

The Althing



January
as xxxiiii

THEIR EXCELLENCIES OF THE DEBATABLE LANDS

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The Althing's submissions deadline is the first Friday of the month – send your contributions to Elss at chronicler@debatablelands.org .

Contents

Baronial Contacts	2
Letter from the Baron and Baroness	4
Important Dates	4
Letters from the Barony Officers	5
Officers Meeting Report	6
Event - BMDL Twelfth Night	8
Steltonwald and Cour d'Or Contacts	Inside Back Cover

Disclaimer

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Publication

The Althing is published every month except August, with an Arts and Sciences issue published once a year. If you'd like to join the Althing mailing list and receive your newsletter by e-mail, you can do so here: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bmdl_althing/ or it is available for free on the Barony web site www.debatablelands.org. Paper copies are available for those without Internet access. Please contact the chronicler with an address to have a paper copy mailed to you at 412-366-5844. If you would prefer to write, the address is on the outside cover.

Submissions

Any gentle wishing to submit articles, artwork, poetry, etc, to the Althing is invited to do so. Please send your work to the chronicler. All material in the Althing is copyrighted to the individual contributors. The chronicler reserves the right to edit, refuse, or reprint any submissions. The submission deadline for the Althing is the first Wednesday of the month.

Baronial Discussion E-List

Need more info on an upcoming baronial event? Just want to chat?

To subscribe to the barony emailing list, go to <http://lists.andrew.cmu.edu/mailman/listinfo/sca-bmdl>, and follow the instructions on the page.

Art Work

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Greetings from the Baron and Baroness

U Nto the good and fair gentles of the Debatable Lands do Byron and Ariella, Baron and Baroness, send greetings.

With the Twelfth Night celebrations, we peek out from our winter shells and look forward to a series of events celebrating winter in our Barony. We will hold court at both the Steltonwald and the Baronial Twelfth Night events. We look forward to having Their Royal Majesties grace our Barony's Twelfth Night.

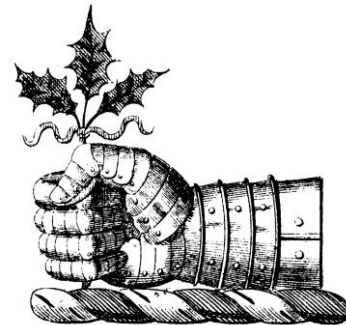
A Bardic circle, including the selection of our Barony's Bardic champion, will be held, as well as many other wonderful activities. We hope gentles of all ages will enter the Bardic circle and we will award a small prize to all who compete for our Bardic champion.

Since we last wrote in the Althing, our Barony has lost Baroness Tatyana, our predecessor. She was an example of friendliness, courtesy, generosity, and skill that our Barony will miss deeply. Many gentles have begun giving of their time and efforts on behalf of her memory and on behalf of her daughter and parents. Please visit a table at the Barony's Twelfth Night to contribute to these efforts by making a quilt square, writing down good memories of her, and contributing to an educational fund for her daughter, Sarah. There will be further information about her memorial quilt, Kingdom regalia contribution, and Pennsic activities posted to the Barony list.

We wish you luck and energy in your winter endeavors to hone a skill or try a new activity within our Society. Please let us know those gentles who you see at practices or contributing in any way, so that we may give them formal recognition. As always, we welcome any commentary on the state of our Barony and would hear your words.

Written this 20th day of January,

Byron and Ariella



Important Dates Coming Up!

BMDL Twelfth Night and January Barony Meeting

January 30, 2010 at the Lodge in North Park – Details on activities in this Althing!

BMDL Officers Meeting

February 3, 2010 -- location not yet determined, probably at CMU.

March Barony Meeting and Officers Meeting

March 7, 2010 at 1 PM – Details to be announced!

BMDL Officers Meeting

April 7, 2010 -- this will be the annual budget meeting.

May Barony Meeting

May 16, 2010 at 1 PM – to be held at the Washington Boulevard practice site.

July Barony Meeting

July 18, 2010 at 1 PM – to be held at the Washington Boulevard practice site.

