

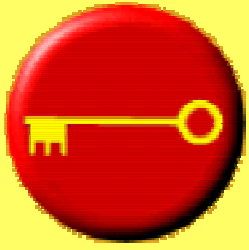
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March—April  
Anno Societatis XXXIV (C.E.2010)

# The Scarlet Letter Shire of Loch Ruadh

## Fian Ruadh Commander is ready for WAR!





# Words from the Seneschal

Greetings unto the Populace!

Gulf War is upon us! I'm certain that all those who are able to attend this year will represent Loch Ruadh most ably to the Knowne Worlde, both on and off the field of battle. My job will once again prevent me from attending, so I ask all those who are going to make it a point to stop at least once during the event to visit the Green Dragon and support the landlords, as well as the bards who provide the entertainment. Take classes, visit with friends, volunteer if you can (remember to cite Loch Ruadh as your group when you volunteer), and above all, have fun!

We sadly must bid farewell to Mistress Caterina Fregoso. Her husband's job has taken him to Trimaris, and she must follow. Caterina has been a tireless worker for Loch Ruadh since she joined us, and we will sorely miss our friend, even as we wish her well for the future. Due to the move, she had to step down from the Officer of Minister of Arts and Sciences. I am pleased to announce that her successor has already been chosen by the Central Regional MOAS: Lady Eleanor Cleavelly. Please join me in thanking Mistress Caterina for all of her hard work and dedication as our Minister of Arts and Sciences, and in congratulating Lady Eleanor as our new MOAS.

Most of you know that Honorable Lady Bice di Pietro has had health problems which have worsened of late. Due to this, and due to the fact that she needs to avoid all the stress she can while recovering, Laird Caerell Mac Domnaill, as her emergency replacement deputy, has taken over the Office of Exchequer, and the Office is now open for applications. As with all Offices, you must be a paid member to hold this office, and you must have taken the two Exchequers classes. If you wish to apply to become Loch Ruadh's Exchequer and have not yet taken the classes, please contact me or Laird Caerell and we will make arrangements so that you can complete this requirement. Also, if you are interested in applying, please work with Laird Caerell to learn the requirements, forms and other matters that pertain to the Exchequer. The closing date for applications is 21 April, at Officer's Meeting. Applications should be sent to the Central Regional Exchequer, to Laird Caerell and to me. Bice has been an outstanding Exchequer and deserves our thanks and praise for all her hard work.

## Seneschal (con't)

Lord Thomas the Grey has come to the very difficult conclusion that his job and continuing education classes leave him too little time to devote to the Hospitaler's Office, and he has reluctantly decided to step down. The Hospitaler's Office is therefore open for applications, and will close for applications on 21 April at Officer's Meeting. Again, you must be a paid member to hold this office. Applications should be sent to the Central Regional Hospitaler, Lord Thomas, and to me. In spite having served a limited time in this office, Thomas worked very hard at being a good Hospitaler, and did an excellent job, deserving of our thanks and praise.

There are many events and activities coming up to participate in, and many opportunities to make our Shire grow in size and in word fame – let's make sure we take advantage of all of them.

As always, 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.

In Service to Loch Ruadh,

Padraig

## Great Moments in Loch Ruadh History

By Padraig Ruad O'Maolagain

30 December, AS XXXIII

Loch Ruadh Gets An Email List

In the closing days of Anno Domini one thousand, nine hundred and ninety nine, defying the dread specter of Y2K that was supposed to bring about the End Of The World As We Know It, the Canton of Loch Ruadh joined the information superhighway of our Modern Medieval Age with the creation of the mailing list then designated by the email address [lochruadh@ansteorra.org](mailto:lochruadh@ansteorra.org). Whether this has proven to be a blessing or a curse still remains to be seen.

# Herald

Greetings Unto the Populace

Here another Scarlet Letter goes out and I sadly have only one Heraldic Submission in the works since last I wrote you. What is a lonely and bored Herald to do? I need some work. Surely some of you who are reading this could use some Heraldic help. I know that many of you have names and devices registered with the College. What about badges and achievements? I doubt many, if any, Shire members can claim to have a name, device, badge and achievement all registered.

