

Kenning Points



AS XLIX (OCTOBER 2014)

The summer months of 2014 have been busy for many of us. Here is a short re-capture of some memories made together with family and friends from the Barony of Smoking Rocks.

After a hiatus from going to Pennsic for about 6 years we took the adventurous trip to Pennsylvania and in effect at least 600 years back in history.

Johannes and I were graciously invited back to camp with our Freehold of River Keep family, in the Serengeti and close to the battle field. We decided to arrive early and set up before war week. Watching the "medieval Town" grow is always so very special. One gets to participate in welcoming old friends and meeting new ones. It is also a good time to volunteer at Troll and other venues, in preparation for the reason we have all travelled from so many places; the "War" itself.



New this year; volunteering was considered a war point and I recommend it to anyone in the future no matter the extra points. Pennsic could not possibly be run without the help of many and this year again I was amazed at how well things were organized. My personal thanks go out to all folks who make Pennsic possible for us to enjoy. VIVAT !

The weather was not terribly cooperative, at least not at the beginning. This made setting up, parking and other logistics a bit rough at times. One can say that water was definitely not sparse, but most of us accepted nature's fury with patience and good humor. Our home away from home stayed mostly dry and comfortable, and the temperatures within reason so sleeping weather was perfect, in my opinion.

The early mornings before the camp came to life were very peaceful and the big Pennsic skies did not disappoint. Most evenings were spent sitting around the fire pit, watching the embers glow and listening to Master Pat's songs and badger stories. Not much has changed over the years except for the faces present. One of my favorite things about Pennsic is the comraderie and the family atmosphere. I treasure sitting around the large table in the freehold's "long house" sharing time, food and stories with my SCA family. Making new memories that will stay with me as long as I live. As a great honor and surprise to many of us, during war week, we were able to include Master Feral to our camp and help him on his road to healing and recovery. The "Boss" I think enjoyed the love he received, especially the kisses and hugs from the ladies. I saw his eyes sparkle and a slight grin sneak across his face in those moments.

Not all of the Barony's members camp with the Freehold. This affords us the opportunity to visit each other and see areas of the town of Pennsic we might not otherwise see. Transportation was well organized and even folks who had trouble walking long distances had a good chance to travel around. The archery field, I noticed, had since moved from Mount Islin to a beautiful field, way across the other side of the battle field. Behind the highlands, where many families camped in shaded areas. The long and pleasant walk to the archery field offered me much needed exercise



and the reward at the end was worth the time it took. The Archery field offered many a challenging, interesting and fun shoot. The friendly and helpful marshals were ready to help a novice or accommodate a master. The field itself presented as a beautiful, peaceful and most fragrant place to spend a day, while relaxing and watching birds of prey glide high up in the air.

Pennsic University again was packed with uncountable classes in many fields of study. For most of us the choices were not easy. In addition the members of the freehold camp also had the opportunity to take up and learn new arts and science techniques within our camp. Thanks to Sunnifa's leadership as she had plenty to do for us. Local clay from the nearby creek, and reeds she had collected, or brought along from home, were available for us to use.





The opening ceremonies were hampered a bit due to threatening storms and in the end they were held in the large new Barn. The atmosphere was special and exciting with all the groups marching in and declaring the side they would be fighting on. Although our Baron and Baroness were not in attendance a substantial group of Smoking Rock's members carried our Banner, paraded in-front of the royals and declared our allegiance with the East. New this year, as far as I could tell, the Tuchux also arrived with much fanfare, all rude and stinky as would be expected, to declare their allegiance.

New and old Merchants kept setting up their tents and ware each day, so much talent, expertise and color all around. The Cooper's big old barn, which had been used in the past for parties and just to sit and rest, is now a larger store with the old space only used for selling ice. There were again many restaurants with delicious food, set up around the barn, and on the other side from Troll, near Pennsic University and mystic cafe.

