

The Scarlet Letter is a bi-monthly publication available free online at www.lochruadh.org

May-June
Anno Societatis XXXXIV (C.E.2010)

The Scarlet Letter

Shire of Loch Ruadh

WANTED

Fian Ruadh Priority Target!





Words from the Seneschal

From the Seneschal

Greetings unto the Populace

It is a sad time in the Shire of Loch Ruadh. As you have no doubt heard by now, our dear friend and brother Lord Conor Mac Namara, known to all as Bear, has been taken from us and now dwells in the Halls of Heroes, a place he most surely earned through his unwavering valor and chivalry. Let us remember our friend and brother, and speak of him often, telling the tales of his victories on the field, of his fierceness in battle, and of his kind and gentle nature that was in no way a contradiction to his prowess as a warrior. He is a part of us and ever shall be. Please remember to keep his family, and especially his lady wife, Brigid MacFergus, our dear friend and sister, in your hearts and thoughts.

I heard many good tidings about Loch Ruadh at Gulf War, of Cait and Ragnar's children, of the strength and determination of our fighters on the field, and of Laird Caerell's excellent carved bone entries in the A&S competition; and these are just a few examples. I am very proud of all of you who attended and helped make War a great experience not only for yourselves but for so many others as well.

Applications for the Offices of Exchequer and Hospitaler were due by this past Officer's Meeting on 21 April, so hopefully I will be able to announce who our newest Officers are by Populace meeting. Again, I want to thank Honorable Lady Bice and Lord Thomas for their outstanding work as Exchequer and Hospitaler respectively, and also Laird Caerell for the excellent job he did as Bice's emergency deputy.

Our fall event, The Shannon River Raid, is only six months away. We have much work to do, and many other things that will vie for our time, so please get with the Autocrat, Lord Alric, to see what you can do to help make this new event a success. Alric will be announcing the schedule of planning meetings, and while I know he has been working diligently on the list of coordinators, I'm sure there are still more jobs to volunteer for. While we are going with a different theme than we have used for Lughnasad, we still want to make this the type of event that Loch Ruadh is known for: laid back, relaxed, and above all, fun.

Seneschal (con't)

The trip to complete the work on our Gulf War gate is planned for Memorial Day weekend. If you can go on this trip and help out, please consider doing so. We are still the only group that ever received permanent land at Gulf War as a Canton, and part of the bargain that allows us to keep that land is the completion and maintenance of the gate, and semi-annual maintenance of the land. A plan has been devised to allow us to cover the gate if weather makes it necessary, so that we can work on it no matter what the elements decide to do. Please check with Lord Terrence if you have any questions.

For those who have not heard, Lady Katherine (Kat) has stepped down as my emergency replacement deputy. I want to thank her for all the work she did in taking notes, sending me reminders, serving as my backup memory, and everything else she did that kept me from making more mistakes than I would have without her help. Most everything she did was behind the scenes, but of great assistance to me none the less. Lord Terrence has agreed to be my new ER deputy, for which I am very grateful – he's certainly not as pretty as Kat, but he's definitely more organized than I am, which should help me immeasurably.

As always, 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 not miss any chances that come to us.

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



Herald

Greetings Unto the Populace

All's quiet in Heraldryland. No new submissions and, as far as I know, everything which has been submitted through the Loch Ruadh Herald's office has been finalized. If anyone finds themselves in need of Heraldic services, you know where to find me.

--

Pan Kazimierz Złowieszczy
Lordy Lord Kaz the Sinister

Chronicler

Greetings

I hope you like this edition of your newsletter. Although parts of it were difficult, it was important to me to include the populace's memories of our dear friend, Bear. I have not included any mention of HL Bice in this issue, primarily because her passing was so recent. I felt that in order to honor her memory, I should give the populace a little more time to process before asking for stories and memories to honor our wonderful Bice. I plan to publish any thoughts the populace wishes to share in the next issue of the Scarlet Letter.

