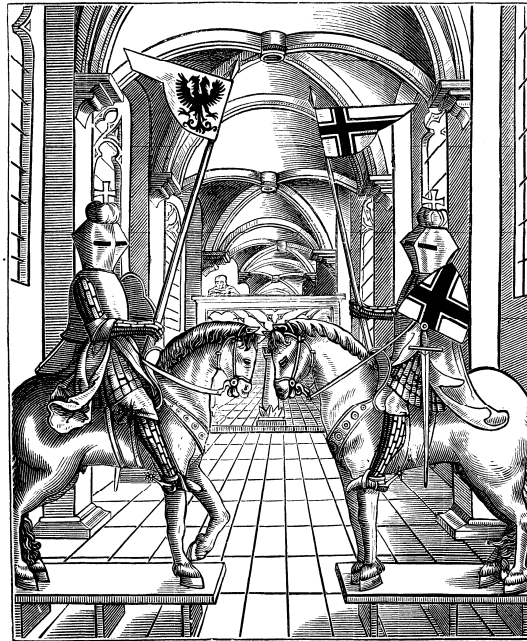


The Althing

Which includes an Important Announcement from Their Excellencies Byron and Ariella, that will occasion much interest and anticipation in the events of the coming months, and wherein shall be found details of the recent Barony Meeting concerning PIE and GLORY and other things, and, in order that all may begin preparations for the upcoming BMDL Twelfth Night Celebration, an explanation of the entry requirements for the Bear Pit Tournament to be held that day, to wit, that each combatant must be or be sponsored by a Laurel or Pelican, and come bearing a prize made by their hand to be gifted to another according to the results of the Tourney.

Also, to increase the knowledge of the populace concerning the Awards and Honours that can be bestowed by the Kingdom of Aethelmearc, herein is contained the first of a lavish series of lessons, written by the Hand of our Seneschale, Hilda Hugelman.



Being written and printed by the Chronicler, Elss of Augsburg, having the honor of serving the great Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands and who wishes to record and proclaim the events and activities relating to the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands, both past and to come, in this Month of November, in the northern lands of the Barony, far above the Three Rivers.

November as xlv

THEIR EXCELLENCIES OF THE DEBATABLE LANDS

Thomas Byron of Haverford and Ariella of Thornbury
 baron@debatablelands.org and baroness@debatablelands.org

Their Royal Majesties of Æthelmearc

Duncan von Halstern and Ilish O'Donovan
 ae.king@aethelmearc.org
 ae.queen@aethelmearc.org

Their Royal Highnesses of Æthelmearc

Christopher Rawlyns and Morgen of Rye
 ae.prince@aethelmearc.org
 ae.princess@aethelmearc.org

OFFICERS OF THE DEBATABLE LANDS

Seneschale (02/12)

Hilda Hugelman
 seneschal@debatablelands.org

Comet Pursuivant (12/10)

Pavel Dudoladov
 herald@debatablelands.org

Knight Marshal (10/11)

Ogami Arashimoto no Shirou
 knightmarshal@debatablelands.org

Minister of Arts & Science (02/11)

Pavla de la Satu Mare
 ansminister@debatablelands.org

Chronicler (12/10)

Elss of Augsburg (Rocky Hayeslip)
 chronicler@debatablelands.org
 412-366-5844

Exchequer (06/11)

Tofi Kerthjalfadsson
 exchequer@debatablelands.org

Chirurgeon Liaison (06/12)

Liam Mac anT'saoir
 chirurgeon@debatablelands.org

Minister of Lists (02/12)

Aileen ingen Proinnsias
 lists@debatablelands.org

Marshal of Fence (04/12)

Fredeburg von Katzenellenbogen
 fencingmarshal@debatablelands.org

Captain of Archers (10/12)

Urho Waltterinen
 archerymarshal@debatablelands.org

Chatelaine (06/12)

Annaleigh
 chatelaine@debatablelands.org

Deputy Chatelaine

Rosalia Iuliana Andere

Webminister (02/11)

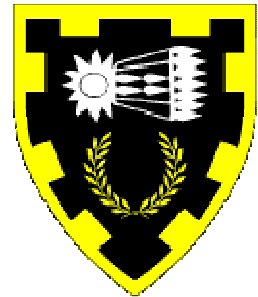
Cai o'r Llyn
 webminister@debatablelands.org

Cour d'Or Seneschal (10/11)

Dormant

Steltonwald Seneschal

Lady Madeleine de l'Este
 madeleinedlest@yahoo.com



BARONIAL POSITIONS AND DEPUTIES

College Liaison

Rosalia Iuliana Andere

Chancellor of Youth

Aibell ingen Chernachain

Gold Key (Loaner Garb)

Alexandra dei Campagnella

Iron Key (Loaner Heavy Weapons Equipment)

Ogami Arashimoto no Shirou

Steward

Michelina Cenomani da Trento

Recording Secretary

Vacant

Baronial Signet

Aidan ni Leir

Dark Pages Editor

Arianna of Wynthrope

Historian

Ts'vee'a bas Tseepora Levi

Precedence Editor (Deputy to Comet Pursuivant)

Pavel Dudoladov

Youth Fighting Marshal (Deputy to Knight Marshal)

Ceindrech merch Elidir

Thrown Weapons Marshal (Deputy to Knight Marshal)

Thorfinna hrogn Josepsdottir

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Disclaimer

This is the Althing, a publication of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands of the Society of Creative Anachronism, Inc. It is not a corporate publication of the Society of Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate SCA policies. Opinions are those of the authors and may not reflect or imply the view of the Althing or any member of its staff. Content is used with permission.

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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The Althing's submissions deadline is fluid –
send your contributions to Elss at chronicler@debatablelands.org.

Greetings from the Baron and Baroness!

Unto all Good Gentles of our Fair Barony Marche of Debatable Lands do Byron and Ariella send warm Greetings!

Our Barony has concluded a successful run of events this fall and much praise is due the staff of the Children's Crusade, Archers to the Wald, and Agincourt! Our Barony and Canton of Steltonwald should be proud of the fine events we create. We know you will read this after our November Barony meeting has occurred, but, as of this writing we look to that day with anticipation. This last month has seen a new effort organized by THL Hilda, our Seneschal: Tuesday evening classes at Carnegie Mellon University. We thank her for this excellent idea, and thank the teachers who have volunteered their time for this Schola.

