

The Scarlet Letter

Shire of Loch Ruadh



July/August
(A.S. XLIII) (C.E. 2009)

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Subscription and Submission Information

The Scarlet Letter is a bi-monthly publication available free online at www.lochruadh.org. Printed copies will be available free of charge at populace meetings. Please let the Chronicler know if you want a printed copy so there will be enough available. If you would like a printed copy mailed to you, you must pay for postage. Postage is 0.41 x number of issues left in the calendar year.

Submissions must include a written statement (email is fine) stating that permission is granted to publish in electronic and print format the article, photograph, poem, artwork, etc.

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Loch Ruadh Web Page:

www.lochruadh.org

Note: All Loch Ruadh meetings, practices, and gatherings are posted on the Loch Ruadh online calendar at www.lochruadh.org, and reminders are sent out on the the Loch Ruadh email list.

The email list is maintained on the Kingdom of Ansteorra web server and can be accessed at www.ansteorra.org. Both of these contain address information with online map links for directions. If you don't have computer or email access, please contact the Seneschal or any other Officer for directions.

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Incoming Seneschal

Greetings unto the Populace!

First, I want to sing the praises of our outgoing Seneschal, Lady Brighid. Being Seneschal is never easy, often times is not fun at all, and can seem like the Red Queen's Race – you have to run as fast as you can just to stay in the same place. Loch Ruadh has been through some difficult times over the past couple of years, but Brighid has been there through thick and thin (and motorcycle accident, with the able and indispensable assistance of Aingeal), kept us on the path even when we've baulked at moving forward, and deserves a great deal of the credit for keeping the Shire vital and alive. It is simpler to be in the hot seat when a group is dynamic and growing, and to take the credit when things are going smoothly. It is much more difficult to be the one with the responsibility when a group is going through a transitional stage, with few new members, and many in the group (and I confess to being one of them) distracted by mundane concerns. Yet Brighid met the challenge with grace, strength, and a tremendous amount of commitment to our SCA family that we call Loch Ruadh, and helped us to remember that we are Loch Ruadh because we want to be, not because we have to be. I say a heartfelt thanks and hearty Vivat! Vivat! Vivat! for her job as Seneschal.

Next, to the other two Shire members who bid for the office of Seneschal, Honorable Lady Aingeal and Lady Catherine, who have consented to be my deputies, I also owe thanks. Both of our dear sisters have great skills, enthusiasm, a wealth of wonderful ideas, and a desire to see Loch Ruadh grow and prosper, and I expect to see both of them occupy this office in the future (though obviously not at the same time). It speaks well of each of them, and of the Shire, that they are willing to volunteer to take on the responsibilities of Seneschal.

I have a number of ideas which I am anxious to put before the Populace for consideration that I believe will help keep us on our upward path, and will be presenting them to you at Populace Meetings in the near future. And, as Brighid has done, I will be seeking input from the Populace about what we need to be doing and where we are headed as a group. Loch Ruadh is all of us, not just the Seneschal, or the Officers, or any individual or group within the Shire, and everyone's contributions are essential to our well being. Remember that, although

we often put as much or even more effort into the SCA as we do into our mundane jobs, our primary purpose should be to have fun and be with our friends.

Please don't hesitate to speak with me in person, call me or email me with any ideas, questions or concerns that you have about the Shire. I only ask that you don't call later than 10pm except in dire, end-of-the-world emergency, as I'm officially a senior citizen now and need my sleep (except at events.)

I look forward to serving the Shire of Loch Ruadh as your Seneschal.

Padraig Ruad O'Maolagain



Archery

Greetings from the Loch Ruadh Airborne Group.

The arrows are still flying. We are averaging eight to ten people.

Come shoot with us on the fifth and nineteenth of this month.

Gruffydd, Loch Ruadh





Chamberlain

Greetings,

We have more stuff!! Castle sheet walls have been added to the inventory thanks to the generous donation from William and Cassandra Pelfray and books have been added to the Library thanks to the generous donations from William and Cassandra Pelfray, Thomas the Grey and Catrin ferch Reis Of.

Please contact me if you need to pick up or return any Shire equipment from the shed. I will be happy to make arrangements with you.

The storage shed and some of our equipment really need a good cleaning. I would like to schedule a day for this but the weather really determines when we can accomplish this task. So I'm asking "if you can donate an hour or two and the weather conditions are favorable with you" let me know and I will be at the storage shed to help you. I am open to a better plan if someone can come up with one.

Thanks to everyone for their continuing support.

In service,
Dana Mac an Ghabhann
"Keeper of the Shire Stuff"

Exchequer

Greetings from your Treasurer,

Just want to say thank you for such quiet month. It has allowed me to be lazy and happy since we have spent no money.

Keep up the good work, I appreciate it!

Bicé

Chronicler

Greetings!

Fall event season is almost upon us! During your travels, be sure to take lots of pictures and write down lots of stories to share with the populace of our great shire.

Submissions will be due for the next issue on August 20.

In Service,

Floria



Resources for Building With Cob

by Lord Thomas the Grey

I've been building an earthen oven in my back yard for baking bread and pizza. Despite the mundane life making progress slow, I have really enjoyed this project. I thought I would share with you some of the resources I've found while reading about this fascinating and ancient building technique.

Cob is a mixture of clay soil, sand and straw. When compressed into a shape and dried, it makes a long lasting and strong building material. You may have heard of a related building technique called wattle and daub. This is basically the same material, but you daub it onto a weave of small sticks called wattle, which are held in a timber frame. These structures usually had a lime plaster coating for durability. The resulting structures are beautiful and period.

