



Thomas Schrieber Playing his Prize at Chalice of the Sun God 2010.

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## Chronicler

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October is almost over and November will soon be upon us. The many months of this past year have given me time to think about what this office needs and what the populace needs to see in this office. I think more articles and art are in order but those are the things I work constantly on. The II Tempo Newsletter itself needs something more. Pretty pictures are always nice and so are interesting works of achievements. But those are not what I'm talking about. The II Tempo needs populace participation. Yes, that means you. So once again I call for a cover contest for this next months II Tempo

Anyone interested in participating must either send me a hard copy or JPG of a cover you've designed for the II Tempo along with a release form or written consent to use it in the II Tempo and future issues. The submission must have enough space for the title and disclaimer to be displayed prominently, and must fall within the 8.5x11 inch page parameters. Other than that, and having it MS Word compatible there are no other requirements. The cover should be in my hands no later than December 1, 2010. Good luck!

Sincerely,

Baroness Marie-Thèrése Normand Chronicler, Ponte Alto

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## Ponte Alto Officers

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#### SENESCHAL (PRESIDENT)

Baron Marcellus Capoziello da Napoli (Bob Capozello) (703) 625-3883 (H) seneschal AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

#### **Deputy Seneschal**

Countess Denise Duvalier (Denise Hundley) (703) 339-4114 (H) DCADenise AT aol.com

#### **Deputy Seneschal**

Master Tirloch of Tallaght (Tom Bilodeau) 13456 Cobra Court Oak Hill, VA 20171 (703) 437-6271 (H) GMT53 AT ravenstreet.org

### CHANCELLOR FOR YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Gráinne inghean Dauídh ui Chonchobhair (Dana Leader) (571) 303-8636 (M) mom AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

### CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (TREASURER)

Baroness Celia of Rosedale (Tamara Brown) (703) 378-2441 (H) exchequer AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

#### Deputy Chancellor of the Exchequer

Daniel Warwick (Daniel Bensing) (703) 731-7621 (C)

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Lady Sian verch Gwilim ap Lewelin (Nicole Miller) 5368 Ashleigh Rd Fairfax, VA 22030 703-815-0659 (H), 703-483-0896 (M) chamberlain AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

#### KNIGHT MARSHAL

Charles the Bull (Gilbert Gordon) 8171 Curving Creek Ct Springfield, VA 22153 703-455-6235 (H) marshal AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

#### **Deputy Knight Marshal**

Lord Duncan the Elder (Duncan Cooper) (703) 801-6867 (H) duncancooper AT earthlink.net

#### RAPIER MARSHAL

Lord Geoffrey ap Clywd (Jeff Williams) rapier AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

#### **Deputy Rapier Marshal**

Baroness Catalina dell'Acqua (Jennifer Marsten) akgnome AT yahoo.com

#### **Deputy Rapier Marshal**

Baron Marcellus Capoziello da Napoli (Bob Capozello) (703) 625-3883 (H) afpopa AT cox.net

#### **Deputy Rapier Marshal**

Mistress Belphoebe de Givet (Laura Martinez) (703) 625-3883 (H) Belphoebe AT yahoo.com

#### ARCHERY MARSHAL

Lord Miles de Locwode (Mike Emrich) 10106 Copper Court Oakton, VA 22124 (703) 242-2339 (H), (703) 395-9487 (M) archery AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

#### **Deputy Archery Marshal**

Lady Brigid O'Hara (Karen Miller) 4225 Claret Ct. Chantilly, VA 20151 (703) 657-0929 (H) mill3rs AT yahoo.com

#### MINISTER OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Lady Bevin an Broc Drannach (Kristin Moran) (571) 449-7694 moas AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

#### **Deputy Minister of Arts and Sciences** Not filled at this time

CHATELAINE (NEWCOMERS)

Baroness Emma West (Dawn Hutchings) (301) 943-2469 (M) chatelaine AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

#### GOLD KEY (LOANER COSTUMES)

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#### **Deputy for Demos**

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#### HERALD

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Vacant

mol AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

#### **Deputy Minister of the Lists**

Baroness Celia of Rosedale (Tamara Brown) (703) 378-2441 (H) celia AT ravenstreet.org