While the months of November and December hold fewer local events, many plans are developing for the coming year. We thank THL Odriana van der Brugge for her challenges to encourage Ice Dragon Entries and hope all will enter. Additionally, there is a challenge to see which Barony or group can have the most entries per capita.

THL Urho, our Archery Marshall, hopes to have enough entrants in the Gywntarian Winter Archery Challenge to spur a Seven Pearls (Inter-Barony) competition to see which Barony posts the most and best scores of the winter.

Personally, we shall be planning our Castle Schola event and have called for teachers. We note with pleasure the mundane attention our head Cook, THL Illadore de Bedegrayne, has received lately!

Finally, those at Barony meeting this last Sunday know the time has come for us to call for the election of our Successors. While we love being your Baron and Baroness and being allowed to serve our Barony in this, we find the time approaches for new leaders to take the Coronets. This coming Pennsic War will be our fifth as Baron and Baroness, as well as heads of the Barony encampment, and we plan to step down in the weeks after Pennsic. We hope this allows the five months needed for the election, followed by a few months for our new Baron- and Baroness-elect to prepare before Their Investiture.

As always, please send us recommendations for awards, both Baronial and Kingdom-level. At events, please look for our box with award recommendation forms if this makes it easier.

Good cheer and warmth to all as the late fall sets in!

Yours,

Byron and Ariella



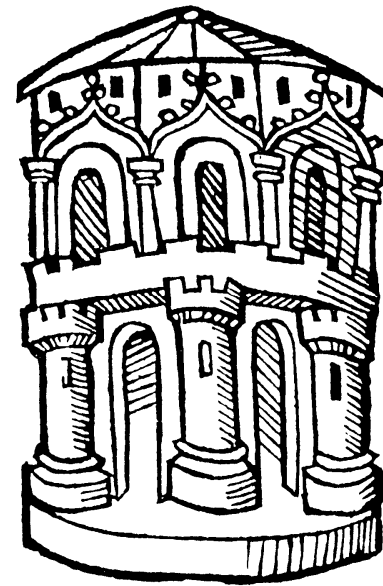
From the Seneschale:

The Ice Dragon stretches her somnolent neck and as she awakens, breathes her frosty breath into our beautiful Sylvan lands. While our thoughts turn now from war-like to more peaceful pursuits, don't forget that both Heavy Fighting and Youth Fighting will continue through the winter at our indoor practice site. In addition, Edelachtbar Odriana and Lady Elss will be hosting some A&S workshops in conjunction with the fighter practices, to help us meet the Ice Dragon head-on! More info is elsewhere in this fine publication.

I'd like to take a moment to thank those teachers that participated in our first Fall Schola Series: Lady Sarab, Baron Langdon, Mistress Ts'vee'a, Sir Alonzio, Master Remus, Dame Elsbeth, Baroness Alex, Mistress She'erah, THL Roana, Baron Byron, Dame Margaret, and THL Odriana. You sparked some real interest in the students you had, and we thank you very much for your time and talents!

I'd like to encourage each and every person in the Barony, the Canton and the Kingdom to participate in the SCA Census. As you may know, the SCA is conducting a Census project through December 1st. They've received nearly 10,000 responses, but as of the end of September, only 363 (or 3.6% of responses) were from Aethelmarc. It would be great if you'd take 10 or 15 minutes and complete the survey. It is your opinions that will help shape policy. Currently, the most responses have come from An Tir, the Middle, the East, and Atlantia. I believe that we as Aethelmarcers generally have a different outlook on some things, and our voice should be heard, too. Please complete the survey:

<http://www.sca.org/scacensus2010/index.html>. And, if you can, please forward to people you know that are no longer participating in the SCA, if you think they would be inclined to help.



Good news! The Known World Handbook has been completely updated! It's really a great read, and a great resource, especially for newer folks, but also interesting for the more established among us. They cost \$25 each, or \$23 for 10-19 copies, or \$22 for 20+. If you are interested in a bulk order, please let me know by November 22nd, and I will arrange it. We need six more people to get the \$23 price.

On October 16th, the Board of Directors of the SCA held their meeting here in the Debatable Lands. I was able to attend, and I found it to be an interesting experience. (See the letter from Countess Honor further on.) If anyone would like to discuss the BoD meeting, anything in this newsletter, or anything else at all having to do with the BMDL, please don't hesitate to contact me. I love talking to people, and my door (virtual or otherwise) is always open.

In Levitate et Caritate,

Hilda, Seneschale

Greetings from Elss, who is the Chronicler:

It has been almost two years since I accepted the honor of being the Chronicler of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands, and undertook the responsibility of publishing the Althing, the newsletter of BMDL.

As my term of office is coming to a close, I remind everyone that anyone with creative and exciting ideas for the Althing is welcome to submit a letter to apply for the position of Chronicler. It is a wonderful job, and a wonderful opportunity to serve the Barony, to bring news and information to all, and to showcase the achievements of the artisans and scientists of the Barony. Send your emails to chronicler@debatablelands.org and seneschal@debatablelands.org stating your intent and qualifications. All applications will be given a speedy and fair review.

Elss of Augsburg, Chronicler of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands



From the Baronial Signet, Greetings

While it's been a pleasure and an honor to hold this position for the last four and some years, it's time to retire. I plan to do so, as of Baronial Twelfth Night.

If you are interested in the position, please send a letter to the Baron and Baroness, the seneschal, and me stating your intention and qualifications by 15 November (e-mail addresses below). This will allow sufficient time to choose a successor and make an orderly transfer of the office.

You absolutely do not need to be a calligrapher or illuminator to perform the duties of this position, since this is basically an administrative job. It involves receiving assignments from the Baron and Baroness, distributing them to willing scribes, ensuring scroll delivery, and maintaining records. Therefore, you will need to be discreet and organized, and have access to e-mail. The administrative functions of the job take a few hours a month (less if there is not an event); any time spent on art is up to you.

If you need any additional information to make a decision, please contact me.

-Aidan ni Leir

Send your letter to: baron@debatablelands.org, seneschal@debatablelands.org, baroness@debatablelands.org, signet@debatablelands.org



Greetings to the Populace!

