



# The White Birch

The Newsletter of the Shire of Rokeclif

July XLVI (2011)

## Seneschal's Missive

The shire is really gearing up for Fall Coronation. Yes, our bid was accepted. We have some staff lined up and a few more to contact. As you can see, the list of shire activities is huge, because we'll be having several gatherings to get ready for coronation. Site tokens will be made on July 16. Signs on August 7. Vitaliano will present a small version of the feast on July 30, so everybody will know what's yummy on the menu.

A&S Night on July 14 will also help prepare for Coronation, as Bronislavá teaches us how to retain, guard, and behave in court. This is the first time Rokeclif has hosted a Kingdom event, and we'll need everybody's help to make it go smoothly.

THL<sup>2</sup> Kudrun



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## Next Meetings

- Wednesday, July 6 – Research Night 6PM – LaCrosse Public Library (Main)
- Thursday, July 14 – A&S Night – What to do at events, server training
- Saturday, July 16 – Make site tokens 1PM until done – Bronislava's (702 S Losey)
- Wednesday, July 20 – Populace meeting 6PM – Riverside Park – Garb recommended
- Saturday, July 30 – Test feast 4-8 for eating, cooks around noon – Bob's (421 S 6th St)
- Wednesday, August 3 – Research Night 6PM – LaCrosse Public Library (Main)
- Sunday, August 7 – Sign making 1PM until done – Randy's garage (1242 Park Ave)
- Thursday, August 11 – A&S Night
- Saturday, August 20 – Whatever needs to be done, wherever
- Friday, September 9 — 6—9 PM Set up for Coronation (Three Rivers School)

If you have a Google (gmail) account, Vitaliano can import the Rokeclif and Northshield calendars into your Google calendar. Email or fb message him for details.

# Minutes of the Populace Meeting

June 27, 2011 Myrick Park

Present: Æmma, Alois, Alyssa, Bronislavá, Domaldi, Kudrun, Maewyn, Robert, Vettoria, Vitaliano  
Meeting oyezied to order at 6:14.

Vitaliano presented the agenda.

Meeting time -- Since several people have problems with Mondays, we discussed changing the dates of our gatherings to accommodate more folks. After some discussion, it was decided to try to hold Research Night on the first Wednesdays, A&S on the second Thursdays, and Populace Meeting on the third Wednesdays. Each of these dates will be calculated from the first full week, with the week beginning on Sunday. If this sounds confusing, please see Kudrun's article on the period calculation of the date of Easter on page 8. Or check the schedule on page one.

Margaret asked Kudrun if Rokeclif would be willing to host SUN on the second weekend in November. Kudrun did a little preliminary checking. Luckily, Rudivale came through with a viable bid, so we're off the hook for now.

We cleaned out the storage unit! Yay! There's a pile of stuff we don't want -- it needs to go to a garage sale somewhere. The fighter gear went with Ahlwin to check with Toki. Bags for 10x20s haven't been made because Vitaliano needs a needle. (What an opening!) We might want to get a shed in LaCrosse. Robert will call a few places to see if that's viable.

Sewing moot -- this needs to be an all-day affair, probably on a weekend. (Weekend? Not many are open.) This opened the question of what events people are planning to attend. There were six headed to WW, four for Ages of War, Kudrun's going to Novices/Knaves in October and might day-trip Poor Man's Pennsic. We need to have an event in a truck stop.

Cooking Guild -- The group structure will be decided at the first meeting. Maewyn has print copies of Cariadoc's Miscellany and Take a Thousand Eggs or More.

## OFFICER REPORTS

Exchequer -- We have around \$2000 in the checking account. Need to check on what reports have been filed.

Youth -- Not much, but the Youth Get a Castle event is being planned for May.

A&S -- Robert's computer is in a coma. Vettoria will act as his deputy while it is unconscious.

Web -- Someone's going to be taking pictures at our meetings. Bronislava suggested that we make Coronation more visible on the Rokeclif web page. We talked a bit about using facebook for publicizing Coronation (as well as Northshield Great Hall).

Chronicler invites contributions from the populace – recipes from the Cooks' guild, event reports, poetry. Someone suggested the "popup Birch".

Chatelaine – "All of your personalities should be able to shine through."

GAMES EVENT – We're not sure if all the paperwork got sent to the right places. Maewyn & Vitaliano will double check.