Greetings from your Seneschal!

I already have one letter in hand expressing interest in taking over after my term as Seneschal expires in February. As such, I know the Barony will continue on in capable hands. However, should you be interested in submitting a letter for the position, please send the letter to me and to their Excellencies before the February officers meeting.

In addition, the Barony is in need of a rapier marshal. Currently there is no rapier marshal and as such rapier practice is not being held consistently although there is indoor space available. Anyone interested in the position should send letters to me and their Excellencies stating their desire and listing their qualifications for the position. The duties of the baronial rapier marshal include supporting rapier activities in the Barony by running weekly practices, filing required reports, helping run rapier activities at events as requested, and attending officers and Barony meetings.

YIS,

Fredeburg

From the Captain of Archers

From the Captain of Archers,

Wednesday night Winter practice has begun with the leadership of Lady Muirgheal at the Beaver Valley Archery Club. This is the site of the recent Archers to the Wald events just outside Zelenople. I was out there last month and participated in a unique archery experience. Ask Brandubh for details. I'm going to try to get out there a few more times before the outdoor season begins. We've been shooting both for practice and for the Challenge.

Speaking of the outdoor season, I hope that we can move outdoors beginning in April. The first Sunday of April is Easter and I don't know yet if we'll do it that day.

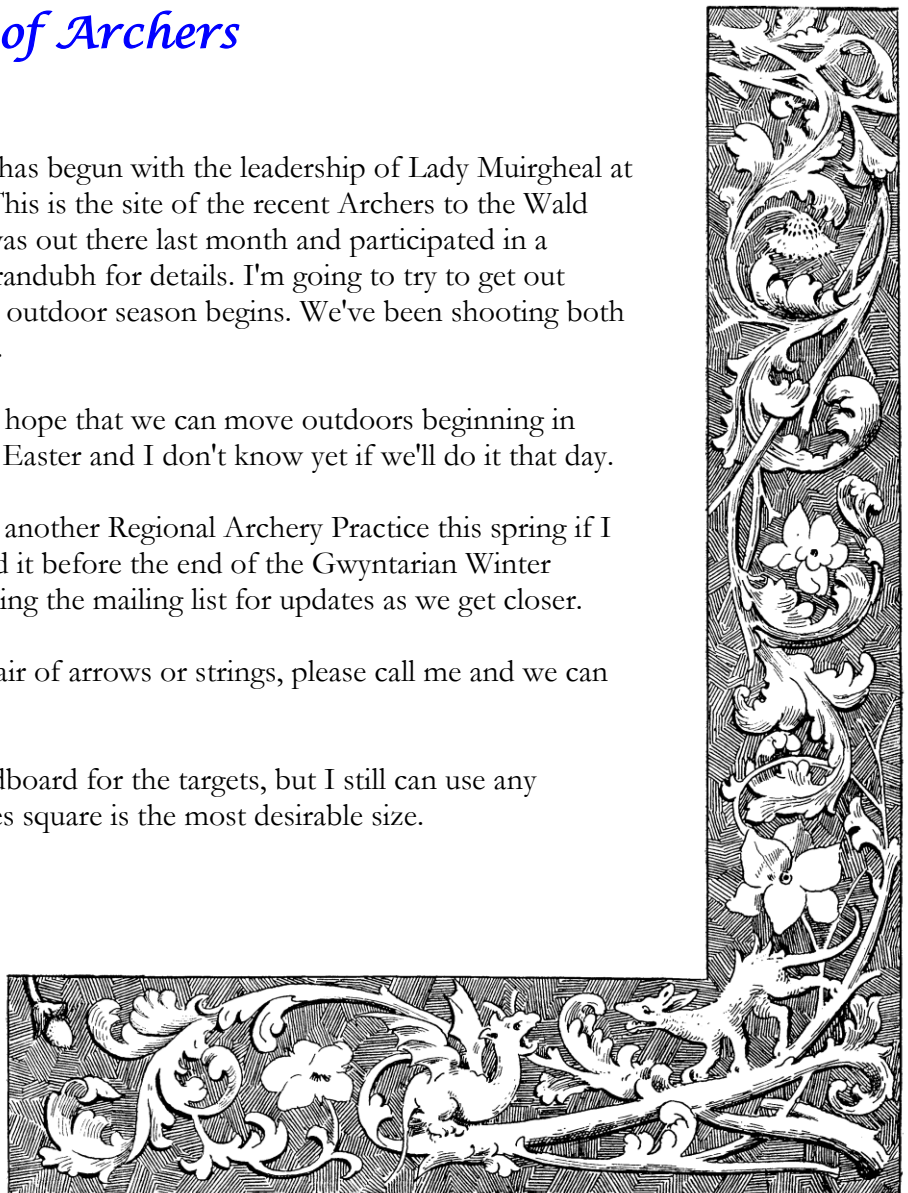
I'm in the early stages of planning another Regional Archery Practice this spring if I can just find a date. I'd like to hold it before the end of the Gwyntarian Winter Challenge (April 22). Keep watching the mailing list for updates as we get closer.

