

The Runestaff

A Newsletter for the Barbarian Freehold Alliance

Winter - 2010

Estrella War Issue

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Chronicler's Commentaria

This issue is brief compared with our previous issue, and it might have waited but...If there is one thing that came through loud and clear during the GWW Althing, it is that we need to improve our communications. There was a burst of activity on the email list after the war; now the silence is deafening. What is everyone thinking? Perhaps this issue needs to be examined again at the Estrella Althing.

Anyone can contribute to this publication so if you have an announcement, story, poem or whatever, please send it to me.

"Finding Your Inner Barbarian" has returned in this issue; we examine a couple more movies in this installment. I notice that in the column I am focusing a lot on garb and armor; I hope that is alright with everyone. The idea is to assist those with "barbarian" personas hone their image and put some life into their game. I hope it is helping. - Morgan

High Chieftain's Report and some notes and thoughts

Chiefs

At GWW there were three new Chiefs created. So congratulate:

Chief Morgan

Chief Siobhan

Chief Ulfblood

If you think someone has met the requirements to be a Chief contact the Chiefs and put forth the person as a possible candidate.

Althing

There will be an Althing at Estrella. Remember that we need 10 people in attendance and three holds represented. There will be discussion on ways to get money for the Alliance and a discussion on the importance of all three legs of the Game (Fighting, Arts, Volunteering). Any additional business will need to be brought up in session when the acting Lawspeaker requests.

Right after the Althing there will be a High Chieftains Court. Any other business people want brought up should be brought to the High Chieftain before the court as there are a few bits of business to accomplish.

Publications

Remember folks that the Newsletter is on the website, as are recent back issues. Once the Handbook is complete it also will be on the Website. As will the timelines and other publishable material.

Census of the Holds

First realize that there are about 100-150 “members-at-large” out in the known world, maybe more. They are people who have moved, are not as active, have “joined”, etc. We currently count the numbers of the Freehold as two parts 1) Those in Holds and 2) the At-Large.

For purposes of voting at an Althing we go by the count of the Holds unless we get a vote by some sort by mail from one of the At-large. Then that is counted also.

Brigids Hold	An Tir/ Atenvelt	8
Maldwins Hold	Atenvelt	8
Odins Hold	Atenvelt	7
???	Atenvelt	
(3)		
Dragons Keep	Outlands	2
Falcons Weyr	Midrealm	10
Clan Blood	West	30
Great Desert Hold	Caid	3
Machas Hearth	Caid	8
Seabhac Saille	Caid	
8(12)		
???	Caid	
(12)		
???	Caid	
(5)		

Current total Voting and membership
84

51% - - 44 votes
66% - - 58 votes

Succession

Sometime this year I will turn in to the Conclave of Chiefs my choice for Tanist. If that choice is accepted, then at GWW 2010 this person will step up as Tanist and will hold this position for one year. They would step up as High Chieftain in 2011.

Fighters, Artisans, Volunteers

Remember that there are three legs by which not only the SCA stands but also the Freehold. It is not proper to ask various groups to put forth personnel if you would not answer the same call. (For example don't ask for 12 fighters from various groups if you are not prepared to return the favor with 12 volunteers for some service project.)

The Freehold made its name from its Artisans and Volunteers. For a brief period of time our army was the best in the Known World. Remember that before our Army was great we ran Caid (we held all of the Principality and Kingdom Offices or the Deputy spots). Yes, let the fighters, artisans, and volunteers each do their thing and bring glory to the Freehold but do not pressure any group to do what they are not set up to deal with.

Thugnation

36. This is the number of voting Freeholders that object to this name.
15. This is the number of At-large Freeholders that object to this name.

If we take just the voting members then over 40% of the Freehold is not happy about this name. This will be discussed at Althing and one of the following options will be discussed and decided upon OR some other option will be decided on.

Option 1- - name change

Option 2- - translate the name into a period – appropriate language like Old Irish or Old Norse.

Option 3- - disassociate ourselves from the group that uses it.

Option 4 - - ???

Monies

Since 2005, the year I became High Chieftain, the Leadership of the Freehold has spent somewhere between \$1500-\$2000 Dollars to make the things happen that Freeholders want.

Part of being in the Freehold is about responsibility. Part of responsibility is paying for the things you want. War treasure, award medallions, pavilions and sites at Wars need to be paid for.

Monies need to be raised and there will be discussion on how to do this at the Althing.

