

The Steppes Letter April 2023





Barony of the Steppes: April 2023

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This is the April 2023 issue of the Steppes Newsletter, a publication of The Barony of the Steppes of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. The Steppes Letter is available from Kathryn DePalma [chronicler@steppes.ansteorra.org]. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Incorporated, and does not delineate SCA policies.

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Calendar of Events April 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
						1	
2	3 Fighter Practice & Business Meeting	4 Chivalric, Rapier, A&S, & Newcomers' Academy	5	6	7	8	
9	10 Fighter Practice	11 Chivalric, Rapier, & A&S Practice	12	13	14	15	
16 Archery Practice	17 Fighter Practice	18 Chivalric, Rapier, A&S, & Business Meeting	19	20	21	22 Defender	
23 Defender	24 Fighter Practice	25 Chivalric, Rapier, & A&S Practice	26	27	28	29	
30 Archery Practice Steppes Practice Glaslyn Practice Events							

Find all of our events on our website



Event Info March 2023



Glaslyn Defender of the Flame

21 (Friday) 5:00 pm - 23 (Sunday) 2:00 pm Sid Richardson Scout Ranch Lakeview Lodge Runaway Bay, TX 76426 Paypal | Facebook | Website

Archery

First & Third Sundays 2PM-5PM Westlake Sports Center 601 Gross Rd, Mesquite, TX

Chivalric & Rapier

Tuesdays 7PM-9PM St Luke's Lutheran Church 1210 W Belt Line Rd, Richardson, TX

Glaslyn Practice & Business Meeting

Mondays 6PM North Lakes Park 2001 W. Windsor Dr., Denton, TX

Steppes Business Meeting

3rd Thursday 6:30PM St Luke's Lutheran Church 1210 W Belt Line Rd, Richardson, TX

Thrown Weapons

On hiatus

Newcomers' Academy

1st Tuesday 6:30PM St Luke's Lutheran Church 1210 W Belt Line Rd, Richardson, TX

Culinary Guild

1st Wednesday 7PM 901 N US 75-Central Expy 1000, Plano, TX

Scribal Guild

Tuesdays 7PM-9PM St. Luke's Lutheran Church 1210 W Belt Line Rd, Richardson, TX

Music Guild

On hiatus

*All SCA Practices and Meetings are free to attend





Baron Baudoyn de Layfayette

baron@steppes.ansteorra.org

Baroness Katerine le Roux d'Anjou

baroness@steppes.ansteorra.org

Salutations,

We haven't hosted an event in a couple of months, but that doesn't mean that these lands aren't bustling with activity! Whether it's fighting, archery, or music there is plenty to do in the barony. We are glad to see the Steppes and Glaslyn vibrant and growing.

Several of us made a trek up to the Barony of Namron, invading their lands at MedFaire! It was a great demo and we are glad to have been able to go and help.

Coming up in May is our biggest event: Warlord. It is also the 50th anniversary of the event. So mark your calendars for Memorial Day weekend, it's going to be an exceptionally fun event! But before that, next month our canton hosts Glaslyn Defender! We hope that many of you get to enjoy that fantastic event.

We'd like to thank Her Excellency Elspeth for serving as the Seneschal of the Steppes and wish her well on her next steps. Thank you Signy for being our Hospitaler! Thank you Wilhelm for stepping in as our interim Hospitaler! We are grateful for everyone who has helped make these lands a better place!

Gratefully,

Baudonn and Raterine Baron and Baroness of the Steppes Lord and Lady of Glaslyn.

Word from the Baronial Officers



Seneschal

Elspeth de Stervlen seneschal@steppes.ansteorra.org

Greetings!!!!

We quickly coming around to our 50th Warlord event. Keep checking for posts regarding volunteer positions available.

Bids are open for Steppes Artisan. Applications will be accepted April 1- May 16th, 2023.

The job of Seneschal is open for Applications. Please send your Applications to:

- Seneschal@steppes.ansteorra.org
- Baron@steppes.ansteorra.org
- Baroness@steppes.ansteorra.org
- Central@seneschal.ansteorra.org

It has been an amazing ride as Steppes Seneschal. I have decided to take on a degree program at school which begins in July. This is new, scary and exciting. A new seneschal will take over around July 1, 2023. I will be here through Warlord and FanExpo.

Thank you for all your support!!

Baroness Elspeth de Stervlen



Exchequer

Lady Astrid Flokadottir exchequer@steppes.ansteorra.org

Greeting populace.