If anyone needs help with the repair of arrows or strings, please call me and we can get together to work on it.

I'm in pretty good shape with cardboard for the targets, but I still can use any donations. Something 28-30 inches square is the most desirable size.

In service to the Barony-Marche,

Urho Waltterinen



January Youth Minister Report!

Hopefully all the children are enjoying the beautiful snow that has been blanketing everything recently. What a wondrous and magical winter this has been so far; Suzy snowflake has been working overtime this year! Parents try not to think of how it affects your commute and take a day to play with your kids and remember what its like to dream of snow days and magical forts and castles made of sparkling snow!

We are looking forward to BMDL 12th night! Kids: there will be many activities planned! We will be spending time decorating the hall with ornaments, and decorating cookies. We will also learn how to make pomanders! So it will be a very fun and festive 12th night for children and adults alike. Also don't forget a present to pass around for the gift exchange!

Parents we are still looking for adults to help out! Please let me know if you are interested in helping at local events, or even have class, game ideas. We are passing around ideas for a possible children's event. Which we would need a lot of hands, and help. We also need more warranted adults to pull off such an event. SO if you think that you could lend a hand, please email me.

Yours in service,

Lady Aíbell ingen Chernacháin



Greetings from Cour d'Or

I am still looking for anyone interested in becoming a Deputy Seneschal of the College of Cour d'Or. If you would like to become more involved with the College, this is a great place to start. Please contact me if this sounds like something you want to try. My contact information is found here in the Althing.

In service,
Rosalia

Report of the Meetings of the Officers of the BMDL

The Officers Meetings are held to discuss and decide upon the business matters of the Barony, and these are the minutes of that meeting held recently.

Officers' Meeting Minutes, December 16th, 2009.

