



FIRST QUARTER AS LIV (2019)

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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 Althing's submission deadline is general the 15th of the last month of the quarter (March, June, September, December) – send your contributions to tochronicler@debatablelands.org for inclusion in the next issue.

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Baron and Baroness

Hello Debatable Lands!

It's been an eventful late winter here, with a highly enjoyable 12th Night and Grand Tournament. Vivant to the event stewards and their hard-working staffs! We especially loved the pot luck (Lady Melodia) at 12th Night and the sideboard (Lady Kattera) at Grand Tournament! Yum! A hearty congratulations to the new Baronial Bard, Lady Beatrix, and the new Baronial A&S Champion, Lady Argentia!

Also a huge shout out to Lord Yingerz, who organized and facilitated the St. Patrick's Day Parade Demo (so much fun - we handed out like 500 fliers!) and to Lord Ronan and Meesteress Odriana who handled the (now canceled) Science Center demo. And don't forget about the CCAC South Demo on April 24th, 10am to 2pm! Thanks to Lord Alfonso for organizing that!

We look forward to seeing folks at Coronation next weekend, and thank you to all who are participating in staffing this joint event with King's Crossing. And of course thank you to those organizing the TWO musters the day after (April 7th) - melees at the Coronation site, and archery and thrown weapons at the Castle! Then, we are very excited to attend the Equestrian Event on June 29th - come see and participate in our breath-taking horsey activities, brought to us by Lady Gesa!

June also is the month of CHAMPIONS! The nonequestion martial ones anyway. We will be holding our martial championships during the month of June, at the Sunday practices, over 2 - 3 Sundays. If you have a preference for which championship is on which day, please don't hesitate to let us know! We will be finalizing the schedule in April. This includes Heavy, Rapier, Archery (adult), Thrown Weapons, Youth fighting, and Archery (Youth). Also, please let us know if you are interested in seeing or participating in a Baronial Cut and Thrust Championship, as we are considering adding that one. Watch Storfrettir, the Amazing Baronial Blog, for the most updated information.

In Levitate et Caritate

and Cheers

Baron Brandubh & Baroness Hilderun





Baron and Baroness

And it's never too early to start thinking about PENNSIC! If you are camping with the Debatable Lands in N10, please don't forget to register under "Debatable Lands" - this includes our sub-camp. Also, if you are camping in the main Barony camp, please let Master Emrys (Broom) know, or the Baroness, so that we can add you to the contact lists. Debatable Lands is an open camp, so anyone adhering to the rules can camp there, but you **MUST** pre-register (paid).

There are a lot of amazing things coming up for Pennsic, and we will be communicating further about them. One thing is that we are creating gifts for the 7 Baronies this year. If anyone would like to join in the fun and help with these projects, please let us know (mostly woodworking, sewing, painting).

Lastly, and most importantly, please write **LETTERS of RECOMMENDATION!** It's wonderful to see our friends and fellow Debatable Landers be recognized for their accomplishments in both Baronial and Kingdom Courts. How does that happen? The Royalty and Baronage make decisions about awards based on what **YOU** say. Yes, **YOU!** You can recommend folks for Baronial Comets here: <http://debatablelands.org/award-recommendation.php>, and you can recommend people for Kingdom Awards here: Their shortly-to-be-Majesties are especially interested in receiving recommendations for AoA-level awards. Write 'em in!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do contact us, email (baron@debatablelands.org or baroness@debatablelands.org), text (412-606-6258 for Baroness Hilda or 412-606-6367 for Baron Brandubh), in person, or Facebook (Baroness Hilda is Krista Traini Cogan there). Thanks again, and we'll see you out in the fields and ranges of honor!

In Levitate et Caritate

and Cheers

Baron Brandubh & Baroness Hilderun





IE

xchequer

Greetings from the office of the Exchequer!