As of 2/28/23 the bank balance is \$15,963.71. We are still looking for a quartermaster. If you are interested in the position please send an application to myself, the B&B, and the seneschal.

Warlord will be here before we know it. Please consider signing up for a gate shift.

In Service,

Astrid Flokadottir





Archery Marshal

Eadgyth Beornesdohtor archery@steppes.ansteorra.org

Unto the populace of the Barony of the Steppes, your Archery Marshal sends greetings.

March archery was amazing, with beautiful weather and great shooting. Congratulations to Beornwynn, winner of the Follow the Leader competition, and to Lord Kenneric, winner of the SSAC Tic Tac Toe shoot!

April will have some changes to the normal range dates: there will be no range on the 1st of April, as most of the barony will be invading Namron for their MedFaire, and all the marshals will be at Royal Hunter. Therefore April ranges will be held the 3rd and 5th Sundays of April. Come on out and shoot with us to get ready for Warlord, which will have all sorts of fun archery competitions and games!

We're enjoying good turnout at practices. Come join in the fun — we've got loaner gear! We shoot at Westlake Park Archery Range, 601 Gross Rd, Mesquite 75149.

See you on the range!

Lady Eadquth Beornesdohtor



Rapier Marshal

Mathias of the Steppes rapier@steppes.ansteorra.org

To the populace of the Barony of the Steppes, Rapier Marshal HL Sean Tabor sends Greetings!

Gulf War was awesome! Lots of rapier work and war points to be had. Ansteorra and the Barony of the Steppes were well represented.

Our indoor practice continues to attract a great crowd who are super friendly and have a great time learning the gentle art of stabbing your friends with grace and aplomb.

We are eagerly awaiting the ascentation of a new rapier marshal to continue the fine Steppes tradition.

We are working with Elfsea to hold quarterly regional rapier/chivalric practices. We are wanting to help bolster Elfsea's rapier practice on Thursday nights which is in Arlington.

More rapier for everyone! We are working to train and field a rapier war band for some of the larger events like BAM and Gulf Wars.

Thank you so much for allowing me the privilege of serving the Barony of the Steppes as your Rapier Marshal. I will still be around to help teach and authorize rapier fighters.

Vivat Glaslyn, Vivat Baron, Vivat Baroness, Vivat STEPPES!

YIS,

Sean



Chivalric Marshal

Centurion Magnus Creppinson marshal@steppes.ansteorra.org

Wow what a War! As we return to the Oaken Shade of Ansteorra we look back on all the fun had at war, or fun with friends for those that kept The Steppes safe in our leave.

We now return back to our regularly scheduled programming with a few minor changes. We will now be incorporated more melee type scenarios/games at the request of the populus fighters. This will be mainly in the beginning of practice. For those who do not wish to partake there will always be people to do singles and training. With us finishing most practices again on individual work. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Magnus Creppinson

Steppes Knight Marshal





Minister of Arts & Sciences

Hadassah Sarai Bas Yossi moas@steppes.ansteorra.org

Greeting Steppes! Happy April!

So, we are really tuning up for Warlord...and tuning is a great word for it. Every other Tuesday you can come to music practice at our regular fighter practices. We have folks playing the recorder as well as ocarina's. No experience is necessary.

On Tuesday April 18th, Esme will be teaching a class in spinning with a drop spindle. She will have spindles for those who attend to use. Come and Play with Wool.

On the following Tuesday, April 25th, Arianna Marchaud will teach beginning Viking Wire Weave. Complete details will be posted to the Steppes page on Facebook.

Looking to the future. Do you have a class you would be interested in teaching at Warlord? Contact Lady Signy, the Warlord A &S Coordinator about it.

And finally, we need volunteers to assist with A&S in June at Fan Expo. Come see me or Lady Margery.

YIS,

HL Hadassah Sarai bas Yvssi

MoAS Barony of the Steppes



Social Media Officer

Lord Gilli Refsson

Greeting Populace,

No new business to report for our Social Media presence. Please reach out if you need anything.

In Service,

Gilli Refsson



Webminister

Hákon the Blacksmith webminister@steppes.ansteorra.org

Make sure you keep an eye on the front page of the website for any announcements, and sync to our calendar using the button on the Calendar of Events page.

If you see an event that needs updating, have something that needs adding to the calendar, or if you find any other errors or issues with our website, feel free to let me know at webminister@steppes.ansteorra.org!

