

The Whetstone

The Newsletter of the Barony of Thor's Mountain

March 2009



Love at May Tourney. Photo by Jack Marvell.

A publication of the Barony of Thor's Mountain of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. The Whetstone is available from Joel Davis, 5517 Dogwood Road, Knoxville, TN 37918. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. and does not delineate SCA Inc. policies.

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Regnum

Baroness of Thor's Mtn: Mistress Godelind of Windemere (Glenda Viles), (865) 577-3546

Seneschale: Mistress Solveig Eriksdottir (Duren Thompson), 865-523-3193, solveig@utk.edu

Reeve: Lady Marianna Lucinda Tirado de Aragon (Rebecca Myers), myersmr@chartertn.net

Herald: Lord Eberhart von Dornberg, hammer-pursuivant@att.net

Scrollerly: THLady Elizabet MacKenzie de Ross, anderliz@yahoo.com

Knight Marshal: Lord Iastreb Desislavich (Mike Myers), myersmr@chartertn.net

Rapier Marshal: Lord Reynard du Lyre, zebbiedark@yahoo.com

Youth Marshal: THLord Aaron Hawksmoor (Chris Morris)

Art & Sciences: Fru Olrun Bjarnylr, (Heather Doss) leathercat66@yahoo.com

Chronicler: Lord Jack Marvell (Joel Davis), thirteen_letters@yahoo.com

Web Minister: Tigh Giric mac Arcill mec Fhinguni (Brandon Pisani), blpisani@gmail.com

Chirurgion: THLady Catherine Stewart (Kelly Menutt), tmseneschal@foobox.com

Captain of the Thegns: Lord Dalan.

Rapier Thegn: Lord Tristram Jager Von Bonn

Baronial Warlord: THLord Aaron Hawksmoor (Chris Morris)

Rapier Warlord: Lord Jack Marvell (Joel Davis), thirteen_letters@yahoo.com

Baronial Yeoman: Lord Miklos Mihalfi (Richard Evans), mikloscorv@yahoo.com

Constable: Lord Tiberius Trebatus Secundus (Chad Riggs), riggsc@comcast.net

Minister of the Lists: Lord Juan Gregorio Ramiriez de Santander (Gregory Johnson), gmjohnso@usit.net

Dance: Lady Marianna Lucinda Tirado de Aragon (Rebecca Myers), myersmr@chartertn.net

Historian: Lord Juan Gregorio Ramiriez de Santander (Gregory Johnson), gmjohnso@usit.net

Librarian: Mistress Solveig Ericsdottir (Duren Thompson), (865)523-3193, solveig@comcast.net

Provost: Lord Miklos Mihalfi (Richard Evans), mikloscorv@yahoo.com

Page School: Open

Farspeaker: Father Gregory

Children: Open

Hospitaller: Lady Aislinn von Wuestenberg, Aislinnvonwuestenberg@yahoo.com, 983-2120 (No calls after 9pm EST)

Consul (Demo Coordinator): Lord Jack Marvell (Joel Davis), thirteen_letters@yahoo.com

Gold Key: Lord Guilliame Sinclair (Bill Stevens), wsteven1@gmail.com

Calendar

Past Times With Goode Company rehearsals have moved to Sundays.

Maryville midweek fighter practice will resume after Gulf Wars.

Regular fighter practice at 1 p.m. in Tyson Park every Sunday except the first of the month, which is held at Maryville College.

Minutes

Business meeting (January 2009)

Note change in Kingdom Law for entering Crown List. Must be member in good standing to enter and must maintain membership during reign if you win.

Please volunteer for a watch shift at Gulf Wars.

Miklos is looking for a replacement for the Provost office. See him.

Giric would like people to visit the new website that is still in progress and look for boo-boos and broken parts. www.thorsmountain.org/beta He'd like feedback from people.

There was something about defunct committees and their budgets being voted back into the general fund and that will be reallocated at Curia.

Hank asked that we donate \$100.00 to the Church in goodwill because they are giving us the space for free. Motion was voted and passed.

Court of Mistress Godelind of Windmere, Baroness of Thor's Mountain, Silver Hammer, 2008

The Autocrats were called forward to announce the winners of various competitions.