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Gráinne inghean Dauídh (Dana Leader)-Editor

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Simon Grimstone (Greg Korns)-Photographer

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#### MEMBERS OF THE BARONIAL GUARD

Mistress Cunen Beornhelm (Captain)

#### **BARONIAL NOTEABLES**

**BARONIAL NOTEABLES** 

**Baronial Warlord** 

Lord Lucas von Aych

warlord AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

**Baronial Heavy Champion** 

Lord Lucas von Aych

heavychamp AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

**Baronial Rapier Champion** 

Lord Alric the Mad

rapierchamp AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

**Baronial Archery Champion** 

archerychamp AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

**Baronial Artisan** 

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Fairfax, VA 22031

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273-5555 (W)

artisan AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

**Baronial Bard** 

Lady Pippa Morosini (Melanie Cozad)

976 Holborn Court

Sterling, VA 20164 (703) 346-7572 (H)

bard AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

**Baronial Brewer** 

Lord Drogo Rainulf de Dragonera (Stephen

Cicirelli)

brewer AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

## Calendar

### Baronial Progress for October/November

Date	Event	Baron and/or Baroness
October 22-24	Chalice of the Sun God	Katharine and James
November 6	Crown Tournament	Katharine and James
November 20	Holiday Faire	Katharine and James
December	Meet Us Under The Bridge	Katharine and James

	October						
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	
25 4:30 pm - 8 pm Ponte Alto/Stierbach Archery Practice	26 7:30pm- 9pm Alle Psallite	27 7 pm - 9 pm Armoring Night	28 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Rapier Practice 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice	29	30	31 1 pm - 5 pm Outdoor Rapier Practice 1 pm - 5 pm Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice	
			Novembe	r			
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	
1 4:30 pm - 8 pm Ponte Alto/Stierbach Archery Practice	2 7:30pm- 9pm Alle Psallite 7 pm-Ponte Alto Scriptorium	3	6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Rapier Practice 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice	5	6	7 1 pm - 5 pm Outdoor Rapier Practice 1 pm - 5 pm Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice	
8 4:30 pm - 8 pm Ponte Alto/Stierbach Archery Practice	9 7:30pm- 9pm Alle Psallite	10 7pm-9pm Night	11 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Rapier Practice 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice	12 Newcomer Meeting 7pm	13	14 1 pm - 5 pm Outdoor Rapier Practice 1 pm - 5 pm Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice	
15 4:30 pm - 8 pm Ponte Alto/Stierbach Archery Practice	16 7:30pm- 9pm Alle Psallite 7 pm-Ponte Alto Scriptorium	17	18 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Rapier Practice 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice	19	20	21 1 pm - 5 pm Outdoor Rapier Practice 1 pm - 5 pm Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice	
22 4:30 pm - 8 pm Ponte Alto/Stierbach Archery Practice	23 7:30pm- 9pm Alle Psallite	24 7 pm - 9 pm Armoring Night	25 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Rapier Practice 6 pm - 9 pm Indoor Heavy Weapons Practice	26	27	28 1 pm - 5 pm Outdoor Rapier Practice 1 pm - 5 pm Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice 6pm Ponte Alto Business Meeting	
Ponte Alto/Stierbach Archery Practice			and activities of activities				

<sup>\*</sup>Note on school locations for activities: There will be no activities at schools during school holidays or on other days when Fairfax County schools are closed or all nighttime school recreational activities are cancelled. Notification of cancellation or alternate site location will be posted on the web as soon as possible. You can visit the Fairfax County Public Schools Emergency Announcement page for school closure status: <a href="http://fcps.edu/news/emerg.htm">http://fcps.edu/news/emerg.htm</a>

