

The Bard's Banner

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This publication shall recognize those that submit articles, photos, etc. You won't be paid for your submission, but you will have the thanks of myself and our readers.

If you find you need to contact me over something herein, please send an email to: kjc3mill@telus.net

Lastly, this publication is meant for the enjoyment of all; share it amongst yourselves and your friends. At the end of the day, if I've made someone smile, I've done my job.

-Piers Lakewood (Kevin Miller)

Welcome!



Well, here we are again, my learned readers, gathered together for another edition of the Bard's Banner. Number 4, to be precise, which marks a year's worth of happenings in the lands of Tir Bannog and our neighbors.

Our travels have taken us far since spring, from the northern peaks of Cae Mor to the eastern lands of Borealis, and a few stops in between. My Lady and I attended our first Winter War this year, then joined the caravans to the Penguin Crusade, and finally journeyed to Cold Keep to take part in their tournament of Champions. All in all, it was a busy three months.

In addition, the erudite Wlfryd of Leedes brings us coverage of Cae Mor's SCA Day, held in June at Mt. Elizabeth Secondary School. Photos of the event were kindly taken by Sally Sousa. Also a thank you to Lady Medb for the photographs that grace the article on Cold Keep's May Champions event.

As ever, if you wish to include something of interest in this, our newsletter, please feel free to contact me at kjc3mill@telus.net

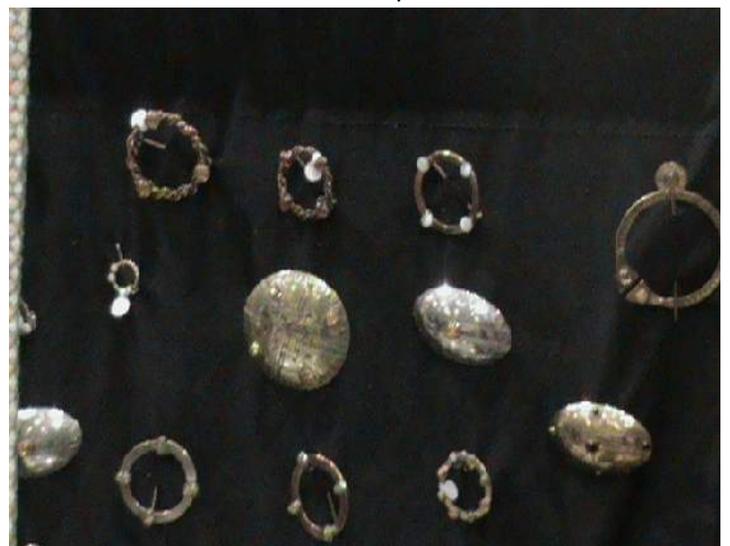
-Piers Lakewood, Editor

Winter War!

In the midst of April Lady Alys and myself arranged care for our hounds, packed the carriage, harnessed up the horses and set off to the eastern lands of Borealis. For years we had heard that the Winter War held there was an event not to be missed, and we finally made time for ourselves to go.

So it was that on the 16th day of April we set forth to travel over the treacherous mountain passes that led to the lands of Avacal, and Winter War. The day itself seemed made for travel; not terribly warm or cold, and the sun enough to enjoy but not too bright to be dazzled by. We took a few breaks along the way, stopped to visit some kinfolk, and it was nearing midnight when we pulled into the inn where we had made previous arrangements to stay. A few minutes to complete the paperwork and make sure the horses were cared for, and Lady Alys and I retired to our room for some needed sleep.

The next morning we awoke early, gathered our fighting gear, and headed out through the town to the site where Winter War was to be held. After signing in we found ourselves in Merchant's Row, idly looking at the wonderful crafts and items on display. Everything from clothing to books, weaponry, furs and jewelry were available to barter for or purchase.



(some of the fine jewelry on display in Merchant's Row)

Searching through the crowds we found our two compatriots who had arrived the night before, Liam and Faelan. After getting an update from them, we followed Liam in his trails as he renewed old acquaintances and introduced us to more rapier fighters than we could hope to remember!

