



The Althing

A quarterly publication of the
Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands
in the
Kingdom of Æthelmearc

Located in these modern times in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and surrounding areas

From the Baronage

A missive from Their Excellencies of The Debatable Lands

Hello Debatable Lands! Salve Accolens!

The days stretch long and the air is fragrant and warm! Somer is a'cumin in!! And so too are many of our traditional summer SCA activities, finally!

First, congratulations to THL Hara and all her staff for an extremely successful Iris Festival and Iron Comet and Kingdom Equestrian Champs! And congratulations to the newest Iron Comet Champion, Count Andreas Morgan, and our Youth Iron Comet Champion, Otto Brandulfarsson. Check out the Court Report at Debatablelands.org for more info on category winners and more!

Congratulations, too, to our June Stellar Tournament winners: Count Eisenwulf is our Defender of the Sun (heavy), Don Jorundr is once again our Defender of the Moon (rapier) and Lord Ronan emerged victorious as the Defender of the Sky (archery)! VIVANT!! We will not have Stellar Tourneys in June because instead....

At July martial practices, WE WILL BE HOLDING THE FIRST BARONIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN THREE YEARS for our adult martial activities!! We are beyond excited!!

Our NEW Baronial Archery, Heavy Fighting Champs, Baronial Thrown Weapons and Fencing Champions will all be chosen on Sunday, July 24th during practice. The two fighting events will be Atlantian Speed Tourneys. Come cheer on your favorite fighter, fencer, archer or thrower!!

All Baronial Champs, including the winners above and our very, very patient Baronial Bard and Baronial A&S Champ, will be competing with the Champs from ALL 7 Baronies to see who rises to be the best of the best! The Seven Pearls Champs event will be held on August 27th in the Rhydderech Hael. Come cheer on the Comets! It's always a blast!

And finally, PENNSIC! Finally... We'd like to encourage everyone to take it a bit easy. It's been three years, and few of us are used to the heat and camping and intense activities of all kinds. Be kind and easy on yourself. Do "Pennsic: Easy Mode". And remember to hydrate, wear a hat and sunscreen, and check for ticks.



photo credit: Silence de Cherbourg

Check the blog and social media for Barony and Kingdom Pennsic activities, but SAVE THE DATE: middle Sunday, August 7th, is Baronial Court at AE Royal. We are delighted that our King and Queen will also be holding Their Kingdom Court, including the elevation to the Laurel of THL Ren! Will be late afternoon/early evening (exact time TBD). Be there!

Other Pennsic activities of general Baronial interest include: Opening Ceremonies, Kingdom Court, Known World Baronial Champs Tourneys, I Genesii, Debatable Lands Choir Concert, and so much more! Also, volunteers from the Baronial to Kingdom to Pennsic levels are needed!! Watch the blog and social media for more info. With many thanks!

In Levitate et Caritate, and Cheers,

Baroness Hilda & Baron Brandubh

From the Seneschal

Greetings Noble Populace,

I would like to welcome our newest officer, Lady Jehannette Bouchart who will be taking over for Master Kieran as the Comet Pursuivant. We are grateful for Master Kieran's years of service and look forward to working with Jehannette!

As Their Excellencies have said, Summer is upon us and with it WAR!

I would ask all of our Martial Participants to review the most recent rules for participation so that you are aware of any changes that may have happened. They are located on the Kingdom Website <https://aethelmearc.org/> or on the Earl Marshal website <http://marshal.aethelmearc.org/>. And, don't forget to take a look at your kit to make sure it's in good repair!

In that vein, Our Marshals should also take a look at the redesigned Earl Marshal Website which now allows you to submit your incident, accident, and quarterly reports online; as well as request a warrant or reapply. <http://marshal.aethelmearc.org/>

If you are working with the Youth and have had a background check for your office, please make sure your background check is up to date.

Pennsic is happening and we are under Æthelmearc's Covid Safe Policies. Please make certain that you have a mask for any indoor spaces; please make sure you have proof of vaccination or proof of a negative test within 72 hours of your arrival [We do not accept home tests, you must have yours completed by an approved medical facility or provider.] <https://docs.google.com/document/d/17IlgF5F9bvHX-de19hOHrLqymDfSf9bLzkKZdSt-1Yk/edit>

We will be looking for bids for Baronial Twelfth Night and any upcoming events that come to your minds. Our policies ask for your bid at least 6 months prior to your intended day.



photo credit: Schneider Photography

Our next business meeting will be a zoom meeting on August 24, 2022 at 8 pm. All are welcome.

The October Business Meeting will be October 5th, 2022.

The December Business Meeting will be December 7th, 2022.

In Service,

Muirgheal

She/her
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address and phone number in the dark pages

From the Archers Guild

as reported by Lord Godzimir the Golden



Just when we were about to hold our monthly Sky List Tournament to determine the Defender of the Sky, our Debatable Lands were invaded by an army of GNOMES!

"Well that saves me from having to make tournament targets," said Godzimir.