To this end, look for details of a Shire Heraldic day in the coming months. Start working on ideas for a badge with which to mark your property. Think about achievements which could enhance the display of your device. We will be working on both items to submit to the College and items to enhance our campsites. Details to come.

Pan Kazimierz Złowieszczy  
Lordy Lord Kaz the Sinister  
Herald of the Shire of Loch Ruadh



# Archery Marshall

If you listen closely you can hear the drums of war off in the distance. I encourage all those going to war to try their hand at the archery range. I will have loaner equipment available. Every point scored counts toward the overall archery points for Ansteorra. Because of war, war prep and return, there will be no archery practices during the month of March.

Gruffydd Mawr ap Rodri  
Archery Marshall

## Historical Note

In 1087, William the Conquer became so fat that he no longer could mount his horse. He had to be lifted by block and tackle in order to ride. He decided to lose weight by going on an all alcohol diet. Later that year he died, when, in a stupor, he fell from his horse and had not lost a pound. Guess I should forget about my diet and try something else.

# Knight Marshall

Greetings Loch Ruadh,

We have been busy! We had a great turn out at the armor workshop on the 30<sup>th</sup> and I would like to offer many thanks to Lord Alric and Lady Fiona for the use of their home, warm garage, and tools. I am pleased to announce that the Shire now has a full set of loaner armor clean and ready for use.

By the time you read this missive we will have already had our combined fighter practice. I have high hopes that this will be a well attended and fun gathering. It is my intention to get as many fighters together in one place to work on tactics and technique before war.

As you read this at populace know that Gulf Wars is but 11 DAYS away! Please remember to take your armor out of the garage, closet, or shed and check out the condition it is in. Check the rivets, straps, and padding. Make sure it arrives at war in a good safe condition. I would suggest you bring a repair kit with extra leather, rivets and tools just in case you suffer from armor failure at war. It has happened to most of us and it is no fun sitting out a scenario because you have a few screws loose. I also suggest you get on the Gulf Wars website and check out the battle scenarios. They have posted full descriptions as well as layouts of each war point battle.

Some upcoming dates to remember and attend:

March 14-20<sup>th</sup> Gulf Wars

April 3<sup>rd</sup> Elfsea's Defender

April 10<sup>th</sup> Loch Ruadh Fighter Practice

April 24<sup>th</sup> Glaslyn's Defender of the Flame

Travel safe to war my friends and see you on the field.

In Service,

Lord Vemundr Porkell Sviobalki (Lord Duckie)

Knight Marshal, Shire of Loch Ruadh

Kingdom of Ansteorra



# Exchequer



Greetings from your Treasurer,

First I want to thank Honorable Lady Bice for doing a great job.

The Exchequer's Office is therefore open for applications, and will remain open until Officer's Meeting, Wednesday, 21 April 2010. Applications should be submitted to the Central Regional Exchequer, the Acting Exchequer of Loch Ruadh, [exchequer@lochruadh.org](mailto:exchequer@lochruadh.org), and to Lord Padraig, [seneschal@lochruadh.org](mailto:seneschal@lochruadh.org). Check the Black Star and the Scarlet Letter for mailing addresses if you wish to send hard copies. As with any Office, you must be a paid member to be considered for this Office. Applicants also need to have taken the Exchequer's Warranting class; if you have not taken this class but want to apply for the Office, you will need to take it before you can be warranted.

At Officers Meeting, the financial committee approved the budget for the October Event.

Your in Service,

Laird Caerell MacDomnaill

# Chamberlain

I would like to thank all who helped with the shed inventory: Bronwen, Trig, Rolf, Padraig, Gruffydd, Aingeal and Caerell.

If you volunteered to carry anything to war, load out will be March 7th, from 2pm until 4pm. March 27th is scheduled for the return of equipment to the shed. Bring stuff back between 2pm and 4pm that day. I must be present to check out and return all equipment. If you cannot make these days, please make arrangements for another time. Neither Aingeal nor Caerell will be able to issue or receive any Shire equipment.

Marion Fay Holms

Chamberlain, Loch Ruadh

# Minister of Children

Greetings!

Well, Gulf Wars XIX is almost upon us. Tuesday, March 16th is An-steorra's day to plan the MoC activities. I will be helping Baroness Ameline and if anyone is interested in joining us to obtain those all-important volunteer points, please come and show your support!