Current Althing Agenda

1. Discussion on the importance of all three legs of the Game (Fighting, Arts, Volunteering.)
2. Get money for the Alliance
 - a) \$10.00 a Hold per year (\$100 leaving us with at least a \$300 deficit)
 - b) \$25.00 a Hold per year (\$250 leaving us with at least a \$150 deficit)
 - c) \$5 per member per year (\$500? Covering most expenses?)
 - d) OR SOME METHOD YOU, THE MEMBERSHIP, COME UP WITH.
3. Thugnation

Bard of the Freehold

This office is now vacant with the last Bard of the Freehold becoming inactive, so there will be a Competition at Estrella after the Althing. The competition will be judged by the Lawspeaker, the High Chieftain, and the Freeholders present. The winner will become the new Bard of the Freehold.

Parameters of the Competition:

A Bard is someone who can do any of the following; Sing songs, tell stories, recite poems, and write songs or poems.

If a Bard wants to enter the competition they must inform the Lawspeaker before the Althing at Estrella.

The Bards will have 10 minutes in Round One and Two. They will be chosen at random to perform. At the end of each round the Populace will vote on who they think was the best and this is counted as one vote. The votes by the Lawspeaker and High Chieftain will also count as one each.

Round Three will be the same except it will be only 5 minutes long.

The High Chieftain will announce the winner. If there is a tie then The Bards will have 2 minutes in Round Four. They will be chosen at random to perform. At the end of the round the Populace will vote on who they think was the best and the votes by the Lawspeaker and High Chieftain shall be stated aloud and the winner called forth.

Duties:

- 1- Serve a minimum of 3 years.
- 2- Wear the Ziggy Favor and at Wars go Barding to several encampments.
- 3- At Wars or Freehold Events the Bard will spend 30 minutes to an hour Barding for the High Chieftain and Guests. (Most likely after Althing at War or after Banquet at Freehold events)
- 4- Be added to the Bardic History of the Freehold.
- 5- Set up and run next Bardic Competition.

Perks:

- 1- Free Dinner at the main banquet at Freehold events.
- 2- Ziggy Favor with Harp.
- 3- Permanent title of Freehold Bard when you step down.

SINNI

High Chieftain

Timotheus Zacharia ...Chieftimotheus@gmail.com

Conclave of Chiefs

Chiefs

Atar Bakhtar... atarbaktar@aol.com

Charissa...No Info

Lynnette de Sandoval ... lynnette@dame.sca.org

Morgan mac Maelain...msmullins3@earthlink.net

Siobhan ingen Camsroin...msmullins3@earthlink.net

Ulfblood...goldengrotto@nctv.com

Alliance Council

Officers

Arts and Sciences... Vacant

Bard of the Freehold... Vacant

Ceann Caid... Morgan mac Maelain See
Chiefs

Ceann Atenvelt... Aongois

aonghais@yahoo.com

Chronicler... Morgan

Herald... Vacant

Lawspeaker... Siobhan ingen Camsroin See
Chiefs

Warlord... Aongois See Ceann Atenvelt See
Ceann Atenvelt

Lieutenant and Aide de Campe

Brother Thomas giugio@qwest.net

Regional Battle Commanders:

Ulfsblood – K. West - See Chiefs

Faziel – K. Caid ??/??

Webmaster...Lynnette...See Chiefs

Chieftains

Galen the Mad Falcon Weyr

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

No Info

Lord Elric Dragons Keep (Outlands)...

Elric@dreugantor.com

Atar Great Desert Hold (Caid)... See

Chiefs

Morgan Seabhac Saillte (Caid)... See

Chiefs

Duncan Maldwins Hold (Aten)... moses

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Ulfblood Clan Blood (West)... See Chiefs

Damon & Catriona Machas Hearth (Caid)...

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Allied

Wulfric Wulf Guaard (Aethel)...

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Ambassador From Dark Horde

Sigvaldr Deceased...

Holds

Active

Brigids Hold An Tir/ Atenvelt

Maldwins Hold Atenvelt

Seabhac Saillte Caid

Machas Hearth Caid

Great Desert Hold Caid

Dragons Keep Outlands

Falcons Weyr Midrealm

Clan Blood West

Allied

Wulf Gard Aethelmarc

Finding Your Inner Barbarian – pt. 4

We want to revisit the film arena and take a look at some more of the movies that focus on our time period of choice, the early medieval centuries. This group is more interesting in terms of watchability; the history and mythic elements are not bad either. In terms of costuming and armor, they are more than worth the time and effort.

The first film is the 2005 release of “Beowulf & Grendel” with Gerard Butler and Stellan Skarsgard. Instead of a monster, Grendel is imagined as a 7 ft. troll, similar to people, but different. Different enough that Hrothgar (Skarsgard) persecutes them for that difference, killing Grendel’s father in an early-on flashback sequence. This is not only a commentary on the fear that being different inspires in mortals but also an interesting plot twist; Grendel now has a motive for his attack on Hrothgar’s hall. There are a few little kinks in this plot that deviate from the source legend; an Irish witch that bears Grendel a son, and Grendel’s mom as an evil sea nymph, but all in all it is a well told tale, if a little on the long side. For garb and armor

this is a good source of inspiration. Leather and mail dominate in the armor area and their garb is very period appropriate. If you see this film look, especially at the cloaks and belts, they are done particularly well.