In Service
Lady Fiona inghean ui Mheadhra



Heartfelt Thanks!

I would like to thank Alf for helping to guide Nathan with his rapier exercises. I would like to thank Duckie for helping Christopher learn more about becoming a heavy fighter and I would like to thank Polydore for taking Rickey under his wing towards becoming a bard. AND thanks to everyone else who went out of their way to help my boys have a great first Gulf Wars. Vivat Loch Ruadh!!

Lady Annest

Archery Marshall

Archery Submission:

Due to Dragon's Fire Tor's event, Mother's Day and the gate trip, we will only be able to have one practice this month. Practice will be held on May 16 at Dutch Branch Park at 2:00 PM CDT. Directions are listed on the Loch Ruadh web site. If you need more precise directions drop me an email (gruffydd392@yahoo.com) or a call at 817-913-0270.

Gruffydd Mawr ap Rodri,
Archery Marshall Loch Ruadh

Knight Marshall

Greetings Loch Ruadh,

April has been a busy month...and I love it! A lot of fighter friendly events and we got to trade hits with Master Ariklee Wolf at April's fighter practice. Well, not really trading, more like accepting. I hate to admit that I came home with a handful of bruises. Wait... we LOVE to share our bruises don't we? Now if only there were a way to get them, without GETTING them.

Here are some important dates to remember:

May 8th- My 24th Birthday! (what could be more important than that?)

May 15th - Loch Ruadh Fighter Practice 10am at Z-Boaz Park in Benbrook

June- No Official Practice due to Sigmarr's High School Graduation, Crown Tourney, Round Table, and Sigmarr's 18th Birthday. All of my Saturdays are booked solid. I may post a fighter practice field trip if I can find one we are all interested in.

I will be announcing an armor replacement workshop in May to replace the damaged Loch Ruadh armor. I would really like to have one complete set of loaner gear to have at practices and would welcome the input and extra hands.

In Service,

Lord Vemundr Sviobalki
Knight Marshal, Shire of Loch Ruadh
Kingdom of Ansteorra



Exchequer

No Missive Received.

Minister of Arts and Sciences

No Missive Received.

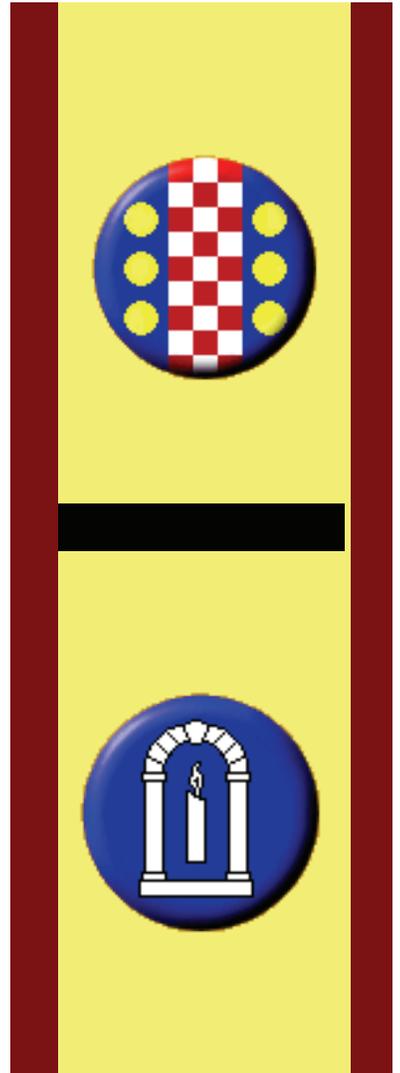
Chamberlain

Words from the Chamberlain:

All Shire equipment was returned from Gulf Wars and is securely awaiting our next event. One problem though, the shire pavilions don't quite fit the tubs we purchased. At a time to be decided, I would like to have all you neat packers meet me at the shed and see if it is only a packing problem.