Yours in service, Sakon the Blacksmith



Herald

Elionora inghean Ui Cheallaigh herald@steppes.ansteorra.org

Mighty Oakenwood,

Welcome back from Gulf Wars, for those who went; I was delighted to see so many wonderful displays of heraldry and general pageantry.

We're coming up to the wire on Warlord planning, and with that comes one more plea for those who might be interested in voice heraldry. If you can read from a card, ideally loudly, you can help. I'm happy to support any newcomers (or old friends trying something new) in this. Please let me know you're interested so we aren't still searching for additional voices day-of.

We also have Ansteorra Heraldic and Scribal Symposium being hosted in Bonwicke (Slaton, TX) on May 20th. Please consider visiting our friends out west for a day full of classes and workshops (and almost certainly more puns than you can shake a punner at.)

I should be all caught up on any emailed missives at this time. Please contact me if there is an outstanding matter I haven't responded to yet, or if you have any questions about the submissions process.

In service,

Lady Elionora inghean Ui Cheallaigh

MKA Laura Johnson Oakenwald Pursuivant



Hospitaler

hospitaler@steppes.ansteorra.org

Lord Wilhelm vom Bruck (Rhett Buck) has applied for the position of Baronial Hospitaler, and his candidacy is under final review. If you have any comments, please reach out to the <u>Regional Hospitaler</u>.

If you have interest in helping newcomers find their joy in the SCA and helping run amazing demos (like Dallas Fan Expo in July), you can still assist by volunteering and being a kind voice at every event and practice you attend!

As always, if you have need of baronial loaner items or have clothing donations, please reach out to me directly. We'll get you garbed.

Our third Newcomer's Academy is Tuesday (April 4th) at our fighter practice site, starting at 6:30 PM. L4. See you there!

Sannida Ranna al-Ruqan'a

Deputy Hospitaler



Chronicler

Rayya al-Ruqay'a chronicler@steppes.ansteorra.org

Thanks this month go out to Esme Malaspina for her research into Lent and Ramadan traditions, both of which take place in April!

4In addition, Eadgyth had a special reminder of the many archery opportunities available in the coming months. These events culminate in our Warlord champion shoot, to find our next Baronial Champion to defend our Baron and Baroness. Let's show them the power of the archers of the Steppes!

Photographers, did you know that you can make your work available for publication in the SCA? The Chronicler resource page includes links to portfolios from artists like Margery Heron who have given permission for their pictures to be shared. Add your name and pictures today!

In Service to the Dream,
Sannida Ranna al-Rugan'a

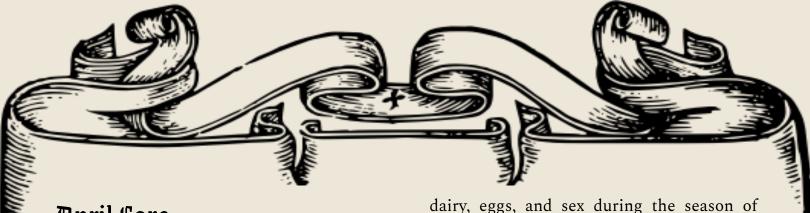
Baronial Positions Accepting Applications:

Minister of Children, Hospitaler, & Quartermaster. Apply Here to help your Barony do great things!









April Lore

Patrick, Snakes, and St. Gertrude's Cats By Esme Malaspina

Happy April, everyone! I'm taking a break from saints this month to talk about how two of the major religions celebrated this season during the Medieval time period. I am of course speaking of the season of Lent and the season of Ramadan, both of which happen at this time of year and both of which involve fasting, prayer, and various religious customs.

Catholic Christians celebrate 40 days of Lent right before their big Easter holiday commemorating their story of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the modern period, the requirements for Lent are that believers must fast on Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent), and Good Friday (the Friday before Easter Sunday). Furthermore, they are supposed to not eat meat on Fridays, although fish is permitted. In addition, by custom by not by church law, many Catholics give up something during Lent, like a dessert or social media.

