



Shire of Al-Sahid Newsletter

Scorpion Tales

July 2006

AROUND THE SHIRE

July Shire Meeting

This is the Scorpion Tales, a free publication of the Shire of Al-Sahid of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (S.C.A.) It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate S.C.A. policies. Copyright 2004 SCA, Inc. All rights reserved to authors and artists.

Except where otherwise stated, all articles in this publication may be reprinted without special permission in newsletters and other publications of branches of the S.C.A., Inc. subject to the following conditions:

a) The text must be printed in its entirety, without additions or changes.

b) The author's name and an original publication credit must be printed with the text.

c) You must send a letter to the editor of this newsletter, stating which articles you have used, and in which publication the material has been reprinted. THL Caitlin (Christine Taylor P.O. Box 3499 Wrightwood, CA 92397)

The next Shire meeting will be at on Sunday, July 16, 2006 at Lord Ryan and Lady Blase's home at 15188 Nokomis Rd., Apple Valley. The August Shire meeting (we are planning ahead) is August 20, 2006 at Gregor and Lady Jane's home. Please try to be at both meetings in honor of Highland War which is fast approaching.

FIGHTER PRACTICE

Fighter Practice will NOT be held on July 10th, but is otherwise on Monday nights at 6:30 at Sir Killian's. For directions and more information about how to hit your friends for fun and profit, please contact Sir Killian at kiltek@earthlink.net.

A&S (CRAFT) NIGHTS

Our July A&S meeting is Monday, July 10 at

Lord Ryan's and Lady Blase's where we will paint our devices on list shields. THL Caitlin cannot draw her way out of a paper bag and she's going, so you come too. Please see "List Shields and Dancing" for more information.

COSTUMING GUILD

The Costuming Guild usually meets on the third Monday of every month at Lady Jane's. We will
(Continued on page 6)

JUNE OFFICER REPORTS

Seneschal. Picked up 4 kingdom archery butts, in need of repair. Will attempt repair.

Arts & Sciences: Not present.

Children: Nothing to report.

Chatelaine: Nothing

to report

Chronicler: Not present.

Constable: Nothing to report.

Exchequer: Bank funds reported. (Wouldn't you like to know? Come to the Shire meetings and

find out!)

Herald: Not present.

List: Nothing to report.

Marshal: Nothing to report.

Presentations: Pre-

(Report, Continued on page 4)

Team-building for Pentathlon

By Eadric of Mansfield

(Ed. Note: Reprinted from *Ars Caidis*, Spring 2006)

Nope, it doesn't involve balancing on ropes high in the trees while co-workers heckle. It just takes a bit of organization and forethought, and a group of industrious recreationists. It's a flipside method to get involved in the premier arts and sciences event in Caid.

There are several drivers that might motivate you to build a Pentathlon team. A great reason is that Pentathlon has a rather intimidating reputation, and being part of a team can be a good way for people to dip a toe into the Pentathlon experience, in the company of friends. It is also a fine way for a branch or group (household, college, canton, etc) to demonstrate their collective skills. As well, a team can be allow less-experienced artisans to work with more experienced mentors. And a team can embody all of these at the same time.

One thing worth emphasizing: putting your best efforts forward to win a team victory is a worthy goal, but not the only one. Just like a group of fighters together: if they're not fighting, they enjoy talking about fighting. Artisans are no different; sharing the fun of creating (and tribulations too) can make a dry competitive experience into a fun and social adventure. Plus sharing the travel, waiting, and set-up and take-down (the team member with the carved stone baptismal font will appreciate the help) of Pentathlon

weekend can be an enjoyable holiday for a group of friends.

The team rules for Pentathlon can be found in the Entrant's Handbook, but hitting a couple of high points:

- Teams can number from 3 to 8 contributors
- Each team member must contribute 'in a major way' to at least one entry
- A team has to enter at least five entries, but no more than ten. There has to be at least entries in four of the six Pentathlon categories and no more than two per class and category.

These rules imply a few things as well:

- An entrant can provide items to multiple teams
- An entrant can provide items for a team and as an individual, it just can't be the same item
- Entry-to-team member need not be a one-to-one relationship (team members can share work on a single entry or series of entries; these are called 'group entries').

So the rules allow for different ways a team can be built and effort shared.

A team needs a leader, or more appropriately, a wrangler.

(Continued on page 3)



(Team building, Cont. from page 2)

There isn't a lot of paperwork to deal with or deadlines to track, but there are a few and someone has to be attentive. Pick up copies of the Entrant's Handbook (or go to <http://www.sca-caid.org/arts&sciences/pentathlon.html> and get the details on-line) and understand the rules completely. He should know what the deadlines are and who needs to be aware of them (for Compositional Arts and Personas especially). He should be keeping track of who is doing what, to be sure the team entries match the requirements, and then build the team entry form, being sure it gets sent off with the proper fees by the deadline.

That's a minimum but a wrangler can certainly do more. He can serve as a conduit for questions from team members to the Autocrat. He can help coordinate activities between team members, if they need help or advice (Aside: one of the biggest fears of new Pentathlon entrants is Fear of Documentation. Setting up a session with an experienced Pentathlon veteran specifically on documentation (required with every entry) can not only improve the quality of the documentation but help assuage the fears of your team members). The team wrangler can also, if desired, work on getting accommoda-

tions for the Pentathlon attendees, organize transport, and set up a debrief party after the comments are returned from the judges. Enjoy the social aspects of the event, not just the work on the entries themselves.

