

The White Birch

The Newsletter of the Shire of Rokeclif

November XLV (2010)

Seneschal's Missive

This Shire is completely out of hand! We're planning events like we're a barony! Our deputy seneschal has been doing some serious research into sites for events, and has found some places that simply demand an event. Imagine an opportunity for performance — theatrical, musical, magical... The Muse Theatre in LaCrosse would be ideal. We should do a Kingdom event, perhaps at the Omni Center. Autumn Rose may well be getting a facelift. And I want us to do a SUN! ... and Bardic Madness... and

The gaming event is on the Northshield calendar for April 30. It's at the Knights of Columbus Hall out on Hiway 16. We'll be playing with games for the next few research & A&S nights, so we can help people learn.

Most officers have reports due on December 1. Please send me a copy.

Kudrun þe Glückshaus Champ



Next Meetings

Monday, November 1 — Research night — Persona play — LaCrosse Public Library

Monday, November 8 — A&S Night Supper at 5:30 — Lady Cybele's
3091 Michael Way, Holmen

Monday, November 15 — Populace Meeting — 6-9 PM — Skokke Towers

Date uncertain — A&S at the Train Station in LaCrosse (barbecue!)

Monday, December 20 — Populace Meeting

Upcoming Events

November 13	Stellar University of Northshield (SUN) — Nordskogen (Coon Rapids MN)
December 4	Boar's Head — Caer Anterth Mawr (West Bend WI)
January 15	Twelfth Night — Nordskogen (Bloomington MN)
January 29	It's only a flesh wound — Jararvellir (Jefferson WI)
February 5	That Moot Thingy — Coille Stoirmeil
February 26	Fighters School—Windhaven
April 2	Haire Affaire — Falcon's Keep
April 30	Games People Played — Rokeclif
May 7	Rumble in the Forest — Coille Stoirmeil

Minutes of the Populace Meeting

October 18, 2010 — Skokke Towers

Present: Alyssa, Bronislavá, Cybele, Vitaliano, Vettoria, Robert, Kudrun, Eugene

The meeting was called to order somehow.

OFFICER REPORTS

The **A&S** List was passed around. What subjects should we discuss at our next A&S nights? Games!

Chatelaine brought a new person to A&S Night. Chatelaine will be pushing us to become a barony so she can wear an exploding chicken dress. Talking with Marwen and Belle for ideas. (About membership, not dress. And it's the chicken that's exploding, not the dress. Get your mind out of the gutter!)

Equestrian is pretty much over for the season.

Chirurgion-elect needs a job.

Youth Minister was unable to attend the youth event.

Web Minister nothing new, but new information release forms will be needed by January 1.

Chronicler handed the White Birch to our only remaining dead-tree subscriber. The release forms will be needed for the Birch as well as for the website.

Seneschal — Upcoming events—see page 1.

GAMES EVENT

The “games” event was discussed in great detail. April 30 will go on the calendar (see the Northshield calendar for details). Knights of Columbus Hall on Hiway 16 costs @250. (\$125 now—Vitaliano will contact Maewyn.) It has good parking & accessibility, but we won't have room for outdoor activities. Space for 250 people, with tables & chairs for all. One big open room. Kitchen is an extra \$100.

We need to talk it up at events. Northwatch ad was discussed.

No whipped cream. None! Ballista the tail on the donkey? Lunch by Coille Stoirmeil? Hams in roaster with a mountain of macaroni? Dessert revel with dancing?

Site fee of \$8 will break even. \$7 for feast. It was authorized to purchase rubber mat squares that can be jigsawed together into a chessboard for human chess, a list field, and other uses.

BATTLE OF THE TROUPS

The Muse is a private theatre in a former church. It seats about 150 and has no classrooms, so it isn't ideal for Bardic Madness. It would be excellent for other performance arts, which have no other venue. We'll contact Jara Fools' Guild, new Nordskogen drama group, NS Choir... see who's interested in an event next fall. Friday rehearsals. Possible public performance? Dessert revel?

AUTUMN ROSE

Veterans Memorial Campground in LaCrosse County might be a good Autumn Rose site. We'll investigate. There are 4 shelters that rent for \$45 each. Hotels by Woodmans. Feast? Ages of War? Lots to think about but no answers.

CORONATION or CROWN

Omni Center in Onalaska might work. We'll investigate, perhaps for Spring 2012—The Coronation at the End of Time. They require a licensed caterer for feast. Rent tables and chairs individually, and a \$15/hour janitor has to be on hand. On the other hand, 339 people attended Spring Coronation, 202 Fall. Good attendance is guaranteed. The list field is frozen in fall, so only a spring event could be held at Omni Center.