The time has arrived, as we near the end of my two-year term, it falls upon me to announce the seeking of letters for the position of Herald. I will also be submitting a letter for the renewal of my post, however if you would very much like to be the local herald, please feel free to submit.

If there are those among you who may be wondering: would I like to be herald, what is involved in being herald, will being herald get me dates with the cool kids? I am always here to answer your questions. If anyone would like to be a deputy herald at a baronial court or otherwise gain experience in the art of heralding, please let me know.

In Service,

Lord Pavel Dudoladov, Comet Pursuivant

Greetings from your Rapier Marshal!

The outdoor fighting season is quickly coming to a close. Lately, attendance at Sunday practice has been very low. This, combined with the lack of a suitable indoor practice site, means that there are currently no plans for practice to move indoors for the winter. The last regularly scheduled practice was held in conjunction with the Barony Meeting on November 7th.

If there is interest in a winter practice, please contact me and I will try to work something out. Otherwise there are a number of practices in the area:

- ❖ The Incipient Shire of Ballachlagan has a Sunday afternoon practice at West Liberty University in West Liberty, WV (north of Wheeling). Please see <http://ballachlagan.org/> for more information.
- ❖ The College of Vulkansmede has a Thursday evening practice at California University in California, PA. Please see <http://www.vulkansmede.com/> for more information.
- ❖ The Barony of St. Swithin's Bog has practice on Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons in Johnstown, PA. Please see <http://stswithinsbog.org/calendar.html> for more information.

YIS,

Fredeburg

From the Captain of Archers

The results of the Barony's first weekend to participate in the Gwyntarian Winter Challenge has been posted!
<http://web.raex.com/~obsidian/wint.html>

Thanks to our friends who came in from Ballachlagan and our youth archers, we were able to post 12 rounds. Special thanks to Lord Ruland for helping with marshaling the line. Note also that our friends from the Barony of Delftwood posted 8 rounds! Thank you, Baron Edward.



We will return to the Washington Boulevard practice site for the next two weekends (November 14 and 21) to get a few more rounds in before we shut down the outdoor site for the season. After that, we will join the archers of Steltonwald at their Beaver Valley Archery Club indoor site until spring. See their site or talk to Lady Muirgheal inghen Dubhghaill for further information.

In Service to the Barony-Marche,

Urho Waltterinen
mka Eugene Siren
crossbow1953@earthlink.net
(home) 1-412-247-4467
(cell) 1-412-501-5239

Per valde mustache adveho valde officium

Baronial Succession Policies

Below are the policies for Baronial Succession in the Debatable Lands. Full Baronial Policies may be found at <http://www.debatablelands.org/brnypcly.html>, or a paper copy may be requested from the Seneschale.

V. Baronial Succession

- A. Requirements of office: The territorial Baron and/or Baroness (hereafter referred to as Baron/ess) must meet the requirements stated in Corpora and Kingdom Law, be 18 years of age or older as of the day the votes are to be tallied, and must be a resident in the territory of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands. The Office of Baron/ess of the Debatable Lands is not subject to a term limit.
- B. When Selection of a New Baron/ess Will Occur: Selection will take place when a Baron/ess is removed, expresses a desire to retire, or wishes to take a consort.
- C. Removal of a Baron/ess: A majority of the Barony's Officers may call for the removal of the Baron or Baroness. The motion must appear on the officers' meeting agenda (via print or electronic media) and in the previous issue of the Althing. If the motion passes, the result will be announced at the next Barony meeting and in the next issue of the Althing. At the Barony meeting after that, those attending the meeting will decide, by majority vote, whether to petition the Crown for the removal of the Baron or Baroness.
- D. The Vicar: If a Vicar is appointed, the Vicar may not give Baronial Awards but may otherwise preside over Baronial Courts and functions.
- E. The Selection Committee: The Selection Committee is responsible for overseeing the election process. The selection committee consists of the Baron/ess (if there is one), the Vicar (if there is one), and enough officers in officer precedence order to bring the total to 5 with the Baron and/or Baroness together counting as one seat. If a member of the committee accepts a baronial nomination, or if his term is over and he is not planning to renew before the election process is over, he or she is replaced by the next officer in officer precedence order. Notification of the upcoming election and these policies will be printed in the first Althing following the appointment of the selection committee. The Committee members will elect a Chairman from among their members by simple majority vote.
- F. The Selection Process
 - 1. Eligible Voters: Any person residing in the zip codes of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands who is 17 years of age or older (as of the day the votes are to be tallied) and is on the corporate membership list may vote. Under exceptional circumstances, the Selection Committee may consider a written request for a ballot from a person who would not otherwise receive one. Such a request must be received by the Chair of the Selection Committee by the date of the Nominating Meeting.
 - 2. Timing of the Selection Process:
 - a. Announcement of upcoming election

- b. Approximately one month later, nominations*
- c. Approximately one month later, acceptance of nominations
- d. Two months later, ballots counted

*Note: Additional general Barony meetings may be called to facilitate the timing of this process.

3. The Nominating Meeting: A Nominating meeting will be held as part of a general Barony meeting one month after the announcement of the election appears in the Althing and is made at a general Barony meeting. Candidates will be nominated by petition of the populace, either in writing or by voice at the nominating meeting. Written nominations must be received by the Chair of the Selection Committee at or before the nomination meeting. The Chair of the Selection Committee must notify candidates within one week of the nominations. To be considered, candidates must accept nominations in writing to the Chair of the Selection Committee within one month of the nominating meeting. Individuals or couples may be nominated, but no individual can occur on the ballot more than once.
4. The Voting: A written ballot with the list of all candidates (a candidate pair is considered to be "a candidate" in this document) will be distributed by mail to all eligible voters. Each ballot shall be numbered and a record kept of the total number of ballots mailed, but no record shall be kept of which numbers were mailed to which voters. Voting will be as follows:
 - a. A group status poll will appear on the election ballots; voters will mark their preferred option. Voters will mark those candidates they consider unacceptable as "UA". All other candidates are to be ranked in order of preference, with "1" being the voter's first choice, "2" the second choice, and so on. Any candidate may be left blank (unranked).
 - b. Voters will have until the beginning of the next general barony meeting at least one month after the ballots were mailed to vote. Voters may return their ballots by mail or in person to the Chair of the Selection Committee. Voters shall not be required to write their names on the ballots. The Chair of the Selection Committee will hold the ballots unopened until the Committee meets to count the ballots.
 - c. Tallying the ballots: The Selection Committee will meet during the general barony meeting of the voting deadline to open and count the ballots. Only ballots that remain unopened until tallying begins will be valid. Ballots will be tallied in the following sequence:
 - i. Ballot numbers will be checked off on the master list. If any duplicate ballot numbers or numbers which are not on the list of those mailed are found, those ballots will be discarded. The group status poll will be counted first. If a