### Weekly Events

	SUNDAY
Ponte Alto	Fourth Sunday of the month at 6 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 7426 Idlywood Rd, Falls Church.
Baronial Business Meeting	Take your best route to I-66. Get off at the exit for Route 7 West (Tysons Corner). Turn left at the first light after the interchange onto Idlywood Rd. The church is up the hill on the right about 1/4 mile.
Outdoor Heavy	Weather permitting, Noon - Dark, outdoors at Tysons-Pimmit Park, behind Tysons-Pimmit Regional
Weapons and Rapier Practice	Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Contact the Baronial Knight Marshal for information.  Directions: Take your best route to I-495. Get off at the exit for Route 7 East (Falls Church). The library is
-	on the left about 1 mile. Park in the library lot and go down the hill to the park.
	MONDAY
Ponte	Every Monday, 4:30 pm - 8 pm
Alto/Stierbach Archery Practice	Contact the Archery Marshal at: archery AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org for further details.
	TUESDAY
Ponte Alto	Meets the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.
Scriptorium	Contact Lady Brigid O'Hara (mill3rs AT yahoo. com, (703) 409-0780 (C)) for information and directions.
Alle Psallite	Every Tuesday, 7:30-9 pm in Herndon.
(Vocal Music)	Contact Mistress Anne of Carthew (anne AT ravenstreet.org) For more information or directions. Music files can be found at http://www.ravenstreet.org/Anne/alle_psallite/alle_psallite.htm and on the Yahoo Group AllePsallite.
	WEDNESDAY
Arts and	Weaving night is on the Second Wednesday of the month at the home of Lord Jürgen Göttsfürböter
Sciences/Weaving Night	(jcfrench AT mac.com), whom you should contact for more information and directions.
Armoring	Armoring night is on the Fourth Wednesday of the month at the home of Lord Jürgen Göttsfürböter
	(jcfrench AT mac.com), whom you should contact for more information and directions.
Rapier Practice	THURSDAY
Rapier Fractice	Every Thursday, outdoors at Tysons-Pimmit Park, behind Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church from 6-9 pm. Contact the Baronial Rapier Marshal for more information.
	Directions: Take your best route to I-495. Get off at the exit for Route 7 East (Falls Church). The library is
	on the left about 1 mile. Park in the library lot and go down the hill to the park.
Heavy Weapons	Weather permitting, outdoors at Tysons-Pimmit Park, behind Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584
Practice	Leesburg Pike, Falls Church from 6-9 pm. Practice is geared to developing beginning and intermediate fighters through intensive hands on training with experienced instructors, as well to providing ample
	opportunity for more advanced fighters to spar with knight level combatants. All are welcome. Contact the
	Baronial Knight Marshal for more information.
	Directions: Take your best route to I-495. Get off at the exit for Route 7 East (Falls Church). The library is on the left about 1 mile. Park in the library lot and go down the hill to the park.
	MONTHLY
SCA Newcomer	Newcomer Meetings occur once a month on a weeknight from 7-9 pm at the homes of various members of
Meetings	the Barony.  Contact the Baronial Chatelaine for information, or check out the top of the Weekly Activities page for the recently posted information.
	recently posted information.

# Baronial Business Meeting Minutes

Meeting — October 24, 2010-6:00 p.m.

#### OFFICER'S REPORTS

Seneschal- Baron Marcellus Capoziello da Napoli: Welcomed everyone.

Two things reported:

- Beginning in November Society will begin VIP passes for newcomers. This means newcomers are exempt from the non-member surcharge for their first three events when presenting the VIP pass, as a newcomer recruitment effort. For more information you will find it on page 14 of the Acorn in this month's issue.
- Most have noticed that they have not received their Baronial polling. The labels
  proved a bit difficult to get because we have no real event date for the investiture.
  Without it Society is not giving us labels. We will resolve this issue under Events.

**Exchequer**- Baroness Celia of Rosedale: - there is \$7,980.45 in the account currently. This does not include deposits for Chalice of the Sun God, but does include the receipts from Chalice. However, we still have outstanding event fees for the Dons-Jons at Crown and the second half of Meet Me Under the Bridge site fee and food expenses. These fees are still due.

**Knight Marshal-** Charles the Bull: Not in attendance. Marcellus read a quick note from Charles the Bull.

...I am still trying to get a Marshall's class for those who have fallen out of compliance in the Barony.

The quarterly report was submitted to Kingdom.

