



MEWSLETTER

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Nov 2013, ASXLVIII

Δ competitor's perspective of Griffin Needle Challenge

In mid-October Northshield held it's annual Griffin Needle Challenge in the Barony of Jararvellir. The purpose of this endurance event is for teams of up to six people to complete an entire outfit 'from the skin out'. I attended the event the previous year as a spectator but this was my first year competing. I had the pleasure of being the model for one of the teams, "The Norsestar Corps."

Ideally, preparations for the competition would begin months prior to the event. The outfit needs to be decided on and documented. Patterns need to be created and mocked up. Fabric needs to be picked out and purchased. Any accessories that can

not be made on site need to be purchased or, preferably, made by the team. You may want to register early to reserve a spot; this year the event filled to capacity. Your team will need to pick which division you're going to compete in. Most importantly, recruit any members you

need for your team! One of the things you need not worry about is food. The meal plan is an excellent value and the volunteer cooks for this event were phenomenal. Small meals are served every 3 hours to keep everyone's energy up.

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Norsestar Corps team, from left to right: Demona DiRosa, Caoifhlionn inghean Mhaughnusa, Alessandro of Falcon's Keep, Arianna da Lucca, Adele Paust (not pictured: Zeba Sao Pacian)
photo courtesy of Demona di Rosa

Nov 16 MOOT

1:00 Sunday at Lord Vincent's home.

UPCOMING MOOTS AND PRACTICE

- Nov 16 moot at Lord Vincent's home
- Nov 17 library demo
- Dec 15 at Lady Arianna & Lord Rogan's

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The event opened at 7pm to the populace; sewing started at 10pm on Friday and ended at 6pm the next day. The teams are allowed to sleep, or not, at their own discretion. Thus it is important to arrive well rested and mentally prepared for the event. We arrived on site at 8:30 pm, an hour and a half before “needles up”. This allowed us to ensure our workspace was organized as well as to familiarize team members with the patterns and materials we would be working on. Everyone was made aware of what they would be working on and how their assigned garments were to be constructed before the event started.

At 10pm we were allowed to begin sewing. With nine teams this year the initial bustle was a sight to see as people spread out over every flat area in the site to begin cutting out the initial pieces from their various fabrics. Soon the room was filled with the sounds of sewing machines, scissors, and excited chatter. Before I knew it the 20 hours of sewing, laughing, and snacking had passed in a blur of fatigue.

At 6pm the next day it is “all needles down”. Now is the time to see how well your teams efforts have panned out. The models are dressed, hopefully in a completed outfit, though often pinned or sewn in. A fashion show is held with all the models taking part. They show the various items of clothing they made and give a brief explanation of the outfit. The judges and populace are allowed to ask questions and many oos and ahhs are voiced. Food is served after the fashion show whilst the judges begin the difficult task of rating the performance of each of their assigned teams.

The groups are all judged on the quality of their documentation, the authenticity of the materials used for the outfit, the methods of construction, the quality of the workmanship, the fit of the garments, the degree of completion of the planned project, and how complete of a representation the overall outfit is to a typical outfit of their chosen period. The teams are competing against others in their division. The divisions dictate how your garment is constructed, what you're allowed to use for patterns, and how critical your judges will be in the various categories. The scores are numerical, though the real treasures are the comments and suggestions the judges give you to improve in specific areas in the future. The judges give honest feedback and criticism is politely, and freely, given. That is some thing often hard to find.

As everyone's meals have finished we begin anxiously waiting the announcement of the winners and the presentation of our score sheets. Initial site cleanup begins now so we, (and the event staff!), can get off site right after scoring for some much needed rest. The announcement of the scores is finally here and the gleeful winners accept their prizes and accolades. The score sheets are made available for a quick perusal by their teams before the event closes. A copy of their score sheets will later be emailed to the team captains.

As we left the event in a sleep-deprived daze I couldn't help but wonder what we would be making next year, I'm hooked and will be back again!

Alessandro



THL Janvier der Wasserman in Landsknecht garb made by his team, the Servants of the Land.

Photo courtesy of Caoillhionn



Anna z Permstějna and horse. Garb trapings and horse made by theStitchy Widgets team.

Photo Ealasaid nic Phearsoinn

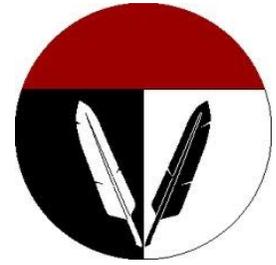
Falcon's keep had 3 teams entered in the Griffin Needle Challenge this year! Congratulations to all 3!

