

From the Baron & Baroness

Greetings unto our wonderful Populace!

We can't believe it's October already and almost half way through the fall tourney season! The year is just flying by. Next thing you know, it'll be December and time for Yule Revel!

We want to thank all of the Stargaters who were able to join us at Raven's Fort, Bryn Gwlad, and Coronation in September. We enjoyed spending time with you all, seeing you fight, shoot archery, ride horses, serve feast, sit gate, or jump in when help was needed. We really appreciate how much each and every one of you contributes to the well-being of the Kingdom wherever you go. You folks are a big part of what makes the Barony of Stargate so great!

For those of you who were not able to travel in September - please know that we missed you and look forward to being able to visit with you in the months to come. We hope to see you at Populace, fighter practice, one of the guild meetings, an event, or Stargate Yule!

Speaking of upcoming events - here's where we will be in the next few weeks:

- 10/15 Legacy of Lions in Bjornsborg (in Seguin at the Outdoor Learning Center)
- 10/22 Queen's Champion Tourney in Hell's Gate (at Camp Mabry in Austin)
- 10/29 Seawinds Defender (at Aranama RV park in Goliad)
- 11/05 3 Kings/Middle Eastern Dance Championship in Rosenfeld (in Hawkins)
- 11/12 War of Ages in Ffynnon Gath/Seawinds (in Seguin at the Outdoor Learning Center)
- 11/19 Bordermarch Autumn Melees and Stargate Soup Kitchen!

We will be bringing the Baronial Pavilion to most of these events so that we all have a home base during the day. Please join us for setting it up, taking it down, and filling it with camaraderie all the time in between!

We look forward to seeing you all out and about!

Robert and Simone
Baron and Baroness of Stargate

Upcoming Events & Meetings:

- Oct. 1 Coronation/King's Champion (Burnet, TX)*
- Oct. 3 Business/Populace Meetings (7:00/7:45 pm @ Hope Episcopal Church)*
- Oct. 7-9 Lochtoberfest (Barony of Loch Soilleir, Camp Camwood, Hockley, TX)*
- Oct. 14-16 Legacy of Lions 35th Anniversary (Barony of Bjornsborg, Seguin, TX)*
- Oct. 22 Queen's Champion (Stronghold of Hellsgate, Killeen/Ft. Hood, TX)*
- Oct. 28-30 Seawinds Defender (Shire of Seawinds, Corpus Christi, TX)*
- Nov. 4-6 Battle of Three Kings / Kingdom Middle Eastern Dance (Shire of Rosenfeld, Tyler, TX)*
- Nov. 7 Business/Populace Meetings (7:00/7:45 pm @ Hope Episcopal Church)*
- Nov. 11-13 War of Ages:1429 (Shires of Ffynnon Gath & Seawinds, San Marcos/Corpus Christi, TX)*
- Nov. 17-20 Bordermarch Autumn Melees (B.A.M.) (Barony of Bordermarch, Beaumont, TX)*

Who are we?

The Barony of the Stargate is a local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA), within the Coastal Region subdivision of the Kingdom of Ansteorra. The SCA is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to learning more about the Middle Ages through reenactment. There are SCA chapters worldwide and they hold regular feasts, tournaments, balls and battles.

Ansteorra includes all of Oklahoma and most of Texas (except El Paso). Stargate includes most of greater Houston. Wherever you are, we're a friendly group of people, so why not visit us all?

We're on the Web at:

<http://www.stargate.ansteorra.org>

We're also on Facebook as Barony of Stargate.

Join our email list at:

<http://lists.ansteorra.org/listinfo.cgi/stargate-ansteorra.org>

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Hospitaler

HL Ciarnat
of Firethorn

Many fellow Stargaters are often approached by the public, sometimes during fighter practice, for contact and basic information concerning what SCA is all about. Please do not hesitate to e-mail me about this and I will be certain to place some SCA business cards and other literature in your hands for just such an opportunity.