Charles

**Rapier Marshal**- Lord Geoffrey ap Clywd: Rapier continues. There is a rules change for the Marshals. Instead of two years before a Marshal has to take a class to reacquaint the marshal with the rules of the list, it is being proposed that (rapier) Marshal's class requirement move out to three years instead of two. This was posted to the Marshallet list today (October 24, 2010).

**Archery Marshal**- Lord Miles de Locwode: - 24 archers competed at Chalice of the Sun God. Mors (Valgard av Mors) of Stierbach ended up being the Chalice Champion.

**Arts and Sciences**-Lady Bevin d Brock: Not in attendance. A&S had eight entrances in Chalice of the Sun God's A&S Competition. Her Excellency Rhonwen of Steirbach once again reigns as Chalice Champion. Giovanna (our Webminster) and Amy Sparrow did embroidery projects that tied for second place. Our Artisan did well too.

There were five participants in Bardic competition: Naran as a story teller, All Stars – acting, Page was Chalice Champion.

**Herald-** Lady Sian verch Gwilim ap Lewelin: Heraldry for a relatively new person. Brennain will be doing this with Sian for practice. Also, Christine Menton's heraldry, which is in conflict with another person's, was told that the conflicted would think about allowing her to have her heraldry in conflict with theirs. So, she is now waiting to hear back on that.

**Chronicler**- Baroness Marie-Therese Normand: A call for art and articles was made. Along with a call for cover art for the next few issues of the II Tempo, because while I can do everything there are times when the issue could be put out earlier if I did not also have to create a cover.

**Web Minister-** Giovanna Rossellini di Firenze: Not in attendance. She is still doing a great job. Crown site looks great. And she is quick to turn around work necessary to her office.

**MOL-** Position not filled: Not in attendance.

**MOM**- Not in attendance.

**Chatelaine**- Baroness Emma West: Last newcomer's meeting was held at Pippa and Edward's. They had seven newcomer's and three were at Chalice of the Sun God yesterday. Several of them play the French Horn. The next meeting will be November 12, 2010. Also, the Chatelaine is calling for a deputy.

#### BARONIAL NOTABLES

**Warlord –** Not in attendance. He was at WOW. Henry, James, Lucas, Walter & Geoffrey in the Rapier community showed up to fight at this event.

**Heavy Champion –** Not in attendance.

Rapier Champion – Not in attendance

**Archery Champion – Not in attendance** 

**A&S Champion** –. Competed yesterday for the Ponte Alto team. Things coming up are Crown and maybe, Holiday Faire with its completely undocumented turkey. Hasn't made up her mind yet.

Bardic Champion - Not in attendance

**Brewing Champion –** Yesterday he fought on the Baronial team and judged the Brewing competition. Brennain entered in the Brewing competition and did pretty well.

#### BARON AND BARONESS

**Baroness Katharine** – Went to WOW on the winning side of the combat on the heavy field at least. Those thinking of going to WOW next year should know that over 1000 people were in attendance this year.

Stierbach retained the Chalice Of The Sun God Championship.

On the Ponte Alto Team were:

- Heavy: Drogo Rainulf de Dragonera
- Rapier: Marcellus Capiziello da Napoli
- Archer: Magrid
- Bardic: Lord Naran
- Arts and Sciences: Caitilin Irruisinghean ui Riada
- Youth Archery: William
- Youth Heavy: Agnarr Gunnvaldsson

Also, Drogo received the Barony's award for A&S the Ponte d'Argento

Giovanna received her AOA from their Majesties via their Excellencies of Ponte Alto several months after the fact and a Ponte d'Oro for her work in the Barony.

Naran, whose name changed from Tselmeg is now Ponte Alto's -Archery Champion. He changed his name from a non-Historic name to a historical name this past year. Luce did a great job as Baronial Archery Champion, as exhibited by the Chalice Archery shoot. 'It was rocking and rolling.'

There are a number of events coming up. In two weeks there will be Crown, two weeks after that Holiday Faire, and two to three weeks after that Meet Me Under the Bridge (MMUB or M2UB) so we have a lot going on.

Send in award recommendations and we'll send them to their Majesties. Also, when doing so send in a complete list of your candidates accomplishments so that their Majesties can speak competently about them when they give the person their award. Don't skimp on the details.