THE CHRONICLER'S QUILL

Greetings from Mistress Ealasaic nic Phearsoinn,

Since a number of people from the Keep were competitors in the recent Griffin Needle Challenge, it seems like a good time to talk about documentation. In its simplest form, this simple means you are finding specific evidence that what you are doing was done in the Middle Ages. You can use primary sources (something that was available to people in period like a 15th C cookbook or the Bayeux tapestry), secondary sources (someone's interpretation of a period source such as a redacted recipe or a book interpreting what the Bayeux tapestry tells us about period clothing), or tertiary (a website summarizing what people ate in period, a costume book summarizing what several different authors have said about Anglo-Saxon garb). While all these types of reference are useful, secondary or tertiary sources should be checked when possible by going back to the primary sources (extant objects, period artwork, etc) or at least comparing several secondary or tertiary source to see where they agree and where they differ. Finally you write about how your work compares with the period way, and why you did things the way you did.

Yours in service, Ealasaic



Fighter Practice Fall/winter Locations

7pm Monday

UWSP HEC Room 110

This is the same room as last year. A special thank-you to Falcon's Gate for securing this space.

Is it period? Thanksgiving Dinner by Mistress Ealasaic

The first thanksgiving feast at the Plymouth Colony in 1621 is known to have included fowl (possibly goose or duck rather than turkey as well as venison brought by the Indians. Other dishes probably included shellfish and Indian corn, and perhaps vegetables from the colonists' gardens, or other vegetables grown by the Indians including beans and squash.

Period recipes for turkey are unusual by today's standards. Robert May (1660) recommended first slitting the turkey down the back and removing the bones, then stuffing it with finely minced veal, suet and eggs, then baking it in a pie shell. Joseph Cooper (1654) recommended cooking sweet potatoes (considered aphrodisiac at the time) in a pie with apples.

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Web pages :

www.sca.org

www.northshield.org

www.falconskeep.org

www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/falcon/index.htm

Minutes for moot at Lord Pedro and lady Emelye's October 27

as reported by Lady Pedro

Old Business

Reviewed the date change of November's Moot to Nov. 16, so it would not conflict with the upcoming demo at the Marshfield Public Library, on November 17.

Reminder of upcoming moots:

November 16, Lord Vincent (Wausau)

December 15, Lord Rogan and Lady Arianna (Wisconsin Rapids)

Reviewed the pending purchase of equestrian insurance. It was decided to delay this until it was confirmed that Deb Schliesow would be the Shire's Equestrian Marshal.

Baron Guttorm presented a small book that was made about the recent visit of University Of Wisconsin Green Bay students to his Viking house. It was passed around during the moot.

Officer Reports

Not Present:

Rapier Marshal

Heavy Weapons Marshal

Webmistress

Herald

Seneschal:

Lord Alessandro shared actions he had undertaken regarding a possible demo site in Wausau, the 400 Block (note: yes, it really is called that). He stated he was currently investigating whether it would be worth the effort. He will be looking at filling out paperwork in the near future.

Chatelaine:

No new business.

Lady Kiku acted as a member of Falcon's Gate for this Moot.

She reported the next Gate meeting would be making Scroll cases, and requested the moot to gather up any unwanted fabric to help with this.

She also reported on upcoming events for the Gate, including a Masquerade on April 6, 2014; and a Regional Fighters Practice on April 18. The Regional Fighter practice would also have a fundraiser for the Gate (donate generously!).

Lady Kiku also strongly suggested that the officers of the Gate receive recognition for their efforts in the form of Award of Arms. She noted the tremendous amount of effort they had put into the Gate.

Related to the Chatelaine: Marshfield Library Demo, November 17. Set up at Noon, event will run from 1 PM to 4 PM. This will be a display only demo.

Exchequer: No new business.

Chronicler: Mistress Ealasaid strongly encouraged original content from other gentles in the Shire.

Minister of Arts And Sciences: Lady Beatrice noted the recent Griffin's Needle Challenge had taken place the previous weekend. The presence of our humble Shire was great at the event, and it was remarked that it was unfortunate we were unable to sweep the event.

Due to increasing popularity, it was reported the organizers of the event would be looking for a larger venue; Lord Janvier suggested the Zion Lutheran Church in Stratford, WI as a possible alternative. This would require the Shire to host the event. This idea was met with enthusiasm.

Other officer related subjects:

Although the Herald was not present, there was a suggestion made for a Herald's Table at an upcoming moot and at an upcoming Gate meeting.

The subject of the infamous “blue butt bird” was raised, and a suggestion was made to make an official populace device for the Keep. It was revealed that the device currently on populace favors was not official, though it will most likely be retained until such time that a new device would be passed.

Other New Business

The topic of a new shade fly for Poorman’s was raised once again. After some discussion, it was decided that Lord Rogan would research prices for appropriate shade flies and report via Lady Arianna.

