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the jararvellir jarns



MAY 2010 A.S. XLV



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Baronial Email list: jararvellir@minstrel.com

FROM THEIR EXCELLENCIES

Greetings to the People of Jararvellir from Raito and Æsa,

By the time you read this, May Day will have come and gone. We had a great time, didn't we?

And the Barony will have four new Champions. We can't wait to tell you who they are, and thank them in advance for their service. But there's two more Champions waiting to be selected. One is the Thrown Weapons Champion, who would have been difficult to select during May Day with everything else going on. We'll be scheduling that for one of the Thrown Weapons practices soon, so keep your eyes and ears open. The other is the Bard of Jararvellir, who is traditionally chosen at Warriors and Warlords (or is it Warlords and Warriors this year?).

And speaking of Warriors and Warlords, it'll be upon us sooner than you think. Their Excellencies of Nordskogen and Us are shaking up the Friday schedule a bit, and if it works out well, we'll keep it or go back to something more traditional.

WW is not only the Barony's largest traditional event, it's the largest event in the Kingdom. And it doesn't run without a lot of work from you and Us. Yes, your High Seat may not be doing as much of the physical labor at WW, but we're there, helping with our hands when we can, and with our hats when we must. And you can help, too. Remember, this is a big event, and the two sponsoring Baronies' reputations are often made (or broken) by how we conduct the event. So, let's get lots of hands making light work, and things will work out fine. Also, more hands working means more time relaxing.

RAITO AND ÆSA

MAY GENERAL MEETING minutes

Recruitment and Retention (Iohanna): We had a discussion this afternoon. On the subject of retention, the ideas included having more people involved with newcomers, having mentors to work with them (if desired), and providing a place to which people to go (like the WhatNot). In general, be nice and talk to people. On recruitment, ideas included holding more demos and holding them in diverse locations (not just Library Mall, but also at local public fairs), and also having fighter practices in parks around town. It was a good beginning and I'd like to have our next meeting in the Stock Pavilion in the next few weeks (starting around 8pm). I will announce the date soon on the List.

Chronicler (Paul): I wanted to take advantage of the larger group of attendees tonight to repeat the announcement that I am looking for a deputy (and replacement). Please contact me if you are interested. Also, if any of you have not heard about our newsletter, *The Skein*, feel free to come by and ask.

Chirurgion (Fiona): I'm putting in a bid to become the Kingdom Chirurgion, so I am looking for a Baronial deputy/replacement.

Stock Pavilion (Sol): The University requires that our waivers for the Stock Pavilion be completed annually. If you have not filled out a waiver within the past year, you need to do so again. I've been away so haven't been able to keep up on this, but I'm going to get out more and will be working on getting these collected.

Educational Gatherings (Svanhildr): My friends and I have a large studio space on Packers Avenue that we would like to make available for monthly teaching sessions. We were envisioning that these would be focused learning sessions, led by a particular person and announced in advance. Would this be something in which the Barony would be interested? [Meeting suggested that it might be better at first to plan this quarterly. In general, the idea seemed worth trying and the only way to know if it would work would be to announce one and see if people come]. Contact her if you have suggestions for a topic.

WW (Eithni): [Distributed the budget for review] In general, the budgeted amounts will remain mostly the same. And we will keep the site fees the same as well (as they have proven so far to be more than sufficient and are a good round number). [Discussion of whether to have a \$10 day pass throughout event. **Meeting approved the budget**]

Three additional items: (1) We will mark paths and walkways better and enforce so people don't tent on paths. (2) We are changing the scheduling of the A&S Competition and running it throughout the weekend. Audience "experience" categories (performance, food, beverages, dance) will be on Friday night, soft arts (calligraphy, costuming, etc) will be on Saturday morning, and Saturday evening will be for things that go "thunk" (armor, metal, etc). There will also be three categories of participation: comment only, judged (which must be pre-reg'd so we can have a suitable judge prepared), and a masterwork competition. (3) This year, we will allow people to come on site on Wednesday (after 6pm) as long as each adult in the party signs up before the event for at least one volunteer slot.

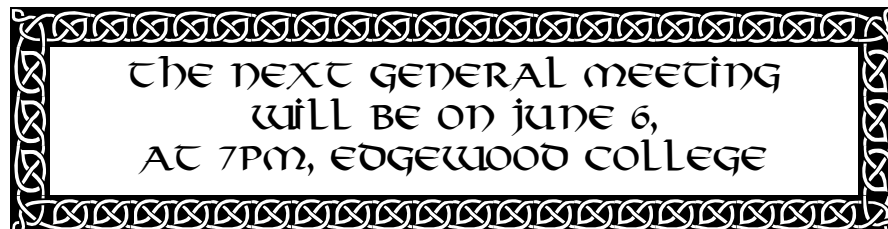
Beer Appreciation (Robert): Our next beer appreciation will be on May 11th and we'll be meeting at the Vintage Brewing Company (site of the former JT Whitney's). Contact me if you would like to join us.