Thanks,

Marion Fay Holms,
Chamberlain Loch Ruadh



Minister of Children

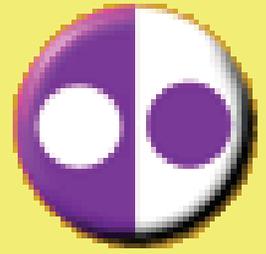
Greetings unto the Populace of Loch Ruadh!

Gulf Wars was a wonderful event. I helped Mistress Ameline at the MoC tent on Tuesday. We had lots of fun and learned many things about book binding. I would love to teach this class at some point for our Loch Ruadh children. I was also very pleased at the turnout of Loch Ruadh children at Gulf Wars this year. I want to especially thank Terrence's boys for all their help at War. Robbie helped out at Troll and Charlie really helped us with the rest of the children in camp. Many thanks to Annest's boys, Ricky, Nathan and Chris. Between the four of them, Loch Ruadh earned some serious volunteer hours.

I was thinking about teaching children's classes at Fighter Practice instead of Ceilidhs. I thought having them during the day would be a better idea. Although, having said that, an indoor venue would be better for worksheets and the like. Which would you prefer? Please email your preference to me at moc@lochruadh.org.

Your in Service,

Lady Cait O'Hara



Loch



Loch Ruadh fighters and their helpful wagon pullers/arming assistants, making ready for battle at Gulf War!!

Memories of Bear

A gentleman, a friend, always ready to help and always ready to teach—especially when it came to fighting. He taught me to block a slot shot by the simple expedient of hitting me there until I got it right! And then there was his thing about hating chickens. The sheer delight on Bear's face when I presented him with his "Choking Chicken" at one Warlord was a joy to behold. I really thought he was going to fall down and roll on the ground laughing.

Damn I'm going to miss him.

Alric

In my chase for lost youth, I stupidly decided to try my hand as a heavy fighter. I armored up in armor borrowed from Jock and smugly walked on to the practice field. The other fighters paired up and I was left there alone. A late comer, who introduced himself as Bear asked if I wanted to spar. Sure, I said. He was not quite as tall as me and about the same build. This would work okay. Next thing I knew, he was pounding my head like he was Quasimodo and I was a church bell. After a few minutes of this torture, I thought I got smart and lifted my shield up to block his blows. Smart, not exactly.



He then began to spank my legs like he was a gym teacher and I was a naughty student. After practice was over and I had a chance to recover my hearing and look at my bruised legs, I came to a definite conclusion, ARCHERY IS THE LIFE FOR ME.

Gruffydd Mawr ap Rodri,
Archery Marshall Loch Ruadh

Two of my favorite memories of Conor “Bear” Mac Namara come from two Gulf Wars we attended together.

The first was Gulf War VII, the first War that either of us had attended. Some folk have referred to this as The Ice War or The Cold War, as the first few nights we were there, the temperature dropped well below freezing. Polydore Pike had just gotten his huge Viking tent, and invited Bear and I to share it with him; while an 11 by 17 foot tent is pretty spacious, three big guys with all their gear (and two of us with armor) filled it up quite well. All three of us snored, well, loudly is an understatement. We were told by others in camp that occasionally we would synchronize, and the sides of the tent would actually appear to billow in and out with the rhythm of our snores. I still get a grin on my face every time I think of that first year at War.

The second comes from the very next year, Gulf War VIII: Water War, or as I like to call it, The War That Got Washed Away. The week started out pleasant enough, but by Tuesday night it had started to rain. And it continued to rain, letting up only occasionally. Very little actual fighting took place that year, but one of the few scheduled fighting events that did happen was the Torchlight Tourney. We knew Bear had entered the Tourney, but the weather was such that many of us stuck close to the fire and the coffeepot. As we sat there that evening, hoping for a change in the weather, Sean of Argyll rushed into camp with momentous news: “Bear just killed his first knight in the tourney!” We were all excited, and when Bear finally made it back to camp, he was walking on air – which helped when the tent he and Sean were sharing leaked that night and Bear ended up with a foot of water on his side of the tent. Most of you have heard me sing the filk I wrote, The New Fighter’s Fantasy. While that hadn’t been specifically written for Bear, from that night on, it was his song.