Related to this, an idea was raised to fabricate a design that would be tested at the upcoming Poorman’s using a disposable canvas material. This would be dependent on volunteers willing to sew this design.

Rogan reported the purchase of arrow shafts for the Shire. It was noted as follow-up to the approval of their purchase some months ago. He also noted that he would be willing to teach fletching, but only on a one-on-one basis, as teaching a group would become confusing.

Mistress Ealasaid brought a dish to pass for the Moot which will ultimately be made for the Known World Bardic Congress and Cooks Collegium. Falcon’s Keep is responsible for serving a breakfast meal at the event.

Upcoming Events

Haire Affaire:

Lady Kiku noted that the Village of Hvitskogar requested Haire Affaire to be the event of their elevation to a full Shire. A vote was taken, and unanimously in favor of allowing it to be done. A suggestion was made to make a memento of some kind for the future Shire as a gift.

The fees for Haire Affaire are as follows:

Member: \$8.00.

Youth(17y- 4y): \$3.00

Feast: \$10.00

Non-Member surcharge: \$5.00

Merchant: \$10.00 and minimum \$5.00 donation to Silent Auction.

Lunch will be the same as last year, with Lady Mary and Lady Arianna graciously volunteering to run it once again.

There was a brief discussion regarding site tokens for the event. Ideas raised included sculpy doubloons and castanets.

Side note: after the moot, an effort was made by Lord Pedro and Lady Kiku to ask gentles to fill certain needed roles. While most of them are filled, Lord Pedro will not submit a “staff roster” until the next moot for those he was unable to contact before the minutes were submitted.

Evercon:

Lord Alessandro shared an E-mail from the organizers of Evercon. The gist of the E-mail was that their theme for the upcoming event was “medieval”, and as such, they would like us to expand our presence, and also give input into what activities they would be able to do.

An enthusiastic discussion followed, with much brainstorming. Some ideas included:
Pictures with people in loaner garb and an appropriately medieval backdrop

A continuous chain mail class

An introduction into heraldry, which would include hands on instruction

A panel on related medieval topics, such as clothing, or the SCA in general

There seemed to be no set idea that will be done yet; this will most likely be revisited at the next moot.

On that note, the meeting was adjourned.

EVENT CALENDAR



November 2013

Squirrel Regional Practice III Sat Nov 16 Canton of Nordleigh (Rosemount, MN)

December 2013

Yule Ball Sat Dec 7 Shire of Dreibruken (Bismarck ND)

Feast of Bull's Head Sat Dec 7 Barony of Caer Antherth Mawr (West Bend WI)

Fighters Retreat Sat Dec 21 Canton of Blachemere (Ramsey MN)

January 2014

Twelfth Night Sat Jan 4 Barony of Nordskogen (Ramsey MN)

It's Only a Flesh Wound Sat Jan 25 Barony of Jararvellir (Jefferson, WI)

February 2014

La Festa del Amore Sat Feb 8 Shire of Midewinde (Minot ND)

Stellar University of Northshield Sat Feb 8 Shire of Rockhaven (St Cloud MN)

Herzkrieg XX Sat Feb 15 Shire of Svaty Sebesta (SD)

Lupercalia Sat Feb 22 Shire of Rivenwood Tower (Nicollet MN)

March 2014

Gulf Wars Mar 9-16 Kingdom of Glenn Abhann (Lumberton MS)

Las Aventuras de la Liebra Iberica (Haire Affaire) Sat Mar 22 Shire of Falcons Keep (Wausau WI)

April 2013

Provost Challenge Fri-Sun Apr 25-27 Shire of Coldedernhale (St Pierre SD)

May 2014

Quest for Camelot Thur-Sun May 15-18 Shire of Schattentor (Sturgis SD)

Armored Combat Collegium Sat May 17 (Jefferson WI)

Lamb to Loom Sat May 24 Shire of Turm an dem See (Random Lake WI)

Mermaids XXI Fri-Sun May 30-Jun1 Shire of Turm an dem See (Valders, WI)

June 2014

Border Skirmish Fri-Sun Jun 13-15 Barony of Caer Antherth Mawr (Elkhorn WI)

Moorish Tavern Thur-Sun Jun19-22 Shire of Midewinde (Bottineau ND)

Over the River & In the Woods Hvitskrogar Sat Jun 21 (Ironwood, MI)

Hadrian's Field Fri-Sun Jun 27-29 Shire of Border Downs (Adrian MN)

August 2014

Known World Bardic Congress and Cooks Collegium VI Fri-Mon Aug 29-Sept 1 Barony of Jararvellir (Madison WI)

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