

Tales of the Tor

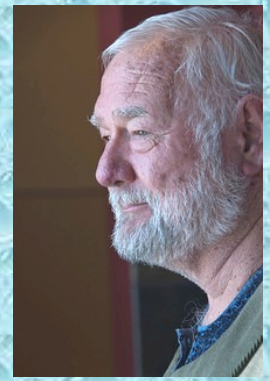
September 2015

Anno Societatis L

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Message from the Seneschal



Greetings DFT,

IF you sniff really, really hard you may be able to smell fall is in the air. So it is time to start to make plans for *Guardian of the Tor 25* to be held on May 20-22, 2016. Guardian of the Tor 25 is now open for bids and will close October 31, 2015.

Also we will start talking about 2016 because it is the 25th Anniversary of Dragonsfire Tor and it would be really great to find great ways to celebrate it. Sounds like party time. We will use this years Yule start a yearlong celebration and maybe use next years Yule to bring 25th year to a close. I would like to thank Baroness Laretta for her work in restoring our History of the Tor.

I would also like to announce that Lord Angus is now Deputy Seneschal for DFT. He attended the Kingdom Round Table and completed the Kingdom's Seneschal Class.

Thank you Angus for all that you do for the Tor.

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE SOON

We have the following Dragonsfire Tor officer positions open for APPLICATIONS. These will be open until September 5, 2015 or until filled.

Dragonsfire Tor Exchequer (Treasurer)

If you are interested in this position please complete an Application for Office on the Kingdom website

<http://seneschal.ansteorra.org/forms/ApplicationJan08.pdf>

It's simple, just fill out the application on-line and send it to the Central Exchequer with a copy of your Driver's License and SCA card at

central@treasurer.ansteorra.org

Dragonsfire Tor Webminister

If you are interested in this position please complete an Application for Office on the Kingdom website

<http://seneschal.ansteorra.org/forms/ApplicationJan08.pdf>

It's simple, just fill out the application on-line and send it to the Kingdom Webminister with a copy of your Driver's License and SCA card at

kingdom@webminister.ansteorra.org

Dragonsfire Tor Knights Marshal

If you are interested in this position please complete an Application for Office on the Kingdom website

<http://seneschal.ansteorra.org/forms/ApplicationJan08.pdf>

It's simple, just fill out the application on-line and send it to the Kingdom Earl Marshal with a copy of your Driver's License and SCA card at

marshal@ansteorra.org

Please send a copy of your application to Elfsea Baron and Baroness at

baron@elfsea.ansteorra.org

baroness@elfsea.ansteorra.org

And please include a copy to me at

seneschal@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org

In your Service,

Lord Franklin Whitenhale of Cheshire

Seneschal of the Great Canton of Dragonsfire Tor



SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 <u>Elfsea Chivalric and Rapier Prac- tice 7:30</u>	3	4	5
6 Rapier practice 6 pm Jaycee Park	7	8	9 <u>Elfsea Chivalric and Rapier Practice 7:30</u>	10	11	12 Forge Night 1 to 9pm at Scotty and Janie's back yard verify with Scotty
13 Rapier prac- tice ? pm Jaycee Park / Popu- lace	14	15	16 <u>Elfsea Chivalric and Rapier Practice 7:30</u>	17	18	19
20 Rapier practice 6 pm Jay- park	21	22	23 <u>Elfsea Chivalric and Rapier Practice 7:30</u>	24	25 Deadline for newsletter submissions	26
27 Rapier practice 6 pm Jaycee Park	28	29 deadline for Tales of the Tor submissions	30 <u>Elfsea Chivalric and Rapier Practice 7:30</u>	31		





Message from the Baron and Baroness



Greetings to the good people of Elfsea and Dragonsfire Tor,

August has been another great month for the Barony. Our populace traveled to Pennsic, Steppes Artisan, Eldern Hills Baronial & Royal Huntsman and Glaslyn Artisan of the Flame. Congratulations to Lord Herries for becoming the Eldern Hills Champion. Congratulations also go to three ladies for their success at Steppes Artisan: Kaz for Subtleties, Lady Eleanor for her period cooking and overall championship, and HL Jean-Marie for receiving the Laurel's Favorite token. Glaslyn Artisan and the Combined Populace in the Park will be in next month's letter.

