

# New Runestaff

A Newsletter for the Barbarian Freehold Alliance 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4th Quarter '08 Summer-Winter

## Life

The world is in a period of economic downturn; hopefully it is going to be short lived. Let us all remember that the SCA and the Freehold is a game or hobby and that we all need to take care of our real lives first.

Remember to take care of rent, pay the bills, go grocery shopping, get the kids to school, look after medical needs, and all the other things of life. Then you can play the game.

If you have been laid off then you need to be working on job possibilities and consolidating your funding. Play the game when you can or you do have a dime or two extra. Yes, the Freehold will help you play when it can but only after you take care of the basics.

It is my hope that everyone is surviving the economic woes. Let us all work hard and keep in mind that we are family and we will help each other when needed.

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# 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 Uniconios

## **Alliance Council**

### Officers

Arts and Sciences... Lady Rois Duinnshleibhe

Bard of the Freehold... Lady Rois

Ceann Caid... Lord Morgan mac Maelain

Ceann Atenvelt... Lord Aongois

Chronicler... Vacant

Herald... Vacant

Lawspeaker... Lady Siobhan ingen Chamsroin

Warlord... Lord Aongois

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..... Brigids Hold (An Tir/ Aten)

Elric Dragons Keep (Outlands)

Atar Great Desert Hold (Caid)

Morgan Seabhac Saillte (Caid)

Duncan Maldwins Hold (Aten)

Ulfblood Clan Blood (West)

Bragi Odins Hold (Aten)

Damon & Catriona Machas Hearth (Caid)

### **Allied**

Wulfric Wulf Guaard (Aethel)

## **Ambassador From Dark Horde**

Sigvaldr

## **Holds**

### Active

Brigids Hold An Tir/ Atenvelt

Maldwins Hold Atenvelt

Odins Hold Atenvelt

Seabhac Saillte Caid

Machas Hearth Caid

Great Desert Hold Caid

Dragons Keep Outlands

Falcons Weyr Midrealm

Clan Blood West

### Allied

Wulf Gard Aethelmore

## 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 to use, but I don't think we will need to. 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 4 of 5?

## 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 around \$100 a month.

In later periods of the Freehold those Holds (Ravenhold for example) that had the money just stepped forward 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 issues 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. We may not have this problem at least for a while please see Website under High Chieftains notes.

**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.

2010 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

### 1977

January Dragasus Freehold becomes the Freehold. Thorson and Kirsten become active hold members. Freehold attended 12th Night.

February Freehold fields six fighters as a fighting unit at the Caid/Aten War. Bernard changes name to Timotheus. Balin of Tor starts teaching war and battle tactics to Freehold.

March Canton of New Albion created with Erekoose as Seneschal. Freehold sponsors the Second Equestrian Tourney in Caid. Kerrisa autocrats event. Did well as many members averaged second or third place. Events included the Prince's Cup Race, Archery on Horseback, Retriever Race, Single Pole Decapitation, and Jousting at the Quintain. Maihie Took second place.

April Freehold attends Coronet Tourney. Associate member Balin of Tor wins Coronet.

(AS XI)May Freehold fields a six-man team at Third Caidan Rebellion. Maihie had been training the Freehold in fighting techniques.

June Freehold attends Investiture.

July Half of all Principality scribes are Freeholders. Six of 12 Principality officers are Freeholders.

August Freehold meetings are now Thursday, Friday, Saturday, & Sunday. Membership is 40. Associates number 35. Fifteen fighters can be fielded. Monthly budget is \$145.

September Accusations of Power Abuse and Favoritism are leveled against Erekoose and the Freehold.

November Balin Steps down and become Viscount.

## **Finding Your Inner Barbarian – pt. 3**

This installment will review some of the movies that are focused on our time period of choice, the early medieval centuries. The costuming in all of them contains useful ideas for SCA or any other re-enactors. The problem is sitting through thru some of these films to get to the interesting parts.

The first of these films is “The Last Legion.” The history that this film destroys is the fate of the last Roman Emperor, Romulus Augustulus. No, he didn't get whisked off to Britain to eventually become Arthur's father. Actually, Romulus Augustulus was one of the few emperors to die in his bed; when Odovacar deposed him he was sent to an imperial estate in southern Italy where he proceeded to found a monastery. I'm not even going to discuss the female “ninja” action sequences. But...at the culminating battle between Merlin and the forces of good against the evil dark magician's army (I'm not kidding; this stinker of a plot did get worse), when the re-constituted legion comes marching over the hill the costumes look pretty cool with very little shiny steel and a lot of leather. Okay, this film is best viewed by selecting the last three scenes from the scene selector menu.

Next is the 2006 release of “Tristan & Isolde.” This film is an early medieval chick flick. The love sequences between John Franco and Sophia Myles are cute; I mean they really are touching. But does John Franco always have to look like he is going to cry? Do I really believe that this is one of the great warriors of the time? But...if you want to see creative gambesons, excellent leather armor and some pretty good battle sequences, this film will deliver. Actually if you root for the Irish oppressors of the poor underdog Britons, the film isn't bad. This is the one place where the film did not deliver authenticity. The Irish are depicted as a kind of generic barbarian, rather than the La Tene Celtic tribe they were. Overall, this film is worth a look, both for the fight sequences and the costuming. Oh yeah, also to see if Tristan finally does break down into a good whimper at the end.

In the next installment I will look at a couple of other movies the deliver a little more to our search our inner barbarian.