The Silver Hammer Tourney:

1st - THLord Faelen Haroldson (chain mail coif)

2nd - Sir Wulfhere (hammer)

3rd - Lord Iastreb - (mug)

Faelen given the silver hammer by the Baroness

Rapier Tourney:

1st - Lord Tristram (\$50 Gift Cert. and amber Thor's Hammer)

2nd - THLord Leon - (\$25 Gift Cert.)

Archery:

THLord Roman McMortan (G.C. to 3 Rivers Archery and scroll)

Baronial Yeoman: Lord Guilliame

An Emissary of the Aethelmarc Queen's Rapier Champion, Lord Joseph Kildonon, approached with the Thor's Hammer for Rapier Champion. Well, sort of. Seems he lost the original one on the field at Pennsic, and this is a replacement. And it will need a chain. But he did return the symbol.

Lady Aislinn and Lord Wolfgang come forward to present Her Excellency with an amber necklace by the hand of Baron Valerian, for her 30th.

Aislinn and Wolfgang are both given Ram's Horns for Arts and Service, respectively.

The Incipient Canton of Hochwald presents a picture book as gift and pays taxes.

House Oak Hill is called forward. Mistress Marthe Elsbeth takes Lady Aislinn as her apprentice.

Lady Aislinn and Lady Rayne announce the winners of the Youth A&S:
Clarice and Isabella - awarded 9 man morris games.

Lady Gellis is given a Ram's Horn for Service

Mistress Solveig and House High Crag are called forward: Mistress Solveig takes Amya as protégé. Master William takes Lady Bianca as Apprentice.

Lord Guilliame Sinclair receives the Ram's Horn for Service.

The Troll makes announcements.

Lady Marianna receives a Ram's Horn for the Arts.

Magistra Rosemounde of Mercia presents Her Excellency with hand made mincemeat tarts for her 30th.

Lord Iastreb is given the Order of the Sable Gryphon.

Lord Wolfgang is awarded the Silver Heart, and the hugs of the ladies of the Barony.

Kate the Green is announced as the winner of the A&S competition, general category.

Mistress Solveig is the winner of the mask competition.

Lord Iastreb announces a Nov. 15 war practice with the Legion of the Bear in Murfeesboro.

Lord Guillame thanks the attendees and those who helped him and Wolfgang the most (e.g. their wives and Lady Rayne).

Court was closed.

At the feast, it was announced that Lord Iastreb was the new Bard of Silver Hammer.

The Rushin' Russian

By Lord Iastreb Desislavich

I recently fought in Fall Crown List. This is my perception of the event. This in no way reflects anyone's opinions except my own. These are my observations and are what I saw and felt. I may have missed some things others saw. I can only discuss my observations and my feelings. Don't blame my knight, my laurel, the barony, my wife, or anyone else that I might be involved with if you do not like my opinions and observations. This is solely my work and I hope that this is something that gives you an insight into the event. Here goes nothing.



Iazzie vs. Baron Edward. Crown List. October 2008. Submitted by Iazzie.

This crown list was my second time fighting for crown. However, the first time I was so rushed just to get there and then so shell shocked from fighting in crown for the first time that I never really appreciated the experience. This time Mariana and I had more time and managed to take in more of the atmosphere. The experience is truly different from any other event in attitude and execution. The energy level, especially in the fighters was much higher.

There was a tension in the air that I have not experienced at other events.

The camaraderie of Friday night was a lot of fun. The mood was somewhat subdued, but people were all glad to see each other, and there were a lot of “good luck” and “hope you do well” comments being given out. The first round pairings were leaked and many people were speculating on their first round opponent. I found out that I was fighting Sir Cona again in the first round. This actually relaxed me. I knew that he was expected to beat me. So there was no pressure to fight him. If I lost, it was no big deal. If I won, it would shock everyone. Even if I just fought well, I would enhance my reputation. After talking around the camp, we all turned in to get ready for the next day.



Viscount Caillin. Crown List. October 2008. Submitted by Iazzie.