September will see this wonderful Barony continue traveling throughout the Kingdom. Labor Day weekend will have our Barony spread to three different events, each in different states - Bonwicke, Known World Metal & Glass Symposium and Battlemoor! Many of our artists will display at Laurel's Prize Tourney. We will be traveling to Raven's Fort to welcome our new cousins at their investiture. The month will wrap up with Loch Ruadh's Fall Event. We encourage everyone to make time for Loch Ruadh.

Two new topics for this month are Warrior Beads and an Entourage class. Her Excellency introduced her Warrior Beads in August. They are blue and white beads that are given to members of the populace who have entered some competition within the past month or so. The competition can be chivalric, rapier, archery or arts & science. By doing so, you represented the Barony and the bead is a token of our appreciation.

There will be an Entourage class on September 14th. The class will be open to all and be taught by Mistress Adelaide. The class will benefit those who are interested in what is involved with being a lady in waiting to a Queen, Princess or Baroness. It will start at 7:00pm and will be at our home - 300 Cinnamon Lane, Eules, 76039. We have two dogs.

As mentioned at populace meeting, take every opportunity to travel together and camp together. We can loan you Baronial pennants to add to your overall heraldry. Let everyone know you are Elfsea!

Vivat Dragonsfire Tor! Vivat Elfsea!

William and Cassandra

Baron and Baroness of Elfsea

Lord and Lady of Dragonsfire Tor

Our progress:

Bonwicke Event - September 4th-6th

Defender of the Fort (Raven's Fort) - September 18th-20th

Loch Ruadh Fall Event - September 26th

Coronation - October 10th

Arlington Demo - October 24th



Notes from an old Rapier Marshal

SCA Legends

SCA legends

Have you ever said I wish that was me? It is not really surprising in a society that defines it's self in terms of what we call the dream that such things are often said. Still, when I hear some new fighter say this about one of our many SCA legends I cannot help but wonder if they truly means it, or have even once thought about what that would entail? Most of the stories have been somewhat embellish to be sure (Legends after all) but if they were literally true? Let's take the one that go's "They made him a knight in under a year cause he won all the big tourneys, he shamed them into it!" Would you actually want to be made a member of a group who loathed as just not really ready yet because it is unthinkable to lose to someone without a white belt? Come on! We could try the one that say's "Don so-in-so never fights anymore because he is so good he simply can't lose, so now he only makes A&S events because there a real challenge". How in the world could you love fighting and wish it bore you so much you never fought anymore? Being good I get but so good no one could make you push yourself at all? Where would be the fun in that? There is of course nothing wrong with A&S but you do not need to put away your sword forever to do that. A fact proven by many Don's if you care to check. In truth I love our many great SCA legends too but most contain at least a few things I might be hard put to wish for myself. If you looked into the real events and lives these tails came from you would not find great plans carefully pulled off, but the twist and turns of real life that surprised even these amazing people themselves. The point is before you join Sir Walter Raleigh in praying your fame far out lives yourself, you might ask this question, Why is someone not wishing they were so happy that all envy that about them instead? One must always strive to do your very best but not to take all one self worth from that effort alone. The right approach here is give and take, not all or nothing. Think about it and you may just want more than to be a legend.

Yours in Service,

Angus Patrick de Ruthven.

Open Office

Greetings,

We have the following Dragonsfire Tor officer positions open for APPLICATIONS. These will be open until September 5, 2015 or until filled.

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central@treasurer.ansteorra.org

Dragonsfire Tor Web Minister

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Dragonsfire Tor Knights Marshal

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marshal@ansteorra.org

Please send a copy of your application to Elfsea Baron and Baroness at

baron@elfsea.ansteorra.org

baroness@elfsea.ansteorra.org

and please include a copy to me at

seneschal@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org

In your Service,
Lord Franklin Whitenhale of Cheshire



Canton Officers



Lord and Lady of Dragonsfire Tor:

baron@elfsea.ansteorra.org

Baron William Palfrey

baroness@elfsea.ansteorra.org

Baroness Cassandra Palfrey

Seneschal:

seneschal@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org

Ld Franklin Whitenhall of Cheshire
(Frank Warner)



Exchequer:

exchequer@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org

Ldy Cairistiona Mac Laine (Kandi
Newby) **Accepting applications**



Hospitaler:

hospitaler@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org

Ldy Aaliz du Lac (Alicia Kays)



Rapier Marshal:

rapier_marshal@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org

Ldy Tamsin Wylde (Janine Prukop)



Chronicler:

chronicler@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org

Ldy Diana the Just (Diana Warner)



Minister of Arts and Science:

arts_sciences@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org

HL Desire'e Dupre, (Desiree Jefferson)



Web Minister :

webminister@draonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org

Accepting applications



Knight Marshal:

marshal@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org

Lord Ravenger Wulvkin (Elmer Newby)

Accepting applications

Greetings,

All officers have been encouraged to have a deputy. That being said, if anyone is interested in becoming the Hospitaler's Deputy please contact me.