WhatNot (Elizabeth): We will be restarting the WhatNots, beginning next Sunday at the KnuckleDown Saloon. Bring whatever you are working on, but you must be 21+ or accompanied by a parent. Going forward, this will be every Sunday (except General Meeting Sundays), starting at 7pm.

Baronial Showcase (Æsa): This year, we are making the Baronial Showcase an open invitation.

Chatelaine (Eliane): Please contact me if you are new or have new people you know and need help. I have cards and I'm on the web. I'm also the junior Chatelaine at WW. We'll have an Information Point and have tours of the site (see website for more information).

Webminister (James): I haven't been able to keep up with all of the web projects I would like and I am looking for a deputy.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Deputy Chronicler — The Deputy Chronicler helps with the production of the *Skein* and other print publications, as needed. The primary responsibility is helping the Chronicler with taking minutes at the General Meeting or publishing and distributing the *Skein* during periods when the Chronicler cannot do it. Familiarity with desktop publishing, strong communication skills, and ability to meet tight deadlines a plus. If you are interested in the position (or wish to learn more about its requirements), please contact Paul Wickenden at goldschp@tds.net.

BARONIAL CHAMPIONS

At the May Day moot, in addition to crowning Kat as Their May Queen, Their Excellencies were pleased to select four new champions: Fencing (Tomas Ordoñes Sandino de Triana), Archery (Sarangerel), Arts & Science (Toussaint de Caluwe), and Heavy Weapons (James Applegate).



MEMBER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

[Editor's note: At May Day, we held a discussion on the topic of recruitment and retention of new members, led by Iohanna. These are the minutes of that discussion. Further meetings are scheduled to take place in the future.]

Iohanna: Many people have experienced the “Midwest shy” (avoiding eye contact with new people). What can we do to help people feel more welcome?

Bronwyn: I have been away for a while. Way back when we had a newcomers group in Jara (even before we had a chatelaine). The group was about fifteen people who took care of newcomers (a member of the guild was attached to every new member to help them). It might be a good idea to have one of those groups again.

Sarangerel: I like that idea. When I came in the SCA there were people to help me and take me under their arms. It was nice to have people do that.

Alienor: When I was chatelaine, I tried to match new people to someone already in the group who seemed to have similar interests. So a matching system might work well.

Bredelwyn: This all sounds like putting the responsibility for helping newcomers on others. Everyone has some kind of responsibility in helping newcomers regardless of whether there is a guild or office for that job.

Eithni: I've been a chatelaine. Having mentors for the new people would need to be voluntary (if you want one, you can have one). Some people would not like the idea.

Shava: I'm with Bredelwyn. We have tried lots of teaming up but we need to encourage everyone to be a chatelaine. Jara is different from other groups. We are very polarized into little satellite groups. We don't come together very often.

Paul: I agree with Shava and have been thinking about that problem. I really like the idea of the WhatNots for getting people together. It

will give us another common ground where people can socialize, although it is a shame it is only for the 21+.

Elizabeth: I'm hoping it will be just that sort of thing. It is being held on a night of week when everyone can get together and cross pollinate. We went with Sunday because that seemed to be the best night (we had considered Thursday, but that conflicted with choir). It also seems like it will be a good place for new people to come and see what people do.

Jois: There are a number of questions that newcomers have. How could we get them more information? And can we have a resource that is flexible enough to provide information and give resources for further information? [Several people mentioned *Fish Tales*]

Eithni: Sorcha (the Kingdom MoAS) is putting together web resources on the Kingdom page and there is also a new Known World Handbook coming out this summer.

Shava: In the past, the Barony has bought copies of the Known World Handbook by the case and sold it at cost to new members or others who were interested.

Duncan: The issues of recruitment and retention have been around for a while. Anything we can out on the web is a good thing because it is easy to access, but it is good to also have human beings available for people who can't do the web. Still, we need to send the message the prospective recruits that we are self-sufficient group (we won't hold your hand).

Breddelwyn: As far as the web is concerned, consider using the SCA website itself.

Chandler: What kept me going in the SCA were people to encourage me.

Wren: As for recruitment, should we participate more in local festivals (like the Willy St Fair)?

Alys: I want to stress the importance of active retention. I had a bad experience when I first tried to join. Everyone should make an effort to be nice to new faces.