Saturday came and I was nervous. My lady kept trying to shove some food down me, but I just could not eat much. I have to admit, I was pretty revved up for the tourney, mainly because I knew all of my opponents would be revved up. As strange as it sounds, I was actually nervous about getting my armor inspected. I knew everything was fine, but it is like driving by a police officer. You still get nervous. It was interesting to watch the different philosophies about getting ready for the tournament. Some people went to warm up by fighting. Some people didn't want to give away any of their fighting style so they did not fight. Some people did not want to waste energy so they sat and waited. Some people

stretched and paced. No matter what the philosophy it seemed like all of the fighters were finding their zone. As for me, I wanted to warm up, but was more worried about getting my mind right. Leon came over and gave me some great advice. Their majesties spoke to us and we swore the appropriate oaths. Then the tournament began.

In my first round, I squared off against Sir Cona. In our first fight, we clashed, and then I felt a sting on my arm. He had armed me. I knew I had to be aggressive after the restart so I charged after the restart, but he was too quick for me and I was swiftly defeated. In the second round, we both moved in and I felt a hit on my helmet. So I fell knowing my fight was over. However, I had managed to slip a shot over Cona's shield and got a double kill. Finally, we fought a third time and after a series of exchanged Cona handed me my first loss.

I watched John Ruddle and Baron Edward fight. I knew that I would fight the loser of this bout. I saw that Edward liked to close. In three rounds, John was victorious over Edward. So my second round fight was set. When Edward and I lined up across from each other I had conflicting emotions. I really like Edward so I wanted him to do well, but I did not want to go two and out in Crown List again. Therefore, after Edward and I exchanged pleasant greeting and well wishes, I got serious. My goal was to keep Edward away where I could use my height, my longer arms, and longer sword. When "Lay On" was called we maneuvered and jockeyed for position. We threw a few exploratory shots and then he started to close. I stepped back and threw a loopy wrap shot at his head. I was relieved when he fell. The second fight I tried the same tactic, but he looped an offside shot over my shield as I threw the wrap so we had a double kill. In the third round I wanted to shorten the fight and not let Edward get a good angle on me so I stepped in and threw a short wrap at head level. The shot just cleared his shield. I had won my first ever Crown List fight! I wish I could say I was jubilant, but I was really just more relieved.

My third round was awkward. I was scheduled to fight Mistress Stephanie. I thought that I was a better fighter than her, but I knew I couldn't let up since she could kill me if I let up. I didn't want to seem a thug, but it was the third round of crown list. I finally decided that I would cheapen the fight, the tourney, and Mistress Stephanie if I did not fight my best fight. In our first round I threw two shots low and and left to draw her shield down. I was playing on the normal expectation of fighting a left-handed opponent. After the second shot, I threw an offside head shot and ended the first fight. In the second fight, I faked at the leg, knowing she had seen me throw at the leg twice in the first fight. After the fake, I threw another offside head shot and ended the bout.

In my fourth round, I drew Madach. I had fought Madach several times recently and had not gotten the better end of the fights. I guess at this point I was thinking that I had had a pretty good run. I know that was a negative mind set, but it was what it was. In our first fight, during one exchange Madach armed me. Again I decided to be aggressive, and again I died. This time Madach armed me on the left arm again which by rule kills me. In the second fight, I threw a wrap shot during an exchange and felt my sword slide across his clothing. It was obviously not a good shot. AARGH! I was so close! Then we had another exchange and I went for the shot again, but his shot landed on my ribs first. Thus my Crown List ended. I

knew I probably wasn't going to win crown anyway and that I wasn't even sure I really wanted to be king that bad anyway, but it always sucks to get eliminated from a tourney. Also I guess a little part of me really thought that Tsar Iastreb sounded really cool. Maybe in the future...