At the end of August, Jarl Owen presented his class on Recruitment and Retention at Elfsea/Steppes' Joint Practice. He had so many great ideas; it was a wonderful class. Please take time to read his class handout, which Lady Diana has included in this newsletter. This will give you an idea of just some of the great ideas he had for finding and keeping members.

I would like to encourage the populace to invite people they know to practices close to our area. Some good ideas would be our Rapier Practices, our Forge night, Elfsea has Chivalric Practices on Wednesdays and Sundays, a Costumer's guild, and a Cooks guild, Loch Ruadh has a Bardic night, and both Loch Ruadh and Elfsea have scribal nights. Any of these would be a great way to introduce people to aspects of the SCA.

Events close to our area are also a great place to take new comers. They are good introductions to the SCA that are a short trip from Stephenville. It can be easier to get someone to travel to Fort Worth or Waco than Tulsa or Houston. Loch Ruadh's event this month is a one day event close to Stephenville. Loch Ruadh will be having their Fall Event "Loch Ruadh Fest 2015, A Day of Dragon Slaying!" on September 26th at Longhorn Park in Benbrook. Plan to attend Loch Ruadh's event and start thinking of someone to invite to come along with you.

Thank you to all who have spoken to people about DFT and the SCA or who have made people at our meetings and practices feel welcomed. I keep hearing this at all of my officer meetings and it is true; we are all Hospitalers.

Aaliz du Lac

Hospitaler, Canton of Dragonsfire Tor

Why do people join the SCA? - Archery, Chivalric, Rapier, camping, love of history, the arts;

Why do they stay? - The People - The Friendships

Upcoming Event

Loch Ruadh Fest 2015, A Day of Dragon Slaying! September 26, 2015 9am - 9pm

Longhorn Park, 7000 Lakeside Drive, Benbrook, Texas 76126

Recruitment and Retention by Jarl Owen Ap Aeddán

So here are my thoughts on recruitment and retention.

Recruitment and Retention is everyone's job! Every participant in this fabulous game needs to recruit and retain. Towards this end, the first thing that everyone playing SCA needs to do is stop spending so much time on the negative parts of the SCA. We need to remember why we are playing this game we need to make our own fun. Everyone has 10 positive stories about the SCA for every one negative story. Yet people tend to focus on the negative. This is poisonous for both recruitment and retention. I am looking at recruitment into the SCA as marketing the SCA, with marketing; you are more successful if you target your marketing to the audience who is already predisposed to the SCA. Everyone who plays SCA has some fundamental things that we all have in common. For example most people who play SCA have played roleplaying games and or collect comic books so putting a come check the SCA out sign at a Gaming shop is a good idea. Like a good story the marketing needs to be tailored to the audience. Here are some of the tools I use, and my thoughts on how best to use them.

Recruitment ideas:

Demos:

Need a pre planning meeting treat them like a mini event, make sure everyone who is coming understands this is our best foot forward good impression time. Tailor your layout and people placement to best work off of the abilities those who attend. You would not put the shy introvert at the front handing out business cards etc.

Recruitment posters:

They should be placed in libraries, bookstores, game shops, liquor stores and any place the group meets at. (This one should have when the group meets on it at that location). They should look really nice and be catching to the eye. They should have enough information that after looking at the poster they can make contact with someone in the group.

Business cards:

Great for SCA players who enjoy walking up and talking to anyone, small easy to carry every extrovert in the group should have some. They should look nice and have enough information on them to make contact with the group simple. They can be given out anywhere. They should have a blank space on them so the person handing it out can put their contact info on it. This small gesture helps establish the connections to keep people interested in our game.

Bookmarks:

If you buy books at a book store place a book mark in the next one on the shelf.

If you are at a Library you can leave a stack of them at the checkout desk.

When you buy your favorite beer put one in the next six pack of beer, on the shelf.

They should look nice and have a way to contact the local group easily.

These can also be used in other locations like craft stores, liquor stores, and gaming supply stores.

Give 10 to each member of the populace and tell them to give them all away before the next meeting.

You can also tailor the bookmark for where you are planning on having it placed.