- majority of the voters choose not to remain a Barony, then the Baronial election process will be terminated and the election ballots will not be tallied.
- ii. A valid ballot will include an unambiguous and legible ranking of listed candidates as directed in section V.F.4.a., including UA or blank responses. Invalid ballots will not be counted.
 - iii. Any candidate receiving "unacceptable" (UA) votes from more than 33% of the valid ballots shall be eliminated from consideration.
 - iv. The Selection committee shall tally each ballot as a single vote for the highest-ranked active candidate on the ballot. If any candidate has a majority (more than 50%) of the received ballots, that candidate shall be declared the winner. Otherwise, the candidate with the fewest votes will be eliminated from consideration, and the votes for that candidate will be redistributed to the highest-ranked active candidate on each ballot. (Any ballot that does not include a numeric rank for any active candidate will not be considered a "received ballot" for the purpose of calculating the number of votes needed for majority.) Repeat this sequence until a majority candidate is found. The majority candidate will be declared the winner.
 - v. If there is a tie between two (or more) active candidates for the fewest votes in a round, all tied candidates will be eliminated from consideration. If there is a tie between the final two (or more) active candidates, the candidate with the fewest number of unacceptable (UA) votes on ALL valid ballots (not just those that have ranked an active candidate) will be declared the winner. If there is still a tie, all tied candidates will be presented to the Crown as acceptable, and the Crown of Æthelmearc shall be asked to choose between them.
 - vi. General Summary of Tallying. The voters rank candidates from most favorite to least favorite. Take the ballots and you make a pile for each candidate, based on just the first-place votes (ignoring all the other rankings on the ballots). Then eliminate the candidate with the fewest votes and redistribute those ballots to the other piles, using the second-place votes. Keep eliminating the candidate with the fewest votes until one candidate is left. This is a summary only; actual tallying process will follow steps i – v.
5. The Petition: The Chair of the Selection Committee will produce a petition in accordance with Kingdom law.

The Directors Came to da 'Burgh

The Directors came to da 'Burgh, and here is what one of them had to say:

Unto Baron Byron, Baroness Ariella, and the populace of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands does Countess Honor of Restormel, Society Chronicler send warm greetings.

I had the good fortune to be able to attend the most recent Board of Directors Meeting in your fair lande. I very much appreciated the pickle pin and the packet of information about your Barony. I have fond memories of reading the Althing when I was Society Chronicler in the past. I enjoy reading the different articles and seeing the contributions from your populace. I am exceptionally impressed that your Barony publishes and Arts and Sciences Edition - and such a good one! Thank you all for sharing your newsletters and for the kindness of your representatives; it was lovely to be so warmly welcomed. Thank you!

In faithful service,

Honor

Thrown Weapons Practices

Here is the schedule for thrown weapons:

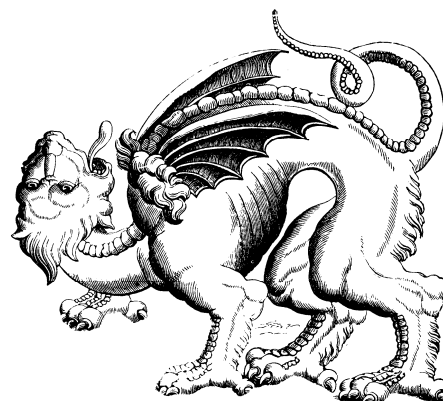
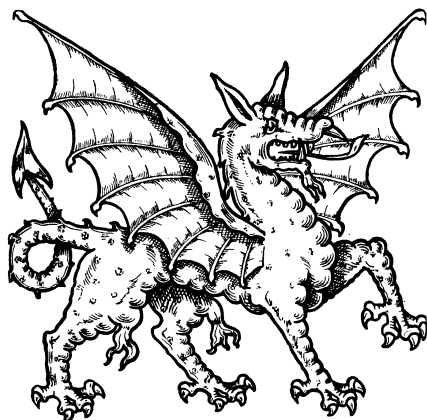
November 14th Regular practice

November 21st Regular practice

Practices usually start around 11 AM (SCA time, of course) and continue until they are done or the marshals have to leave, but never any earlier than 1 PM. Please note that these practices are social gatherings as much as martial activities. All are invited to bring a chair, sit and relax, chat, work on a project, or just enjoy the fine weather and the fighting.



However, remember that these will be the last practices of the season, as there is no winter site for thrown weapons -- hard to believe, no?



November Meeting and Harvest Rebel Results!

From the Baron and Baroness:

What fun we had at the Barony meeting this weekend! As Liam noted, the traffic was brutal for us, but it was worth the trip.

We wanted to thank Hilda for organizing PIE. Next year, PIE moves to the great hall, with more tables, for sure.

Our thanks also go to Cadell, for bringing pumpkins, and to Marcus, for removing pumpkins. PUMPKIN BARRAGE!!!!

Urho didn't get a moment to catch his breath, with record-setting Gwyntarian Challenge participation and plenty of new-comers as well.

Arianna and Ceindrich had eight fighters, and kept them occupied with weapon-making when the fighting was over.

And we thank all the marshals who helped others to play, on the thrown weapons range, the heavy field, and the fencing field.

Yours,

Byron and Ariella

From the Seneshale:

Thanks to everyone who baked pies and gave of their time to stuff their... I mean... judge! The competition was fierce in all categories - Fruit, Vegetable, Period, and a day-of addition in honor of one of our past Seneschales, Illadore: "Stolen" Pie. Puns and fun were very popular this year. And yet clear winners emerged, bringing GLORY to themselves and their baking skills!

- ❖ Lady Rosalia won the Vegetable category with her Octo-Pie...a mouthwatering chicken pot pie in the shape of Octopi.
- ❖ Maestra Gianna was victorious in the Fruit category with her Not Round Apple Pie.
- ❖ Lady Elss successfully defended her title from last year of Period Pie-Master Supreme-o with her offering, "Pigeon" Pie.

