

## Shire of Al-Sahid Newsletter

## Scorpion Tales

May 2006

## May Events and Meetings

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## May Shire Meeting

The next Shire meeting will be at on May 21 at 1pm (note time change!) at Meadow Park, 41220 Park Ave. in Big Bear Lake. Please see p. 2 for directions and a map. A potluck follows the meeting. (THL Caitlin personally welcomes all manner of foodstuffs, so please feel free.)

## Fighter Practice

Until further notice, Fighter Practice remains on Sundays at noon at Sir Killian's and THL Teka's.

For directions and more information about how to pleasingly bash your friends, please contact Sir Killian at kiltek@earthlink.net.

## A&amp;S (Craft) Nights

The A&S meeting for May will be replaced by a Highland War meeting (see below). June's meeting will be on June 12 when Lady Blasé will teach chain mail making.

## Highland War Meeting

This meeting will take the place of May craft night,

and will be on May 8 at Sir Killian's and THL Teka's. All Shire members, friends and allies are welcome.

## Costuming Guild

The Costuming Guild meets on the third Monday of every month at Lady Jane's. May's meeting will be May 15. Bring your ideas, fabric, pictures, patterns, books and anything else.



## April Officer Reports

**Seneschal.** Discussed asking dates for Shire Anniversary. 4/28 will be our 1st choice and 4/7 our 2nd. Accepted Lady Jane and Lord Martin as new deputies,

**A&S.** Firming up Pentathlon team, arranged for June A&S meeting.

**Chatelaine.** Received Chatelaine box from former Chatelaine.

**Chronicler.** Needs submissions for May newsletter

**Constable.** Nothing to report.

**Exchequer.** Reports up to date. Requests deputy Exchequer.

**Herald.** Several submission passed, see article for more details.

**List.** Nothing to report.

**Marshal.** New memo regarding Fighters Handbook, see article for more information. Discussed new Heavies rules and new

(Report, Continued on page 4)

## Directions to Shire Meeting Site

May 21st 1:00pm. Meadow Park, 41220 Park Ave., Big Bear Lake, CA

Directions From the NORTH (Victorville)

1. Starting in Victorville / Hesperia take the best route to CA-18 (i.e.: Bear Valley or Apple Valley Road).
2. CA-18 South becomes Happy Trails Hwy [CA-18].
3. Continue to follow CA-18 South, bearing right at 76 Station in Lucerne Valley.
4. Continue on North Shore Dr. [CA-38] (CA-18 Merges with CA-38).

5. Turn Left on Stanfield Cutoff (VCA Animal Hospital on Right).
6. Turn Right on Big Bear Blvd.
7. Turn Right on Georgia Street.
8. Georgia Street will end at entrance to parking lot between Baseball Diamond and Tennis Courts at 41220 Park Ave., Big Bear Lake.

ALTERNATE: From Big Bear Blvd., Turn onto Eureka (beside McDonald's), then turn Left onto Park Ave.

We'll setup in or near the permanent pavilion near the playground and tennis court.



From Big Bear Blvd, turn NORTH onto S Eureka Drive (beside McDonald's) Turn Left onto Park AVE, Meadow Park is on the Right. Parking Lot is next to the Softball Field.

## Seneschal's Corner

Tourney season has started. Something going on every week. Let me know if you are going to an event, so we can determine if there are enough people to warrant bringing the Dragonwing.

As a little different article for this month, I am going to relate my experience with the Egg Drop Competition at Gallavalley's Anniversary.

The competition was to design a device/holder/container that would allow a raw egg to survive a drop from at least 10 feet. Period materials were to be given preference.

I was determined to use period materials, and ended up using a small burlap bag (coarse weave cloth). I stuffed it with weeds I picked from my front yard that morning. Actually, I really don't HAVE a yard; I have a bunch of weeds. (Hey... we've only been in the house for 8 months and haven't had the time or money to do any landscaping yet, what with all the SCA activities we've been attending!) Anyway, with the egg wrapped in another piece of burlap and placed in the center of the weeds, I felt that it had a fighting chance.

My competition varied from period to semi-period to modern.

The other most period submission was a leather and fur cap, with the egg wrapped in cloth, placed in the cap and taped to prevent the egg/cloth from falling out of the cap.

The semi-period device was a helm, with the egg in closed-cell

foam, and tape to hold it in place.

The modern device was constructed of 6 paper cups, duct tape and closed-cell foam on the ends of the cups. Looked very interesting, but not period.

I especially enjoyed Sir Killian describe what he would do if he were to enter. He would wrap the egg in his white belt and let them drop it. If it were to break, he would immediately and loudly declare ... "LIGHT", thereby invalidating the breakage.

And then there was Sir Edward's entry. As a last minute entry, he enlisted (instructed ??, commanded ??) the help of one of his men-at-arms, THL Teka Turmanov, to be the device to protect the egg. She would hold the egg above her head and she was lifted until Sir Edward's egg was at the elevation of the other eggs. They then dropped Lady Teka. (True, she only fell 4 feet while the other devices fell 10, but it was fun to watch.

