

Tales of the Tor

December 2016 C. E.

Anno Socittatis A. S. **LI**





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Message from the Baron and Bar-



Greetings to the good gentles of Elfsea and Dragonsfire Tor,

We'll begin this month by adding our congratulations to Lord Peter Rhys Connor and Honorable Lady Sarah Fynn on becoming the next Baron and Baroness of the Steppes! We are very fond of them and are looking forward to the great things our two groups will accomplish in the upcoming years.

Lord Franklin coordinated a wonderful Boy Scout demo. Many people played an important part in this event. The Scouts seem pleased with our efforts and have made their sites available to us.

The next two months will be very busy for the Barony. We have Yule Revel, Tournament of Champions and the Baronial potluck just in December! January will be Steppes Twelfth Night and Baronial Investiture, Crown Tournament and Roundtable. These January events are a great time to make our Baronial presence known to the rest of the Kingdom. All are welcome to join us as we travel around the Kingdom.

This time of year is also for all of us to spend time with our families. They often keep us grounded and help us to recharge. Please be safe if you travel and know that we always wish the best for you and your family this holiday season.

William and Cassandra
Baron and Baroness

Baronial Progress

Dragonsfire Tor Yule Revel – December 3rd
Tournament of Champions – December 10th
Baronial Party and Potluck – December 19th
Steppes Twelfth Night and Baronial Investiture – January 7th
Crown Tournament – January 14th
Roundtable – January 21st



Word Fame for those who helped with the Boy Scout Demo

These good gentles participated in the Boy Scout Jamboree demo. They have the thanks of the Barony for giving of their time and sharing their talent with others. Here are the names of those participants:



Lord Franklin, Lord Kennard of Bath, Tamara, Baroness Ker Megan, Master Caelin, Lady Sidheag Sorcha, Lord Bearach Mac Sneachd, Lady Aureliana, Titus Severus, Lord Esteban de Leon, Mathieu de Montagu, Lady Marcelle, Lady Y'vette, Lord Absolon, Lady Silvana Corwin, Aila, Lady Astridr, Lord Thorbjorn, HL al AERYN, Vivian, Don Alaric, Don Sebastian, Lord Guyon, Lady Micola, HL Colleen, Sir Louis, Lord Edwin, Lord Justinian, Sir Arthur, Countess Sonja, Count Gabriel, Master Airaklee, Liaden Orlanderson, Lady Aaliz

Message from our Seneschal

Greetings DFT!

It is once more that wonderful time of year when we put friend's and family first for a while. I hope to see all of you at DFT Yule! Enjoy the season and we will talk about next year in a month or so.

Yours In Service,

Angus Patrick De Ruthven,

Seneschal for Dragons Fire Tor



The Yule Log

by Lady Katharine of Caithness

There has been some debate as to when Christmas was first celebrated in Europe. In England it has been argued that King Arthur and his Knights of the round table were the first to introduce Christmas to England. Still others say it was Saint Augustine who baptized 10,000 Englishmen on Christmas Day in 598 AD. What is certain is that Pope Gregory I sent Augustine to Britain with instructions to convert the British Isles. And start by converting the winter solstice festival with the yule log into Christmas.

Vikings from Scandinavia brought the Yule feast with them to England. On or around December 21, when the winter solstice occurred, fathers and sons would go out into the forest find the biggest tree that would fit in the hearth chop it down and haul it home to be burnt for the 12 days of Yule or season of Yule. It was at this time the Vikings celebrated a time when light and new birth would come again in the face of the darkness and death of winter in the natural world. This was also the time when evergreens, holly and ivy, were brought into the house. As the Vikings conquered Britain their customs and celebrations came with them.

In England the wood for the Yule log was ash and while it did lose its Viking symbolism of the winter solstice it served as heat to cook with and for the household. The log was also a symbol of the prosperity to come in the coming year. For every spark that fell from it was supposed to represent either a pig or a calf to be born in the spring. As long as the log stayed lit and was burning, throughout the twelve days of Christmas feasting and revelry were the order of the day. Should the unthinkable happen and the log go out, then bad fortune would fall upon the household.