We finalized all of our 2018 reports. We just about broke even for the calendar year; the barony is excited to support many of our guilds and many new endeavors this year. The April business meeting will be the budget meeting, so if you are interested in how the barony's money is spent, please join us. Business meetings are not just for officers, but are a place where any of us can be part of the discussion about how the barony is run. Check out the barony calendar, or Storfrettir for updates about places and times for meetings.

Through the next year, we will be planning on dipping into the barony's savings for a couple of big purchases, such as a new trailer. If anyone has any ideas or leads on a trailer, please contact me. There are certain rules that the Coopers now require to keep the trailer on their land. If you would like a complete list of the regulations, I will be happy to provide it.

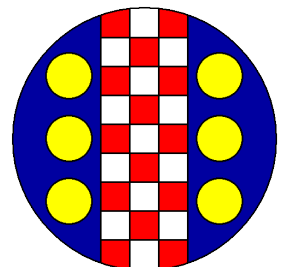
Hosting events gives us the ability to continue to enjoy our hobby. Events can be huge, like war practice, or they can be small affairs of just a few hours. Events can be as simple or as complex as we like, and the best part is that they can focus on any aspect of our game. In our area, many events focus on martial activities, but a variety of events are successful. Last year, Tavern In the Park was a good example of a niche event that did well. Events are the way we make money to be able to fund gold key, loaner equipment, support our guilds, and to do demos to show new people what we do. We are always looking for a range of people to host events. We often bid to host kingdom events, such as the upcoming spring Coronation, or the Crown/20 Year Anniversary event. We are excited to have one time get togethers as well as events that repeat every year. Do you have an idea for an event? Is there something you just think it would be fun to do? Or do you like organizing things? Please reach out to any of the officers; we will be glad to help your idea grow.

Over the last few months, we have had several new members be trained in running troll at events. Lord Ronin MacConnell and Lady Ranka are two newly authorized trolls who are able to be the head troll at events. A big thank you to Lord Owen who is the head troll and reservation clerk for the upcoming coronation.

Thank you all for all that you do. Keep being amazing and remember to have fun.

Lady Arthes Macleod

Exchequer





Good day Barony!

Thank you to every officer, member of the populace, and guild who has helped support me and the Althing in the last years. Without your additions it would not be possible to provide the Barony with a functioning news letter. While there is nothing in particular to report I just needed to take the time to thank everyone that has helped me and made my job easier.

Thank you, everyone of you.

Lastly, if anyone has any interest in working on or learning about the publication of the Althing please contact me at Chronicler@debatablelands.org and we'll get together and talk about it!

Tigerna A. Sionnach Macleod

Chronicler Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands

Correction from prior Althing from the fourth quarter of 2018:

The prior Althing had an incorrect listing for the royalty, it should have listed Queen Anna Leigh and instead had her listed as Princess. Due to my haste I failed to update the royalty, please forgive the oversight.



Baronial Oath of Fealty

As Coronation is just around the corner, we'd like to share the oath of fealty that we take to the Crown of Aethelmearc on your behalf.

"We Brandubh et Hilderun, eighth in the line of succession of the Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands, do hereby swear to the Crown of Aethelmearc:

To serve and protect this Barony and its peoples, as stewards appointed by the Crown, and selected by its members; to represent the words of the Crown to the people of this Barony, and to mobilize it to the defense and enrichment of the Kingdom.

We also swear to represent the populace to the Crown, to voice their concerns, to praise their works, and to ensure that their rights and traditions are upheld.

Hic sumus quia credunt. For we are here because they believe."

We hold these words always in our hearts, and strive to represent, serve, and protect you. We strive to take actions and communicate both inside the Barony and outside, in ways that support these goals. If something that we do or say doesn't make sense to you, please open a dialogue with us. We are here for you and will listen. We are here because you believe in this incredible game that we play, that is more than a game. It's friendship, passion, art, camaraderie, self-challenge, renewal, multi-faceted learning, and most of all - fun!