Every container passed the 10 foot drop. The next drop was a couple feet higher and only the egg in the helm broke.

So, we moved to the parking lot, where the entries were thrown into the air to height of about 20 feet. They couldn't throw Lady Teka that high, and for a while they considered having her jump off a cargo trailer, but more sound minds prevailed. They ended up tossing the egg 20 feet into the air and she would catch it.

All entries passed.

It was then decided that since all entrants were going to Portrero War, we would adjourn to the War, and have the entries thrown by siege machine.

I may have to petition the Crown to ensure that Sir Edward does not launch

Lady Teka. (Actually, I would have to petition Her Majesty, as His Majesty would probably think it would be a cool thing to watch.)

Ryan



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## Herald News

The Following are Now Registered!

### Name

**Blasé di Angelo** (Name)

**Marion Morgane** (Name)

### Device

Martin Monteyro do Monte (Device: Sable, on a chevron vert fimbriated three sheaves of arrows argent.)

Valdis Isbrandsdottir (Device: Sable, in bend three valknuts between two bendlets argent.)

If you are ready to submit your Name, Device or Badge, please contact the Macer (Herald) of Al-Sahid Martin Monteyro do Monte [Herald@al-sahid.org](mailto:Herald@al-sahid.org).

## Highland War News

### Brewing Competition at Highland War!

You've got 4 months to get your brews ready for Highland War in September! Details will be available soon so make sure you contact Lady Valdis Isbrandsdottir for information on entering the Competition and the specific categories we will be judging.

[Valdis@dragonshadow.info](mailto:Valdis@dragonshadow.info)

<http://www.al-sahid.org/highlandwar/index.htm>

(Report, Continued from page 1)

Youth Combat rules.

**Children.** Not present.

**Presentations.** Presentations made at Crown, Altavia and Gallavalley Anniversaries.

**Waterbearer.** Nothing to report.

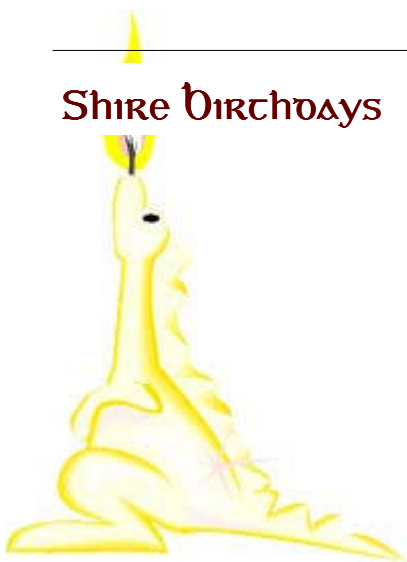
**Webwright.** Sent out Web waivers for personal information. Requested information for Highland War to post updates.

**Other news:** Lady Magdalen was awarded the Noble Scorpion, Lady Blasé is working to be warranted as Chirurgeon, and Youth Combat Tournaments needs a list mistress.

*So you see,  
old age is  
really not so  
bad. May you  
come to know  
the condition!*

— Cicero

## Shire Birthdays



Lady Kiena	5/10
Lord Gary	5/14
Lady Amara	5/24

**Happy  
birthDAY!!**

## The Hunt for Easy Recipes

*By Lady Valdis Isbrandsdottir*

*Note from Lady Valdis: Instead of the usual recipes, I was given permission to submit the following article on making cheese. It's much easier than I thought it would be! Thank you Melisande for a wonderful class at Collegium!*

### Cheesemaking

*By THL Melisande de Frayne*

This last weekend, many members of the Barony of Starkhafn met at my house to learn to make cheese. Most were surprised at how quick and easy making a soft cheese is. But when did the making of cheese originate? It is likely that nomadic tribes in Central Asia first “invented” cheese. The same nomads found that the intestine of animals, with the ends sewed together, made a quick and easy way to carry liquids. It is possible that milk was introduced into such a con-

tainer and the container was then tied to the back of a pack animal. The chemical produced in the container, which we now call rennet (only produced in the fourth stomach of newly born calves), along with the “jogging” motion of the animal, produced a soft cheese.

The art of cheesemaking spread throughout Central Asia. The Bible mentions cheese in numerous passages. In the First Book of Samuel, Chapter 17, Verse 18, “And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how they brethren fare, and take their pledge.” There are tombs in Egypt dating back to 2000 B.C. which depict the making of cheese. The Romans were however, the first to raise cheese making (and exporting) to a commercial level. The Emperor Diocletian even involved himself in fixing the minimum prices for cheese. As the Roman Empire spread, so did the knowledge of cheese making.

Relatively few recipes for cheese exist in cook-

books of the medieval period. However, there is a recipe for making cheese-cake, which includes instructions for making the cheese that is the key ingredient, in *The Closet of Sir Kenelm Digby Opened*. “Take 12 quarts of milk warm from the Cow, turn it with a good spoonful of Runnet. Break it well, and put it into a large strainer, in which rowl it up and down, that all the Whey may run out into a little tub; when all that will is run out, wring out more. Then break the curds well; then wring it again, and more whey will come. Thus break and wring till no more come. Then work the Curds exceedingly with your hand in a tray, till they become a short uniform Paste.”