The Performing arts tents and stage, still located in the same places as in the past, offered a busy schedule. There was a fools school; the world childrens choir; other children's activities; known world choir and players; middle eastern dance and much more. Additionally there were plenty individual and group performances held throughout the town. To many's great surprise and pleasure "Wolgemit", although not initially scheduled to appear, did make a surprise appearance after all.

There were plenty of activities for the children in and outside the freehold camp. Youth boffer fighting was again scheduled throughout the war including many other events for the smaller youth. The largest being the water battle held at the castle in the field, although I did not join the fun hearing the laughter and seeing the kids come back wet and with rosy cheeks told me a good time was had by all.



The freehold fighters were busy working on their armor, shields and weapons during the first week. Once the war horn was blown at the opening ceremonies, they were ready to fight. Sunday the rapier championships started the war week (*more details on that tournament in a separate article by Ammalina Taikkizhavi*). Monday started with 5 armored field battles; combat archery included but no siege engines. Tuesday the woods battles were cancelled, because of dangerous condition from all the rain, instead the bridge battles took place; combat archers and siege were allowed. Friday the last day of fighting the castle battle was held under perfect weather conditions. The Ladies of the free hold camp, with the help of some of the children, were busy throughout the war making sure our fighters were hydrated and their battle wounds tended to. At the closing ceremony the announcement came that the EK had won the war, the war horn was blown for the last time, and off we went to go eat the rest of the well deserved chocolate pudding.

In the end, the time to pack up our memories for another year, came much too fast. Tent stakes came down, canvas dried in the sun and slowly the town grew smaller and smaller. Saturday afternoon all but one of our tents were packed up and the caravan was ready to move back into the current century, to a hotel with a pool, real showers and some good food before we headed back to our homes in all different directions.

Thank you friends for a fine Pennsic and unforgettable memories.

Marguerite von Elfenau



Fencing at Pennsic 43



Our Barony as well as our neighbors in Bridge were represented on the rapier field this Pennsic 43 by his Excellencies Eloi and Fergus, Jeff, Aesa, Dee, Ammalina, & Faelan, making up half of the East Kingdom 3rd division.

The East was outnumbered by roughly 40% by the Midrealm army. Despite being outnumbered, the East was able to diminish the enemy's number down to 11 and 12 fencers by the end of two battles. Clan Sith and their allies, having a reputation for effectiveness, were told by their division commander to follow their instincts. Unit cohesion was excellent, with Faelan killing many, Ammalina playing the harrier, Jeff and Fergus the ringer

newbies and Dee lasting long into the battles.

The valiant efforts were not enough to win the war points, but they were enough to win praise from His Majesty and nearly move the Queen to tears of pride. Their majesties stated they had not quite realized the prowess of our fencers until this reign. It was said by many that if more heavy fighters did take up the Queen's challenge and join the fencers in battle, our force would have been undeniable.

-Ammalina Taikkizhavi aka Emeline LaCorte





We would like to thank everyone who turned out for the Baronial Archery and Thrown Weapons Championships and who helped make it a successful event. We were gladdened by the terrific turnout – thirty-one people including two newcomers! – and a lot of people tried their hand at both competitions.

Thank you to Elaina Howys of Morningthorpe and Fergus Redmead for devising such diabolical, er, we mean, challenging competitions and for Baroness Nest who so graciously opened her home to host the event and who did so much of the prep work and set up.

As par for the course, the people in the Barony all chipped in to help put on this event – from Solskinn who helped with the brush clearing and Godric, who manned the grill, Ammalina, who was a much appreciated retainer, to Nest, Marguerite, and Dearbhorcaill, who helped equip the newcomers and teach them how to shoot archery for the first time. Since this is Smoking Rocks, everyone helped with the set up and breakdown of the targets, because service and everything is how we roll.