Sadly, due to wildfires in the area, Gate's Edge had to cancel their event known as Bring Out Your Dead. They invited all those interested in meeting up with them to Meyer Park for a potluck and showed us some mighty interesting previews of what we can expect in the future when they can host the event. They have worked diligently, with foresight and talent, on this and my family is looking forward to enjoying that event some day. While at the potluck in the park, I set out a table of SCA literature and business cards and decorated the area with many banners to catch the eye of passersby. A man and his children came to the table asking what we are all about. He left smiling, after an interval whereby I shared what we do and placed in his hands the literature, business card, and back issues of *The Black Star*. A man and woman stopped at the table: they are former SCAers now participating in AMTGARD (we forgave them). Caitilin the Celt spoke at length with them, asking them to come back to the SCA.

Every time you meet up with someone who does not yet know about the SCA and they seem interested after you share with them more information, that is the time to give them a business card and invite them to an event or Populace meeting. Tell them to visit the Stargate web page and look it over. If they see something that really interests them, tell them to just show up at whatever it is and get involved. We have been fortunate to have had a number of the public attend a meeting or two and some that are returning SCAers that have just been away for a while and want to get back into it. Offer to carpool with newcomers to meetings, guild meetings and events. If carpooling is not your style, forming car caravans are helpful, too. The SCA Census report data revealed that a large number of persons that responded to the Census questions became involved with the SCA because someone told them about it and invited them to participate.

We have a well-stocked collection of clean loaner garb, for men, women, and children, in assorted sizes for all. Please let any and all newcomers or guests you've invited to events know it is available for their use and to contact me about it. The loaner garb racks will be at Stargate's Baronial and Yule events.

Tell everyone you know, in local and distant SCA groups, the mighty and generous Barony of Stargate will be providing a hospitality tent at Bordermarch Autumn Melees (BAM), near the fighting fields. We will be serving a variety of hot, flavorful soups, hot beverages like tea and cocoa, cornbread and dessert. All this bounty is free for everyone to partake of. One year, BAM had serious cold and drizzling weather; the soups really warmed body and soul on that afternoon.

Everyone is a hospitaler at heart!



MoAS

Lady Isolde
die Waeyer

Since the weather has decided to cooperate, Arts in the Park is back! We will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays beginning at 10:00 am (in other words, at the same time as the armored combat and rapier fighter practices) in Memorial Park. Artisans are encouraged to come work on their projects while enjoying the company of fellow members of the barony. There are picnic tables in the park, but bringing a chair is never a bad idea. Ideal projects are those that are easily portable, easily contained and not likely to suffer any damage from spending time out of doors. Hand-sewing, embroidery, weaving, beading and other similar projects tend to work great, but C&I work; cooking and dyeing are generally not as well suited.

Also, bards are welcome in the park, whether you'd like to practice a new piece for an audience, or just keep us entertained while we work. Since the park is a public space and quite busy on the weekends, please be prepared to chat with any non-SCAdians who wander over to ask questions.

This month is full of opportunities for artisans to display their work and enter into competition with others throughout the kingdom. This Saturday, October 8, Their Excellencies Cael and Rhiannon will choose the titled artisan of Loch Soilleir at Lochtoberfest III. On October 15, Bjornsborg will be hosting their Legacy of the Lion event, which will include a themed A&S contest. Also on October 15, Loch Ruadh will be holding an A&S competition at their Fall Brawl event to select their new A&S champion. On October 29, both Seawinds and Eldern Hills will select their new champions as well.

On that note, it is my pleasure to announce that Their Sentinel Excellencies will once again choose a new A&S champion for the barony at our Yule event, which is scheduled for December 3. Look for more details soon here and on the email list!

From the Officers (continued)



Rapier Marshall

Lord Collwyn
O'Snowdon

September rapier practice was hit and miss. The first practice on Sept. 11 had six fighters; the second practice on Sept. 25 had one, but we were up against Bryn Gwlad's event so I wasn't expecting much of a turn-out.