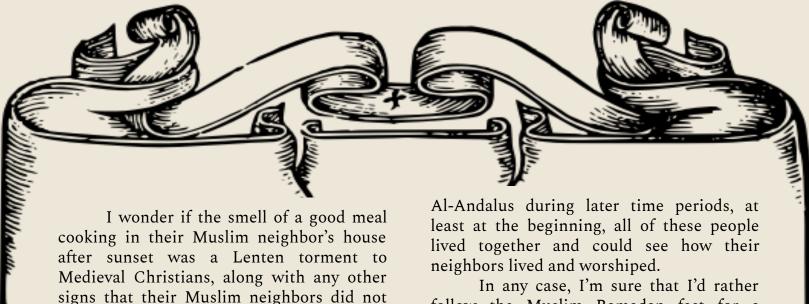
This modern observance is trivial compared to Medieval Lent requirements. In the Medieval period, Christians were required to forego food all day on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. They also were not allowed meat (land animals, including birds),

dairy, eggs, and sex during the season of Lent. They were, however, allowed wine and beer, so we can suppose that they made the best of drinking on empty stomachs. They were also allowed to eat fish. (The prohibition on eggs may have led to the custom of hard-boiling eggs to preserve them through the season when they couldn't eat them and eating them on Easter Sunday, thereby inventing the Easter egg.)

Further, even on days when Christians were not entirely fasting, they were supposed to eat nothing before 3 p.m. during Lent.

Ramadan, celebrated by Muslims, is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and commemorates their story of Mohammed's First Revelation (when they believe the Quran, their holy scripture, was first revealed to Mohammed), and fasting during Ramadan is considered one of the pillars of Muslim religious belief.

The practice of fasting during Ramadan, which remains much the same now as it was in the Medieval period, requires Muslims to fast from sunup until sundown during the month of Ramadan. This fast requires that they consume nothing, not even water. They also may not have sex or smoke between sunrise and sunset. That sounds difficult, and it is, but unlike their Christian neighbors, after sunset Muslims could have all the things they'd denied themselves during the day without restriction.



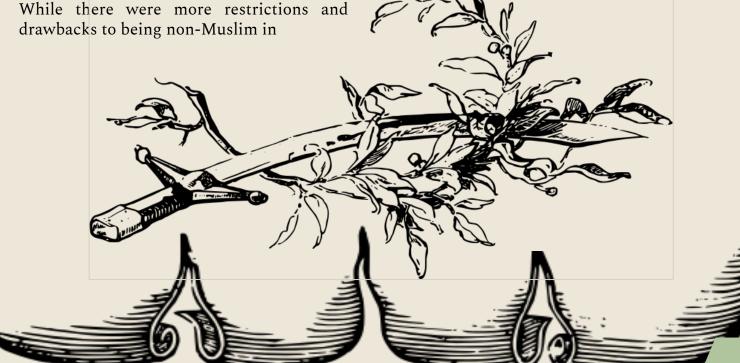
These cultures, in some places, lived next to each other and tolerated each other. For example, in Al-Andalus (Muslim Spain), the other "Peoples of the Book" (Christians and Jews) were protected under Muslim law. Those who were protected in this way were called "dhimmis," and while they paid extra taxes, they maintained their religious For freedom. several centuries Al-Andalus, the main drawback to not converting to Islam was that dhimmis paid more taxes and experienced limitations on their social standing. (I also wonder how many of them had sudden conversion experiences during Lent, but that's probably research for another day.)

have to give up the same things they did.

In any case, I'm sure that I'd rather follow the Muslim Ramadan fast for a month than the Medieval Christian Lent fast for 40 days.

Sources:

- Medieval Lent was Harder than Islamic Ramadan
- Fasting and abstinence in the Catholic Church
- * Ramadan
- Culture in the Time of Tolerance
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_a nd_cultural_exchange_in_al-
- Social and cultural exchange in al-Andalus



Culinary Guild of Hestia

The Guild is on Hiatus until after Warlord as we prepare for the Food Joust:

COMING TO WARLORD: Food Joust Part Deux! (Second Annual Food Joust)

This year's Warlord is going to be spectacular as it is the 50th Anniversary. The Food Joust will take place over both Saturday and Sunday this year. Teams will be 3-5 (max of 5 per team) ALL team members MUST be present both days. Deadline for entering will be April 15th 2023 (all Team members must be listed at this time, no changes allowed) Recipes will be due no later than May 15th 2023. This is a firm deadline.

Teams must complete 3 courses within the allotted 3 hour time span (including plating and presentation): a main dish, a side dish and a dessert. ANY Dishes not on the presentation table on time will not be judged. NO ADVANCE PREPARATION will be allowed. The following MUST be used: At least one ANIMAL Protein (i.e. Beef, Lamb, Poultry, Pork) You may use more than one. A minimum of 3 vegetables. Salt, Rosemary, Basil, Cinnamon, Garlic, Red Wine, Heavy Cream, Butter.

