wish to learn or teach or have other ideas for advancing the Arts and Sciences in Falcon's Keep.

Oz the Baker (Joe Thorp)  
715-846-5969  
chocolatecookieeyes@yahoo.com

## *Officers of Falcon's Keep*

Seneschal: Mary of Falcon's Keep (MKA Mary Welker)  
 104 Florence St, Wausau, WI  
 715-297-0718 venom@charter.net

Deputy Seneschal: Lord Justinian

Pursuivant: Lord Grimr inn Harfagri (MKA Dennis Russell)  
 851 East Rd, Rib Lake, WI 54470  
 715-427-0402 grimr\_fairhair@yahoo.com

Deputy Pursuivant: vacant

Exchequer: Lady Isabeau of Winter Rose (MKA Alyce Knutson)  
 3230 Reber Dr, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494  
 715-421-0953 3230knut@tznet.com

Deputy Exchequer: Maebh de Blancheville

Knights Marshall: Thomas of Falcon's Keep  
 kloudbirst@yahoo.com

Marshall of Fence:  
 THLady Alexandra der Wasserman (MKA Terri Harteau)  
 623 N Ash Ave, Marshfield, WI 54449  
 715-384-9298 terris@tznet.com

Marshall of Archery: vacant

Minister of Arts & Sciences:  
 Rawnie de Douglas (MKA Ronda Douglas)  
 161 5th St N, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494  
 715-254-9106 benronda@charter.net

Deputy Minister of Arts & Sciences: Oz the Baker

Minister of Youth: vacant

Chronicler:  
 Mistress Ealasaic nic Phearsoinn (MKA Elspeth Christianson)  
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 715-297-0718 chaosgeneral@charter.net

Deputy Chatelaines: Lord Gabriel Michalik

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 1934 Eva Rd Apt 5, Mosinee, WI 54455  
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Deputy Web Minister: Guinevere Aloisia of Falcon's Keep

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June 2007