Always with levity and love,

Baron Brandubh and Baroness Hilda



oodworking Guild

Those of us who were able to attend yesterday's Barony Meeting talked it over, and we decided to have our first dedicated planning meeting one month from today, to give people time to get ready for it. Planning meetings will probably happen on a monthly schedule once we get up and running, but may move around from place to place. This time -

Woodworking Guild

Thu, April 18, 2019,

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Panera Bread, Boulevard of the Allies, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

The agenda of this meeting will be:

1. Discuss group projects on which we could work together.
2. Discuss our personal projects and help people out with their questions.
3. Schedule times and places for actual work.
4. Decide when/where the next planning meeting should be.

As far as places for #3 go, we have kind of an embarrassment of riches as far as places are concerned. Multiple workshops are available, especially once the weather warms up. They're not always conveniently located for everybody at once, though, and might entail helping Master Urho clean out his garage.

For #1, the Barony is going to need a new storage trailer before Pennsic, so there may be some work associated with that. There is also a project for the Barony that I have been working on myself, that I would love some help on.

Hope to see all interested parties at this central location for our first meeting!

—

Ishiyama Shonagon (Elliott C. Evans)



Cookies!

From the winners of the 12th night cookie contest come cookies! SO MANY COOKIES!

Arthes MacLeod's Stained-Glass Cookies

You will need: Your favorite rollable sugar cookie dough. Two cookie cutters that can nest inside one another. Hard candies in your favorite flavors. Rolling pin. Meat mallet or other hammer. Cookie sheets. Parchment paper

You can start with your favorite rollable sugar cookie recipe. This time, I was baking for some gluten free friends. I decided to start with a gluten free sugar cookie mix by Pillsbury. It was intended for drop cookies though. I added a little water, salt, and gluten free flour until the dough was stretchy.

You need two cookie cutters; one small enough to be inside the other. I chose ones both the same shape. I purchased fondant cutters for the small cookie cutter.

Step 1: Use the meat mallet to crush the candies into small pieces. Peppercorn sized pieces are the best size. Keep each color/flavor separate.

Step 2: Mix up your favorite sugar cookie dough and roll it out.

Step 3: Cut the cookies out. First use the larger cookie cutter and then the smaller one. Pull the cut center of the cookie out. It can be reused when you reroll your dough. Place the cookie on a cookie sheet covered in parchment paper.

Step 4: Fill the hole in the cookie with the crushed candies. Be careful not to drop them on the dough; any dropped pieces will dye the dough as they're cooked.

Step 5: Bake at 350 for around 9 minutes or until cookies are golden brown. Remove from the oven. Watch carefully and move from the tray when the candy hardens. Be careful not to touch the hot candy; it will burn. Do not allow to stay on tray any longer than needed. If the cookies cool completely on the tray, the candy will stick.



More Cookies!

Cookies from Tierrany Rose, Xavier, and Code!

Blood Orange Lemon Cookies (can be Gluten Free)

2 cups Bob's Red Mill 1-to-1 Gluten Free flour (can also use all-purpose flour)

2 tsp baking powder

1/2 tsp salt

10 tbsp softened unsalted butter

1 cup granulated sugar

1 tsp each of lemon zest and blood orange zest (or use all lemon)

1 large egg

1 large egg yolk

1 tbsp each fresh lemon juice and fresh blood orange juice (or use all lemon)

1 tsp lemon extract

1/2 cup powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 350. Line two cookie sheets with parchment paper. In an electric stand mixer or with an electric hand mixer, whip together butter, granulated sugar, and zest until light and fluffy, scraping down sides frequently. Add in egg, egg yolk, lemon extract, and mix just until combined. In another bowl, mix together flour, baking powder, and salt. Gently blend dry ingredients into wet, stirring just until combined. Place powdered sugar in a small bowl. Take a small piece of dough, about 1 tbsp, gently roll into a ball, then roll in powdered sugar. Place balls on baking sheet, about 2 inches apart. Bake at 350 for about 8-10 minutes, or until tops start to show tiny cracks and bottoms are lightly golden. Remove from oven and let rest on the baking sheet for a few minutes, then place on a wire rack or parchment-covered counter to cool.