Iohanna: Yes, this is something where we all could help. Introduce yourself to new faces.

Robert: I'd like see people being out there more. More visibility. More practices/demos around the town.

Iohanna: It is important to do a newcomers feast. [Discussion about trying to not overwhelm the newcomers with experienced people at the feasts, and also about the difficulties of predicting how the feasts will go]

Annora: What about doing more public demos (like our old Renaissance Faires)?

Elizabeth: What about doing longer demos with pavilions, blacksmithing, and other longer-to-set-up flashy stuff?

Shava: So, we used to do a Renaissance Faire on campus (it actually was started by the Union but we eventually took it over). In addition to us, we would get other groups and stores to join. It was a great way to pull in people, but fell by the wayside one year and never revived. Other ideas: we could start a demo event. Or to try a "super demo" (in conjunction with a mall) where you have twenty minute slots of alternating activities (fighter demo, fashion show, dance demo, etc) and then followed up with a dessert revel in the evening and a follow-up meeting three weeks later to reinforce new recruits.

Svanhildr: What about doing a newcomer's moot twice a year (only holding them in once in the fall is too far apart)? Also, need to remember that newcomers don't know our language so be careful how you speak with them.

MAY DAY

The Barony's 37th birthday was marked by the traditional May Day festivities.

During the day, championships were held for archery (at the Stock Pavilion), heavy weapons, fencing, and arts & sciences. The Maypole was danced, with accompaniment from the instrumental music guild. James served as the post holder.

In the evening, a potluck feast was held, and featured many good dishes, including Sol's "armored chicken" (a most fowl creation of bird wrapped in bacon!). The feast was followed by Robert's attempt at the fastest General Meeting (Ivan was away in Drachenwald and unable to attend).

The weather was stellar (sunny and cool). A brief downpour late in the day occurred in bright sunlight, creating a double rainbow above the hall.







EVENTS



OUT AND ABOUT

For more information visit the individual group's website (accessed from <http://www.northshield.org/Events/List.aspx>).

May 2010

15—Beltaine by the Bay,
Darkstone (Mason WI)

June 2010

4-6—Mermaids Attack XVII,
Turn an dem See (Valders
WI)
11-13—Border Skirmish, **Caer**
Anterth Mawr (Kenosha WI)

July 2010

8-11—Warriors and Warlords
XVII, **Nordskogen/Jararvellir**
(Boscobel WI)

August 2010

13-15—Poorman's Pennsic
XVII, **Falcon's Keep**
(Wisconsin Rapids WI)

September 2010

3-5—Autumn Rose Sweet 16
(th Century), **Rokeclif**
(Galesville WI)
24-26—Windhaven's Fall
Fest, **Windhaven** (Oconto WI)



LOCAL NEWS



STOCK PAVILION SCHEDULE

We have our regular times (on Wednesday and Sunday) in May and June.

The full schedule can be found at:

<http://www.ansci.wisc.edu/Facilities/stockp.htm>

whatnot nights

I'm happy to invite all of you to Weekly WhatNot Night at the KnuckleDown Saloon (from 7pm until we're ready to go home)! On weeks when we're in competition with General Meeting (or a Packers evening game in the Fall), we can meet on Thursday, and give other folks a chance to check it out!

The KnuckleDown Saloon is located at: 2513 Seiferth Rd.. Madison, WI 53716

To avoid cluttering this list with needless chatter, I have created a Google group for those interested in staying abreast of activities during WhatNot Night:

<http://groups.google.com/group/weekly-whatnot>

I look forward to seeing everyone on Mother's Day (May 9th) with their What-Nots!

elizabeth von kulmbach

JARARVELLIR ARTILLERY BRUNCH

Sunday, May 16 at 10:30am

Announcing the first Archers' BBQ of the season. Please join us Sunday, May 16 at 10:30 a.m. at lovely Burrow's Park. We'll provide the hot coals and condiments, bring a grillable item for yourself. Should the weather prove inclement, we will meet at Moira's home at 2821 Myrtle St.

Feel free to provide something else for people to munch on, though it's not required. Please bring your own feastware. After the BBQ, we will retire to the Stock Pavilion at noon to shoot. You are welcome to join us at one or both locations. Loaner equipment is available.

Directions

From the south & west - take your best route to E Johnson St. Turn left on to Fordem Ave. Turn left on to Sherman Ave and then an immediate right onto Burrows Rd. If you wind up on N Sherman Ave, you went too far (turn around and go back).

From the east & north - take best route to Commercial Ave. At Packers Ave go west on Commercial until it ends. Turn left on N Sherman Ave and then right on Sherman Ave, and right again on to Burrows Rd.