## CORONATION

"We got the bid."

Work days are on the calendar on page one. Vitaliano is seeking barley flour. Staffing is coming along. Dahrien will be Hall Steward. Clarissa will be Plating Steward (AKA "Hot Dish"). Ingrid will herd merchants. Vettoria is in charge of troll. Matthias and Amata will work with royals. Brilliana will serve head table. Gavin is the gofer, and will host the postrevel. Misty will coordinate cleanup. (Kitchen cleanup will be done during feast.) We'll be asking Kingdom Officers if they will coordinate fighting, fencing, A&S.

We walked through the event, identifying jobs that will need to be done at what time. More will be done at A&S night, as Bronislava explains some of the duties of retainers, guards, and trollers. We may use radios, but the ankle bracelet for the autocrat is uncertain. Crime scene tape was also discussed. As you can tell, the meeting was getting out of hand, so we put the meeting on hiatus and went to Bronislava's for dinner and talk about the Griffin's Needle Challenge. (If you're interested in participating in the challenge, talk to Vitaliano.)

## Arts and Sciences

Bronislava wrote and performed two pieces at Bardic Bedlam.

Has been researching site tokens, despite her allergy to craft stores.

Helping with name research and basic chatelaine stuff.

Robert is developing a story for the next bardic opportunity.

Misty found her sewing machine.

Æmma did some name research

Joined the A&S 50 Challenge.

Domaldi is working on feast research.

Vitaliano learned about roasting a whole pig. "Never again!" (You're supposed to kill it first.)

Refining feast menu for Coronation

Encouraging participation in the Griffin's Needle Challenge

Started a facebook group for Rokeclif cooks

Vettoria has been doing garb research and shopping. (\$100 worth of linen counts as A&S.)

Kudrun's been helping with garb research.

Coronation lunch research (it's a dirty job...)

Working on a class for WW.

### Rokeclif Cooks

A facebook page for Rokeclif Cooks has been created . It's a place to trade or post recipes, ask questions, and make suggestions for all things culinary. Translators and redactors are also welcome. There may be opportunities to gather and cook or partake in medieval food experimentation and discovery.

Post to the regular Rokeclif page if you'd like to join. (If you're not a member of Rokeclif, ask Kudrun for an invitation. Or ask Vitaliano for an invitation to Rokeclif Cooks.)



### An Equestrian Sonnet

By Bronislavá



A horse, 'tis said, is nothing but a horse -  
To hear him speak, you'll wait the livelong day -  
A game that only fools would gladly play.  
A river would run northward in its course  
Before a sage man would dare to endorse  
The notion that a horse had aught to say.  
He would not even ask you for his hay.  
To make a horse speak - this you cannot force,  
Yet one man for his horse has made this claim:  
He speaks, and thus he gains renown and fame!  
He says this voice is not just in his head,  
But speaks as gently as a lord well-bred.  
But no horse speaks - all horses are the same -  
Unless the horse has Edward for a name.

If you're engaged in the kind of A&S that can be put on a page, please consider contributing to the White Birch.

Art, poetry, recipes ... all are fair game.

Written for the bardic competition at Calontir's Raid and Trade, 2010.

## Officers of the Shire



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**A&S Minister** – Robert the Unlucky (Bob Haavind)  
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**Web Minister/ Youth Minister** – Vitaliano Vincenzi (Shane Lambert)  
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**Chatelaine/45-minute Deputy Anything** – Bronislavá (Kirsta Skaff)  
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**Herald** – Amata Cromwell (Amy Schleter)  
Unofficial until her membership is renewed.

## Upcoming Events

July 7-10	Warriors & Warlords — (Boscobel WI)
August 12-14	Poor Mans Pennsic — Falcon's Keep (WI Rapids)
August 25-28	Ages of War — Silfren Mere (Charles City IA)
<b>September 10</b>	<b>Fall Coronation – Rokeclif</b>
October 1	Novices, Neophytes & Knaves – Turm an dem See
October 8	Crown Tournament -- Nordskogen
October 21-22	Griffin Needle Challenge – Jararvellir
November 12	SUN – Rudivale

This list is far from complete. It's mostly events nearby, or of particular importance. Consult [www.Northshield.org](http://www.Northshield.org) for a complete event schedule.

### DISCLAIMER

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### SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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