- ❖ Officers attending: Her Excellency Ariella; Fredeburg, Seneschale (by speaker-phone); Tofi, Exchequer; Pavel, Pursuivant; Elss, Chronicler; Rosalia, Cour d'Or Seneschale; Clewin, Marshal of Fence; Urho, Captain of Archers; Cai, Webminister
 - ❖ Officers proxied: Pavla, Minister A&S proxied by Hilda; Alonzio, MOL, proxied by Clewin; Shiro, Knight Marshal, proxied by Rosalia; Asceline, Chatelaine, proxied by Hilda
 - ❖ Also attending: Hilda, Deputy Seneschale; Cynewyn, Deputy Knight Marshal; Genevieve, Hostess; Alastar; Myfanwy
- I. Meeting opened.
 - II. November Officers' Meeting Minutes approved
 - III. Event Bids
 - a. Hanami for (5/1/10) – Final bid approval tabled until end of meeting.
 - b. Crown Tourney Bid (5/8/2010). The following changes/clarifications were made to the bid:
 - i. Parking is available at the site, and additional parking is available ¼ mile from the site (Borough Building). If necessary, a shuttle can be arranged
 - ii. Staff: Backups to be provided by the Barony for required positions if necessary.
 - iii. Lunch is an all-day sideboard cooked by Creador, with Alastar as a back-up
 - iv. Financials: Cost of site includes a \$120 deposit. \$10 for the day, ages 6-17 will be \$5, ages 5 and under free. There is no family cap. 50% of profits go to the Kingdom. Head Troll declined a complimentary admission.
 - IV. Barony Meetings
 - a. January Barony Meeting to be held at BMDL 12th Night, Jan 30th, tentatively at 1:30 pm. It will be short and sweet, ideally with only event announcements, a message from the Seneschale, and an announcement for the Althing.
 - b. March Barony Meeting to be held on 3/7/10 at 1pm. \$150 expenditure was approved to rent the hall.
 - c. May Meeting to be held at the Washington Blvd Marshal Activities site on 5/16/10 at 1pm.
 - d. July Meeting to be held at the Washington Blvd Marshal Activities site on 7/18/10 at 1pm.
 - V. Officers' Meetings
 - a. January Meeting cancelled due to tight schedule at BMDL 12th Night and proximity in time to Feb Meeting.
 - b. February Meeting to be held at CMU, location to be determined, on 2/3/10 at 8pm.
 - c. April Meeting to be held at CMU, location to be determined, on 4/7/10 at 8pm. This will be the annual budget meeting. Officers were reminded to submit proposed budgets to the Exchequer before then.

VI. Officers' Reports

- a. Clewin is dropping dead as Fencing Marshal as of Jan 1st to step in as a Regional Fencing Marshal. He informed the Officers that the Barony is not required to have someone in the position by Kingdom policy. However, without a Fencing Marshal, official rapier activities should be put on hold. It was later determined that practice could occur if there was a warranted marshal present and all proper paperwork was filed.
- b. Fredeburg's term as Seneschale is over in February, and she will be stepping down. Hilda is interested in the position, and will be putting in a letter.
- c. Cynewyn, with assistance from Ariella, spoke about the new winter heavy weapons practice site:
 - i. Practices will occur at the Pittsburgh Chinese Church at 1pm, after services are over.
 - ii. Site costs \$25 per practice, plus a \$100 deposit. Discussion was had about asking people to chip in to cover the cost, which may be done, but in the meantime, the Barony will pay for it up front. Motion for expenditure: \$100 deposit, plus up to \$300 site rental, payable in \$25 weekly increments. Motion approved.
 - iii. Cynewyn will be the site liaison and will contact the Exchequer for payments.
 - iv. The Officers suggested that a picture of the site be taken before we begin practices, for reference and security deposit purposes.
 - v. Site features: practice space on 3rd floor, bathrooms on 2nd floor, high enough ceilings
 - vi. Site rules, among others: dry site, no smoking, no unattended children, no fighting from knees
- d. Urho mentioned that Steltonwald has winter archery practices, and that they are now free, courtesy of the Canton. However, donations are still appreciated if you attend.

VII. Upcoming Events

- a. BMDL 12th Night (1/30/10): Elss updated the Officers about the event:
 - i. There is lots of Royalty coming, including from out of Kingdom. Duchess Morgen is the Royalty Liaison. It is a Royal Progress, and there will be Baronial Court.
 - ii. It is a free event, but people still have to stop by troll to sign a waiver if they don't have a blue card. Also, attendees are expected to bring a dish for the pot luck.
 - iii. Site opens at 10am, and there is a full schedule of fun. There will be no gift exchange. Urho volunteered to take charge of the Cookie Contest
- b. Hanami (5/1/10) – Approving final financials.
 - i. Shiro, the autocrat, had previously put forth that the financials would be the same as last year's Minohi event.
 - ii. Hilda proposed the following changes: Another \$1 added to the lunch cost per person. Number of people to break even set at 80. Cost of site updated to \$200. Onboard cost is \$16, Offboard (includes lunch) is \$8. Typical children's discounts. NMS applies, Royals, if attending, receive complimentary admissions.
- c. Motion to approve financials with Hilda's changes. Motion carried, bid approved.