Some locations won't work. Community Centers at \$25/hour. Motels (Best Western is \$800 for three rooms) Ditto the Radisson. We keep investigating.

QUOTE OF THE MEETING

“I'm rolling a date!” — Bronislavá

We quit meeting and fell to eating somewhere around 7:30. Great food!

A&S List September 2010

- Kudrun – Taught a class in heraldry for Rokeclif A&S night
- Made sawgeat for meeting
- Working on a herbal class.
- Article published in Northwatch
- Bronislava — led discussion of chivalry
- Made period lamb stew
- Gavin – Researching lace making
- Robert – Got mud flaps for armor
- Made copper shields for studded leather
- Vetтория — garb research
- Researching blackwork
- Vitaliano — Period cooking at A&S night
- Research for mini-quest for youth event

A&S List October 2010

- Bronislava — Presentation on SCA sumptuary customs/laws
- Led discussion of chivalry.
- Stuffed dates
- Cybele — Evaluated garb at Crown Tourney
- Wore a new Horde-trimmed outfit.
- Gavin — Made kumihimo arm bands
- Kudrun — Taught class at Novices... event.
- Continuing herbal research
- Found my chamomile page! (and other A&S projects hidden by the cat.)
- Robert — Work on armor
- Made Celtic cat design
- Vetтория — More garb research
- Color research
- Vitaliano — Games research
- Garb research

**Chivalry?
What an
excellent
subject for
conversation.**



AN EDITORIAL

The heart of the Society for Creative Anachronism is the activity done in the name of “Arts and Sciences”. I know that there are many would place fighting, or “the dream” or Pennsic or friends at the heart, but for me, it’s doing medieval stuff that is the most rewarding part of SCA play.

Of course, A&S covers a lot of ground. It includes everything that might have been done in period, from making and wearing clothing to smelting and smithing, to stargazing and agriculture. There was a time when “arts” and “sciences” were separated. The difference? If you drop it on your foot and your foot doesn’t break it’s “art”. (Or if you throw it at a window...) Some people specialize in one area, such as brewing or carpentry, others enjoy dabbling in many aspects of medieval life.

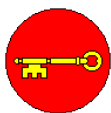
A&S may be done to any depth. Some people are satisfied stitching up a cotton T-tunic and adding some store-bought trim. Others research a period, raise sheep, spin wool, weave it, and stitch it up to be as close to a medieval product as it can be. They can discuss the merits of Z-weave and of linen thread until everyone else is asleep. (Most of us fall somewhere between these extremes.) There is something rewarding about reading a recipe in Middle English and turning it into a delicious dish, even if it’s done on an electric range rather than on a spit in a detached kitchen of the castle.

There is a side benefit in making period “stuff” in a period way. We have opportunities to learn about the real middle ages in a tangible as well as a theoretical way. We can experience the sounds, the smells, the flavors of the past in a way that no textbook can present. (No, not even the internet... yet.)

I encourage everyone interested in appreciating the middle ages to take up some craft, some science, some tangible expression of those times and learning from it.

Kudrun

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Herald – Amata Cromwell (Amy Schleeter)
 Unofficial until her membership is renewed.



If anyone was convinced by the editorial on page 3 to engage in SCA arts or sciences, they might enjoy the “A&S 50 Challenge” — a challenge to do 50 projects before the SCA’s 50th anniversary in 2015. The challenge may take one or more of the following shapes:

- ◆ Depth — to explore one discipline in greater depth (like the shepherd-seamster on page 3)
- ◆ Breadth — to try 50 different projects — trying out things you’ve never done before
- ◆ Persona — to create 50 objects that would have been used by your persona. This is like the breadth challenge, but it’s limited to the time and place of your persona.



You determine what you’d like to do with the challenge, and you decide if a given project “counts”.

Some 300 people have added their names and interests to the Known World database, and more than 500 people participate in the Yahoo group “AandS50ChallengeCommunity”.

The Northshield A&S Community has its own Yahoo group at “Northshield50Challenge”. We also gather at occasional events. It’s fun to see what people are doing to enhance their SCA experience.

More info? Check with Kudrun, who is almost halfway through.

DISCLAIMER

The White Birch is a publication of the Shire of Rokeclif of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate SCA policies.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

The White Birch is published monthly. It is available in paper form for a suggested donation of \$12 a year. You may mail a check made out to “SCA Wisconsin – Shire of Rokeclif” to Karyn Schmidt, PO Box 147, Ettrick WI 54627.