The easy recipe used by our group on Saturday was as follows:

- 1 gallon whole milk
- 2 lemons worth of juice
- 1 tsp salt
- herbs (we used parsley, sage, rosemary & thyme & called it

*(Recipe, Continued on page 8)*

*“Iron rusts from disuse;  
stagnant water loses its purity  
and in cold weather becomes  
frozen; even so does inaction sap  
the vigor of the  
mind.”*

*—Leonardo da Vinci*

## Changes to Fighters Handbook

*Editor's note: Sir Killian shares excerpts from Sir Drogo's recent introduction to the new combat rules in Caid. The full text of Sir Drogo's column will run in an upcoming CP.*

Greetings Caid!

Some big announcements for you this month. The Caid Combat Handbook, version 6.0, is official and went into effect on April 22nd, 2006. There are several major changes in the book, so please go to <http://www.sca-caid.org/marshal/pubs.html> and read up on it and familiarize yourselves with the supporting forms. I'll give a short summary of the highlights here.

Minors age 16 & 17 are now allowed to participate in all Armored Combat activities.

The Combat Archery Handbook has been integrated with the Caid Combat

Handbook.

The authorization procedure has been changed, it is now based on a performance review rather than a written test. This applies to fighters as well as marshals. And authorizations are now only good for 4 years. After you receive your authorization card, it is good for up to 4 years and will expire on your birthday. If your card has expired you may not be allowed to participate. For Armored Combat there is a reauthorization procedure that once it's completed, a new card will be issued.

The expiration date is based on the authorization for which the card was first issued. So if you add an authorization a year after the first one, the cards expiration date does not change. This applies to all marshaled forms in Caid.

Because of the changes to the Armored Combat

rules, the changes how authorizations cards are being handled and changes to the Marshallate database all authorizations that would expire after 4/22/08 have had their expiration date changed to 4/22/08.

There is now a more detailed standard for appearance on the Armored Combat field. All participants on the field have until Great Western War 2006 to be in compliance. Some other details to look for; Eric size minimums have increased to 40'X40', the Marshals Court has been done away with and the Marshal-in-Charge has far wider powers... really, just go read the book. Carefully. A lot has changed -- skim over it and you'll miss something.

In Service,

Sir Drogo FitzWilliam,  
Earl Marshal Caid

*Be great in  
act, as you have  
been in thought.*

— William  
Shakespeare



*A recent masterpiece from Lady Blasé*

## Lord Ryan of Rickford speaks Out

*Note from the editor:  
Back in 1981, the venerable  
Merced Sun-Star interviewed  
and photographed a genial  
member of the SCA: Lord  
Ryan of Rickford, also known  
as Mark Miller. The entire  
PDF copy of the newspaper  
article will soon appear online  
but we could not wait to share  
the pictures with you and some  
excerpts from the text.*

(From the reporter) “Most everybody has a hobby, a pursuit that lightens leisurely moments. For Mark Miller of Merced, ‘fun’ means donning a suit of armor and doing battle to defend a damsel’s honor.”

(From Lord Ryan... THEN) “To me, it’s one sport where winning isn’t everything. I like being able to fight and die for my lady on the battlefield, then get up and walk away afterwards. It’s colorful...”

(From Lord Ryan... NOW) “SEE.... I did have armor. And HAIR also.”

And from Sir Killian: “Well, ARE you getting your armor together?”



*“Mark Miller lays out all the pieces of his handmade suit of armor, an essential part in recreating medieval battles.”*

*(Recipe, Continued from page 5)*

Scarborough Faire Cheese).

Boil the milk to 190 degrees F. (This is particularly important if you use non-pasteurized or "raw" milk). Stir regularly to keep from scorching. Add lemon juice and stir. Remove from heat and let sit for 10-15 minutes, you will almost immediately begin to see curds forming and separating from the greenish-yellow whey liquid. Line a colander with clean, unbleached linen or muslin. (Do not use bleach or commercial laundry soap, these leave a residue on the cloth, I use dish soap to wash my cloths). Pour the liquid into the colander. Add the salt and herbs. Tie the cloth into a bag and let drain over a pot for about an hour. Once or twice, while it is draining, squeeze/knead the contents of the bag to stimulate the remaining whey to drain. Once the cheese has cooled, empty the cheese into a bowl. The cheese can be eaten immediately, but will keep in the refrigerator for about a week. As an alternative, you may use 1 cup of wine vinegar in

place of the lemon juice, or you may use commercial rennet prepared according to the directions on the package or bottle.

Cheesemaking in Scotland-An Early History.  
<http://www.efr.hw.ac.uk/SDA/cheese1>

Information Sheet, Cheese & Rennet. The Vegetarian Society UK.  
<http://www.vegsoc.org/info/cheese.html>

The Closet of Sir Kenelm Digby Opened Edited by Jane Stevenson and Peter Davidson.  
Prospect Books 1997

Cheesemaking (and Eating). <http://www.nwlink.com/~charding/cheese.html>



*"Armor makes an intimidating looking opponent"*