

New Runestaff

A Newsletter for the Barbarian Freehold Alliance

2nd Quarter '08 Spring-Summer

30th ANNIVERSARY

So just what does the 30th Anniversary mean?
(Please note announcement at end of article.)

First let us look at just what is our 30th Anniversary? There are three dates. The Creation of House Dragasus Freehold in 1974- which would make us 34 years old. We changed the name in 1976 to Freehold Dragasus or the Freehold which would make us 32 years old. In late 1980 we now had 3 Holds and became the Barbarian Freehold Alliance. Which makes us 28 years old.

Our Anniversary was actually set up to be in 1986 but, no one got their act together until 1988. So our anniversaries are set from 1988 even though we are actually 34 years old.

But, let us look at a number of things that have or have not changed over the past "30 years".

Freehold Philosophy, Freehold Traditions, Freehold Leadership Principals and Methods, and Freehold Mission and Goals.

Freehold Philosophy was put together between 74-76. It has remained pretty much unchanged for the entire 30 years except for 2 things. It has been restated more concisely because the original rambled. In 82 the Rule of Three was added.

Freehold Traditions have been added to constantly and there have been a couple of items that were deleted from this listing. While this is not a bad thing it does mean that the Leadership should check them out and make sure that while some of our traditions are useful and needed we may need to close the book on others as not being

needed anymore. At this moment I believe that all our traditions are still a useful set.

Freehold Leadership Principals and Methods is the item that has changed and varied the most during our 30 years.

During our first five years Erekoose was in large part leading and deciding how things worked and were going to be. He would be out front or would hand work off to his Deputies (Chiefs) and Officers. He was very in your face about the whole SCA and Freehold.

During the next five years Erekoose was our Charismatic Leader. Bigger than Life. He did none of the outward governing. He still governed but his decisions were carried out by the Chiefs, Chieftains, and Officers.

"30th" Continued page 3

Contents

Sinni & Holds	Page	2
High Chieftain's Report		4
Freehold History		5
Songbook		5
Find Your Inner Barbarian		6
Arrow of Caid		6
Calendar		7

SINNI

High Chieftain

Master Timotheus Zacharia

Conclave of Chiefs

Honorable Chiefs

Lord Bragison the Skald

Lady Rois Duinnshleibhe

Chiefs

Master Atar Bakhtar

Lady Charissa

Lord Leslie Robert

Dame Lynnette de Sandoval

del Valle de los Unicornios

Alliance Council

Officers

Arts and Sciences... Lady Rois Duinnshleibhe

Bard of the Freehold... Lady Rois

Ceann Caid... Lord Morgan mac Maelain

Ceann Atenvelt... Lord Aungois

Chronicler... Vacant

Herald... Vacant

Lawspeaker... Lady Siobhan ingen Chamsroin

Warlord... Lord Aungois

Lieutenant and Aide de Campe
Brother Thomas

Regional Battle Commanders:

Ulfsblood – K. West

Faziel – K. Caid

Bragi Braggison – K. Atenveldt

Webmaster... Lord Elric

Chieftains

Galen the Mad..... Falcon Weyr (Mid)

Ninian..... Brigid's Hold (An Tir/ Aten)

Elric Dragons Keep (Caid)

Atar Great Desert Hold (Caid)

Morgan Seabhac Saillte (Caid)

Duncan Maldwins Hold (Aten)

Ulfblood Clan Blood (West)

Bragi Odins Hold (Aten)

Allied

Wulfric Wulf Guaard (Aethel)

Ambassador From Dark Horde

Sigvaldr

Holds

Active

Brigid's Hold An Tir/ Atenvelt

Maldwins Hold Atenvelt

Odins Hold Atenvelt

Seabhac Saillte Caid

Dragons Keep Caid

Great Desert Hold Caid

Falcons Weyr Midrealm

Clan Blood West

Hiatus

Kellshearth Caid

Allied

Wulf Gard Aethelmore

“30th” continued from Front Page.

Over the next seven years Erekoze moved and became inactive. This left the problem that Freehold Leadership only had notes on how to run the Alliance without a functioning High Chieftain. Since it was not in Freehold law or practice the Chiefs, Chieftains, and Officers tried to run the Alliance. This did not work. The Freehold slowly fell apart, One of the last things the Althing did was suggest those things that would fix the succession.