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

**1. High Chieftains Handbook.** This will be complete by ... Well, it was supposed to be done by Yule but it will be closer to June 09. It is a listing of History, Laws, and Ceremonies. The Lawspeaker will have a copy of this.

**2. Members Handbook.** 1998 is the date of the last complete version of the Handbook. June 2009 is the expected date and this is the declaration that it will be done- -so says the Lawspeaker. The new Members Handbook will be complete. It is updated, more definitions, and things like our history moved to a separate volume. This also has gone much slower than expected. But it is being worked on and then will be on the Wiki for download.

**3. Kellshearth.** I hereby declare that Kellshearth is now disbanded.

**4. State of Freehold.** Overall we are good. Parts of the Freehold have slowed down and other parts have sped up. We have become more low-key in some areas and in others we have become very noticeable.

Our General membership totals have not changed much. We have lost some and gained in other areas. I have seen some good things Freehold wise this past year in the Army, the Holds, Events, etc.

The Freehold Army has been doing great work, not just for the Freehold, but also as mercenaries throughout the Known World. We may or may not be able to put that 3rd Army on the field but think what it means to be able to say that we might be able to do so. This sort of ebb and flow with mercenaries is natural and I have seen it 3 times in my SCA lifetime. We are doing well.

The Althings have gone well. No major problems have been brought up. A number of small problems have been brought up and the Leadership has tried to resolve those problems.

Be aware that I intend to step down in 2012. Things are still going forward towards that event. Expect to hear more things in 2010.

Estrella is one of the two major Freehold attended events. This is one of the places that we have an Althing. We come together in a major encampment. We put together an army that is a

major force on the field. We commune and play together as a group.

GWW is the other major Freehold attended event. This is where we hold the other Althing. We hold a Bring your own Dinner, have the Althing and then a general get-together party and quick meetings. This will be held Friday evening from sunset to midnight. We do not have a major encampment because most of us are encamped where we are working at the event. We also don't run a large army.

Kellshearth has been on hiatus for the last 3 years. No one in the Hold wished to step forward and take on the responsibility of running the Hold. The membership has also dispersed. So It is now disbanded until someone resurrects it or creates a new Hold in its place.

Macha's hearth is a new Hold in the Valley and Canyon Country. It is made up of fairly young members. They have been very active at a number of events, won several contests, and are putting their info up on the Wiki.

Seabhac Saillte has strengthened and will be taking on some projects for the Freehold.

**So let us keep moving forward.**

### **5. Website. Old and New.**

Please everyone, thank Elric the Chaotic for the Website that we have been using for the past 10 years. He put a lot of work into this site and it was our main web page viewed by the world. We thank him for his work. Due to his new location his available speed to upload and correct items is greatly limited.

After discussion with many members, Chieftains, and Chiefs, and with additional input from new members and visitors, a new website has been asked to be set up..

[barbarianfreehold.pbwiki.com](http://barbarianfreehold.pbwiki.com)

The new site is up to date and easy to use, and it has many more files, definitions, and listings. It has no graphics at the moment but we are looking at uploading drawings, and photos. Once the Handbook has been readied then it will be available to download. There are pages available for Officers and Holds. Please look at it and let us know what we may be missing, etc.

Be aware that we are still adding to this and it is a growing site.

## **6. Runestaff**

As much as I am having fun putting together the issues of Runestaff...I would really like a Freeholder who could take this over for about 3 years. This leads into....

## **7. Officers**

Everyone is warned. In January of 2010 Elections of Alliance Officers will occur.

## **8. Report and Census**

The High Chieftain will be contacting all Chieftains to get a complete report and census. Be ready to deal with this over the phone sometime after April.

## **9. Succession Law**

This Law is presented here for discussion regarding the circumstance where the change of High Chieftain needs to take place without the High Chieftain being there. It also addresses the standard stepping down.

### **Purposed High Chieftain Law # 7. Procedure for Succession-**

Going through some old boxes, I came across some notes from the Althing in 1990. At this time, there was discussion about different ways of creating a new High Chieftain. There was also discussion about having a procedure for succession.

Realizing that we do need a procedure for succession for when High Chieftains step down, fades away, becomes non-communicative, and/or passes away, I have used the notes from the 1990 Althing and have put together the following **High Chieftain Succession Law**:

#### **High Chieftain Steps Down**

1. The High Chieftain (with consultation of Chiefs) nominates 1-3 candidates two years before the High Chieftain wants to step down.
2. The Conclave of Chiefs decides on the successor.
3. The Tanist shall serve for 1 year and then be made High Chieftain.

### **Regency - While there is no High Chieftain or the High Chieftain is Missing**

1. The Conclave of Chiefs rules with the Lawspeaker co-coordinating what needs to happen.

#### **High Chieftain Passes Away**

1. Lawspeaker convenes Alliance Council within 30 days.
2. The Regency rules until the selection process finalizes.
3. The Council selects candidates, interviews them, and gives final selection to Chiefs.
4. The Conclave of Chiefs decides who shall serve as High Chieftain.

#### **High Chieftain Missing or Out of Communication**

1. If the High Chieftain has been missing or has not communicated (telephone, e-mail, or Runestaff) for 12 months.
2. Lawspeaker convenes Alliance Council.
3. The Regency rules until the selection process finalizes.
4. The Council selects candidates, interviews them, and gives final selection to Chiefs.
5. The Conclave of Chiefs decides who shall serve as High Chieftain.

### **Calendar**

April 25-26	Caids Arts and Science Fair and Pentathlon
Oct 7-11	GWW
Feb 10	Estrella

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

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## 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.



### Art credits

Siggy: Bob Winterer