Since many of us are busy getting ready for Gulf Wars, I don't plan to have any MoC activities until April. I would love to have another class or MoC activity that month. Perhaps there would be some interest in a fighter practice game day. A specific date will be announced on the website as time draws nearer.

I have been having a wonderful time as your new MoC officer. Thank you all for your warm welcome and all of your support!

In Service to You and Your Children,

Lady Cait O'Hara

Loch Ruadh Minister of Children

## Chronicler

Greetings to the Populace of Loch Ruadh

I hope you are enjoying your newsletter as much as I have enjoyed bringing it to you.

Please feel free to express your artistic and writing talent. Submit art work and articles for the next Scarlet Letter. If you have heard a "Ruadh Noise," write it down and send it to me. If you have a challenge for the populace, proclaim it loudly for all to hear (or read)!

In service,

Lady Fiona inghean ui Mheadhra



# Minister of Arts and Sciences

What is a Minister of Arts and Sciences?

by Lady Eleanor Cleavelly

In my ten plus years in the SCA and while I served as Minister of Arts & Sciences in the Barony of Sun Dragon, I constantly was asked the same questions over and over. So, in order to help those who are new to learn about the office (and those who've never encountered one), I have compiled a kind of MOAS FAQ. During my tenure as MOAS, I will be happy to answer any and all questions. Should I not know the answer, I will either find it or answer it in such a way as to convince you I know what I am talking about. Enjoy!

## **1. What is a Minister of Arts and Sciences?**

This is a question asked by many a newbie who is bedazzled by the myriad of titles and positions available within a group. Some think a Minister of Arts & Sciences (or MOAS) is someone who is in charge of the Arts & Sciences within a particular group. Others feel an MOAS is the end-all, be-all of Arts & Sciences, a sort of clearinghouse for all things artsy-fartsy. There are some still who believe the MOAS is merely a contact point for artisans within a group. Truth be told, the MOAS is sometimes all of these things.

## **2. Do you have to be a Laurel to be a Minister of Arts & Sciences?**

Absolutely not! There is no rank requirement for the office. All that is required is a working knowledge of deadlines, the ability to meet them and a deep and sincere love of the Arts & Sciences.

## **3. Do I have to teach all the classes?**

Nope! That's the beauty of it all. The MOAS is a facilitator, a person who will point you in the right direction. If there is demand for a class, it is the job of the MOAS to find someone to teach the class. Should no one be able to teach the class, the MOAS should make some attempt to point those interested in the direction of those who are in the know outside of the group.



#### 4. What does a deputy MOAS do?

A deputy MOAS is there to assist the MOAS should s/he need it. They fill in where needed and sometimes act as teachers for certain classes. Should the MOAS need to stop down, the deputy MOAS will take over and become the MOAS.

#### 5. What is the flight pattern of a laden swallow?

African or European?

#### 6. I would love to be MOAS! Unfortunately, I don't know how to tie my shoes let alone how to create something all artsy-fartsy like. Can I still be MOAS?

Yep! However, if you are considering taking up the office of MOAS, I would highly suggest that you learn at least one art.

Well that's all for now. If you have a question you'd like to see appear in this column, please feel free to email it to [heather.nieto@gmail.com](mailto:heather.nieto@gmail.com) or [moas@lochruadh.org](mailto:moas@lochruadh.org) . I look forward to reading your questions!

Ever in service with a song and a smile,  
Lady Eleanor Cleavelly  
Minister of Arts and Sciences  
Shire of Loch Ruadh  
Descendant of the White Oak



# Fian Ruadh Commander

Good Brethren,

I can hear the chants and hymns of war calling to us! The war drums beat out their calling. It echoes throughout the lands: Gulf Wars XIX is on the horizon! Does the anticipation not make your blood boil as it does mine? Does your axe not hunger for the guts of our enemies and the grandeur of glorious battles as mine does? I have heard that others are as eager as I am to take up arms and fight for Ansteorra! I know that YOU too thirst for war. Join us! Pick up arms and help us claim the honor that is ours for the taking.