I am glad that he was my friend, and I his; I am proud that he asked me to be his man-at-arms, and still consider myself to be so. I will miss him, but I will never forget him.

Padraig

Boy Scout Demo

I would like to thank everyone that came to the Boy Scout demo, in spite of the rain and the remote setting. The Boy Scouts to whom I demonstrated pewter casting seemed to have a very good time. They were also having a good time competing in the made up "Viking" events, like the "battering ram," the "Viking swamp crossing," and throwing tennis and volleyballs from the home-made trebuchets put together by the Boy Scout leaders. I watched several groups of boys compete IN POURING RAIN, and having fun anyway.

We had several SCA-dians at the demo, showing Boy Scouts how to wire-weave and blacksmith and talking to them about Vikings. We had some Chivalric fighting in spite of the drizzle, and I got the opportunity to talk about the SCA to several interested adults.

The Boy Scout camp on Worth Ranch Road in Palo Pinto is beautiful and includes rock trails and log cabins set in a forest of cedar trees on top of a hill. The tree covered hills around the site make the place very scenic. There are showers and electricity at the campground. Several of the group had the advantage (grin) of sleeping in one of the cabins for the night. All in all it was a good time and a good demo!

Lord Terrence ad te Syke

Gulf War Notes

War this year was, as usual, a grand event. Battles were won, rapiers found their mark and arrows flew. However, my most memorable events were with the children of Loch Ruadh. All were well behaved and worked hard to give our shire a good reputation among the royals and other war attendees.

I would like to especially thank Terrance's boys, Charlie and Robert, and my grandson Chris, who represented Loch Ruadh in children's archery. Each scored war points for Ansteorra.

Loch Ruadh's rapier program was represented by another grandson, Nathan. He was unable to participate in any events because of age requirement, but with the help of Lord Caerell and Lord Alf, he worked hard to learn the skills needed for when the time comes that he can participate.

A special thanks goes out to Lord "Ducky" for his training secessions with the kids on chivalric fighting. Ducklings, Robert, Charlie, and Chris, all had a wonderful learning experience, gained knowledge and desire. However, the most impressive thing I saw was Duckling Meagan out there working just as hard and sometimes better than the boys. She swings a mean stick.

I think though, my personal prodigy as ship spy would be Ian. He could sneak up on a person and be there for minutes before you knew it. His quiet and unnoticed presence would hear secrets that would sink ships.

Last, but definitely not least, the rogue of the group, Ricky, the Polliwog. Curse you Polydore, for encouraging him. How embarrassing to round a corner at merchants row and find your grandson begging. He was singing songs, telling jokes, and stories with Polydore's hat at his feet. However, embarrassment turned to pride when I found out he collected \$35 in one day. I think that's more that Pdraig did at his first Green Dragon performance. However, his biggest achievement was challenging Lord Aradon to a bard off. I'm not sure who won, but there was a definite challenge to meet again.

Gruffydd Mawr ap Rodri

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Officer Information

Kingdom Calendar

May:

30-2 SCA May Day Birthday Bash—Loch Soillier/Stargate (Clear Lake/ Houston, TX)

30-2 Beltane Games and Baronial Investiture—Namron (Norman, OK)

30-2 Guardian of the Tor XIX—Dragonsfire Tor (Stephenville, TX)

7-9 Castellan—Northkeep (Tulsa, OK)

7-9 *Unofficial Event—Roaring Thunder's Nasty One Tourney XXII—Roaring Thunder (TBA)

14-16 Coronation/King's Champion—Moonshadowe (Lawton, OK)

21-23 Queen's Champion—Glaslyn (Denton, TX)

28-30 Steppes Warlord/Royal Huntsman—Steppes (Dallas, TX)