#### **EVENT**

**Chalice of the Sun God-** Complaints about the parking were common. The site just doesn't have enough parking. The morning of the event the attendants didn't care that we parked where we wanted. This changed later in the day, but switched back to not caring later. Clean up this morning was completed by those that volunteered quickly and efficiently and the park attendant was impressed by the job.

The event total attendance was 170 people with 155 of those being adults. (Need the receipts before we can figure out whether we made money. We didn't use don-jons so it's predicted that we will be under budget. Katharine asked about the budget, "What was the break even number?" The reply was "Break even was 115 onsite and 60 for feast." We only had 50 at feast but it was a fabulous feast. It was noted that there were a couple of no shows for the pre-registered that have a week to request refund before we can be sure of our total profit or loss. Preliminary guess is that we made \$500 maybe even as much as \$700.

James, "Besides parking, the site was good." Marcellus said, "the field was small." But it was agreed that, "the smaller space allowed everyone to see the event going on all around them." Even though the arts and sciences/Bardic representative/participants agreed with them, they did qualify that, "the tent with the stage was good, some did well at projecting and some did not. So the bleed-off of noise from the crowd was distracting."

Comments on parking about how we could and then couldn't use camp 2 as parking were brought up by James and he suggested that next time we need wagons for armor and water. Miles replied that they (archers) had two big wagons to use for archery gear and supplies.

What we probably need next year if the site is used is a shuttle for parking. Anya asked, "Do we use walkie-talkies between troll and the autocrat?" Celia said "She was considering it and we discussed using them again, since we'd used them on loan from a private party in the past. This might let things run smoother. Signs of where things were would be good. We had a map. The problem being that it was a map of only camp 5. Not both camp 5 and 2 (for there parking area).

Also a note needed to be made to first get off 95 to keep going straigt so that we knew where to go. In future we would use GPS directions, since several people got lost getting to the site.

Crown Tourney- Right now set up and clean up are good (volunteer wise). However we will need parking and a couple more servers for the feast. The autocrat should know in the next week if anything else is needed. Doug/Segird should be able to help with the parking. Allisondra, Pippa, Celia, and Anya are doing the Troll so far. They'd like maybe 5 people in the morning for the main rush. More volunteers would be needed just so people don't' have to sit at any one position all day long. There are a large number of Combatants and Baronies that have asked for field space and it will be allotted on a first come first serve basis. The schedule has been posted to the Facebook site. Troll opens at 8, 9 consorts breakfast, 10:30 line up for procession, 11 procession will begin. 1-4 heralds will bee needed consorts. Duke Cuan is Marshal-In-Charge (MIC) and Jason will Marshall as well, but 1-5 more Marshals are needed for this event.

Alle Psallite will perform. Majesties will require a half-hour for court. And the autocrat has tasted everything for the feast and it's good! Except they're still working on the spices.

Also, the Barony now has a membership to Restaurant Depot. Sophia used it for Chalice of the Sun God, and Mike will use it for Crown Tourney.

The membership cards will reside with either Marcellus or Sian. Marcellus said Sian should probably have them as Chamberlain.

**Meet Us Under the Bridge** – She will probably put out something to the list as a call for table games and to contact Marcellus with the information pertinent to that. Also a call will go out for the same sort of information and volunteer of skills in the performing arts arena, with the encouragement to contact Bel for those interested in setting up times to perform throughout the day. This event is what it is. And parking is what it is. People are encouraged to bring personal banners to decorate the hall. The site opens for set up at 9:30am to the staff and to those coming to enjoy the event at 10am.

Ponte Alto Baronial Investiture/Kingdom Arts and Science Festival - No word whether we got the event (KASF). They prefer to use us as one trip north, but we have been asked to consider "How about the event just be an investiture," then we can use the same day as KASF and be okay with the conflicting events. Still no decision has been made yet. Highland Foorde is rumored to be biding for KASF. If we got it they would then loose out to Crown and KSF to us. The weekend before January 22 is a possible weekend for a non-KASF investiture. A review of the dates that are taken was done. And once again St Paddy's day was ruled out and so where every weekend except Jan 22. The sites of the Lodge being used for Meet Me Under the Bridge for \$400 is still good. Falls Church Presbyterian was also considered as another site for Investiture. Also, to save the date we need to spike the event and Katharine volunteered to do that.