After I watched Sir Godwine defeat Earl Robert in the final, I switched mode to melee competition. The Legion of the Bear had a three-person melee tourney. Master William and I had agreed to be a team, but we needed a third. There was a knight I did not know fighting pick-ups. I had noticed that he did not fight in crown and looked like he really was amped up to fight. Master William and I decided to invite him to be on our team. He told us his name was Caillin and that he would be honored to fight with us. I didn't find out until much later that he was a Viscount from Gleann Abhann. We wound up fighting our preliminary fight against a bear team that consisted of Madach, Faelan, and James de Lyon. In my opinion this was the toughest bear team out there. When we engaged, I manage to sneak a butt-spike shot in on Madach. I turned to help Master William and, I have to admit, was shocked to see that William had killed James. We rushed to help Caillin, who had been legged by Faelan. We lined up against Faelan and he tried to round the corner to attack Will. Will managed to arm Faelan. As I went to slap Faelan in the side of the head with my glaive, His Majesty Seth declared Faelan dead. Master William had knocked off Faelan's elbow armor. We had beat an extremely tough team and not lost a man. That put us in the round robin competition. We went two and two in this round. Master William even managed to kill Sir Ulrich, which is no easy task. Even though we didn't win, the tourney was a lot of fun.

After that I fought pick-ups and then went to take a shower before court. After we had each had our shower, Wolfgang and I sat down and had a couple of cool beverages and did not quite make it to court. It was nice to relax after the tension of the day.

Feast was a blast. Mariana and I sat with John Ruddle, his lovely lady Jutta, their ten-year-old daughter, Aislinn, Wolfram, Robert de Reims, and his wonderful lady whose name escapes me. We were having so much fun laughing, telling stories, and joking that eventually Jutta's daughter said, "Mom! You guys are the loudest table in the hall!" This I must say is one of the greatest joys of the SCA. Friends make everything better. The food was good and there was a lot of it. When the broccoli was sent out to our table, it was met with a resounding chorus of "Choppin' broccoli, a choppin' broccolihi!"

Later that night Mariana and I visited several camps. We listened to Erick Griffin tell stories about knights in his lineage, Sir Ulric and Sir Baras also added to the stories. Madach plied us with his latest home brew, John and Jutta allowed us to sit on their "porch", and we spent the night in good company.

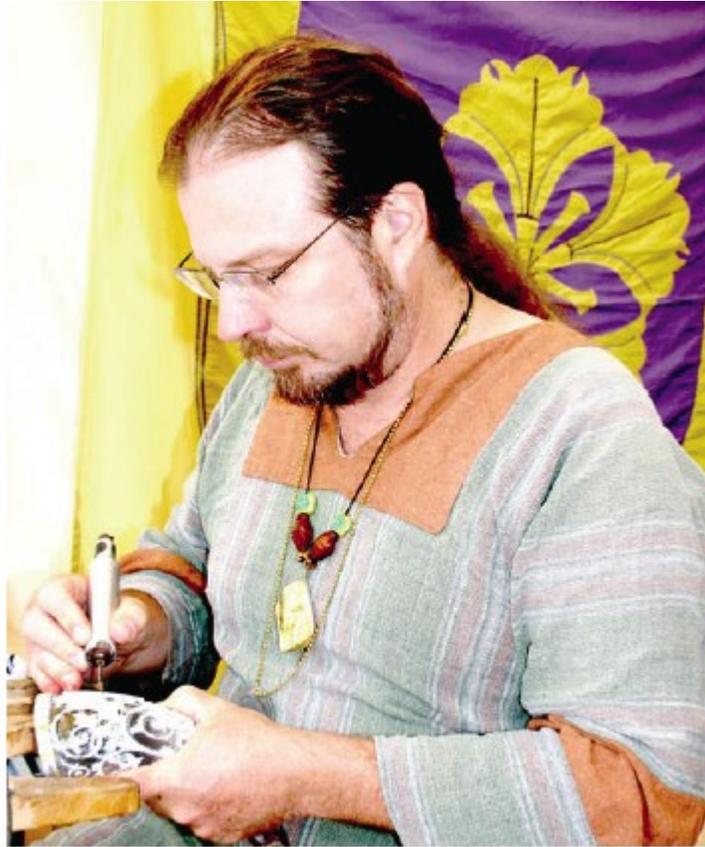
On Sunday we packed up and headed out, but that was not the end. We stopped to eat at Cracker Barrel for breakfast with a lot of our fellow SCAdians. Stilicho ate with us, as did Wolfgang, Aislinn, Rayne, and Tristram. Sir Voldi and Ianca were also there. As we ate, we looked over the local newspaper and I was in it. That was almost too weird. After breakfast, we all headed for home. All in all, this really was a memorable event.