On Saturday the Teams will be competing for the items they get to use to cook with. They will still plan their menus in advance, and provide the recipes and ingredients lists to us in advance of the event, but how well they do in Saturday's competition can cost them ingredients or gain them an added ingredient bonus, or even extra time to cook, depending on the challenge.

In Service HL Hadassah Sarai bas Yossi (MKA Judie Willey) Minister of Arts and Sciences, Barony of the Steppes



Scribal Guild

We are in dire need of folks to adopt charters to finish for Warlord. Come and see us at Tuesday Fighter Practice!!!!

YIS Hadassah



Steppes Loose Association of Brewers

Greetings Steppes,

Currently no meetings are planned, but keep an eye out here each month for more details. Also join the Facebook group here.

Music and Vocal Non - Guild

Greetings,

Practice at home until further notice. Watch the Facebook group at St. Romanos Chorale and Oakwood Consort.

Contact Mistress Xene at music@twmarsh.net for addresses and more information.

All music practices are cancelled until further notice.

In Service to Crown and Kingdom,

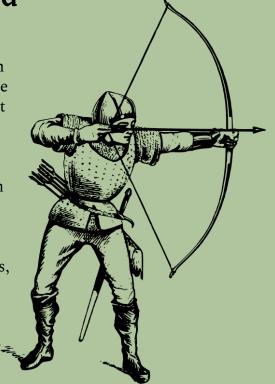
Mistress Xene Theriane, OL, OP



Steppes Bowyer & Fletchers Guild

The Steppes Bowyer and Fletchers Guild is the oldest archery guild within Ansteorra that we know of surviving even the later established now defunct kingdom's archery guild. The Guild exists to share knowledge between members and instruct others how to accomplish all the projects, skills, and items required to round out personal kits for our SCA archery community. We have recently included thrown weapons and siege weapons to our instructional activities since the kingdom has combined all airborne missile activities together.

Guild meetings are a bit sporadic at the moment but ideally we will meet on the last Friday of the month at a guild members' home. If you want to know when the next meeting is, please contact the Steppes archery marshal. archery@steppes.ansteorra.org





Seneschal

Hákon the Blacksmith seneschal@glaslyn.ansteorra.org

Exchequer

Lady Machteld van den stienhuse treasurer@glaslyn.ansteorra.org

Knight Marshal

Mistress Colleen O'Kelly marshal@glaslyn.ansteorra.org

Hospitaler

Lady Alhdryð ceorlstrang hospitaler@glaslyn.ansteorra.org

Greetings Steppes!

Fighting weather has been great (knock on wood) and practice has been consistent up here in Glaslyn. We've enjoyed having visitors from the Steppes on Monday nights and hope to continue the exchange!

April also marks our annual fighting event: Glaslyn Defender of the Flame! We hope you will join us April 21-23 at Sid Richardson Scout Camp for our chivalric, rapier, archery, bardic, and brewing competitions, as well as our first-ever cut-and-thrust championship! Hope to see you there!

Háton the Blacksmith

Seneschal, Canton of Glaslyn





Pennsic Pile 46

Amoroso

Guglielmo Ebreo da Pesaro, c. 1475 (PnA)

arr. Monica Cellio

One dance: AAA BB CC DD. Play: Two dances.



Da'ud Bob Movie Review

Cursed (Netflix, 2020)

Well, clearly I was looking for something different to review. I mean, I had recently reviewed a number of Shakespeare productions, including not one, not two, but three different Hamlets and yet another Macbeth. And I still had another Hamlet, another Macbeth, and a Romeo and Juliet sitting on the shelf waiting for me to pop them into the DVD player. Is it possible to overdose on Shakespeare? Well, apparently it is, because I wanted something else. Unfortunately, both for me and for you, there are other things out there for me to review for you. Including a number of movies and television series that Anna Sue has found and saved for me on her Netflix account. And I tried. I really did. I tried to pick the most innocuous series on the list. But "most innocuous" is not the same as "innocuous". And the trigger warnings for this show weren't helping; I mean, it's not especially hopeful (at least to me, and especially regarding any kind of real historicity) when they read: "Violent, Gritty, Fantasy TV, Teen, Action Drama". So much for "most innocuous". So my expectations weren't all that high to begin with, and they

weren't raised any by actually watching this show. And so it is that this month, Da'ud Bob reviews for you Episode 1 (of 10) of the Netflix 2020 production of the teen/fantasy/action drama *Cursed*.