Please, do not sit idle as the call of war passes on. Instead, take up arms with me and your brethren, so that you may join us in the splendor of battle and revel in the immeasurable spoils of war. And after we have crushed our foes we will drink heartily and make merry for that is what victors do!

With you by our sides and guarding our backs, we will stand and show no fear when crushing our foul foes under our cold steel. Will you not join us in this righteous quest?

For Ansteorra!

Sigmarr Andvett

Commander, Fian Ruadh



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**Officer Information**

## Kingdom Calendar

### March:

14th—21st GULF WAR

26th-28th Off Calendar Event— Medieval Fair, Namron (Norman, OK)

### April:

2nd-4th Elfsea Defender—Elfsea (Ft. Worth, TX)

9th-11th Lysts at Castleton Bryn - Gwlad/Bjornsborg (Austin, TX)

9th-11th Wiesenfeuer Baronials— Wiesenfeuer, (Okla. City, OK)

16th-18th Stargate Baronials— Stargate (Houston, TX)

16th-18th Eldern Hills XXXII— Eldern Hills (Lawton, OK)

23rd-25th Champions of Bonwicke— Bonwick (Lubbock, TX)

23rd-25th Bordermarch Baronials— Bordermarch (Beaumont, TX)

23rd-25th Defender of the Flame— Glaslyn (Denton, TX)

## Loch Ruadh Calendar

### March:

3rd—Populace Meeting (8 pm)

7th—Shed Load Out (2 pm)

14th—21st GULF WAR

24th—Officers Meeting (8 pm)

27th—Shed Load In (2 pm)

27th Ceilidh (8 pm)

### April:

4th - Archery (2 pm)

5th - Scribes and Illuminators (1 pm)

7th - Populace(8 pm)

10th - Fighter Practice (10 am)

17th - Ceilidh (8 pm)

18th - Archery (2 pm)

21th - Officer's Meetings (8 pm)

For event locations, check the Loch Ruadh online calendar.

# Calendar Events

# Did You Know????

## Taken Down A Peg...

This expression comes from the practice of admirals and officers having their own flags aboard ship. Superior officers would have their flags positioned higher on the mast than subordinates and these flags would be attached to the mast by a peg. If a senior officer handed over his command to a junior then the flag would have to be flown in a subordinate position or be **taken down a peg**.\*

## Fly-By-Night...

A large square sail used downwind or on a reach that could be used easily and quickly. This made it very useful for sailing at night especially by people who dealt in contraband. Since these people's character was always in question they became known as fly-by-night-ers.\*

## Blazers...

Uniforms were not common place amongst the lower deck crew but most captains like to show off their crews for ceremonies and since the captain paid the bills they were able to choose the outfits for their men. The snappy blue jackets worn by the crew of the H. M.S. Blazer were the most memorable and in no time the crew were known as 'the blazers and that is how the garment got its name.\*

## Tidy...

The word is derived from the tide hence the meaning of being well arranged and methodical as associated with tides.\*

## Windfall...

Some English landowners were prevented from either falling or selling timber as this was reserved for building ships for the Royal Navy . However, this did not apply to trees which were blown down. Hence, a windfall became a financial blessing.\*

## Hijack...

The harlot's call to the sailor "Hi, Jack!" acquired its more sinister meaning when, after the first embrace, she hit him with a lead filled handbag and he was dragged off to be sold to a ship in need of crew.\*

\* from *Salty Dog Talk*" by Bill Beavis

# Ruadh Noises

Lord Kaz and Lady Antonia would like to announce their youngest daughter, Carina, will become a teenager in the month of April.

The Chronicler would like to issue a challenge to the populace. A contest to see how many article and/or artwork pieces you, the populace, can contribute to your Scarlet Letter.

There will be a prize at the end of the calendar year for the person with the most numerous contributions.

## Please Note:

All Loch Ruadh meetings, practices, and gatherings are posted on the Loch Ruadh online calendar at [www.lochruadh.org](http://www.lochruadh.org), and reminders are sent out on 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](http://www.ansteorra.org). Both of these contain address information with online map links for directions.

If you don't have a computer or email access, please contact the Seneschal or any other Officer for directions. The Scarlet Letter is available from Pamela Boles at: 108 NE Rosamond, Burleson, TX

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# **The Scarlet Letter**

## **Shire of Loch Ruadh**