An Artisan in Natural Materials

By Lord Jack Marvell

[Editor's note: I have been granted permission by Despotissa Heirusalem Crystoma, publisher of The Pennsic Independent, www.pennsicindependent.com, to reprint my articles from Pennsic War 37.]

For Master Rolant von Reichenau, horn and bone are the canvases for a detailed, time-consuming art. Rolant, who runs Dragonscale Jewelry in the Old Market at Pennsic, uses bone and antler, horn and amber, to create items of beauty.



Master Rolant von Reichenau. Photo by Jack Marvell.

“I’ve been carving antler and bone and horn since about 2001,” he said. “I also did tooled leather and all manner of other arts and sciences. I’ve been in the Society since 1991.” While taking a hiatus from the Society, Rolant began learning a new skill –horn carving.

“When I came back, I was carving a new material,” he said.

Rolant was also using a new tool, a power-driven Freedom flexible shaft-carving tool.

“I enjoy carving, but I don’t like carving with chisels,” he said. “It’s not known as very period, but I have not been able to document specific tools used to carve born, horn, or amber. I’m using the best tools that I know of to do the task as quickly as possible to be able

to provide an affordable piece. I also use files and scrapers and other period tools.”

Horn carving holds its challenge. The material has its own quirks and drawbacks.

“The horn is very fibrous so you have to be very careful not to destroy the lamination of the horn,” Rolant said. “You have to cut it and compress it.”

Rolant especially appreciates the contrast between one of his finished works and the raw materials.

“It is enjoyable for me as I’m carving to see the designs evolve from a blank, nasty, scaly horn and to turn it into something that is elegant and beautiful,” he said.

The basic horn that Rolant uses comes from Ancoli cows, an African long horn variety. Rolant says there isn’t really a reliable source for domestic cattle horns.

It takes from two days to two weeks for Rolant to produce each of commissioned works, averaging three to four days. It took the Trimarian Laurel a solid month to produce one piece commissioned as the Oath Horn of the Chivalry of the Middle Kingdom, carving about 10 hours each day. The extraordinary amount of detail in the piece is reflected in the pictures found in Rolant’s portfolio.

“My designs are from a variety of different cultures and time periods,” Rolant said, adding that for commissioned work that he tries to use designs from the period and culture of the individual patron.

For his own work, Rolant tends to use imagery from Western European culture, ranging from the 9th to the 16th Centuries. He owns extensive photographic documentation of carved horns from that time period.

Horn was a useful raw material in period, Rolant said.

“Horn was a naturally occurring thermoplastics of its day because you can alter the form and shape of horn by the application of heat,” he said.

What Rolant concentrates on is producing items of personal adornment and beauty.

“I would consider myself a jeweler in natural materials,” he said.

Marvellous Tales

By Lord Jack Marvell

Pennsic 2008 was an enjoyable experience. I worked for the Pennsic Independent (a temporary community of 10,000-or-so people can actually support a small newspaper) and wandered around, interviewing and photographing lots of artisans. I just wish there had been more photographers available during the woods battle, though --involving hundreds of rapier fighters, small unit tactics, and one very, very memorable moment for yours truly.

I was behind enemy lines. After tagging two fighters, I had wandered a little further backfield, spotting a solitary fighter ahead. I walked up as she spotted me. She yelled for help "I need a tie-breaker!" So, another fighter joined her.

"Hello, ladies," I said, walking closer. "How are you?"

"Fine, thank you, m'lord," said one. "And you?"

"Feeling rather alone," I said, standing within measure of both of them.

"We noticed," she replied.

I smiled, then shot the one on my right in the mask, parrying her companion's thrust with my dagger. The remaining fighter yelled for back-up. I heard crashing behind me, realizing that the cavalry was much closer than I thought. So, I gambled, turning my back to her, and stepped forward as a male fighter crashed through the brush at me. I did a three part attack -- thrust, dagger block, step in and stab with my dagger, taking him out, then continued spinning to my right, bringing my point around just in time for the last fighter, who was closing in hopes of killing me from behind to impale her throat upon my blade.