October practices will be on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. I will not be able to attend the first practice on Oct. 9, as I have a previous engagement. But the practice will still happen, as His Excellency Baron Robert will be present so we are covered. The second practice on Oct. 23 is up against Queen's Champion the previous day, so I will be gauging interest as it gets closer.

We will continue to hold practice in Memorial Park at 10:00 am, though we will be reviewing a time change ... well, when the time changes (when we switch from DST to normal time, or however that works).

Also, upon review of our loaner gear, I find I am on the look-out for gorget, so if you have an old one that you wish to donate please contact me. In the meantime, I will try my hand at making one out of leather. I also had a volunteer at populace who is willing to try his hand at making one also, but I afraid I didn't get his name.

Please feel free to contact me at rapier@stargate.ansterora.org or 832-429-5338 if you have any questions about rapier combat in Stargate. Loaner gear for practices is available upon request.



Knight Marshall

Lord Æringr (Orin)
Ketilsson

As many of you know, but perhaps not all, I am your new Knight's Marshal. I have been a fighter for 20 years this year. I have been KM in multiple shires and a barony and feel up to the task. I am looking forward to seeing you all at practice. I also have a deputy in place already, in the form of an old-school squire by the name of Leif. He will run practice when I can't.

On that note: practices are happening! We are at Memorial Park on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Practice starts at 10:00 am and goes until we get too tired to fight or people have to leave for other engagements. There is loaner gear available, mostly. There is no shield, and there are no weapons, but there is armor. There are several new fighters coming out, and several who have expressed interest in combat archery. So if you're an old fighter getting back in the game, or you've always been curious, come out and give it a shot.

As the weather cools many fighters find themselves sweating less, or not realizing how much they're sweating because it is evaporating. Do not be fooled by this! Fighter should still consume plenty of water before, during, and after fighting. Just because you're cooler on the outside doesn't mean your body isn't burning up on the inside; keep it hydrated.

As fall approaches, we tend to wear more clothing on the outside and disregard a base-layer of some kind. It's always best to have a fabric against the skin to act as a wicking agent, to carry the sweat away from the skin. On that note, don't wear cotton. Cotton holds sweat, gets cold, and drops the body's core temperature. There are many synthetics that make a great base-layer. A lot of fighters wear Under Armour®, which is a great idea, but you don't have to; as long as you have a base-layer on that isn't cotton, you should be fine.

Please feel free to contact me at marshal@stargate.ansterora.org or 972-820-1586 if you have any questions about armored combat in Stargate.



Exchequer

Baroness Genevieve
McCullum de Caen

It is with mixed feelings I announce that the position of Stargate Exchequer is now open due to my accepting the position of Deputy Treasurer for Gulf Wars XXI. Applications will be accepted until November 7, 2011.

Being the barony's Exchequer is a fun and exciting way to serve the barony! It doesn't take as much time and training as you would think. The forms furnished by the kingdom and corporate are easy to follow (I finished August's report in about 10 minutes) and due to the excellent job done by our previous exchequers, the records are in great shape and have many of the answers to questions you may have. Also, our previous exchequers are available and generous with help and hints to make the job even easier.

I have greatly enjoyed serving the barony in this way and you can, too! If you are interested please send an application (forms can be found on the kingdom website at <http://seneschal.ansterora.org/forms/ApplicationJan08.pdf>) to the Seneschal, the Baron and Baroness, the Coastal Treasurer and the Baronial Exchequer's office.

Detailed information about the office of local exchequer, including the requirements for holding office and duties and responsibilities, can be found at <http://treasurer.ansterora.org/files/policies/LocalExchequerHandbook.pdf>.

Meetings

Business & Populace Meetings

The Business meeting is the first Monday of each month from 7:00 - 7:45 pm. The meeting is open to the populace. It is followed immediately by the Populace meeting from 7:45 - 9:00 pm. Both meetings are held at Hope Episcopal Church (formally St. Michael's Episcopal Church) at 1613 W. 43rd Street, Houston, TX 77018. If the first Monday of a month is a public holiday, meetings will be held the second Monday. Garb is optional. For more information contact the Stargate Seneschal, Lady Nicolet Deuville at seneschal@stargate.ansteorra.org.