Here is a list of books that I either have read or am looking forward to reading on the subject.

Glorious Mud!: Ancient and Contemporary Earthen Design and Construction in North Africa, Western Europe, the Near East, and Southwest Asia
by Gus Van Beek, Ora Van Beek

Building With Cob: A Step-by-step Guide
by Adam Weismann (Author), Katy Bryce

The Cob Builders Handbook: You Can Hand-Sculpt Your Own Home
by Becky Bee

Build Your Own Earth Oven, 3rd Edition: A Low-Cost Wood-Fired Mud Oven; Simple Sourdough Bread; Perfect Loaves
by Kiko Denzer, Hannah Field

The Bread Builders: Hearth Loaves and Masonry Ovens
by Daniel Wing, Alan Scott

Here is a short list of web sites on the subject.

www.cobcottage.com

www.cobprojects.info

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cob_\(building\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cob_(building))



Kingdom Calendar

July

- 3-5 Open
- 10-12 Ansteorran 30th Year Celebration and Crown Tournament - Kingdom (Canton, TX) Note: Event begins on Thursday
- 17-19 King's Round Table - TBD
- 24-26 Westgate Winter Collegium - Westgate (Houston, TX)
Out of Kingdom: Pennsic XXXVIII
- 31-2 Out of Kingdom: Pennsic XXXVIII



August

- 7-9 Out of Kingdom: Pennsic XXXVIII
- 14-16 Steppes Artisan - Steppes (Dallas, TX)
- 21-23 Open
- 28-30 Jagermeister - Ffynnon Gath (San Marcos, TX)

September

- 4-6 Gothic War XVIII - Multigroup Event (Lubbock/San Angelo)
- 11-13 Laurel's Prize Tourney - Seawinds (Corpus Christi, TX)
Grand Assembly of Archers - Multigroup Event (Norman/Oklahoma City, OK)
- 18-20 Defender of the Fort - Raven's Fort (Huntsville, TX)
Triumph of the Eclipse IV - Mooneschadowe (Stillwater, OK)
- 25-27 Open

October

- 2-4 The Battle of the Three Queens II: In the Name of the Rose - Rosenfeld (Tyler, TX)
- 9-11 Namron Protectorate - Namron (Norman, OK)
Gate's Edge Fall Event - Gate's Edge (Houston, TX)
- 16-18 Ursae-Lyons - Bjornsborg (San Antonio, TX)
Battle of the Pines - Graywood (Lufkin, TX)
Elfsea Fall Harvest Festival - Elfsea (Fort Worth, TX)
- 23-25 Samhain Celebration - Eldern Hills (Lawton, OK)
Bryn Gwlad 30th Anniversary - Bryn Gwlad (Austin, TX)
- 30-1 Tourney bu the Loch - Loch Soilleir (Friendswood, TX)
Harvest of the Axe, Heroes vs Monsters - Multigroup Event (Bartlesville/Shawnee, OK)
Emerald Tourney - Emerald Keep (Waco, TX)



Loch Ruadh's Meeting Places

Archery Practice

Park Road
Dutch Branch Park
Benbrook, TX 76126

Fighter Practice

Z Boaz Park
S Z Boaz Park Rd
Benbrook, TX 76126

Mistress Caterina Fregoso

4341 Meadowknoll
Fort Worth, TX 76123
817-423-4807

Populace Meeting

IHOP - 5920 Quebec Street
Fort Worth, TX 76135

Officer's Meeting

IHOP - 3700 Alta Mesa
Fort Worth, TX 76133

Laird Caerell & HLady Aingeal's

2604 Creekwood Ln
FortWorth, TX 76123
817-294-8136

Lord Padraig's

3808 Arroyo Drive
Weatherford, TX 76087
817-599-4192

Lady Kat's

2817 Major St
Fort Worth, TX 76112

Events in Loch Ruadh

July

Wed 1 - Populace Meeting IHOP on Quebec 8 pm

Sun 5 - Fighter Practice Z Boaz Park 10 am

Archery Practice Dutch Branch Park 2 pm

Mon 6 - Scribes & Illuminators/Library open

HL Aingeal and Laird Caerell's 6:30 pm

Tues 14 - Needleworkers Guild Meeting

Mistress Caterina Fregoso's 7:30 pm

Wed 15 - Officer's Meeting IHOP on Alta Mesa 8 pm

Sun 19 - Archery Practice Dutch Branch Park 2 pm

Thurs 23 - Fighter Practice

Lord Padraig's 7 pm

Sat 15 - Ceilidh

Lady Kat's 7:30 pm

Tues 28 - Needleworkers Guild Meeting

Mistress Caterina Fregoso's 7:30 pm

August

Sun 2 - Fighter Practice Z Boaz Park 10 am

Archery Practice Dutch Branch Park 2 pm

Mon 3 - Scribes & Illuminators/Library open

HL Aingeal and Laird Caerell's 6:30 pm

Wed 8 - Populace Meeting IHOP on Quebec 8 pm

Tues 11 - Needleworkers Guild Meeting 7:30 pm

Mistress Caterina Fregoso's

Sun 16 - Archery Practice Dutch Branch Park 2 pm

Wed 19 - Officer's Meeting 8 pm IHOP on Alta Mesa

Wed 26 - Ceilidh - TBA

Thurs 27 - Fighter Practice

Lord Padraig's 7 pm

Sat 29 - Needleworkers Guild Meeting 7:30 pm

Mistress Caterina Fregoso's



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