It is quite easy to see how the Viking / English winter festivals were converted to Christmas. The church had already made over the ancient roman winter solstice festival of Saturnalia in which holly, ivy and fir were brought inside the house. It wasn't hard for the church to make the connection with the evergreens and the doctrine of eternal life. The twelve days the Yule log burned were to become the twelve days of Christmas, ending with Epiphany on the sixth of January. Indeed, in the Middle Ages gifts were often exchanged during New Years and on Epiphany. Christmas was usually spent in church followed by a feast.

Today we still celebrate Christmas and have a fire in the hearth / fireplace. It is not used for heat or cooking unless there is a power outage. And Epiphany or twelfth night is still celebrated in the SCA . The more things change, the more they stay the same.



December

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

2

3

*Yule Revel
XXVI*

4 Rapier practice Jaycee Park check with Marshal for time / Elfsea archery practice

5

6

7 Elfsea Chivalric and Rapier Practice 7:30

8

9

10 Tournament of Champions
Star Gate Yule

11 Rapier practice Jaycee Park check with Marshal for time / Elfsea archery practice

12

13 Elfsea Cooks Guild

14 Elfsea Chivalric and Rapier Practice 7:30

15

16

17

18 Rapier practice Jaycee Park check with Marshal for time / Elfsea archery practice

19

20

21 Elfsea Chivalric and Rapier Practice 7:30

22

23

24

25

26 *Deadline for newsletter submissions*

27

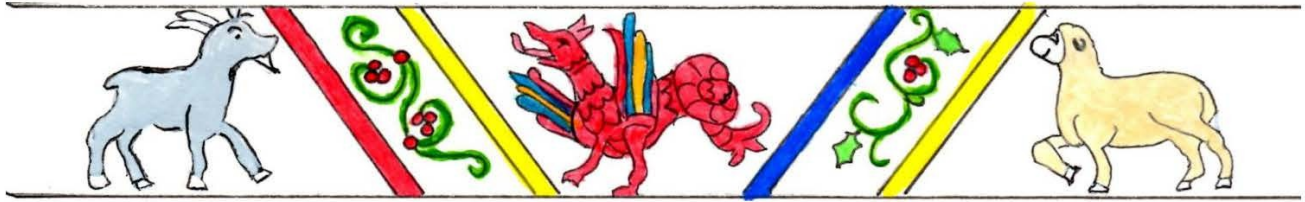
28 Elfsea Chivalric and Rapier Practice 7:30

29

30

31





The Canton of Dragonsfire Tor invites you to Yule Revel XXVI

Saturday, December 3, 2016

Oakdale Park

1019 Northeast Barnard St., Glen Rose, TX
SITE OPENS 9:00 am ~ SITE CLOSSES 10:00 pm

Event Registration:

Adult Registration: \$15.00

Adult Member Discount Registration: \$10.00

Child Registration (6-17): \$5.00 Youth Registration (5&under): Free

Family Max will be from \$30.00 to \$45.00 depending on the number of Adult Registrations
(The Family Max price varies due to member discount. With 2 Adult family members
and proof of membership, the max you will pay is \$30.00 for Registration.)

To receive the Member Discount, you must be able to show proof of membership at gate.

Family Max does NOT include Feast.

Make checks payable to SCA Inc., Canton of Dragonsfire Tor

Feast:

Adults: \$5.00

Children: \$5.00

Activities

A&S Competition

Table decorating contest

Banner contest

Annual Fundraiser

Dessert Competition

Children's activities table and more....

Site Information:

Site is wet in period containers only and must remain inside the hall.

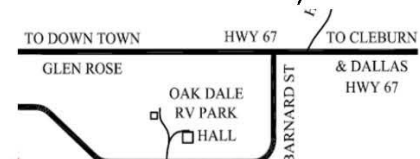
You must be 21 years old or older to drink alcohol. & Service animals only.

Event Steward
Franklin Whitenhale (Frank Warner)
6560 County Rd. 274
Breckenridge, Tx 76424
254-212-9144

franklin.whitenhale@gmail.com

Co-event Steward
Aoife Ruadh Inghean Ragnail
(Debra Carrejo)

Please, no calls after 9:00 pm



GPS 32.239250, -97.745050

Minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. They may also attend with a 21
year or older adult with a **signed and notarized Minor Event Waiver Form** from the parents.