About this time Bragi stepped forward and taking all the material he could find, he with the blessing of Erekoze and the only active Chief, took on the High Chieftainship of the Alliance, with Dielle as Co-ruler.

These two dealt with Leadership in a different way. They were very much hands on people. During their first 6 years of rule it was very much accomplished without the help of Chiefs or Officers. The Chieftains were not much more than deputies. This to some degree helped by making the now growing Freehold a very tight and cohesive unit.

During the next 5 years of their rule, with the addition of a couple officers, the re-activation of two Chiefs and the creation of one, some of the absolute control was relaxed. This helped cause even more growth. While the two co-rulers were still very in your face, they eased back some and new ideas began to come about.

During the last 3 years of their rule, the two co-rulers reached burn out. This caused a number of problems because they lost quite a bit of control over many of the groups or people tried to grab positions that were not being offered.

So steps forth Timotheus. He is governing by being the policy maker. He is there to rally around. It is the Chieftains who run their holds. The Chiefs and Officers help fulfill policy. So in some ways much like Erekoze, he lets the hierarchy do the work. Already working on the succession Timotheus wants to prevent a re-occurrence of the previous rulers of burn-out or in-activity.

So, although there have been many changes over the years in the way the Freehold has been ruled, the number and sizes of Holds, the Traditions and Procedures, you should note;

The main Ideals, Mission and Goals have stayed the same- - Allied Holds dedicated to the study of “Barbaric” cultures, the practice of Honor and Chivalry, and the nurturing of new members.

“30th Anniversary” Decree

*Let there be a gathering of Holds to
Celebrate this occasion.*

If you cannot meet with family at one of these gathering at least pause a moment and think of all we have done for each other.

GWW XI- A Gathering possibly Friday and Saturday evenings. Small Court and then Party

Updates and more detail will be in the Calendar section.

High Chieftain's **Report and some thoughts and notes**

1. High Chieftains Handbook. This will be complete by Yule 2008. It is a listing of History, Laws, and Ceremonies. The Lawspeaker will have a copy of this.

2. Members Handbook. 1998. This is the last complete version of the Handbook.

Yule 2008 is the expected date although it could be June 2009. The new Members Handbook will be complete. It is updated, more definitions, and things like History moved to a separate volume.

3. Alliance Budget. In the early days of the Freehold a simple "tax" was useful. At 25 cents a person per day attending, 100 people generated \$100 a month.

In later periods of the Freehold those Holds (Ravenhold for example) that had the money just stepped forwards and paid for things.

For some things donations were tried and this did not work as some things were thousands of dollars. Which meant that the Leadership had to pay out the money, even if they were short themselves. Sometimes this meant that things did not happen due to a shortage of money.

Since one of the things the Freehold is about is responsibility, then the Freehold needs to pay for these things and not the Leadership.

So let us look at some of the items that currently are in the "Budget".

Award Medallions

We standardized them. In the past if an award was needed one was quickly bought. But many times they looked different, so much so that sometimes those with the same award did not realize they had the same award.

So we had several medallions made so that they were always on hand and they looked the same.

To date this cost was minimal at \$90.

Newsletter

The following is to illustrate one reason that we went to e-mail, because the cost of newsletters was **High!**

200 newsletters, quarterly, with 20 pages cost \$580.00 (approx). Mailing them out cost \$300.00 (approx)

With subscriptions then, the income was theoretically \$500.00

Leaving the Leadership with a \$380.00 bill. On top of which it usually took a lot of work to get the renewal which was usually 1 or two issue behind, another \$240 (approx.).

This could total thousands of dollars over a couple years and so the decision to go e-mail was made- -this saved a lot on expenses.

Buying Fighters

If the Freehold wants to have fighters work for it at the war; then it is the responsibility of the whole alliance to divvy up the money or prizes to accomplish this. If the Alliance doesn't think this fits in with Alliance historical fact then the Alliance needs to have a lesson on Alliance Military History.

Cost for Estrella 07 was \$400.00 (est) and 08 were \$400.00 (est).

Website

Currently the Freehold website is free or of minimal cost. As various things are added and we eventually change websites (5-10 years down the road) the website is going to cost money, somewhere in the area of \$250.00 a year.