Levity reigned as the people declared THLady Rufina the winner of the "Stolen" Pie category. Her Pea-Can Pie, shamelessly stolen from "When Harry Met Sally", was an unopened can of peas in a pie plate.

Enjoy your Glory, for it shall only last one year, unless you can successfully defend yourselves from the amazing cooks of the Barony next November. Especially those gentles who came in very close seconds: Lord Pavel with his Pumpkin Pie from scratch, Isabel with her Pumpkin Spice Macaroons, our own Baroness Ariella with her Apple-Cranberry Tart, and THLady Myfanwy with her Period Rice Tart (my fave!). VIVANT!

From Mistress Gianna di Aurelio

NOT ROUND APPLE PIE. Also known as Apple Krustel

A long, long time ago when rocks were soft, I used to work as a cook for a restaurant where I regularly made this dessert. I thought it would be perfect to bring to the Barony meeting. I looked through my folders, files, and also for a recipe online, but was not able to find one and had to rely as best I could on my memory. Unfortunately, I do not know who the original source for this recipe is, but I sincerely would like to thank them!

1 box yellow cake mix
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup butter
8 Granny Smith Apples, peeled, cored and thinly sliced
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup brown sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup white sugar
2 tablespoons flour
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons cinnamon
A dash of nutmeg
2 cups sour cream
 $\frac{1}{3}$ cup sugar
2 teaspoons vanilla



You will need a 13 x 9 inch pan. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

CRUST

Place the yellow cake mix and butter in a mixing bowl and gently cut in the butter into the cake mix until it is crumbly and resembles coarse meal. Distribute into the pan and lightly press it down. At this point it should almost resemble a shortbread. Bake 8 minutes and remove from oven.

FILLING

Mix your apples, sugars, lemon juice, flour and spices together in a bowl. Set aside for about 10 minutes while the crust is baking. Gently pour over the crust and return to oven and bake 35 - 45 minutes or until the apples are tender.

TOPPING

Mix sour cream, sugar and vanilla in a bowl and evenly pour over the hot apple mixture when the apples are tender. Return to the oven for another 8-10 minutes until slightly set.

Remove from oven and allow to cool. PS... It's also great served warm and topped with a scoop of vanilla ice cream! Enjoy!

~Gianna

From Lady Rosalia Julianna Andere:

Octopie (Chicken Pot Pie)

Make at least two for grammatical correctness. :)

Octopie (Chicken Pot Pie)

5-6 pound chicken
salt and pepper

Stock:

1 medium or 1/2 large onion
3 carrots chopped
3 celery chopped
salt and pepper

Pot Pie

1 medium or 1/2 large onion
3 cloves garlic (minced or crushed)
6 tablespoons butter
1 cup flour
2-2.5 quarts of broth
1 cup white wine
3 carrots sliced
3 stalks of celery sliced
1 large parsnip diced
3 potatoes diced
1 cup corn
2-3 cup chicken bits
thyme, salt , pepper

Prepare the filling:

Roast the chicken per cooking instructions on package (rinse and pat dry, rub with salt and pepper). Cut off the meat and set aside (you will have leftovers). Take the chicken bones and put them in a crock pot overnight on low with stock ingredients (onion, carrots, celery, salt and pepper to taste). (Save the drippings for gravy).

In a large pot, melt six tablespoons of butter, and sauté onions and garlic until the onions are transparent. Stir in Flour. When blended, add broth and wine until a satisfying consistency is reached. Add vegetables, chicken, and herbs (to taste) and simmer until vegetables are cooked.

Next, make the dough:

The Dough is for a Short Paste from The 40th Anniversary Edition of Julia Child's Mastering the Art of French Cooking.

2 cup all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon sugar
6 ounces (1.5 sticks) chilled butter cut into 1/2 inch bits
4 tablespoons chilled shortening

A scant half cup of iced water.

Place flour, salt, sugar, butter, and shortening in a big mixing bowl. Rub the flour and fat together rapidly between the tips of your fingers until the fat is broken into pieces the size of oatmeal flakes.

Add the water and blend quickly with one hand, fingers together and slightly cupped, and gather the dough into a mass. Press the dough firmly into a roughly shaped ball. Continue from **

--OR--

Place flour, salt, sugar, butter, and shortening in the container of a 2-quart (or larger) food processor. Pulse 4 or 5 times. Add water (all at once) and pulse until blended. If the dough does not begin to clump after several pulses, add a few more drops of water. Continue from **

** Place the dough on a lightly floured surface. With the heel of one hand (not the palm), rapidly press the pastry by two-spoonful bits down the board and away from you in a quick firm smear of about 6 inches. Scrape up the dough into a mass, and knead it into a smooth, round ball. Wrap it up in plastic wrap or waxed paper and chill in the freezer for about an hour or in the fridge for two hours or overnight. Will keep 2-3 days under refrigeration. May be frozen for several weeks. (Always wrap it airtight.)

When rolling, do so as quickly as possible so that it will not soften and become difficult to handle.

After making the dough, continue with assembling the pot pie as described below.

Assembling the Pot Pie:

Ladle some of the stew into an oven-safe container. Cut a piece of rolled dough to cover the top of the container. For Octopus tentacles, cut strips of dough from the extra and dangle them from the side of the baking container. Bake for 25-30 minutes at 400 degrees F or until the dough is cooked.

Make at least two for grammatical correctness. :)

From Lady Elss:

From Pleyn Delit, Second Edition, by Constance B. Hieatt, Brenda Hosington, and Sharon Butler, University of Toronto Press Incorporated, 1996.

108 Crustardes of Flesh, redacted from The Forme of Cury:

Elss' "Pigeon" Pie

2 lbs pigeon, squab, or other poultry (I used chicken thighs)

4 eggs

¼ cup currants

juice of one lemon

1 teaspoon salt, or to taste

½ teaspoon each of ginger, sugar

¼ teaspoon cinnamon

Cover chicken with salted water, bring to a boil, and simmer 15-20 minutes. Remove the parboiled chicken from the broth, and after it cools a little, discard the bones and skin and break the meat up into pieces. Put the broth into the fridge or freezer so that the fat separates and congeals at the top of the container. These can be done a day ahead if desired.