#### OLD BUSINESS

**Coronets**. Katharine sent two emails out and was suppose to email him again today. She's going to call Lothar this week and try to get information on the coronets as well as the Baronial coronets left in his care for cleaning.

**St Paddy's Day Blood Bath**. Anya asked, "Who do I get the information for St Paddy's Day Blood Bath from." And then was told "They (the SCA) don't have to contact them (the park) until the first of the year." Also the park gets 15% of our profit. The profit whether its after site fee or just the gate was brought into question. This became an issue when the Washington Post article came out a few years ago and we have been caught on that particular issue ever since.

Kingdom Archery Event- Sometime in May or June. The Calendar would seem to point to the last weekend in June as the only one not taken. If there's a weekend where there is not a local event (On Target-June, Storvik Novice -17, Highland River competes with On Target) then we go into July. Loudoun County Fair Grounds is offered as a site for this event. As is Camp 1 at Prince William Park, and Issak Walton League in Stierbach where they hold Defending the Gate occasionally. Miles said he would give those sites a call this week but that duty may fall to Emma she is the autocrat and it was only at this time that Miles was told that.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Exchequer-reported working on Quarterly report due at end of the month.

The first-aid kit was stored in the same bin as the bleach and is now toasted. A request was put forth for a new first-aid kit for the kitchen use and would like it before Crown. A vote was called for and seconded by Katharine and when those gathered where asked to cast their verbal ballot the ayes carried across the board. No nays. Then someone requested something be included for bee stings since Chalice had a lot of wasps and at least one sting on site. No one objected.

Another thing was brought up to look at pricing for signs like they had at Wind Master. We might want to investigate the light-weight and portable real-estate type signs for such things as parking, archery, etc. If they price is right we will look into getting some of these particular signs made up.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth combat division 1 will start at 6yrs of age now.

End of meeting 6:56 p.m. with 17 people in attendance

### Chatelaine

Giovanna and Lucas will be hosting November's newcomer's gathering. The gathering is scheduled for Friday, November 12th starting at 7:00 PM. The address is 6567 Skylemar Trail Centreville VA 20121. There is a dog so medicate if necessary.

The easiest way to get to their house is Rt. 28 heading south towards Manassas; left onto Green Trails Blvd, then right onto Skylemar Trail. Their townhouse is on the left.

Please park on Green Trails Blvd as all parking on Skylemar Trail is private parking. If you get lost please contact me on my cell phone at 301-943-2469.

See you all there.

Baroness Emma West Chatelaine of Ponte Alto

(As Copied from Baroness Emma's email of October 26, 2010)

#### ALSO a reminder....

All:

Please note that the traffic light for Green Trails Blvd. is roughly 2 miles south of I-66. At the light, the road is Green Trails Blvd. on your left and Old Mill Rd. on your right. There is an elementary school with green roofs (Centreville Elementary School) on the near left corner. You will see the subdivision sign (Manorgate) as your turn left onto Green Trails Blvd.

Skylemar Trail is the fourth street on your right. The street immediately preceding it is Palisades Dr. As Baroness Emma said, parking on Skylemar Trail is private parking spaces, so please park on Green Trails Blvd. Thank you.

Greta Klusenaere

(who, by coincidence, also lives on Skylemar Trail)

(As Copied from Baroness Greta's email of October 26, 2010)

## Constitution of Melfi

Selections from the Constitutions of Melfi.

-Daniel Warwick1

#### Introduction

A constant theme in medieval history is the struggle between the assertion of royal prerogatives to control a rebellious nobility and the resistance to the King's authority by nobles relying on traditional feudal rights.

When Frederick II (Holy Roman Emperor and King of Sicily) returned from the Sixth Crusade in 1231, and defeated widespread rebellions by his Italian vassals, who were aided by the Pope, he was at the peak of his power. Sicily (essentially all of Italy south of Rome) had been conquered by his Norman ancestors Robert and Roger Guiscard in the 11th and 12th Centuries. The kings of Sicily were perhaps the most powerful medieval monarchs in Europe at this time.