After watching a short cut & thrust demo, the Rapier fighters geared up and passed through the netting that protected the merchants and the bystanders from the combatants, ready for war. Inspections done with, and the two sides separated (Borealis and the "Rest of the World"), the MIC informed us of the War's format: 5 scenarios, to be fought twice, with the side winning the majority of them earning the War Point for their side.

From bridge battling to out and out Regicide, all five scenarios were fought with dedication, chivalry and honour. In the end, though, the big guns (literally!) of Borealis and the slight advantage in numbers took their toll on the World, and Borealis took the home field advantage and the War Point from Rapier.



(HL Faelan (center) salutes his opponents)

After war, we cleared away our equipment and sat back to watch the Heavies take to the field. Faelan had travelled even farther than us (from the remoteness of Cae Mor), and now was his chance to fight for honour and glory (whilst we cheered him on!).

The Heavies also fought their way through a set of progressive scenarios to determine the winner of the coveted War Point. However, despite the efforts of both sides, this portion of the War ended up a draw.



(Both sides cautiously advance across the indoor field...)



(Outnumbered, the Rest of the World try to stand firm.)



(The World's front line defends their archery crews)

With the War being finished for the day a few of us set out to grab ourselves a meal (it being long past the midday). We found a cozy eatery and proceeded to relax and unwind from the rigors of combat.



(from the left: Castra, Tomas, Liam and Piers, off to find lunch...)

After finishing lunch, the rest of "the crew" sauntered back to the war site, while Alys and I made our way back to the inn (but not before milady had made a purchase or two from the merchants) to freshen up and relax a bit before Court.

Saturday evening the group of us clustered around a small table near the back of the hall as Court was brought into session. We listened politely as awards were given out, largesse was presented, and thank yous were made to those who helped run this event. Finally, Court came around to that which held all of our interest: the War Points. As recounted earlier, the Rapier War had gone Borealis' way, and the Heavy War resolved nothing. As the other points were tallied out it became clear that for the first time ever, Winter War was a Tie!

We stayed around and visited after Court was finished, sharing in stories and laughter until the night grew late. Then it was off to our inn again to find some sleep before heading out the next morning...

Sunday morning we stopped by the hall one last time, to say our goodbyes and gather up Castra. We made room for her stowage, climbed aboard our carriage one

more and left for home. As a side note to our travels, on our way through the mountain passes we were stopped for a time by an avalanche, a reminder from Mother Nature that while we were done with Winter War, Winter itself was not quite done warring with us!

Fortunately, the pass was cleared in a few hours time (we were only stopped for a quarter of that) and we were able to drop Castra off at home, and wend our weary way towards Tir Bannog and Lakewood Manor. We arrived the following day, road weary, elated to be home, but filled with many great memories of the battles and the wonderfully friendly people at Winter War, and made a note then and there to set out that way again next year...

Penguin Crusade!



(The penguins, "with spears," on the march. Photo by Lady Medb)

Not two weeks after arriving home from Winter War, our gear was packed and we were venturing forth to join the caravan of travelers heading north then southwest to Cae Mor, and their annual Penguin Crusade!

We left the afternoon of April 30th, and made good speed in getting to Cae Mor. Having settled into our room, we ventured out to the Tavern to visit with old friends and share a few tales of past exploits. The night passed swiftly and the drink flowed merrily until the rigors of the day's travels finally hit Alys and I, and we said our goodbyes and went off in search of a good night's sleep.



(Lady Alys teaching His Highness how to make Stained Glass. Photo by Lady Medb)

Saturdays at Penguin Crusade are traditionally built around classes and learning, and this Saturday was no different. From Stained Glass to Embellishment, Arabic and Irish Drumming, Dancing and Medieval Medicine, there was something for everyone on Saturday. Nor were the fighting arts neglected, with His Highness, Prince Ieuan teaching a Heavy Fighting class, and HL Tawl instructing on the art of Thrown Weapons.