Line a pie plate with pastry and flute the rim. Put the meat into the pie shell and bake in a preheated oven at 350 degrees for 5-10 minutes. Skim the fat from the chicken broth, and allow the broth to warm to room temperature. Beat the eggs with 1 ½ cups of the chicken broth.



Remove the pie plate from the oven and sprinkle the lemon juice, currants, and seasonings over the meat. Pour the egg mixture over the meat to fill the crust. Return the pie to the oven and bake for 35 minutes until the filling is set.

Important Dates Coming Up!

December BMDL Officers Meeting

Wednesday, December 1, 2010 from 8 PM - 10 PM, CMU Campus, Porter Hall, Room A19, open to the populace and all are invited to attend, as always.

BMDL 12th Night and December Barony Meeting

Saturday, January 15, 2011 at the Lodge in North Park, Pearce Mill Road, Allison Park, PA 15101. The site will open at 10 AM and close at 10 PM. See details below!!

The calendar on our website has been updated: <http://www.debatablelands.org/calendar.html>. Please let the seneschale or web minister know of any changes, additions or deletions.

A Call for Knowledge to Share at Twelfthnight

To the populace of the Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands does Odriana vander Brugghe bid greetings.

I am the class coordinator for BMDL Twelfthnight, which will be taking place on 15 January 2011 at the North Park Lodge. I am writing to ask for your time and enthusiasm as a volunteer educator at this event. There are two classrooms and I am dedicating one classroom to Arts and Sciences and the other classroom to the Arts Martial. Classes will be held between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Please consider sharing your knowledge and enthusiasm by teaching a class at Twelfthnight. If you have never taught before, are interested in teaching, and would like some assistance with how to structure a class; please contact me and I can assist you in that endeavor. The only real restrictions are that we have no messy space and we have no kitchen space, so those kinds of classes would be impossible. Otherwise, there are no restrictions on who can teach and what can be taught.

To sign up to teach, please email me at jenn.strobel {at} gmail.com with the following information:

- ❖ Your SCA Name.
- ❖ The name of the class that you would like to teach.
- ❖ A short description of two or three sentences about your class.
- ❖ How much time you need.
- ❖ What is your class size restriction, if any?
- ❖ Do you charge a fee and what is it?
- ❖ Any restrictions or information that would be important for me to know as the class coordinator (such as: parents needing to split time in order to cover childcare or a teacher having other time-dependant commitments).

I thank you all for your time and consideration.

Written this eighth day of November in the year two-thousand and ten at the convergence of the Three Rivers, in the centre of the most remarkable Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands. In the fourth year of the reign of the Boy Mayor, Luke.

OVB



Events of the BMDL Twelfth Night Celebration:

On behalf of Lord Liam MacanTsaoir do we announce a Tournament to be held during the BMDL Twelfth Night Celebration!

- ❖ A fighter must be sponsored by a Laurel or Pelican, or be one themselves.
- ❖ The fighter must create a Prize for the tourney made by their own hand.
- ❖ The tournament will be fought bear pit style, two points for a win, one point for a loss.
- ❖ At the beginning of the tourney, the fighter will be announced in with their sponsor and will present their Prize to the Prize Table.
- ❖ The winner of the tourney will be the person with the most points, and they will be allowed to pick a prize first, and then prizes will be chosen in descending order.



Inspections will commence at 10:30 a.m., and the tourney at 11:00 am, to be concluded by 1 pm.

On behalf of THLord Urho Walterinen do we announce a Competition of Cookies to be held during the BMDL Twelfth Night Celebration!

- ❖ Any person of any age may enter the Competition.
- ❖ Cookies of any type may be submitted, period or mundane, bar or drop, pressed or rolled -- all will be displayed and judged.
- ❖ Any and all royalty present will be invited to sample the cookies and select Their Favorite.
- ❖ Bakers are encouraged and requested to bring enough cookies to share with the populace, who eagerly look forward to the conclusion of the Competition!



On behalf of the hungry populace of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands does the autocrat, Elss of Augsburg, announce that a Potluck Feast will be held during the BMDL Twelfth Night Celebration!

- ❖ Because this is a FREE event, there is no official lunch or dinner. However, bring your feast gear anyway...
- ❖ Those who come are requested to bring a dish to share. All types of food are welcome and will be gladly devoured!
- ❖ Go to <http://www.luckypotluck.com/potluck/BMDL12thNite2011> to list your food item -- in this way we hope to avoid having too many liver tacos or a shortage of chocolate.
- ❖ PLEASE label your dishes and utensils -- many were left behind last year.



Previously Announced Activities for Twelfth Night:

- ❖ Gift Exchange for Adults and Children
- ❖ Very Special Auction of Lost Treasures
- ❖ A&S: All gentles are invited to display their most recent work and their first, or, if that's not available, the earliest work that they have.
- ❖ A&S: There will also be display space for people to show off what they are currently working on. This can be anything from a newly completed item to the next project in your queue.

Kingdom of Aethelmearc Awards and Honors

Part I: AoA Level Awards

This is the first in a series of five articles about awards given out to the populace by the King and Queen of Aethelmearc. Baronial awards were described in an article in the October 2010 Althing.

Award of Arms

The first level of award is called the “Award of Arms” level, or AoA level. Having an AoA-level award gives you the right to call yourself Lady or Lord So-and-So, and the main device that you register with the College of Heraldry is now your Coat of Arms. In other Kingdoms, there are associated sumptuary laws with this level (such as the right to wear a certain type of circlet), but here in Aethelmearc, we don’t have Kingdom-specific sumptuary laws.

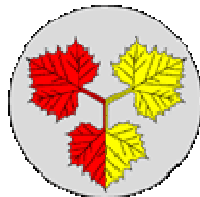
The first award that a gentle receives in Kingdom Court is usually a simple Award of Arms. The Award of Arms is a Society-level award, meaning that every Kingdom can give this out. It’s a stand-alone award, with no associated badge, and it’s not specific to service, A&S, or martial skill. It’s given to folks who have been around and seem to be staying around, contributing to the society in some basic or specific way. In many ways, it’s an acknowledgement that you’re a valued part of the community.