Possible budget answer

\$10 per Hold each year would answer some of the cost. This could be reviewed each Winter Althing and upgraded if needed.

2008 should be the first year of income for Freehold expenses.

There may be other ways to accomplish this and if so it needs to be discussed. Does anyone have an Idea? ?

So since January 2006 till the present the Leadership has spent \$890 for the Alliance. This needs to be covered by some form of budget.

Freehold History

1976

January Household brewing produces 260 bottles to be used as bribery material by Caidan Forces at war. (Have started fighting using a three man fighting team under the instruction of Balin of Tor and Hugh the Undecided.),

Household attended 12th Night in Isles.

February A change of Hierarchy in the Household is made to start the unit running along the lines of a Clan. The name is changed to Dragasus Freehold. Erekoze changed his title to Chieftain so that he had a more Clan type title with his deputies becoming Lieutenants.

May 2nd Caid Rebellion. Two members of the Household in Army. Caid outnumbered 52 to 36. West had 6 dukes in their Army.

Braden Become the 2nd Bard of the Freehold, with Moise the Insane getting the title of Freehold Bard.

June First use of the Jolly Sigfried as a possible banner of the Household. Dragasus Freehold was able to register a device. Keeping in mind that a Celtic style device was wanted they started with a human skull. This was to symbolize manpower. With 12 members in the Freehold and Caid numbering 80-we represented 15% of the Principality's manpower. The cattle horns were added to show that we were a wealthy household. The budget of the Freehold was 25% as large as the Principality. In adding the sword we showed that we also worked in the Arts and Sciences. The Freehold was producing at 1/3 the rest of the Principality. The smile was added to show that we understand that this is just a game and we won't take things seriously. For the rest of the year the Device was called "The Device".

There are meetings every Friday night for fighting practice taking place from 7-10, Saturday unless there was an event) for Arts and Sciences plus Armoring starting at 12 noon, Sunday night for business meetings or workshops. Household dues are \$.25 per evening attendance giving the Hold a budget of \$21.00 a month.

Maihie Mcfergy and Balin of Tor join the Household as an associate member.

Maihie Mcfergy is Knighted.

September Membership is 15. Associates number 6. (Caid numbers a total of 105 at this time.) Household attends Coronet Tourney

October Dragasus Freehold sponsors the first equestrian event in Caid. This event was mostly trail riding. There were a couple of contests to interest or teach people

Freehold Songbook

I have been laboriously poring over documents. You would be amazed at the number of Poems and Songs that we have under copyright. I am looking at maybe 40 songs outright with maybe as much as another 40-60 that we "might" have to get permission. But I don't think we do so. We will start on the first 40 and I am looking for someone who can do Art and Formatting....All volunteers please contact the Runestaff.

Upcoming Articles

The Care and Feeding of a Hold
Freehold Bard Report
Arts Issue
Calendar
Reports
Finding Your Inner Barbarian- Series 3 of 5?

Finding Your Inner Barbarian
By Chieftian Morgan mac Maelain
(Morgan Mullins)

Part 2

The first few centuries after the fall of Rome in 476 CE, is referred to in several different ways. The most common is calling that time the “Dark Ages.” Supposedly this refers to the light of civilization flickering out after the fall of Classical Roman culture. The question that we want to explore is if it really was a “dark age,” with all of the negativity and backwardness that the term implies?

The reason the term “Dark Ages” is so prevalent is connected to our tendency as Americans to avoid learning other languages. We think English is sufficient; everyone should put everything in that language. This limits our reading to authors that write in English. The term “Dark Ages” is used almost exclusively by English historians, writing before 1980. If you read German historians the term for these centuries would be “early medieval.” French historians would use “early medieval” as well as “late antiquity” for the 5th – 8th centuries. Why the differences?

In France, the 7th thru the 8th centuries saw the rise of the Merovingian dynasty that would lead to the age of Charlemagne, when France dominated continental Europe. Charlemagne’s court was a center for arts and learning led by the British monk Alcuin. The methods and techniques that Alcuin implemented created many of the pieces of medieval culture that we love, including a revised uncial script, used on all scrolls and documents. Archaeological evidence indicates that the 6th & 7th centuries is when the city of Marseille became a major port. It certainly wasn’t a “Dark Age” for the French!