Newcomer's Meetings

Newcomer's meetings provide information about local activities, how the SCA functions, and what you can do to participate in the fun. To get more information and meeting dates, contact Stargate's Hospitaler, HL Ciarnat of Firethorn, at 281-693-6441, or send an email to hospitalier@stargate.ansteorra.org.

Practices—Martial Activities

Equestrian Guild—ON HIATUS

The Equestrian Guild is open to all those are interested in learning about the SCA's equestrian games and competitions and the making of garb and gear for riding in events. You do not need to have your own horse, as we have some that we are willing to share. All participants must have closed-toe footwear; heel is suggested but not required. Minors age 10 and up can participate with a parent present, signed waiver, approved helmet, and closed-toe shoes or boots. For more information, please contact the Stargate Seneschal, Lady Nicolet Deuville at seneschal@stargate.ansteorra.org.

Stargate Practice in the Park—2nd & 4th Sundays

There will be both Chivalric and Rapier practice in Memorial Park on October 9 and 23, 2011, from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. Loaner armor/gear is available upon request. For more information, please contact the Knight Marshal, Lord Eringr (Orin) Ketilsson, at marshal@stargate.ansteorra.org or the Rapier Marshall, Lord Collwyn O'Snowdon, at casualgeek@gmail.com.

Stargate / Loch Soilleir Armored Combat & Rapier Practice

The chivalric fighters from the greater Stargate/Loch Soilleir area have joined the rapier fighters at Centennial Park in Pearland for armored combat practice every Tuesday night from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Loaner armor/gear is available upon request. Additional/alternate practice opportunities may be arranged upon request. For more information, please contact the Knight Marshal, Lord Eringr (Orin) Ketilsson, at marshal@stargate.ansteorra.org or the Rapier Marshall, Lord Collwyn O'Snowdon, at casualgeek@gmail.com.

Gate's Edge Armored Combat Practice — 1st & 3rd Sundays

The Shire of Gate's Edge holds armored combat practice on the first and third Sundays of every month at Meyer Park in Spring, TX. The fighters will be on the south side of the park just to the right (west) of the entrance between the parking area and Cypresswood Drive. Meyer Park is located at 7700 Cypresswood Drive, Spring, Texas 77379. For more information, please see the Gate's Edge website and calendar at <http://gates-edge.ansteorra.org/>.

Stargate Siege Guild

The Stargate Siege Guild is for those interested in the art and science of tossing objects. If you are interested in siege weapons and their use in the SCA, contact Stargate's Seneschal, Lady Nicolet Deuville, at senschal@stargate.ansteorra.org.

Youth Rapier Practice

Please contact the Seneschal, Lady Nicolet Deuville, at stargate@stargate.ansteorra.org for more information.

Practices—Performance Arts

Aleasar

Aleasar is a multi-group SCA Middle Eastern drumming and dancing guild for the Greater Houston Area. We have members from Stargate, Loch Soilleir, Gate's Edge, and Raven's Fort. Drummers, musicians, and dancers of all skill levels are welcome, as always. For more information, please contact Dietrich Strobelbart by email at dietrich.strobelbart@yahoo.com or call him at 281-731-7726 (phone calls between 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm only).

Aleasar will have only one Practice in August, on the 18th at 7pm, at Antonello's house.

We are looking forward to hosting Hafas at Gates Edge's Fall Event, Lochtoberfest, and Bordermarch Autumn Melees. All three Hafas will include refreshments for the performers. It has been rumored that there will be small tokens of appreciation for the performers distributed as warranted. On-lookers and performers are invited to bring small items of largess to reward those you deem worthy! Drummers and Dancers of all levels of experience are welcome! All Middle Eastern musicians are welcome to bring any and all of your instruments! Dancers are encouraged to bring and use Zills and any other items you may enjoy using to enhance your performance. All three Hafas are scheduled to be held under canvas pavilions. We will NOT be using the metal pavilion at Camp Camwood.