AoA Level Orders of Merit

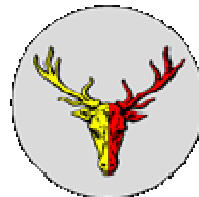
The other awards at the AoA level are called the Orders of Merit. They are category-specific awards. People who receive an Order of Merit automatically receive an AoA if they don’t already have one. However, you will not have a separate AoA listed in the Kingdom Order of Precedence, which is the listing of all awards given out to the populace. Also, people who receive these awards may display the associated badges (below).



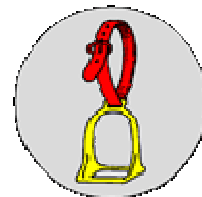
Keystone
Service



Sycamore
Arts and Science



Golden Alce
Martial Arts



Golden Stirrup
Martial Authenticity

The Aethelmearc Orders of Merit:

Keystone for Service

It could be one type of service, or a wide range of service – like autocratting, clean-up, set-up, organizing classes, marshalling, teaching, retaining, sitting at the gate, holding an office, being generally useful, and many others. You do not necessarily need to have leadership skills, but the more responsibility you take on and the more competent you are, likely the sooner you'd get this award.

Sycamore for peaceful Arts & Sciences.

This encompasses any Art or Science you can think of – music, dancing, calligraphy, illumination, brewing, research, clothing, armoring, embroidery, poetry, being a bard, woodworking, and many more. You do not necessarily have to have very high skill, or be doing much research to receive this award, but the more skill you have and research you do, likely the sooner you'd get this award.

Golden Alce for Martial arts and sciences

This encompasses heavy fighting (tourney and melee), rapier fighting, target archery, combat archery, thrown weapons, siege weapons, equestrian activities, and scouting. This award emphasizes skill level, so the better you are at the martial activity, likely the sooner you'll get this award.

Golden Stirrup for Martial Authenticity

This award is given to those who display authenticity in visual presence while performing a martial activity, including research and teaching, with an emphasis on visual merit, not skill level.

Order of Merit for Non-Martial Authenticity

This is new award created just this November, so it does not yet have a name or armory. It will be given to those who display authenticity in visual presence in the peaceful arts.

Another Society-level award that automatically conveys an AoA if the recipient doesn't already have one is a Court Baronetcy, or Court Barony. Court Baronies are given to those who give service directly to the Crown of a Kingdom, or when the Crown otherwise deems the recipient worthy of it in some other way. In some Kingdoms, a Court Baron or Baroness is also given a Grant of Arms, the next level up, but this is not the case in Aethelmearc. Court Barons and Baronesses have no land or responsibility to the people of a Barony, but do have some similar privileges as Territorial Barons and Baronesses. We'll discuss that more in a later segment.

As you know, the sitting Royalty of Aethelmearc gives these awards to our friends and neighbors, but Aethelmearc has thousands of people...how do they know who to give them to? Simple – we tell them! If you think someone you know deserves one of these awards and does not already have one, just write the Royalty a letter. There's an online form here: <http://www.aethelmearc.org/onlineaward/>, or Their addresses are in each Aestel, the Kingdom newsletter. If you're not sure if someone has an award, just look them up in the Kingdom Order of Precedence, or ask a Herald to help.

Next time: Grant-level Awards, and the Orders of High Merit

English Land Tenure: Small-Holders

This is the sixth in a series of short articles on land tenure, written by Master Dani of the Seven Wells. The first five articles appeared in the August, September, and October 2010 Althings.

A virgate of land – about thirty acres – allowed a serf relative comfort, and sometimes a small prosperity. There were also many uncomfortable serfs. Kosminsky (see below) offers the following breakdown¹ (based on late-thirteenth-century records) for a selection of counties in southern England:

Size of Holding	Serfs	Free-Holders	Total
> 1 Virgate	0.5%	3.5%	4%
1 Virgate	17%	6%	23%
1/2 Virgate	18%	7.5%	25.5%
1/4 Virgate	5.5%	5.5%	11%
Cottar	16.5%	20%	36.5%
Total	57.5%	42.5%	100%

The first thing to note is that about half the peasant land holders hold half a virgate or more. A virgate holder is well off for a peasant; a half-virgate holder is relatively well off². Serfs are much more likely than free-holders to hold the larger holdings. For one thing, a free-holder with several children is likelier to subdivide a larger holding, whereas a serf will have a harder time getting permission to do so. For another, the free-holder's rent tended to be lower, so a plot of land went further.

The second thing to note is that the other half of the land-holders don't have enough land to feed a husband and wife and two or three children³, and must supplement it by hiring out. The cottar in particular probably had a house and garden and perhaps an acre or three, and would depend on wages for most of his income.

The stark difference between the life of a small holder and the life of a more-substantial farmer may be inferred from the records showing when a peasant took over a holding and when it went to his heirs or successors: Around 1300 A.D., a twenty-year-old taking over a virgate had a life expectancy of twenty-eight more years, while a twenty-year-old taking over a cottage had a life expectancy of twenty more years. The difference is presumably attributable – directly or indirectly – to nutrition.

The cottars are actually not at the bottom of the heap. The core work force of a manor – particularly on the larger estates – consisted of the famuli – serfs with no land who worked as full-time farm workers. In exchange they received their food, small cottages, and a wage that was more of an allowance than a salary – perhaps a penny a week.

There wasn't a sharp social divide between serfs and free peasants. They were often neighbors and often intermarried. The main legal differences were that a serf needed permission to alienate his holding, and that a serf could not appeal a legal matter to the king's court.

Reference: Kosminsky, E.A., "Studies in the Agrarian History of England in the Thirteenth Century", Kelley and Millman, New York, 1956.

¹ Kosminsky's numbers are slightly different from these, because of rounding decisions.

² Historians differ as to whether half a virgate supports a family in comfort or at the edge of starvation, depending on what axes they wish to grind. There is little doubt, though, that the half-virgater was better off than most of the population.

³ Medieval peasants lived with relatively-small nuclear families, not extended ones, the main limitation being the ability of a holding to feed the family.

Court Report of the Barony -Marche of the Debatable Lands, October 23rd, A.S. 45

Here begins the record of the court of Their Excellencies Byron and Ariella, Baron and Baroness of these Debatable Lands, on October 23rd, Anno Societatis 45, at Agincourt, Lord Pavel Dudoladov reporting herald.