Questions? Contact Moira (244-1559 or blarose@tds.net)

BARONIAL MEETINGS, GUILDS, AND CONTACTS

Please call the contact person to verify when & where an activity is held!

Archery Practice Sun 12-2PM, Wed. 6:30-8PM. UW Stock Pavilion

Contact: Lady Jois (Deena) 226-0846

Armoured Combat Wed. 7-10PM, Sunday 2-4PM. UW Stock Pavilion

Contact: Roisin igen Ailill (Rebecca Heidelberger) 244-4621, roisin106@aol.com

Armormaking Tuesdays 7PM. 3314 Ridgeway Avenue

Contact: Master Giles (Ed Gilbert) 244-2845, horsebows@mail.madtown.net

Brewing & Vintning Various locations (call for info)

Contact: Robert the Stout (Robert Trefz) 441-6150, rtrefz@tds.net

Calligraphy & Illumination Tuesdays 7PM. Call for location

Contact: Lady Eile (Alicia Cronk) 250-4595, leleth.faery@yahoo.com

Clothier's Guild Alternate Mondays, 7PM. Contact for location and dates.

Contact: Iohanna (A. Rebekah Turner) 957-9072, arebekah@gmail.com

Cordial Guild First Tuesday 7:30PM Contact for location

Contact: Lady Cianna Kharleen (Carrie Wilkey) 846-8008, cianna@teadame.com

Equestrian (not currently active but information available)

Contact: Alissende de Montfaucon (Tammy Thompson) 212-5433,
alissende@centurytel.net

European Dance Sundays 3PM. UW Campus—check TITU for room.

Contact: Lady Genevieve Elisabeth Dumas (Jenny Becker) 206-9330,
kathrynscurly98@aol.com

Fletching Fridays 6:30PM (call ahead) 5418 Imagine

Contact: Lord Toussaint de Caluwe (Tyson Patterson) 838-4092

Fool's Guild

Contact: Lady Aliénor Hathaway (Mariessa Dobrick) 658-8941, reesa83@aol.com

**General Business Meeting Usually 1st Sunday, 7PM, Edgewood College,
Predolin Hall — call to verify meeting date and location.**

Contact: Ivan Matfeevich Rezansky (John Beebe) 298-0918, rezansky@sbcglobal.net

Instrumental Music Mondays 7PM-Beginners, 8PM-Advanced.

UW Campus—Check TITU

Contact: Lord Nikolaus der Ausländer (Clint Hotaling) 846-0859,
n_auslander@hotmail.com

Middle Eastern Dance and Drumming

Contact: Lady Kenya (Heather Cushing) 298-0103, evilkenya@tds.net

Needlearts Tuesdays 7:30. Call for location

Contact: Lady Helena Caxton (Sara Andrews) 414-507-5872, helenacaxton@gmail.com

Pottery Guild First or second Monday (alternating with Clothier's), Fired Up Pottery.

Contact: Annora (Wendy Nelson) 438-6530, wendybyrd42@yahoo.com

Rapier Practice Wednesday 6:30-9PM, UW Stock Pavilion

Contact: Cosimo de Cellini (Joe Ordaz) 274-0997, jordaz@netzero.com

Social Practice Wednesday 9PMish. Call to verify location

Contact: Mistress Eithni (Jean Hetzel) 628-7782

Thrown Weapons Sundays Noon. UW Stock Pavilion.

Contact: Lord Toussaint de Caluwe (Tyson Patterson) 838-4092

Vocal Music Thursdays 7 PM UW Campus—Check TITU

Contact: Lady Aliénor Hathaway (Mariessa Dobrick) 658-8941, reesa83@aol.com

WhatNot Sundays 7pm. Knuckledown Saloon, 2513 Seiferth Rd., Madison WI 53716

Contact: Elizabeth von Kalmbach.

LEGALESE: This is *The Skein*, a publication of the Barony of Jararvellir in the Kingdom of Northshield of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. *The Skein* is available from Paul Goldschmidt, 5625 Highland Way, Middleton WI 53562. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. and does not delineate SCA policies.

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ART CREDITS: All photographs in this issue were taken by Paul Wickenden of Thanet and are used with permission.

CANTON OF COILLE STOIRMEIL

(Monroe & Juneau County, WI)
<http://www.coillestoirmeilonline.org>

Seneschal: Matthias of Rolling Oaks (Matt Schwall)
23149 State Hwy 21, Tomah WI 54660
limos112@hotmail.com, (608) 372-5445

Monthly Meeting: First or second Sunday of the month at the Nest in Tomah



The Skein
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