And now for the results of the tournaments:

Thrown Weapons Tourney



Fergus designed an amusing tourney, involving playing cards (like blackjack! Only with axes!), colored wires, and of course, bacon. Because bacon makes everything better. Contestants included: Ulf Dragonslayer, Dearbhorcaill ingean Rossa, Marguerite von Elfenau, Rufus Bowie, Ammalina Taikkizhavi, Alys Attewater, Morvrundall, Sigmarr Avarsson, Robert Howys of Morningthorpe, Jakob Ironarm, Richard Leviathan, Haakon Ragnarsson, Ceawlin Alreding, Molly

Blythe, Nest verch Tangwistel, Elaina Howys of Morningthorpe, and newcomers Jacob of Norton and Thaddeus of Bellingham. The finalists were Dearbhorcaill, Morvrundall, Sigmarr and Eliana, with Sigmarr taking the title of Arch Axeman of Smoking Rocks.



Archery Tournament

Eliana set up an extremely challenging shoot that tested the strength, accuracy, and endurance of all the archers. Whether it was shooting groundhogs or at Cyclopes a hundred yards away, the competition required the archers to stretch all their skills. Contestants included: Richard Leviathan, Ulf Dragonslayer, Alys Attewater, Johannes von Heugel, Bronwyn of the Kings Field, Nest verch Tangwistel, Sabina Luttrell, Sile ingean MacCarthaigh, Sigmarr Alvarsson, Marguerite von Elfenau, Godric FitzEdmond, Dearbhorcaill ingean Rossa, Roberty Howys of Morningthorpe, Thaddeus of Bellingham and Jacob of Norton.

The finalists were Dearbhorcaill, Godric, Bronwyn, and Sigmarr, with Godric taking the title of Arch Forester of Smoking Rocks. Their Excellencies Ceawlin and Molly held a brief court to install the new champions and to thank the outgoing champions for their service. They also inducted Baroness Nest verch Tangwistel and Baron Fergus Redmead into the Order of the Companions of the Rock, the baronial award for martial arts for their service and dedication to promoting and fostering the arts of Archery and Thrown Weapons in Smoking Rocks.

Once again, thank you to everyone who made the day a great one!

YIS,
Baron Ceawlin & Baroness Molly





Thank you to everyone who came and made the Grape Stomp such a success!

If our calculations are correct, we'll get about 175 bottles of Chateau LeFoot to look forward to next year. It was a terrific turnout - we had 45 adults (over the course of the day), six of whom were newcomers, and 10 kids. It made us so happy to see so many of the younger set stomping and pressing - as Padraig says, we need to start passing on the traditions to the next generation!

A lot of work goes into putting on the grape stomp, but everyone pitched in and helped it happen! There are so many people to thank, we hope that we don't miss anyone. Special shout outs, though to:
-Cerdic and Caitlin, of course, for hosting the event, opening up their house and cooking for everyone!
-Fergus who got the brewers' guild involved, coordinated collecting the funds and who helped Cerdic pick up the grapes;

-Padraig, Godric, Faelin, Heather, Ulf, Justinius, Sabina, and Aesa, who arrived early and helped Cerdic and Fergus with the set up.

Thanks especially to Godric and Faelin who also stayed for the clean up at the end. You guys really rock!

There was much food, much laughter, old friends whom we haven't seen in ages, and newcomers who left with great stories to tell. It was wonderful to see this tradition revived, and we hope to do it again next year! The pics are in an album on this page. Have at it with the tagging!

Thanks everyone, for another great event!

-Ceawlin & Molly



Honey and Saffron Liqueur

1 cup honey
1/2 vanilla bean finely chopped
2 cinnamon sticks
10 long black peppercorns
1/4 teaspoon grated nutmeg
pinch of saffron
pinch of lemon zest
750ml bottle of plain vodka.
1/2 cup water.

Put the honey, water, cinnamon, peppercorns, nutmeg and saffron in a sauce pan and heat to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for 5 minutes. Take off the heat and add the lemon zest then wait 20 minutes for it to infuse. After that put it back on the burner bringing it up to a hot simmer. Take it off the heat and let it cool completely. Once completely cool add vodka and put it into a sterilized jar and cap it. place jar in a cool dark place for 60 days. Makes 1 liter.