In Britain, this was not the case. The peace and order that Britain had enjoyed as a Roman province was now gone. Saxon invaders were carving out kingdoms at the expense of the native Britons, when they weren’t fighting each other. It was a slow extinguishing of Roman civilization, and in its place came a time of almost constant warfare. It would take almost five centuries for the British to become a united kingdom again.

This period of warfare was also the origin of legend of Arthur. [In a future article I will talk about the 2003 Disney movie that portrays Arthur as a Romano-British leader. It is reasonably accurate!] The period of transition simply took longer in Britain.

For those of us with non-British personas from the late antiquity period [Yes, “late antiquity” is now the preferred usage], this wasn’t a “Dark Age.” For Vikings, Irish Celts, Franks and others, the period of late antiquity is a highpoint for our cultures. Was it non-traditional and based on “barbarian”, i.e. non-Roman values, yes, but a “dark age”? Most certainly not!

The Barbarian Freehold Alliance

The Barbarian Freehold Alliance is a non-territorial alliance of Freeholds, Households, Ships, and Individuals within the SCA who have a special interest in the Viking, Celtic, Mongolian, Barbarian, or non-standard Feudal European Cultures.

The main goals of the alliance are to pursue and advance our understanding of these cultures in their customs, artistic skills, chivalry, honor, and combat. We also provide a proving Ground for new members, a place where members and non-members may be taught.

Being non-territorial allows anyone from anywhere in our Known World to belong to the Alliance, while still allowing them to belong to and participate with their local groups.

We operate the Freehold as a Household of households.

We have found over the years that we tend to be a much closer knit group. This means that some of our events tend to be almost a gathering of “Family”. It is our hope that you will find a place among our Family and help it grow.



The Arrow of Caid
By
Master Timotheus Zacharia
(Tim Coyle)

Thanks

This is the time I would like to thank a few people for help in the story that I have been writing.

Lynnette de Sandoval, my wife, for spell checking, editing, being a sounding board, injecting a turn of phrase or two, showing me where I didn't make sense, and putting up with me while I wrote this story. (Even if she is still upset that I wouldn't create a "Leper Lynnette" character who gets run down by the Freehold Army.)

Deille for doing final editing, pushing me to write the next chapter, and calling me up to ask just what I really had in mind. (She also loved getting that chapter in advance and knowing where the story was going), and for getting me involved in writing.

Braggi for letting me drag his former personas into the story. (I think I might do that again...it was fun)

Your Turn: What did you think about it? Did you like it? Didn't like it? Now is the time to let me know, because.....

Want to Know: What happens after the release of the Arrow of Caid, who is the storyteller, what is the outcome of the war.

All of this and more in –

HONORE OF THE WEST

Chief Timotheus Zacharia von Schloss Zwilling
O.L, O.C.C, O.D.C.

P.S. Can't find all your copies for the Arrow of Caid? Don't worry for we shall be printing it up and it will be available in booklet form.

The New Runestaff is a quarterly publication of the Barbarian Freehold Alliance, a great household of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA). It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, nor does it delineate SCA policies. While this publication is provided to the membership by e-mail you may get a hardcopy for \$2.50. Please use cash.

© 2008 The New Runestaff (except as otherwise stated.) This issue is 2nd Quarter 08 Spring-Summer Volume 5 #3 (82). Except where otherwise stated, all articles in this publication may be reprinted (E-mail or Hardcopy) in Newsletters and other publications of branches of the SCA without special permission subject to the following conditions:

- A) The text must be printed in its entirety, without additions or changes.
- B) The author's name and original publication credit must be printed with the text.
- C) You must send a letter to the Editor of this newsletter, Stating which articles you have used and in which publication the material has been reprinted.

For all other publication, permission must be obtained in writing IN ADVANCE of use. Please DO NOT REUSE PHOTOS without written permission.

The purpose of this publication is to help coordinate the activities of the Alliance and for its education and enjoyment.

Publisher: Timotheus Zacharia
Editor: Morgan mac Maelain

Art credits

Siggy: Bob Winterer

Back page: Labraid



Runestaff



© · No. 4 · JANUARY · 1982 · ©