As the last arrow was fired, and the final points tallied, Lord Madyn let all know that the winner would be announced at Court that evening, after the Feast.



("sigh... OK, can we try to shoot the arrows point first this time?")

After finally finishing up her Stained Glass class, Lady Alys and I had just enough time to head back to the Inn to get changed into our Court clothing, and race forth once again to the Crusade site. We found a comfortable place to sit, and sat back to enjoy some good food and good company.



(HL Faelan takes aim at the target, under the guidance of HL Tawl)

Once the courses wound down (except for Stained Glass, which kept growing!) last year's Archery Champion, Lord Madyn, gathered together this year's challengers and headed to the fields for the Archery Tournament. The contenders had to deal with various targets and strong winds, but all of them were game.

Once again Her Ladyship Rhiannon and her kitchen staff put on a delectable meal, complete with "penguins" on toothpicks to finish off the feast!

As the feast wound down, Their Highnesses Prince Ieuan and Princess Gwyneth came forward to hold Court. They gave thanks to those who came to teach (with a special mention to Lady Alys for her Stained Glass course), those who cooked the meal and those who stepped forward to help run the Crusade. Lord Madyn came before the Court to announce the newest Archery Champion of Cae Mor: Lord Finn Mac Lir. But the highlight of the evening for all was seeing Olwen of Llywell called up to receive her Award of Arms. Never was a more heartfelt cheer heard from those gathered!

After the last bit of "extra business" was dealt with, Court ended and everyone started to gather their things to get some rest for Sunday's Tournaments.



(Olwen receiving her AoA to great joy amongst the populace. Photo by Lady Medb)

Sunday morning found us gathering in the gymnasium to get ready for the Heavy and Rapier Championships. Six fighters entered each Tourney, with representation from Cold Keep, Tir Bannog and Cae Mor.



(Two of the heavy hopefuls in not-quite mortal combat. Photo by Lady Medb)



(the soon to be Rapier Champion sizes up his next opponent. Photo by Lady Medb)

Due to time constraints, both Tournaments had less time than we would have liked (isn't that always the case though?), but there was still plenty of action and skill filled combats in the erics. In the Heavy Tournament, Viking fjal Eiriksson crushed the competition to become the Heavy Champion of Cae Mor. Across the field, HL Liam Dughlus took on all comers in both Bear Pits, then defeated HL Josephine to claim the title of Rapier Champion of Cae Mor.

The fighting over, it was once again time for the inevitable packing of gear, the sorrowful goodbyes and the promises of meeting next year in the same place to gather and share companionship and stories again. With that, Lady Alys and I bid adieu to the good people of Cae Mor, and lit out for home.

Cold Keep May Champions

(Note: all photos in this article courtesy of Lady Medb)

With just enough time to clean our garb and repack, the Lakewoods were back on the road, south this time, to take part in Cold Keep's Championships. We arrived at the site shortly after the doors opened to see if help was needed in getting things ready, and to give Alys time to set up the tables for the A&S competitions.

While the Archery Tournament got underway off-site, more and more people started to arrive at the Church, and promptly set about touching base with old friends, ferrying food to the kitchen for the pot luck feast that night, or getting ready for the other tourneys.

Those who were entering the A&S competitions laid out their work(s) on the tables provided for all to see and admire. The fighters made sure their gear and weapons were ready for inspection for the afternoon.

After lunch, those involved in the Rapier Tournament proceeded to sign up to the Lists, gather their fighting gear and offer themselves up to the Marshals for inspection. Last year's Champion, Ramirez, used a round robin to determine positioning, followed by

single elimination bouts. At the end of the combat, Lady Celeste St.-Cyr stood above the fallen form of Lady Alys Lakewood, and was thereby proclaimed the new Rapier Champion of Cold Keep.



(“Honey?” Ye humble editor learns why it's sometimes not safe to play with swords!)

As the Rapier Championship was winding down, the Heavy fighters were just armouring up and presenting themselves for inspection before their chance to shine and impress the crowd.