"Well played," she said, as they all wandered back to their lines, swords in the air.

It was absolutely awesome.

Rapier News

Compiled by Lord Jack Marvell

Congratulations to Lord Tristram Jager von Bonn for his victory in the Rapier Thegn Tourney. This is Tristram's latest in a string of victories during the past year including a marathon charity tournament at Border Raids.

Several new fighters received their authorizations during the past year, including m'lord Mael Mori, Lady Catelin Rayne de Marchaunt, m'lady Muirgheal O'Cairn, m'lady Serena de Ecuestre, m'lord Allyane Damson, Lord Aleksei Ivanovitch and m'lord John Farmer.

Lord Jack Marvell received his Argent Rapier at Tavern Brawl.

Photos from Thegn's Tourney 2009



Her Excellency Baroness Godelind of Windemere accepts the oaths of Lord Dalan and Lord Tristram Jager von Bonn as thegns after the Thegn's Tourney held Feb. 1, 2008. Photography by Mao.



Joelisms

In what other hobby can you choose your offspring? - Ronan

Got invited to a Halloween party tomorrow at a truck stop! - Rayne

You are officially not in charge of food EVER! - Bella

Peer Jokes! - Solveig

Let's not confuse the rest of the planet. - Solveig

We've had soggy bottoms from way back. - Gia

On my left, Iazzie of the undead. - Herald

It eliminates the need for botox. -Gia

Somewhere that's not England. - Will

How would you like me to mess that up? - Will

France, where men are men, women are women, and everyone is scared for the same reason.
- Giric

Giric, of the really small hand writing. - Will

It's a rabbit taco. - Leon

I don't know about me but you must be hearing with an accent. - Charles

Use your Pelican super powers. - Gia

When translated back to English, it means 'I'm really good in bed.' - Clement

The Baroness has within her booty items which you may choose. - Wolfgang

I'm sure your lady will enjoy both of them. - Godelind

Honey, I have pretties! - Faelen

As we are currently at peace with the Catholics.... - Will

Both squirrels were illuminated by... - Hank

... here to provide opinions and suggestions... I'm good at that. - Solveig

.... and a wrap to keep you warm. - Joel

I'm too busy to be good. - Wolfgang

Lots of dust up here. -Wolfgang

Two lines. No waiting. - Tristram

Damn, the dust is bad. - Guillaume

We're trophy spouses. - Wolfgang

I should know when practice wanders off. - Solveig

Neurotics unite. ??

Use your Pelican mind tricks. - Catherine

I don't know where I live. I'm not from around here. - Alexander

There ain't enough lace in the world to make me pretty. - Iazzy

Squires should *never* be unsupervised. - Alexander

I had to pull 3 contingency tricks out of my butt. - Sam

The Ohmygosh Herald... - Alexander

Prereg for Black Gryphon. Avoid the rampage of heralds. - Solveig

I will tell you if the vegetarian will be grumpy. - Solveig

It's really hard to find. It's no use making it easier than that. - Saher

We have a lot of brain cells but they aren't too well connected. - Robert

I'm sleepy. I have a lapful of warm rapier fighter. - Jack

Just so you know, I'm not wearing my cod piece so I'm compensating with my camera. I'm not sure how it'll turn out. -Jack

You want to be a Herald? Give me your clothes. -Tobias

I'm being responsible!!! -Iazzie So it's your fault? -Faelan

By gosh, it's not a tourney unless someone loses their pants. -Karl
But Wolfgang wasn't there. -Alexander

Travis and the magic phone. -Rayne
Sounds like a Gilbert & Sullivan show to me. -Roz

It's a whole lot of paperwork. It's fun. -Alexander

Chronicler's Note

Welcome to my first issue of The Whetstone. I apologize for the delay in publication, due to some technical issues, but we're back on track. Please let me know what you think. My e-mail address is thirteen_letters@yahoo.com.

Best,

Jack