Planning to cement his success by confirming royal rights in the Kingdom of Sicily, Frederick retreated to his castle at Melfi, and summoning his leading legal advisor, Petrus della Vigna, adopted an elaborate code of laws for the Kingdom of Sicily. The Constitutions of Melfi were part of a concerted effort by Frederick to re-assert royal authority after a long period when Frederick had been a minor and his vassals usurped his rights and prerogatives as king.<sup>2</sup>

Frederick began by restating certain basic principles of royal authority. Frederick wanted to ensure peace in his Kingdom of Sicily, since he was engaged in extended wars in Northern Italy to assert Imperial rights).

<u>Deeds and Counsels of Kings</u> (I/IV) No one should dispute about the judgment, plans, and undertakings of the king. For to dispute about his decisions, deeds, constitutions, plans and whether he whom the king has chosen is worthy is comparable to sacrilege.

<u>About those Who Incite War</u> (I/IX) A count, baron, knight, or anyone else who publically incites war in the kingdom should be punished by death after all his goods have been confiscated.

<u>About the Illegal Bearing of Arms</u> (I/X) Therefore, since the bearing of forbidden weapons sometimes is the cause of violence and murder, we elect to resist now rather than avenge later.

We order that none of the subjects of our kingdom should dare to carry sharpened and prohibited weapons: small knives with points, swords, lances, breast-plates, shields or coats of mail, iron maces or any others which have been made more to cause injury than for some beneficial purpose.

We exempt knights, the sons of knights, and townsmen from the force of the present law. We do not forbid them to carry swords when they ride on business outside the locality in which they live. But when they have returned to their own locality they should immediately put aside their swords.

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quotations have been edited.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Daniel Warwick, a member of the Barony since 2004, is a rapier fighter, and in his day job, a trial attorney in the Civil Division of the U.S. Justice Department. He is a lifelong student of Classical and Medieval History. More notably, he is also the father of Thomas Schrieber, the Barony's rapier champion in 2008, who is currently on loan to Black Diamond.) <sup>2</sup> Liber Augustalis or the Constitutions of Melfi Promulgated by the Emperor Frederick II for the Kingdom of Sicily in 1231 (translated by James Powell, Syracuse Univ. Press. 1971). Citations are to Book and Section numbers. Some

<u>Illegal to Draw Forbidden Weapons</u> (I.XII) If anyone draws forbidden weapons against someone and does not injure them he will pay double the penalty for bearing illegal arms.

<u>Illegal Striking with Weapons.</u> (1.XIII) If anyone strikes another with aforesaid forbidden weapons so that the person struck dies from even the slightest blow, the attacker should lose the hand with which he struck.

A fundamental duty of a Christian King is to ensure that the Church also receives royal protection.

<u>The Crime of Heresy</u> (I/I) Heretics try to tear the seamless robe of our God. They are the most evil angels. They are sons of depravity from the father of wickedness and the author of evil, who are resolved to deceive simple souls.

We cannot contain our emotions against such men so hostile to God, to themselves and to mankind. Therefore, we draw the sword of righteous vengeance against them.

We order by the promulgation of our present law that these [heretics] should be condemned to suffer the death for which they strive. Committed to the judgment of the flames, they should be burned alive in the sight of the people.

No one should presume to intervene with us in behalf of such persons. But if anyone does, we shall turn against him the deserved stings of our indignation.

<u>About Those Apostatizing</u> (I/III) We curse thoroughly those who apostatize from the Catholic faith. We pursue them with vengeance. We despoil them of all their goods. We withdraw those who break a promise or vow from the protection of our laws. We abolish their inheritances and cancel their every legitimate right.

<u>Blasphemy</u> (III/XCI) We punish those who blaspheme God and the virgin Mary by cutting out their blasphemous tongues.

The Obligation of a king is to ensure that his Courts guarantee Justice to all subjects. Frederick's subjects were primarily: (1) Christian Normans, Franks or Lombards; (2) Byzantine Greeks; and (3) Sicilian Muslims. All deserved legal protection and Muslims, who were some of his strongest supporters, especially so.