Baron Fergus Redmead



Smoking Rocks Face book announcements:

Welcome new members"

We have had a huge influx of new members over the last couple of weeks!

I would like to say "Welcome to the Barony!" to:

Elena de Los Libros, Charles & Renee, Kim, Steven, Pat, Margaret Ruth, Deven and Ron.

We are excited to see you here!

If you have any questions, please post them here or contact Amelia/Nejla (arainfire16@aol.com) She is our new person liaison and is a wealth of information on the Society of Creative Anachronism.

Cheers and Welcome!

Sabina Luttrell FB post September 21, 2014

Combat arrow workshop:

Who wants to make combat archery arrows? I have the tools except for a craftsman router which we need for the operation. It will cost about 1.25 each and we will have to have an assembly line day.

Fred Carpenter FB post September 21, 2014

Tables at Birka:

So I just pre-reg-ed for 3 tables at Birka who is in on it. Tables went up to 25 bucks a table this year. Normally I don't want money but all things considered this year if you want most of a table I would appreciate donations to the cause. I know Robert Morningthorpe wanted a table I plan to use most of a table. So who else is on board??

Fred Carpenter FB post October 2nd, 2014

Dye day:

Sunday, Oct 12th is dyeing day!! Yippee. We are going to start around 10:00 and go until we can stand it no more.

We have some mushrooms, and rock tripe and some butternuts. I would love it if someone collected some onion skins. I am also going to harvest some madder root. We are also thinking about beech leaves and Mohonia. That reminds me i need to go pick up the black walnuts so we can have those also.

Anyway, if you have some yarn that you have spun bring it along. We do have some wool left over from years ago that we can give out some samples of.

We can fire up the BBQ and cook some of the sausages that are left over from the wedding last month (don't fret they have been frozen). Bring along a dish to share and we can have a good lunch. See you then.

Nest Verch Tangwistel Rochester, MA FB post October 5, 2014

Meeting Minutes September 2014 Barony of Smoking Rocks Business Meetings

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This is an abridged version of the minutes. For the full versions, please visit the Barony of Smoking Rocks yahoo group.

Officer Reports:

Arts & Sciences: Dye day planned for October exact date to be announced, several trips to the woods have taken place to collect mushrooms for dying. Under Sunnifa's leadership there were many arts projects under way @ Pennsic 43 we worked with clay and learned how to weave reeds, materials collected site.

Chancellor Minor: Alys started youth combat marshall training @ Pennsic 43, future practices will be held by Michael of York in Carolingia.

Leviathan Pursuivant: Nothing to report at this time.

Knight Marshall: Fighting a@ Pennsic 43 was great and nobody (really) died. The Baron congratulated the fighters on a job well done. There were 2 newcomers attending fight practice at the PAL after the war. Practices are ongoing for heavy list as well as archery.

MOL & Chatelain: Nothing to report at this time, Nejla could not attend meeting.

Chronicler: July minutes were submitted with no corrections noted. July newsletter was also submitted to the EK and website, however the webminister is experiencing difficulties with the server. The next newsletter is due out in October.

Exchequer: Nothing new to report

Old Business:

Archery and thrown weapons: Was held on August 24 at Baroness Nests home, attendance was great with a headcount of 31. The weather was wonderful and all had fun. Baron Fergus ran the thrown weapons tourney and Lady Elaina was in charge of the archery. We have two new champions to announce:

The new "Arch Axman of Smoking Rocks" is : Sigmar Avarson

The new "Arch Forester of Smoking Rocks" is : Lord Godric FitzEdmond

Grape Stomp: September 13, 2014 is the date chosen for the Grape Stomp @ Baron Cerdic and Baroness Caitlin's home in Fall River. The Brewers Guild under the leadership of Fergus is in charge of the logistics pre payments need to go to them. Volunteers are needed for set up and take down as well as food for the pot luck event it is. Baroness Mali notified folks on facebook, also invited folks on the list from the Makers faire earlier in the year. Anyone who wants to bottle their own wine needs to bring along a carboy.