Flyers:

Great for demos, needs to look good and have a ton of information with each section having links to send people to.

Raffle item:

Best used at demos and monthly activities. Have a small nice SCA thing that people have to fill out a contact information sheet to earn a raffle ticket for the nice SCA thing. (Pouch, cloth belt, feast gear etc etc etc) to get the ticket their contact info needs to be legible. At the end of the demo draw a ticket match it to the contact sheet send the winner the prizes as well as a coupon, everyone else send them a letter that says sorry you did not win the SCA thing but here is a coupon. Now the coupon is for a free something i.e. please come to this activity we will make you a tunic or a dress, come to this activity and you get a pouch but have them RSVP. The person that they need to contact should be on the coupon. This will give the people running the activity an idea of what to expect. The letter that goes out should invite them to the next thing on your group's calendar and list what else is going on that month. Every activity creates a raffle opportunity.

Contact List:

Usually gets name address phone email and interests usually used at a Demo. Before anyone puts info on a contact list an email that thanks them for the interest, and inviting them to the meeting and listing the different activities. It needs to be ready to send before the demo even happens. If you have a three day demo then when the demo shuts down on day 1 an email goes out to anyone on the contact list. Day 2 ends send out the same email to those people who filled out the contact list on day 2. Then on day 3 after the demo is done send out the email to the day 3 people. After the demo have a team split the contact list into activities and send a second email directed at the activities they have shown interest in.

Meeting places:

Public neutral locations are best for meetings and group activities. Libraries, hobby stores all have places to hold A&S classes and meetings. The benefits to this are a neutral location that will help advertise your class and give you the opportunity to also recruit new members. Also it shows you are part of the community which will help if you are trying to use a community center or a park. When the meeting is over have a restaurant that everyone goes to afterwards, this helps with group comradery and spirit de corps.

Mini Events:

We have a full Kingdom Event Calendar; however when you are brand new to the SCA the idea of driving several hours out to the middle of nowhere and spending X amount of money may be intimidating. However if you have a mini one day event with a little bit of everything (A&S, fighting rapier and chivalric, archery, knife, ax and spear) have a feast and songs and stories. You get the chance to train newer established members on how events run and how to do a feast and the newest members get a small taste of the magic that is an SCA event.

Business cards:

Great for SCA people who enjoy walking up and talking to people, small cards carry every member in the group should have some. They should have name and have enough information on how to make contact with the group simple. They can be given out anywhere. They should have a blank space on them so the person handing it out can put their contact info on it. The small gesture helps advertise connections to keep people interested in our name.

Retention:

Everyone who leaves the SCA has a reason for doing so, but the main reason people stay is because of the relationships. So one of the best ways to retain members is to nurture those relationships, keep in contact with the people you have made connections with, call email and visit, check on them, make sure they know they are missed, and invite them to activities. If you go to a meeting and you don't see someone that you expected to see, check on them it is really easy to lose SCA participants because they feel they have lost that connection. Finally we must make our own fun this awesome hobby is time and resource expensive make sure you are having fun while you do it, because if we are all having fun then we will attract the people who are looking for the good time that is the SCA.



Chronicler
Lady Diana the Just
chronicler@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org
Deputy Chronicler
Accepting Applications

Greetings

Thanks to Lord Angus for his submission “Legends”.

My term as Chronicler is up in December. If anyone is interested in becoming the next Chronicler please let me know.

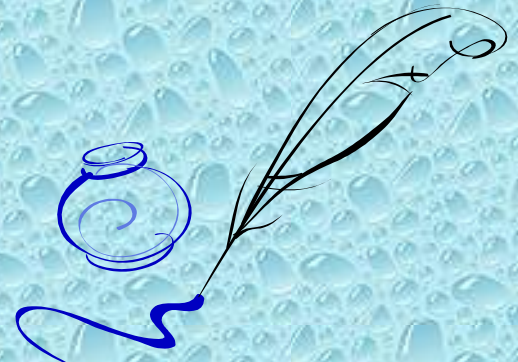
I attended some classes at Glaslyn's Artisan of the Flame, and the combined Populace at the Park with Stepps and Ellsea. I thought I'd share Lady Caliz's class information and Jarl Owen Ap Aeddán's recruitment and retention class outline. I hope you find them interesting.

If there is a subject any of you are curious about let me know and I'll see if I can find any information to publish in the newsletter.

Yours in Service

Lady Diana the Just

chronicler@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org



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