June:

11-20 *Out of Kingdom—War of the Lilies Calontir (Smithville, MO)

11-13 *Out of Kingdom—Knowne World Heraldic and Scribal Symposium—Dragon's Mist (Forest Grove, OR)

18-20 Lady of the Lake—Adlersruhe (Amarillo, TX)

25-27 King's College—Stargate (Houston, TX)

Loch Ruadh Calendar

May:

3rd—Scribes and Illuminators—Library Open (6:30 pm)

5th—Populace Meeting (7:30 pm) IHOP

8th—Scribes and Illuminators (1-4 pm)

15th—Fighter Practice 10:00 am) Z Boaz Park

16th—Archery Practice (2 pm) Dutch Branch Park

19th—Officer Meeting (7:30 pm)

22th Ceilidh (7 pm)

28th thru 31st—Gate Trip

June:

2nd—Populace (7:30) IHOP

6th—Archery Practice (2 pm) Dutch Branch Park

7th - Scribes and Illuminators—Library Open (6:30pm)

12th - Fighter Practice (10 am) Z Boaz Park

16th—Officer Meeting (7:30)

20th—Archery Practice (2 pm) Dutch Branch Park

20th—Scarlet Letter Deadline

26th - Ceilidh (7 pm)

Calendar Events

Did You Know????

Upper and lower case letters are named "Upper" and "Lower" because in the time when all original print had to be set in individual letters, the 'Upper Case' letters were stored in the case on top of the case that stored the smaller, 'Lower Case' letters.

Not period but COOL.

Sniper- During the 19th century, British soldiers in India tested their marksmanship by hunting a small elusive bird called a Snipe. Individuals who were adept at actually hitting snipe were referred to as "Snipers".

To be caught Red Handed

Meaning - To be caught in the act.

Origin: One of the four kinds of offenses in the king's forest, by which the offender is supposed to have killed a deer. In Scotland, in such like crimes they say, "Taken in the fact, or with red hand". The red of course being the blood from the slaughtered animal

The formula for cold cream has hardly changed at all in the 1,700 years since it was originally made by the Roman physician Galen.

Half the foods eaten throughout the world today were developed by farmers in the Andes Mountains. Potatoes, maize, sweet potatoes, squash, all varieties of beans, peanuts, manioc (manioc?), papayas, strawberries and many other foods were first grown in this region.

In Elizabethan England the spoon was such a novelty, such a prized rarity, that people carried their own folding spoons to banquets. (This was true, however, for only the people who were invited to banquets.)

It costs more to buy a new car today in the United States than it cost Christopher Columbus to equip and undertake three voyages to and from the New World.

Marie de Medici, a member of that famous Italian family and a 17th-century queen of France, had expensive tastes in clothes. One special dress was outfitted with 39,000 tiny pearls and 3,000 diamonds, and cost the equivalent of twenty million dollars at the time it was made in 1606. She wore it once.

The children's game "Ring Around the Rosey" and the words that accompany it ("Ring around the rosy, pocket full of posy, ashes, ashes, all fall down") derive from the medieval practice of scattering rose petals in a circle around one's bed ("ring around the rosy") and carrying small bouquets ("pocket full of posy") as protection against the aromas created by the disease and decay of the Black Plague ("all fall down").

Ruadh Noises

Elizabeth—"It popped up on my computer yesterday!"

Padraig—"I was quick enough that time!"

Announcements:

Our Fian Ruadh Commender will be celebrating his 18th birthday and his high school graduation in the month of June. Congratulations Sigmarr!!

Lord Alric and Lady Fiona will be celebrating 12 years of marriage in the month of June! May they have many, many more!

Heard at War from a good gentle emerging from the porta john.

"Eeeeww, someone peed in the purse holder!"

Please Note:

All Loch Ruadh meetings, practices, and gatherings are posted on the Loch Ruadh online calendar at www.lochruidh.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. 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:

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The Scarlet Letter

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