Starring Katherine Langford Nimuë, Devon Terrell as Arthur (yes, that Arthur), Gustaf Skarsgård as Merlin (yes, that Merlin), Daniel Sharman as The Weeping Monk, Sebastian Armesto as King Uther Pendragon (yes, that Uther Pendragon), Lily Newmark as Pym, Shalom Brune-Franklin as Igraine (yup, you guessed it!), Peter Mullan as Father Carden, Emily Coates as Iris, Billy Jenkins as Squirrel, and Matt Stokoe as Gawain (uh-huh), about the only things in this show that actually relate to all, or any, of the Arthurian legends besides the sword of power (we aren't told it's name, but we know that it's Excalibur), are the names of the characters. The story lines, the motivations, even relationships, are all made out of whole cloth. Well, it is, after all, based on the "Teen & Young Adult" book written by Thomas Wheeler and illustrated by Frank Miller. The synopsis, outlined for us by Netflix, is: "Armed with mysterious powers and a legendary sword, young rebel Nimuë joins forces with charming mercenary Arthur on a mission to save her people."



Good points: It's only ten episodes long. Real chain mail. The thatched huts.

Bad points: RenFaire costuming. Calling the king "Your Majesty". (This is not set in Tudor times, when the King went from being "Your Grace" to "Your Majesty".) Depicting Merlin as a drunkard. The lack of color in clothing and armor. Some of the heraldry. Because of their names, you keep expecting people to act like they do in the Arthurian tales. They don't. It would have been better just to give them entirely different names. That way, perhaps, our expectations would stop getting in the way of the story.

Zero breasts. Four gallons of blood. (Well, it did say "violent".) 17 dead bodies. Arrow fu. Magic fu. Dagger fu. Ax fu. Sword fu. Knife fu. Fire fu. Lightning fu. Spear fu. Carts roll. Waves roll. Gratuitous stone trilithon used as a gateway into a village. Gratuitous CGI dragonfly. Gratuitous fairy. Gratuitous dead magpies. Gratuitous crucifixions. Gratuitous wolves. Gratuitous Moors. Gratuitous eclipse. Gratuitous epileptic fit, with hallucinations. Gratuitous two-faced baby. An 82 on the Vomit Meter. 1½ stars. Da'ud Bob says, "Well, it's not Shakespeare, but that's not what I was looking for here anyway. But it's also not an Arthurian story, which is kind of what you expect to see given the names of many of the characters. I think Netflix told us best what it really is: 'Violent, Gritty, Fantasy TV, Teen, Action Drama'. Check it out!"



Come Say Hello!

Barony of the Steppes

Facebook Group - Facebook Official

<u>Discord</u> - Twitter - <u>Instagram</u> - TikTok

Canton of Glaslyn - Facebook Group

Kingdom of Ansteorra - Facebook Group

Discord



Other SCA Groups

- <u>Legion of Swashbucklers</u>
 (SCA Rapier Fighters)
- SCA Garb How-To
- SCA Camping
- SCA Equestrian
- Scriptoris of Ansteorra
- Kingdom of Ansteorra ~
 Repository of Class
 Handouts
- <u>Destash</u>
 (second-hand gear)

Useful Links

- SCA Home
- Ansteorra Home
- Steppes Home
- Glaslyn Home
- <u>Kingdom Calendar</u>
- <u>Newcomers</u>
- RecommendSomeone foran Award





Featuring Chivalric, Rapier, Archery, and Bardic competitions for the titles of Defender of the Flame, as well as our premiere

Cut and Thrust Defender of the Flame!

The esteemed Ladies of Glaslyn will choose the most honorable combatant as Keeper of the Flame

Brewer of the finest spirits will be named Brewing Champion of Glaslyn

Adult Event Registration: \$20, Member Discount Event Registration: \$15
Youth 17 and under are free!

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.

Make checks payable to SCA, Inc. / Canton of Glaslyn.

Merchants are welcome! Site is wet in period containers only. Please bring service animals only. Please do not disturb livestock or local fauna.

Event Stewards:

Alhdryð ceorlstrang • mka Caroline Clavell • 817-729-2508 • alhdryth@gmail.com Kobayashi no Hotaru • mka Katy Tunks • 512-304-5756 • kttunks@gmail.com

Website: glaslyn.ansteorra.org/defender

Sid Richardson Scout Ranch Lakeview Lodge

- From US 380 west of Runaway Bay/Lake Bridgeport, turn north onto Jasper Creek Rd/CR 1700.
- Once in the camp follow signs for Lakeview Lodge.
- Detailed maps and directions available on the event page.