Our final film is my personal favorite; the 2004 release of “King Arthur” with Clive Owen and Kiera Knightly. Historically, this is as close as I have seen Hollywood get to the version of the story that most historians now accept as being the probable origin of the Arthur legend. He was a Romano-Briton who was a leader in the wars against the invading Saxons. This film deliberately plays up the Roman angle and the latest Roman archaeology from England. Yes, there were Sarmatian troops along Hadrian’s Wall; recent excavations at Vindolandia revealed their graffiti. Some of the dates in the film may conflict with other known dates, like the death of the monk Pelagius, the interpretation of these dates is open to question. The costuming is superb, with a multitude of different looks. Arthur has dress armor, field armor and horseback armor; all with a decidedly Roman look, and the other characters are equally well attired. If you like using furs and skins as part of your barbarian look, then these Saxons are perfect for you. They sport fabulous blends of fur and armor and garb; the story is set in winter so the cold weather clothing abounds. The plot moves quickly and the characters are believable. This is a very enjoyable film with lots of ideas for armor and garb.

So far the horizon is bleak for films set in the early medieval period but there has been a boom in History Channel style shows mixing scholars and re-enactors. We’ll look at those next.

Upcoming Articles

The Care and Feeding of a Hold
Freehold Bard Report
Arts Report
Finding Your Inner Barbarian- History DVD’s
The New Website by our Webmaster

The Freehold History – 1980 - 81

1980

January - Freehold attends 12th Night.

April - Freehold attends Crown Tourney.

May - AS XIV- -May War Tarmist-War with West.

July - At Lyondemeres 6th Anniversary the Freehold was Challenged. The Freehold (30 fighters strong) then bought the Chivalry (23 at this event) for 200 Bottles of beer and wine, and beat the rest of the Kingdom.

August - War between Caid, Aten, West. Freehold fielded 20 fighters for war.

2nd Freehold allthing. Attendance was 85. A couple of proposals were looked at but again mostly things were rubber stamped for Erekoze. Discussed Changes in Freehold. Discussed Newsletter. Once again the Banquet and Dancing was anything any Kingdom could match.

Braden becomes 4th “Bard of the Freehold”
Thorson becomes a Freehold Bard

September - Freehold sponsors a Melee battle at Angels 10th Anniversary. The Freehold again beats the whole Kingdom. (30 fighters strong). Freehold membership is 90. Associates number 85.

October - Erekoze takes the Title of High Chieftain, decrees that the Chieftains are now Chiefs. Chieftains are now those members who rule a Hold. The Freehold is broken into 3 separate holds or clans each with its own chieftain. All were still under total control of High Chieftain Erekoze. Membership in each hold numbered 35 plus.

1981

January - Freehold attends 12th Night. Jetana theHarper won a Costume contest.

March - The five Freehold Clans are based at Ventura (House Morganwind), Los Osos (Bjornsdale Holm), Van Nuys (Ravenhold), Sylmar (Sarnwold), Tujunga (Panthera). These

units still act as one unit under Erekoze.
Workshops and meetings are two nights a week.

May - AS XV

August - Freehold attended Japanese tourney.

Last Great Althing and Banquet of the Freehold.
Attendance at the Althing was 225. Attendance at
the Banquet was 80. Erekoze steps down as
absolute ruler. He is to continue ruling as High
Chieftain. The High Chieftain was to rule and
Coordinate the local Chieftains and the Freehold
but there was to be some local autonomy. The
Chiefs were to be permanent titles and ranked
above Chieftains. The Freehold changes its
structure and its name. The Barbarian Freehold
Alliance comes into existence. Laws 2-7,
confirmed new structure of the Freehold.
Thorson becomes 5th "Bard of the Freehold"
Braden is a Freehold Bard.

October - Runestaff came into existence as
the newsletter of the Alliance. Issue #1. 1st
editor is Helene Schwarzer Drache

November Runestaff #2

December - 1st Winter Althing. Attendance
numbered 25. Sponsored by House Morganwind.
With several problems occurring Law 7 is
invoked.

Runestaff #3.

The Barbarian Freehold Alliance

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

Publisher: Morgan Mullins (Morgan mac Maelain) msmullins3@earthlink.net
Editor: Anyone??

The Barbarian Freehold Alliance is a non-territorial alliance of Households, Ships, and individuals within the SCA who have a special interest in Viking, Celtic, Mongolian, or any other non-standard feudal European culture.

The main goals of the Alliance are to pursue and advance our understanding of these cultures and 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.

Website :

<http://barbarianfreehold.pbworks.com/>



Art credits

Siggy: Bob Winterer