<u>Concealed crimes</u> (I/XXVII) We promulgate a general constitution of our [subjects] about the felling of trees and the burning of houses and other crimes which are committed secretly at night.

If the perpetrators cannot be found, or if, as so often happens, they are hidden by the inhabitants of the area, the men in the same area in which the crimes are committed should be forced to make complete restitution of damages.

We cannot allow Jews and Saracens to be defrauded of the power of our protection because a difference of religion renders them hateful and deprives them of all other help.

If the aforesaid nocturnal and clandestine criminals should be caught in the act of committing the crime, they should be punished by death.

Secret marriages usually equated to secret political alliances and hence cannot be allowed.

How Marriages Should be Celebrated (III/XXII) We order that all men of our kingdom and especially nobles who desire to contract marriage must have the marriage celebrated solemnly and publically, with the due solemnity of a priestly blessing.

Otherwise they . . . would have no legitimate heirs. Women should know that they would have no legal right to the dowers due other wives.

\_\_\_\_\_

Frederick (along with most of the Holy Roman Emperors in the Medieval period) fought constant wars to assert Imperial rights against the cities of Northern Italy that asserted their independence, seeking to be governed by their own, elected governors ("podestas"). No Emperor could accept this challenge to his authority and Frederick expressly forbid such revolutionary changes in his Kingdom of Sicily.

<u>Communes that create Podestas.</u> (1.61) "Since sufficiently numerous officials have been established to our highness for each person to be able to find justice in both civil and criminal cases . . . we abolish the illegal usurpation . . . and command that from now on they should not create podestas, counsels or rectors in any districts." Only the officials established by our majesty should administer our rights and those of our subjects. Penalty of an illegal city commune: "perpetual desolation" of the city "perpetual forced labor" of the citizens, death for the officers.

# About Ponte Alto Fighting Community

Recently I sent out a call to all fighters in Ponte Alto to answer three questions in a quick survey to find out a little bit about our troops and their disciplinary disbursement. Assuming that not everyone participated in the same areas of interest, I asked that they answer with their name, the discipline they fought in and any weapons they were authorized in.

Below are the numbers for the fighters of Ponte Alto that answered the survey.

Over All Troops - 15

#### **Disciplines:**

Heavy – 11

Rapier – 5

Missile - 4

Equestrian - 1

#### Weapons Authorized to use:

Weapon and Shield – 11

Dual Weapon - 3

Great Weapon – 4

Pole Weapon - 6

Spear – 4

Combat Archery - 5

Siege – 3

Rapier Regular - 4

Rapier Heavy - 4

Cut and Thrust - 1

There are still several someones, perhaps 10, I know of in the community that fight with Ponte Alto that did not answer this survey. However as troop and weapons disbursement goes I think this offers a good idea of where we are as a barony.

## Another Fine Product Of Ponte Alto

### The Coronation of Their Majesties Bryan and Brianna

The following Pontoons were recognized by Their Majesties of Atlantia.

Baron Henry and Baroness Emma – Grant of Arms Lord Brenainn – Court Baronage with a Grant of Arms!

### Chalice of the Sun God: Out Staring the Medusa

Lord Drogo – Ponte d'Argento (A&S award)

Lady Giovanna –Award of Arms and a Ponte d'Oro (Service award)

Lord Naran – Is now Ponte Alto's Archery Champion

October/November 2010

# Pictures from Chalice of the Sun God

Winners of Chalice of the Sun God and this year's Chalice Champions!!!

Heavy: Sir Aldrydd Ffestiniog



Heavy Youth Division Champion



Rapier: Dominyk Wolferam



Heavy Youth Division Champion



|| Tempo October / November 2010



Arts &Science Champion: Baroness Rhonwen verch Tuder



Archery Champion: Lord Volgard av Mors



Documented - Bardic: Paige



Bardic: The All Stars



Stierbach's Baronial Presence as Chalice Champions for 2010

||Tempo October/November 2010

Fighting for the Prize a grand rapier tradition that shows the skill and endurance of the fencer invited to do so.















# Submission Form

#### Kingdom of Atlantia Publication Permission Form

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(hereafter ret	ter referred to as SCA, Inc.) as,							
I am the sole	/joint author/	creator of the work en	titled:					
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