Their Excellencies called forward the autocrat THLady Constance Glyn Dwr, who announced "The Sid" as the winner of the five man melee tourney, and THLord Gabriel Hawke as the most chivalrous; Mistress Arianna of Wynthrope then announced Tiberius of the Debatable Lands as the winner of the youth tourney and Robert of the Debatable Lands as the most chivalrous youth; THLady Fredeburg von Katzenellenbogen then announced Doña Sasha Gray as the winner of the day's fencing tourney and Gabrielle Winter was declared the most chivalrous; also, it was made known that a special children's lunch had been prepared by the youth Alethea Cowle; all were called forward individually and presented with tokens; then, Their Excellencies thanked THLady Constance for her work as autocrat that day.

Their Excellencies then summoned forth Ian of the Debatable Lands, Their youth champion, and They thanked him for his faithful service and transferred his regalia to Their new champion, Tiberius of the Debatable Lands.

The presence of Eiidan of the Debatable Lands was then requested; he was inducted into the Order of the Purple Comet for his prowess on the youth field as well as his skill in the musical arts, scroll by Countess Aidan ni Leir.

Comtesse Elena d'Artois was then called forth and she was presented with a Comet Gules for her valor and skill on the fighting field, scroll by Mistress Alessandra d'Avignon.

Next Mistress Alessandra d'Avignon's presence was requested, and tales of her service, through the running events and sewing circles, were recounted and thus she was inducted into the Order of the Comet d'Or, scroll by Countess Aidan ni Leir.

Finally, THLady Odriana vander Brugghe was summoned, and Their Excellencies thanked her for her efforts in preparing the night's feast as well as her efforts in running a scriptorium, and thus They presented her with a Comet Blue-White, scroll by Cadell Blaidd Du and Lara Sukhadrev.

There being no further business, the court of Their Excellencies was closed.

Photo by THLord Kieran MacRae



BMDL Twelfth Night, January 15, 2011

Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands

Rejoice in the Holiday Season at the celebration of Twelfth Night in the Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands!

All are Welcome for this day of Fun, Frivolity and Food! There will be music and song, gift giving and getting, accompanied by the good food of a potluck dinner and the company of good friends!

The Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands is pleased to announce that Twelfth Night Festivities will be held on Saturday, January 15, 2011 at the Lodge in North Park, (no street number) Pearce Mill Road, Allison Park, PA 15101. The site will open at 10 AM and close at 10 PM, so that all may have enough time to enjoy the day.

The populace will be happy to note that this is a FREE event -- there is no charge at the door and no non-member surcharge! No reservations are required. Because it is also a potluck dinner, each person is requested to bring a dish to share.

The autocrat for this event is Lady Elss of Augsburg (Rocky Hayeslip); all inquiries may be directed to the autocrat at [elss_of_augsburg at yahoo.com](mailto:elss_of_augsburg@yahoo.com) or to Rocky Hayeslip, 221 Pine Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 or by cell at 724.759.3333.

Mark your calendars now for the BMDL Twelfth Night Celebration on Saturday, January 15, 2011 at the Lodge at North Park.

Here is just some of the excitement in store:

2011 BMDL Twelfth Night List of Activities

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ All hail the <u>KING and QUEEN OF MISRULE!</u> ❖ Weapons and armor inspection at 10:30 am, <u>TWO-HOUR BEAR PIT</u> from 11 AM until 1 PM ❖ <u>FUN FIGHTING</u> for young and old ❖ <u>GAMES</u> of all types to play ❖ <u>CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES</u> ❖ <u>A&S DISPLAY</u> ❖ <u>CLASSES</u> in Arts and Sciences and the Arts Martial ❖ <u>BARONESS' BARDIC CHAMPIONSHIP</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <u>COMPETITION of COOKIES</u> ❖ <u>BARONY MEETING</u> ❖ Royal <u>COURT</u> ❖ <u>BARONIAL COURT</u> ❖ <u>ADULT and YOUTH GIFT EXCHANGE</u> ❖ <u>DEBATABLE CHOIR</u> ❖ <u>SILENT AUCTION</u> ❖ <u>I GENESII</u> ❖ <u>DANCING AND LIVE MUSIC</u> at the <u>TWELFTH NIGHT BALL</u> |
|--|--|
-
- ❖ POTLUCK dishes are listed at <http://www.luckypotluck.com/potluck/BMDL12thNite2011> - Bring your feast gear!

Twelfth Night at the Lodge at North Park - Directions

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 Route 8 North exit, and then go north.

Look for 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 Boulevard, 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)

Seneschal

Lady Madeleine de l'Este
madeleinedlest at yahoo.com

Knight Marshal

THL Robert Marston
kardasl+@pitt.edu

Exchequer

Baron Master Geoffrey fitz David
chinaex at ccia.com

Captain of Archers

Muirgheal inghean Dubhghaill
captainofarchers at steltonwald.org

Castelain

Lord Bóvi Farmaðr
david_black42 at yahoo.com

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

Archery

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

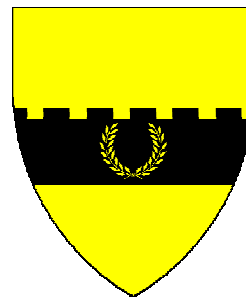
Fight practice

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

Sewing

Aoibheil of Dun Holen

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



THE COLLEGE OF COUR D'OR

The College of Cour d'Or is currently dormant. For information regarding local colleges and Universities, contact the Baronial College Liaison

College Liason

Rosalia Iuliana Andreere

CMU Rooms Reservationist

Margaret Makafee

Elss of Augsburg
c/o Rocky Hayeslip
221 Pine Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

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

November Issue AS XLV (2010) Vol. 31. No. 7

FIRST CLASS MAIL – PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

Sign up on the Althing mailing list to have the Althing emailed to you every month at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bmdl_althing/.

Download or read the Althing online every month at <http://www.debatablelands.org/althing/>.

Subscribe to the Barony mailing list at <http://lists.andrew.cmu.edu/mailman/listinfo/sca-bmdl>.

Find the Barony home page at <http://www.debatablelands.org/>.

College student? Join the SCA-medieval-interest@googlegroups.com mailing list for announcements of campus and local activities.

Need a ride? <http://groups.google.com/group/bmdlrideboard> is the Google group for ride sharing to events and practices.