In the experience I had as artisan wrangler for my household (the Abbey), we had perhaps 16 to 18 people interested in participating. Several entries fell by the wayside as other responsibilities pressed, but we still ended up with 21 entries from 14 artisans (scattered throughout Caid), enough to make three teams handily. I kept track of the items through e-mail and an Excel spreadsheet, making it easy to shuffle entries between teams up to the last minute. Using a group list (such as Yahoo) or a website are both options for keeping track of each other's work. Social get-togethers and work parties are great if convenient to the team members

For many, the image of the typical Pentathlon entrant is the renaissance lord or lady, laboring away in the solitude in their candle-lit basement for two years before emerging with a raft of entries. OK, there are some of those, but an equally feasible (and much more social!) option is a group of friends, creating a batch of entries after two years of plotting, planning and collaborating over a brew or two. Both have a place in Pentathlon and if you've never considered the latter, get a few friends together over a brew and do some plotting, planning and collaborating...

Rights

Quotations are in the public domain.

Used by permission:

Sword graphic — <http://historymedren.about.com/library/weekly/aa061898.htm>

Woodcuts — <http://www.godecookery.com/clipart/clart.htm>

Scorpion clipart is owned by Chronicler.

Photos printed by express permission.

Archery Class

Gregor (by way of Lord Ryan) has been kind enough to send along an invitation to an archery class for archery instructors. The class will also help to hone your personal skills. The instructor, while teaching common archery, favors traditional bows and shoots a longbow himself.

Here is the info on the archery instructor class.

The Class will be held at High Desert Archery Sunday July 23rd from 8 am to 6 pm. The cost is \$60.00 per person with a minimum age limit of 16. 15 1/2 year olds will be allowed if they turn 16 by the end of January 2007.

The class limit is 15 first come first served, and paid for in advance.

The instructor is teaching an NAA level 1 class in which you are taught the proper way to shoot and teach. Archery manuals are included.

If any one is interested in this class please have them get in touch with Gregor.

(Report, Continued from page 1)

sented gasoline cards to their Majesties at Coronation and will present cookies at Heatherwyne Anniversary.

Waterbearer: Not present.

Webwright: Not present.

Chirurgeon-to-be: Lady Blase will soon complete her Chirurgeon Authorization. Note that this is not an excuse to get hurt in the Shire.



Alex and Lord Logan, two of the world's best-looking children if I do say so myself

Shire Birthdays



Alaric Wintour (Alex)	7/6
Ivar	7/9
Sigurjon Haraldsson	7/13
Killian MacTaggart	7/13
Saher de Wahull	7/17
Antonius Falconerius	7/25
Fritz Der Gefolgsman	7/31

Happy Birthdays!!

Highland War News

Preparations continue apace for Highland War. Lord Ryan is still checking on the location and viability of Sleepy Hollow. Adult tokens are under construction and the children's tokens are finished.

The hay bales are arranged, and Lord Ryan will try to get dispensation for an axe throwing contest. Various other activities are going on full throttle as we prepare for the Shire's largest event of the year.

If you are new to the Shire or new to being involved, please come to the next two Shire meetings and bring your great ideas and willingness to help. The more people we have to put on the War, the more successful and fun the War becomes!

*And those people
should not be listened
to who keep saying the
voice of the people is
the voice of God, since
the riotousness of the
crowd is always very
close to madness.*

-- Alcuin in a letter
to Charlemagne

List Shields and Dancing

By Lord Ryan and Lady Blase

List Shields: Craft night, Monday, June 10, 6:30 PM, 15188 Nokomis Rd, Apple Valley

For our July Craft night, we will be making list shields. These are important for the fighters to have, as some tournaments require the entrants to display them.

Additionally, we are going to make a display rack to have in front of the Shire Dragonwing, whenever it is set up at an event. We will hang list shields of everyone present at the event on this rack, to let everyone know "who's in the house" at al-Sahid.

If you don't have a registered or pending device, it would be nice to paint your name on a list shield for the dragonwing rack, until you have a device.

Dancing at Blase & Ryan's, every Wednesday till Highland, 6:30 PM, 15188 Nokomis Rd, Apple Valley

We will be having a dance practice every Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m., at Blase and Ryan's house, until Highland War. Come practice some of the dances that will most likely (correction --- WILL BE) danced at the revel at Highland War.

For further information or directions, call Blase or Ryan (mka Laura or Mark) at 760-242-7970.



*THL Caitlin at...
um... I think Althing*

(Around the Shire, Continued from page 1)

not be meeting in July, but the August meeting will be Aug. 21. Bring your ideas, fabric, pictures, patterns, books and anything else.

DANCE PRACTICE

Wishing to make a brave showing at the War, the Shire will be holding dance practice at Lord Ryan's and Lady Blase's house every Wednesday night until said War. The address is 15188 Nokomis Rd., Apple Valley, starting at 6:30 p.m.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Congratulations to the Shire's good friends Lady Mora and Sir Edward for their promotions to court Baron and Baroness.

PROJECTS

The Shire voted on funds to maintain our proud Dragonwing pavilion. Maintenance needed includes new ropes and refinished poles, and we will announce a work date.

GREAT WESTERN WAR

Please pre-register for GWW which is coming up quickly — October 13-16, 2006.

When you do, note the Shire of

al-Sahid as your group and Lady Jane de Sealynn as your contact. We have a lovely location next to Fifth Brigade, who I'm sure will manage to behave themselves. Well...

NESPERIA DAYS DEMO

The date for our demo is September 23, 2006, and Gregor has once again kindly volunteered (or been volunteered) to do his usual masterful job of autocrating. Various paperwork and insurance matters are in the capable hands of Lords Ryan and Davi, while Lady Jane is sponsoring the Truck and Trailer decoration contest. The winning entry will be best theme for full size truck and trailer decoration that sports easy assembly and tear-down. The Shire will handle construction.

*"Justice is the
constant and
perpetual wish to
render every one
his due."*

*-- Emperor
Justinian in
Institutes*