"Archers, to the wall!" shouted Baron Brandubh Donnghaile.

A score or more of proud barony archers took up arms and lined the parapets of the great keep of the Debatable Lands. They raised their bows as waves of angry and surprisingly fashionable gnomes leapt off their ships onto the shore.

"Loose!!" shouted the Baroness, Hilderun Hugelmann.

A tidal wave of arrows flew from the keep and found their marks within advancing gnomes' colorful ranks. Seeing such skill and accuracy caused the gnome king to pull his army back and implement a new strategy. The gnomes brought forth their flying machines, armed with bombs to destroy the keep. High into the sky they flew and down came the explosives.

The gnomes did not expect that two of the best archers in the barony, Lord Ronan O`Conall and Lord Niall mac Raedwulf, were ready for them. With impeccable accuracy the two lords fired off arrow after arrow, destroying the bombs mid-air and saving the keep from their destructive force.



photo credits: Silence de Cherbourg

"Enough!" A loud voice bellowed from across the battlefield. It was Olaf, the gnome king. "Stand aside, you colorful fools—I'll do it myself."

Olaf strode across the field towards the keep, wielding his magical staff; he planned on destroying the gate, and leading his army to victory. To his surprise, the gate instead opened, and out of it walked Lord Ronan O`Conall. The gnome king sneered and raised his staff, launching a ball of fire. Ronan sprinted towards it and at the last second went into a slide, narrowly avoiding the sweltering heat. As he came to his feet, he fired an arrow that ricocheted off the king's staff, cracking it. Up again came the staff and out of it came a bolt of crackling lightning. Ronan leapt into the air, the lightning sizzling underneath his feet. He drew his bow and focused hard on the crystal on top of the staff. With a cry, he let loose and the missile whistled across the field and there it found its mark. The crystal shattered, unleashing all the energy stored within it. The gnome king Olaf was destroyed instantly. Ronan stood, facing the remaining gnomes of the great gnome army. Ronan raised his hands and shouted "AHHHHHH!" The gnomes screamed and ran, tripping over one another as they fled into the hills, never to be seen again. Thanks to the bravery and skill of the archers, the Barony-Marche was saved... for now.

From the Chronicler

Greetings to the Barony!

Pennsic is approaching, and I know our great Barony will have many stories to tell afterwards of glory, adventures, and entertainment. What better way to have your tales preserved for posterity than submitting them to your local newsletter? We accept submissions from any member of the populace, not just officers, and submissions can be as diverse as event reports, tournament results as embellished as you like, song lyrics, recipes, upcoming events or demos, anything of interest to the populace.

There are several goings-on at Pennsic that I would like to draw attention to for the benefit of those attending. Opening Ceremonies will be middle Saturday (July 6) at noon on the main battlefield. Those wishing to process in with the kingdom should muster around 11am at AE Royal (N04). Opening Ceremonies is a wonderful display of pageantry, and as the host kingdom, we process in first and get a front row seat to watch the festivities. If you are processing in with the Debatable Lands, garb in our Baronial colors of gold and black is encouraged but absolutely not required, and wearing red for the kingdom is always appropriate.

Middle Sunday, July 7, there is the baronial social event, also hosted at AE Royal. Setup at 4pm, baronial court at 4:30 to be followed by a social hour with a light "snacky" supper to be provided. The AE bar will be open! Sometime after 6, Their Majesties will be joining us for Royal Court. Please consider staying through the evening or returning for Royal Court as one of our beloved former denizens, THL Renata Rouge (Ren), will be elevated to the Order of the Laurel at this court. For those wishing to attend her vigil, it will be held the evening prior at the Debatable Lands baronial encampment (N10).

On Monday, July 8, our Barony is doing two performances! First, at 7:30 in the Performing Arts tent, our Debatable Choir will have their concert, and at 9pm in the same location, our local group I Genisii, the greatest commedia dell'arte troupe in the Known World, will be performing.



photo credit: Silence de Cherbourg

Once our baronial champions have been decided, they will be competing in the following interbaronial championships:

Sunday, 8/7

1-3pm Baronial Archery Champs, Gold Range

Tuesday, 8/9

2-3pm Thrown Weapons Baronial Champs,
Thrown Weapons Range

Wednesday, 8/10

8am-12pm Armored Baronial Champs
12pm-3pm Rapier Baronial Champs
Both at armored list red

Don't forget war points! In addition to the major battles, you can help earn war points by teaching or taking classes, archery, thrown weapons, or doing service, including marshalling! And speaking of service, there is a particularly strong need this year for volunteers to help with Royal Encampment, especially tear-down. Being the Barony with the shortest drives home, we are in a unique position to stay a little later at War to help.

Wear sunscreen, stay hydrated, submit content to the newsletter!

In Service and Song,

Silence de Cherbourg

Their Excellencies of the Debatable Lands

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PUBLICATION

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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 generally the 15th of the last month of the quarter (March, June, September, December). Send your contributions to chronicler@debatablelands.org for inclusion in the next issue.