(HL Faelan and Alisdair clash)

Again, a small but stalwart field stepped forward for the chance to represent Cold Keep in the coming year. All fighters were challenged well by the format (off hand fighting being but one of the twists involved), and as the dust settled around the final fallen fighter, Lord Bartholamus Helsmlay claimed the regalia as the 2010 Heavy Champion for Cold Keep.



(Lord Bartholamus, far right, stands ready to face the next challenger while the Marshals look on)

After the Heavy Tournament, the judges of the A&S competition got to work judging the various entries. This did not take too long as there was only one true entry into the Championship, the rest being entered into the fun competition. Nonetheless, HL Markus Pheilsmid's beautiful work on a bow holster for a Vazul Horsebow earned him the title of A&S Champion of Cold Keep (and rumour has it he has already put forth a challenge to the people of Cold Keep, Tir Bannog and Cae Mor to enter next year!).

At six o'clock the main hall was quickly rearranged to seat all attending, and the Pot Luck Feast was served. The food was wonderful and the visiting great fun; there was even some entertainment in the form of a polite food fight. Just after the feasting was over and the dishes done, the winners of the Championships were officially announced, with the only real surprise for most of the crowd being the winner of the Archery Tourney (remember them?), Marinius, who became this year's Archery Champion of Cold Keep. Congrats to the four winners!



(local supporters of the Whitecaps pose for a photo)

Once the announcements and the Dessert Auction were finished, Lady Medb offered to teach a Dance class for all who were interested. Alas, we still had a two and a half hour ride back home, so Alys and I had to respectfully decline the invitation... perhaps next time. So for the third time in just under two months it was time for goodbyes, hugs and promises to see one another soon, and we made our weary way home.

Cae Mor's SCA Day

By Wlfryd of Leedes; photos by Sally Sousa

Members of the Shires of Tir Bannog and Cae Mor met at Mount Elizabeth Secondary School on Friday May 21 to celebrate SCA Day with grade 8 Social Studies students. SCA Day is a twice annual event at the high school and allows students to enhance learning with a hands-on approach to medieval history. We had hoped to set up the tent village outside the cafeteria but with the rain of the previous days the ground was too soggy to sustain heavy foot traffic and we preferred to stay dry in the cafeteria.

There were seven stations set up for the students to circulate through including Arms and Armour, Games, Fashions, Pewter Casting, Music, Spinning and Weaving, and Tatting. We had numerous adult members and a few youth members at the stations and were happy to engage students in conversation

regarding our persona, medieval history, or the station they were visiting. Most students enjoyed the opportunity to get out of regular classes and do something that did not have homework.



(HL Rhiannon displays some of her work for the students)

Students were issued a passport, which had each of the stations listed on one side, and a questionnaire on the SCA on the other side. After listening to the presentation at the stations students were given an opportunity to ask questions. Many times we were able to clarify common misconceptions or enhance learning in a hands-on fashion - even if my definition of serf and peasant are different from Rhiannon's. Students collected stamps for their passport at each station and tried to fill out the questionnaire before time ran out and they had to move on to the next station.



(Wlfryd of Leedes' device done in chainmail)

The real truth of the matter for the presentations is not to necessarily improve education (although it does do that) but, to get the school free for the next Penguin Crusade. You see if we do two presentations a year, one each semester, we can use the school at no charge, except custodial (\$160). So each year we put together a team of presenters and trudge off to the high school in Kitimat to work with grade 8 students for a day.

This has also produced some interesting benefits over the years. At one time our youth membership in Cae Mor outnumbered our adult membership because of the number of students enrolled in the SCA Club at Mt. Elizabeth.

A good day was had by all. We were cleaned up and away in a very short time after our last class. Thanks again to all of the presenters for a job well done.

Upcoming Events

Burning Man Social: September 11th, Boar Mountain Hold (Burns Lake, BC)

Autumn Celebration: September 18-19th, Cold Keep (Prince George, BC)



(Keep Cool! Burning Man will be back soon!)



(HL Faelan showing the students a selection of armour and weaponry, both functional and display items)