More information can be found on Canton of Dragonsfire Tor's website under Events – Yule Revel; or
on our Facebook group page at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/637825483040794/>

Canton of Dragonsfire Tor: <http://dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org/>



PRAY **L**ET **A**LL **K**NOW
THE **T**HEME **F**OR **T**HE
ORAGONS**F**IRE **C**OR
ARTISAN **C**OMPETITION
IS **D**ECLARED **T**O **B**E

W**Y****R****O****O****S**

of the dragonish kind.

The artisan may choose to create a piece featuring the dragon as subject.

The artisan may also use the substance of a dragon freely given*

* the documentation must explain the circumstance of the gifting as the people of the Cor have no wish to see harm done to dragons -- even in the pursuit of art.

Origin of Yule

A celebration of the winter solstice has been held since time immemorial in the Northern Hemisphere. Through the ages, the festival has had many names. It is certain that a mid-winter festival called Yule was celebrated in the Nordic countries well before the year 1000.

Though challenged by some scholars, the fact that Yule/J—l (Jo'l) was celebrated in Iceland and throughout the Northern Hemisphere well before the advent of Christianity is now widely accepted. The exact date, or dates, that Yule was celebrated is not certain, but probably it was connected to the full moon nearest to the winter solstice.

The name itself has been retained in many languages: Yule - J—l - Jul . . . Some scholars think it comes from one of the names of ðinn (Odinn), others have theorized that it came from



Saga Yule

There are numerous references in the Icelandic Sagas to celebration of Yule, but they are very sparse in their description of how Yule was celebrated in those times. No real contemporary accounts exist, but a piece of verse, considered to be from the Ninth Century, refers to the "drinking of Yule".

There are numerous other references to this "drinking of Yule", for example in The Story of Hǫkon Hǫreksson (Ha'kon Ha'reksson), it is stated: "He held three main feasts every year, Yule, middle of winter and Easter".

In Egils saga Skallagrímssonar (Skallagrimssonar), the Yule feast of Egil's friend Arinbjörn (Arinbjörn) hesir is detailed, and in The Saga of Grettir, two farmers in Norway drink Yule together.



Medieval Yule

In early Medieval times, the Yule feasts were continued, even if the occasion had changed. In the Thirteenth Century, several of the most powerful chieftains in Iceland, such as the historian Snorri Sturluson, his nemesis Gissur Þorvaldsson (Thorvaldsson), Snorri's kinsmen Þórður (Tho'rður) Kakali and Þorgils Skardi (Thorgils Skardi), all held large feasts at Yule. And so did the Bishops of the bishopric at Hólar (Ho'lar). These were large feasts, which lasted for several days and included dancing, games and sports and other entertainment.



Open Offices

Dragonsfire Tor Arts and Science Minister

Complete an Application for Office on the Kingdom website at [http://seneschal.ansteorra.org/forms/ ApplicationJan08.pdf](http://seneschal.ansteorra.org/forms/ApplicationJan08.pdf) send it to the central@moas.ansteorra.org with a copy of your SCA card.

Dragonsfire Tor Web Minister

complete an Application for Office on the Kingdom website [http://seneschal.ansteorra.org/forms/ ApplicationJan08.pdf](http://seneschal.ansteorra.org/forms/ApplicationJan08.pdf) send it to kingdom@webminister.ansteorra.org with a copy of your SCA card

Dragonsfire Tor Knights Marshal

complete an Application for Office on the Kingdom website [http://seneschal.ansteorra.org/forms/ ApplicationJan08.pdf](http://seneschal.ansteorra.org/forms/ApplicationJan08.pdf) send it to marshal@ansteorra.org with a copy of your SCA card

Also please send a copy of your application to: Elfsea Baron and Baroness at baron@elfsea.ansteorra.org
baroness@elfsea.ansteorra.org

and include a copy to me at seneschal@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org