Middle Eastern Dance Guild

The Middle Eastern Dance guild meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month at the Ballam Belly Dance Studio, located in the adjunct building behind Grace United Methodist Church, at 1245 Heights Blvd. in Houston. No prior belly dance experience is necessary, nor is garb. If you get lost, call Lady Gwenfrewi ferch yr Albanwer, at 832-875-8013.

Workshops

Armoring Workshops

Tools and armor-making advice available at Vaclav's house on Thursdays, from 8:00 pm until 11:00 pm. Please call ahead for directions and to be sure we haven't cancelled. Contact Lady Nicolet Deuville at seneschal@stargate.ansteorra.org.

Fourth Sunday Arts — ON HIATUS

Fourth Sunday Arts is currently on hiatus while we look for a new site. For more information, contact the Minister of Arts and Sciences, Lady Isolde die Waeyer, at moas@stargate.ansteorra.org.

Scribes Guild

The Stargate Scribes Guild members learn the ancient and beautiful arts of calligraphy and illumination, as well as provide a service to the Barony and the Kingdom by creating award scrolls. Usually the guild meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month from 5:30 pm until 8:00 pm. Location: Central Market Community Room, 3815 Westheimer, Houston, TX 77027 (Westheimer near Wesleyan, inside Loop 610). Food and drink is available in the deli; outside food may not be brought in. For further information and to verify dates of meetings, please contact Mistress Hillary Greenslade at 281-855-9447 or hillaryrg@yahoo.com.

Woodworking Guild

The newest guild in Stargate met for the first time on Saturday, September 24, at the home of Thomas atte Woode to make knock-down benches (benches that are easily assembled and disassembled for packing and travel). For more information, contact Thomas atte Woode at attewoode@gmail.com.

October 2011

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|-----|--|-----|---|
| | | | | | | 1 Coronation / King's Champion |
| 2 Gate's Edge Armored Combat Practice 3:00 pm Stargate Scribes Guild 5:30 pm | 3 Business/Populace Mtgs. 7:00/7:45 pm Coffee & dessert @ IHOP (after meeting) | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Loch Soilleir Lochtoberfest |
| 9 Practice in the Park (Chivalric & Rapier) 10:00 am to 3:00 pm | 10 | 11 Stargate/Loch Soilleir Chivalric & Rapier Practice 7:30 pm | 12 | 13 West Houston Lunch Bunch 11:30 am | 14 | 15 Bjornsborg Legacy of Lions |
| 16 Gate's Edge Armored Combat Practice 3:00 pm Stargate Scribes Guild 5:30 pm | 17 | 18 Stargate/Loch Soilleir Chivalric & Rapier Practice 7:30 pm | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 Queen's Champion/ Queen's Hope |
| 23 Practice in the Park (Chivalric & Rapier) 10:00 am to 3:00 pm | 24 | 25 Stargate/Loch Soilleir Chivalric & Rapier Practice 7:30 pm | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 Seawinds Defender |
| 30 | 31 | Stargate/Loch Soilleir Chivalric & Rapier Practice 7:30 pm | | | | |

- Oct. 3—Stargate Business/Populace Meetings, 7:00 pm for Business, 7:45 pm for Populace, at Hope Episcopal Church, 1613 W. 43rd St., Houston, TX 77018
- Oct. 3—Coffee & Dessert after Populace Meeting, at IHOP, 13388 Northwest Fwy (just west of Hollister)
- Every Tuesday night—Stargate/Loch Soilleir Chivalric & Rapier Practice, 7:30 pm, at Centennial Park, 3219 McLean Rd., Pearland, TX 77584
- Oct. 2 & 16—Stargate Scribes Guild, 5:30 pm, at Central Market Community Room, 3815 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX 77027
- Oct. 9 & 23—Practice in the Park, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Memorial Park, Houston, TX