Flourless Berry Brownie Crisps (Gluten Free)

3 cups powdered sugar

3/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder



Even More Cookies!

1/4 tsp salt

3 egg whites

1 tsp raspberry flavored extract

1 1/2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips

1/2 cup finely crushed freeze-dried strawberries

before gently moving them to a wire rack or parchment-covered countertop.

Preheat oven to 350. Line two cookie sheets with parchment paper (you'll definitely need the parchment, otherwise they will stick!). In a large bowl, mix together powdered sugar, cocoa powder, and salt. Add in egg whites and raspberry extract, stirring just until combined. Gently mix in crushed freeze-dried strawberries and chocolate chips. Drop by scant teaspoonfuls onto parchment paper lined cookie sheets, about 2 inches apart (they'll spread a lot!). Bake at 350 for 8-10 minutes or until tops are puffy and cracked. Remove from oven and let rest on the baking sheet for a few minutes, then, keeping the cookies on the parchment paper, slide the paper onto a wire rack or countertop to cool completely. If you try to remove them from the paper before they're cool, they'll stick.

Oatmeal Lace Cookies (can be Gluten Free)

1 cup unsalted butter

2 1/4 cups light brown sugar, packed

2 1/4 cups rolled oats

3 tbsp Bob's Red Mill 1-to-1 Gluten Free Baking Flour or all-purpose flour

1 tsp salt

1 egg, lightly beaten

Preheat oven to 350. Line cookie sheets with parchment paper. In a saucepan, melt butter and brown sugar, stirring constantly, until smooth. Stir in oats, flour, salt, and egg. Drop by scant teaspoonfuls onto parchment paper, leaving at least 2 inches between (they'll spread a lot!). Bake for 8-10 minutes or until medium golden brown. If you take them out when they're lightly golden brown, they'll be a little chewy. Darker golden brown will be crispy with a darker caramel flavor. Medium seems to be just right. Let them cool on the baking sheet for a few minutes



Winning Pies!

During our Harvest Revel we had a wonderful Pie contest. We had a room overflowing with pies and we're going to be sharing the winning recipes:

Master Urho's Blueberry Grenadine Pie

Pastry for 9-inch One-Crust Pie

2 cups fresh blueberries

1/2 cup sugar

1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons corn starch

1/4 salt

1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

3/4 cup water

1/4 cup grenadine

2 teaspoons lemon juice

1/2 cup chilled whipping cream

1 tablespoon sugar

Prepare the pastry as directed except stir in 1/4 cup cornmeal with flour. Continue to bake pie shell. Place blue berries in pie shell, mix half cup of sugar, salt, cornstarch, and cinnamon in a sauce pan. Stir in water, heat to boiling stir continually. Boil and stir for one minute. Stir in grenadine and lemon juice. Pour over blue berries and refrigerate till chilled. Beat whipping cream and 1 tablespoon sugar in chilled 1 1/2 –quart bowl until stiff cut pie into wedges.

Great family cookbook project from 'Our Kitchen to Yours' Sharon Polts



Award recommendations

It's time to submit award recommendations! We are seeking recommendations for our June Equestrian event, and Pennsic, and Their soon-to-be-Majesties need recommendations for Their Royal Courts! Some handy FAQs:

Q: So, who can recommend folks?

A: Anyone! From the newest new folks to the people that have been around for decades!

Q: Who should you recommend for Baronial Awards?

A: Any gentle that lives in the Barony, and who contributes to the Barony in some way. We also have an "Friend of the Barony" type award for people that live outside our borders, but who have contributed to our Barony.

Q: What Baronial awards can we recommend people for?