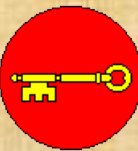
Canton Officers



Lord and Lady of Dragonsfire Tor:
Baron William Palfrey

baron@elfsea.ansteorra.org
baroness@elfsea.ansteorra.org

Baroness Cassandra Palfrey



Seneschal:
Ld Angus Patrick De Ruthven

seneschal@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org



Exchequer:
Baroness Janie of the Tor (Janie Cason)

exchequer@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org



Hospitaler:
Ldy Aaliz du Lac (Alicia Kays)

hospitaler@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org



Rapier Marshal:
Lord Hadrardrus

rapier_marshall@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org



Chronicler:
Ldy Diana the Just (Diana Warner)

chronicler@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org

Minister of Arts and Science:
Accepting applications

arts_sciences@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org



Web Minister :
Accepting applications

webminister@draonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org



Knight Marshal:
Accepting applications

marshal@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org



Blessed Yule



Love & Light.



Chronicler
Lady Diana the Just
chronicler@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org
Deputy Chronicler
[Accepting Applications](#)

Greetings to all,

I welcome your comments and suggestions as well as submissions of pictures, articles, and anything else SCA related.

As this year will come to its end I want to wish all of you a

***Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year !***



Yours in Service
Lady Diana the Just
chronicler@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org



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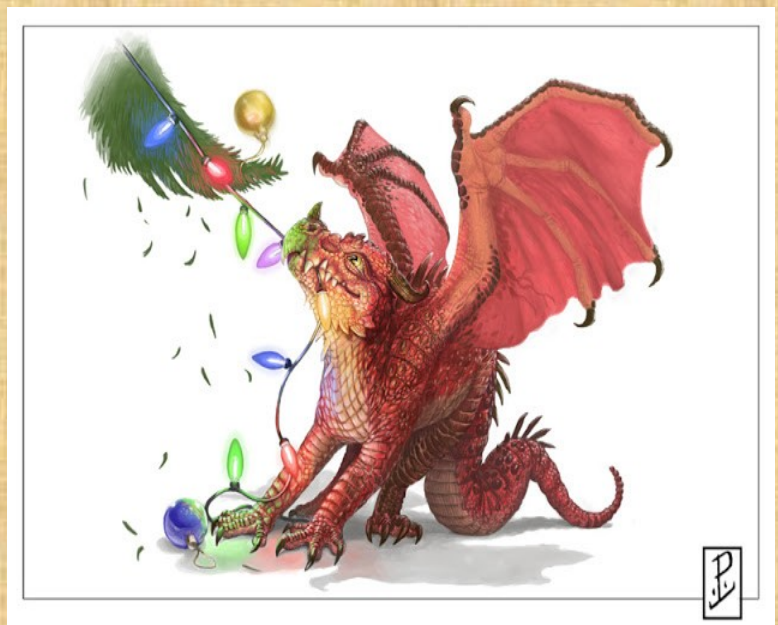
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- [Model Release Form](#)
- [Photography Release Form](#)

Fill these forms out on your system, save and download with your submission to: chronicler@dragonsfire-tor.ansteorra.org



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Pg. 3 Picture of the baron & Baroness by Richard Threkleld - background clip art from Microsoft (free for use)

Pg. 4 Angus Patrick De Ruthven by Bob Gray - background clip art from Microsoft (free for use)

Pg. 5 The Yule Log by Lady Katharine of Caithness - Article from Stefan's Florilegium - clip art from Microsoft (free for use)

Pgs. 6 Clipart on calendar from Microsoft (free for use)

Pg. 7 Artwork and Ad for Yule Revel XXVI by Alicia Kays

Pg. 8 Artwork and Ad for Yule Revel XXVI Artisans Competition by Sandra Geil

Pg. 9 & 10 This Icelandic web-page (in English), by Gardar J—hann (Gardar

Jo'hann), includes such topics as Origin of Yule, Saga Yule,

Medieval Yule, etc. as they relate to ancient and modern Iceland. <http://www.itn.is/~gunnsi/yule.htm>

message found in Stefan's Florilegium

Pgs. 11, 12, ,13, 14, & 15 clip art from Microsoft (free for use)