VIII. Motion to close the meeting. Motion carried.



Twelfth Night Celebration

The Lodge at North Park

January 30, 2010

The Twelfth Night Celebration for the Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands is almost here!

- ❖ Location: The Lodge at North Park, (no street number) Pearce Mill Road, Allison Park, PA 15101
- ❖ When: on Saturday, January 30, 2010, the site will open at 10 AM and close at 9 PM or later, so that all may have enough time to enjoy the day.
- ❖ The site is wet, so bring your favorite beverage to enjoy!

Remember that this is a FREE event -- everyone is invited, there is no charge at the door and no non-member surcharge! No reservations are required.

Activities of the Day and Evening

- ❖ Because this is also a POTLUCK, each person is requested to bring a dish to share. Remember to check the list of dishes at <http://www.luckypotluck.com/potluck/BMDLTwelfnight>.
- ❖ Watch out for the two cakes with the secret marks on the bottom that mean that you have been chosen as the KING OR QUEEN OF MISRULE!
- ❖ There will be weapons and armor inspection at 11 AM for the TWO-HOUR BEAR PIT, which starts at noon, and run for two hours.
- ❖ There will also be FUN FIGHTING later in the day for kids young and old!
- ❖ In the kitchen and dining room on the lower level, there will be GINGERBREAD COOKIE DECORATING, ORNAMENT MAKING, and a showing of BASIL AND BAST.
- ❖ GAMES of all types will be available for any who wish to play.
- ❖ All are invited to enjoy a BARDIC CIRCLE during the day. After the circle, any and all may participate in the competition for the BARONESS' BARDIC CHAMPION.
- ❖ There will be an A&S DISPLAY for projects in all states of completion. The documentation requested is one paragraph describing your contribution to the display. All ages may participate.
- ❖ Bake your best for the COOKIE BAKING COMPETITION! Cookies of any type are welcome!
- ❖ There will be a brief BARONY MEETING, a royal COURT, and a BARONIAL COURT.
- ❖ Bring a wrapped gift of about \$10 in value to participate in the YOUTH GIFT EXCHANGE.
- ❖ Court will be preceded by a performance of the DEBATABLE CHOIR, and all may sing along.
- ❖ Please contribute items to the SILENT AUCTION, which will help pay for winter fighting space.

- ❖ At the table for the QUILT PROJECT IN MEMORY OF BARONESS TATYANA, you can sew a block for her quilt.
- ❖ Once the business of Court is completed, it is back to the fun and frivolity, thanks to a performance by the most famous commedia dell'arte troupe in the Known World, the fabulous I GENESII!! This special play reveals the Twelfth Night practices of Venice, and is not for the faint of heart or funny bone.

Note that there will be a children's activity in the dining room for anyone who should not attend the performance. I Genesii takes no responsibility for any new words or actions learned by children attending the event.

- ❖ The Celebration would not be complete without DANCING AND MUSIC -- Join us for the TWELFTH NIGHT BALL! The Barony Dancemaster, Cai o'r Llyn has compiled a selection of dances that will keep us on our feet into the night.

A complete list and schedule of activities will be in the program that will be available at the door when you arrive, and will be posted on the website

http://www.debatablelands.org/events/twelfth_night/ .

The autocrat for this event is Lady Elss of Augsburg (Rocky Hayeslip), who is grateful to be mentored by Hilda Hugelmann. All inquiries may be directed to the autocrat at elss_of_augsburg@yahoo.com or to Rocky Hayeslip, 221 Pine Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 or by cell at 724.759.3333.

2010 Twelfth Night Schedule

King and Queen of Misrule will be crowned at noon and reign until Royal Court.

	West Room	Main Room	East Room	Dining Room and Kitchen
9 AM	Royalty Room			
10 AM				
11 AM		Weapons inspection / set up	A&S Display	Cookie Decorating
12 Noon		Bear Pit	Fun Fighting	Youth Crafts
1 PM		Barony Meeting	Gaming	
1:30 PM		Bardic Circle and Baroness' Bard Competition	Cookie Competition	
2 PM		Debatable Choir and singalong		
3 PM				
4 PM				
4:30 PM		Royal and Baronial Courts		Showing of Basil and Bast
5 PM	Backstage	Silent Auction		
6 PM		I Genesii		
6:30 PM				
7 PM				
7:30 PM		Twelfth Night Ball		
8 - 10 PM				

Directions to the Lodge

From the west, northwest/southwest:

Make your best way to PA Route 79 to Exit 68, Mt Nebo Road.