Fall Demo: Meet and greet will be held on the Cape @ Fred and Alys's home possible date is November 2nd after the crown tourney. This will most likely be the metal working workshop event.

New Business:

Twelfth night, Iceweasel and Barony Birthday: Autocrats and Feastocrats are still needed for some of these three events. Master Pat will autocrat 12th night not certain who will do the feast. Andris and Belina offered to again autocrat Iceweasel as well as Isabeau. At the next baronial meeting all folks who have a vested interest in taking on these responsibilities will need to attend and present a specific plan and budget.

New event ideas: Equestrian event is still in the works, a possible food tasting event was suggested e.g. "A Taste of Smoking Rocks". A scribal event held at the Easton Library was suggested. A Robin Hood event should also be added to the list of ideas.

Baron & Baroness time: Mali has a fillable form available for the "stie committee" to use going forward. The Doomsday book should also be available on the yahoo group site for folks to update information. The order of the Loadstone will have to be registered.

The Baroness, Baron, Seneschale and the rest of the members present congratulate Lady Solskinn the newest recipient of the order of the Maunch received during last weeks kingdom equestrian event.

Upcoming meetings:

October 5th in Attleboro @ Elaina and Roberts home.

November 2nd @ Alys and Fred's home on Cape Cod

In Ihrem Dienst,

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vivat !
To the our new Smoking
Rocks champions:



Arch Axman:

Sigmarr Avarson



Arch Forester:

*Lord Godric
FitzEdmond*

Congratulations !
To the recipients of the order of
the Maunche:



*Lady Solskinn
Lady Elaina Howys
of Morningthorpe*

Congratulations
Baron Fergus Redmead



*For your induction into the order of the
silver crescent*

Our best wishes for
a happy married life !

Kayla and Matthew Sanders:



Baron and Baroness

Ceawlin Alreding & Molly Blythe
(Ken Howe & Mali Lim Howe)
508-995-5389 / ceawlin_alreding@comcast.net
malichan9@gmail.com

Chancellor of the Exchequer:

Solskinn (Liz Gerald)
508-295-3734 / solskinn23@yahoo.com

Deputy Exchequer:

Sile Inghean MicCharthaigh (Fran McCarthy Young)

Chancellor Minor:

Alys Attewater (Ann Carpenter)

Deputy Chancellor Minor:

Rufus Bowe (George Anzivino)

Chatelain:

Nejla Hatice Saime Dogan (Amelia Dogan)
arainfire16@aol.com

Chronicler:

Marguerite von Elfenau (Ruth Bechtold)
508-362-6131 / ruthbechtold@gmail.com

Deputy Chronicler

Ammalina Taikkizhavi (Amylynn Loreck)

Knight Marshall:

Richard Leviathan (Fred Carpenter)
vargaliss@comcast.net

Leviathan Pursuivant (Herald):

Amy ferch Rychard (Amy Jump)
amy.jump@hotmail.com

Minister of Arts & Sciences:

Sunnifa Heinreksdottir (Heidi Dougherty)
Acerridge@yahoo.com

Mistress of the Lists:

Nejla Hatice Saime Dogan (Amelia Dogan)
arianfire16@aol.com

Seneschal:

Elaina Howys of Morningthorpe (Elaine Dennehy)
508- 222-7325 / edenney12@comcast.net

Webmaster:

Seonaid MacPhie (Sherry Bishop)
Eastarchr1@gmail.com

Deputy Webmaster:

Belina La Cousturiere

Marguerite von Elfenau (Ruth Bechtold)
Chronicler, Barony of Smoking Rocks
169 Main Street, West Barnstable, MA 02668