A: The main Baronial award is the Comet. We separate the different areas of interest by color, or Branubh and I are using metals for our tenure for a few of them:

A Gold Comet is for service to the Barony.

A Silver Comet (previously blue-silver) is for excellence in Arts and Sciences in the Barony.

An Iron Comet (previously red) is for excellence in one or more of the martial activities here in the Barony.

Purple Comets are given to the youth of the Barony who contribute in any field.

A Comitatus Amicus (previously green) is our "friend of the Barony" award, given to those who contribute to the Debatable Lands (any field, but usually service), but who do not live within our borders.

We also have an Order, the Order of Copernicus, given out rarely, and to those Barony members who have made a long-term, very positive impact here. We give out only one per year.

Q: How do you recommend people?

A: By private email, please. Or in person or by social media (private message), but it helps to follow up by email. You can reach us at baron@debatablelands.org, and baroness@debatablelands.org.

Q: How do we know if the worthy gentle already has a Comet?

A: Check out our Order of Precedence here: <http://debatablelands.org/herald/op/>

But you may notice that people can receive more than one Comet! Lots of folks have been awarded multiple Comets over the years, of the same and different colors, in recognition of continued contributions. Go ahead and recommend someone for Comet, even if they have one. It's not likely that we'll award a Comet of the same category within a year or two of the last one to someone, but it doesn't hurt to recommend anyway! People are inducted into the Order of Copernicus just once.

Q: What if you want to recommend a Kingdom award?

A: Please do! You can use the form here: <http://www.aethelmearc.org/onlineaward/>, and it will get to the Royalty. And hey, if you want to drop me and Brandubh a note telling us about that recommendation, we could send one for that person, too!

In Levitate et Caritate

and Cheers

Baroness Hilderun



Birthday Filk

It was recently the Baron's birthday and in celebration our Mistress Gwenly the Graceful wrote a filk for the

All hail to the days
That merit more praise
Than all the rest of the year
And welcome the nights
That double delights
As well for the poor as the peer
Sweet blessings attend
Each merry man's friend
That doth but the best that he may
Forgetting old wrongs
With poems and songs
To drive the cold winter away

There rules in this land
A baron most grand
Whose natal day falls at this time.
And though he is short,
His fame is the sort
That merits remembrance in rhyme.
While nobody fears
His double-score years
Will cause his prowess to wane
Yet now his decay
Must hold forth its sway
And drive the old Baron insane.

See all of the things
Advancing age brings
Like aches in the elbows and knees.
I'd mention the hair
But-- let's not go there;
For baldness, I'm told, prevents fleas.
I'd say he's distressed
But not too hard-pressed
To understand my refrain:
Brandubh is now old
So come, meek or bold,
And drive the old baron insane.



Just think of the wheat
That he can't now eat
But more to the point: no more beer!
And tho' he's still spry,
His muscles now cry
When camping throughout the year.
The eyesight goes weak;
We all must now speak
Both loud and slow for his poor brain.
Remember he's frail,
So withered and pale,
Which drives the old baron insane.

Please take it not ill
He's over the hill,
For youth leaves us all in its stride,
And mourn for our friend,
Now close to his end,
Debatable's joy and our pride.
Decrepit, infirm,
Yet still we affirm
His anniversarial bane
And raise up this toast
Before he's a ghost,
To drive Baron Brandubh insane



Upcoming events

April 3 Barony-Marche of the Debatable lands Business meeting

April 5-9 Coronation of Gareth and Julianna

April 7 Muster at the Castle

April 13 Festival of the Passing of the Ice Dragon

April 25-28 Blackstone Raid 28

May 4 Queen's Rapier Championship

May 11 Spring Crown Tourney

May 16-19 Aethelmearc Warpractice

May 19 Barony Meeting

May 23-27 Middle Kingdom 50 year

June 1 Vikings of Miklagard

June 7-9 The Scarlet Guard Inn VII

June 15 Spring Aethelmearc Academy and War College

June 28-30 A Kingdom for My Horse