At the end of the exit ramp, turn east, up the hill, onto Mount Nebo Road, also known as the Yellow Belt. There are signs with a Yellow Circle on them to indicate the route. You will follow the Yellow Belt all the way to North Park, which is 7.8 miles from Rt. 79.

Continue on the Yellow Belt to the second traffic light. Turn left, up the hill, onto Ardnt Road.

At the T intersection at the top of the hill, turn left onto Reis Run Road, following the Yellow Belt.

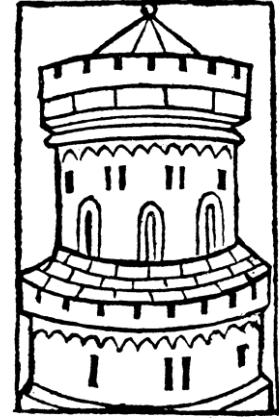
The road will change names several times, continue to follow the Yellow Belt signs.

Eventually you will be on Ingomar Road, which leads you to North Park. At the light at the intersection of Ingomar Road and Kummer Road, turn left. Smokey the Bear will be standing at the south east corner of this intersection.

Immediately take the first right turn onto Lake Shore Drive, then immediately take the first left, branching up the hill onto Walter Road.

After 1.3 miles, turn left at the T intersection onto Pearce Mill Road.

After .8 miles, opposite the Ice Rink, turn right onto North Ridge Drive. There will be SCA signs at the bottom of the hill. Drive up to the Lodge at the top of the hill. Welcome!



From the east, northeast/southeast:

Make your best way to PA Route 8.

- ❖ If you use the turnpike, take Exit 39, Butler Valley, and then go south 1.3 miles on Route 8.
- ❖ If you use Route 28, take the Etna/Route 8 North exit, and then go north.

At the intersection of Route 8 with the Wildwood Road Extension, also known as the Yellow Belt. There are signs with a Yellow Circle on them to indicate the route. There will be a McDonald's on the south east corner. Turn left onto the Wildwood Road Extension/Yellow Belt.

This road will also change names, continue to follow the Yellow Belt signs.

Follow the Yellow Belt for 2.8 miles. At the intersection of Ingomar Road and Babcock Blvd, turn right.

Go across the bridge and take the first left onto Pearce Mill Road.

Go 1.9 miles, then, opposite the Ice Rink, turn right onto North Ridge Drive. There will be SCA signs at the bottom of the hill. Drive up to the Lodge at the top of the hill. Welcome!

THE CANTON OF STELTONWALD OFFICERS AND MEETINGS

(Beaver County)

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Castelain

Lord Bóvi Farmaðr
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Web Minister

Maestra Gianna di Aurelio
giannadiaurelio at comcast.net

Minister of Youth

Tomasia da Collina Ventuso

Canton Meeting

Third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.
Beaver County Courthouse
madeleinedlest at yahoo.com

A&S - Every Thursday

Bonita of Steltonwald
novakbonnie at hotmail.com

Archery

Wednesdays, 6 PM - 9 PM,
except the third Wednesday of any month
Muirgheal inghean Dubhghaill
Beaver Valley Archery Club
captainofarchers at steltonwald.org

Fight practice

Every Tuesday, 6pm, at the Economy Grange
Contact Robert

Sewing

Aoibheal of Dun Holen

<http://www.steltonwald.org/>

THE COLLEGE OF COUR D'OR OFFICERS AND MEETINGS

(Pittsburgh area colleges and universities)

Seneschal

Rosalia Iuliana Andreere

Pursuivant

Roana d'Evreux (Sara Gryger)

Knight Marshal

Maghnus de Cnoc an Iora

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The Althing is the newsletter of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY