



The Barony of Ponte Alto

Newsletter - Il Tempo

Welcome to Il Tempo!



From the Dance of Death by Hans Holbein the Younger (1491).

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Courtesy copies of Il Tempo are provided to Their Majesties, Their Highnesses, the Kingdom Chronicler, and the Kingdom Seneschal, in either electronic or paper format, as requested. All Kingdom Chroniclers are

welcome to peruse the electronic version of Il Tempo, posted on the Baronial website.



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Ponte Alto Activities

Sunday Outdoor Rapier Practices will resume on **April 23, 2006**. Indoor Thursday night practices continue on days when the school is open. Please contact the [Baronial Rapier Marshal](#) for more information.

April's **Newcomers Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, April 19, 2006 at 7:00PM** at the home of Lady Isabella Candeloro. Please contact the [Baronial Chatelaine](#) for more information and directions.

SUNDAY

Ponte Alto Baronial Business Meeting

Fourth Sunday of the month at 6 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Idylwood Road, Falls Church. [Business Meeting Directions](#).

Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice

Weather permitting, Noon - Dark, outdoors at Tysons-Pimmit Park, behind Tysons-Pimmit Library, Falls Church. Please contact the [Baronial Knight Marshal](#) for more information. [Sunday Fight Practice Directions](#).

Ladies Instructional Heavy Weapons Practice

First Sunday of every month, Noon - Dark, outdoors, weather permitting, at Tysons-Pimmit Park, behind Tysons-Pimmit Library, Falls Church. Contact Lady Marie Thérèse Normand (mariatheresapontoon AT yahoo.com, (703) 690-9453 (H)) for more information. [Sunday Fight Practice Directions](#).

MONDAY

**Alle Psallite
(Vocal Music)**

Every Monday, 7:30-9 pm in Herndon. Please 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](#).

**Asian Nights
(Exploration of
all things Asian)**

Second Monday of every month, starts at 6:30 in Centreville. Please contact Lady Áine Sindradóttir (***ellen.m.davis AT att.net***, (703) 815-0310 (H)) or Lord Ii Saburou Katsumori (***logan AT modzer0.cs.uaf.edu***) for more information or directions.

TUESDAY

**Harp and Drum
Corps
(Instrumental
Music)**

Meets first Tuesdays, 7:30 - 9 pm at the home of Mistress Anne of Carthew (***anne AT ravenstreet.org***) for practice and polishing of more advanced musical pieces. Meets third Tuesdays, 7:30 - 9 pm at the home of Lady Celia of Rosedale (***rosedale703 AT aol.com***, (703) 378-2441 (H)) for practice of SCA Dance music. Contact the respective hosts for more information, and visit the [HarpAndDrum Yahoo Group](#).

**Ponte Alto
Scriptorium**

Meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm, starting December 2005. Please contact Brigid O'Hara (***mill3rs AT yahoo.com***, (703) 620-4945 (H)) for more information and directions.

WEDNESDAY

Weaving Nights

Second and fourth Wednesdays of every month from 7-9 pm, at the home of Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) (***jcfrench AT gmail.com***), whom you should contact for more information and directions.

THURSDAY

Rapier Practice *

Every Thursday at Shrevewood Elementary school from 6 pm to 9 pm. Please use the rear entrance to the cafeteria. Please contact the [Baronial Rapier Marshal](#) for more information. [Indoor Rapier Directions](#). This is a [school location activity](#).

Heavy Weapons Indoor Practice

*

Lemon Road Elementary School on Idylwood Road, 6 pm - 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 sparr with knight level combatants. All are welcome. Contact the [Baronial Knight Marshal](#) for more information. [Indoor Heavy Directions](#). This is a [school location activity](#).

FRIDAY

Ponte Alto/Stierbach Archery Practice

Fridays from 4:30 pm until 8 pm, the indoor season archery practice site is Bull Run Regional Park's shooting center. [Archery Practice Directions](#). Practices are jointly held with Stierbach. You may also contact the [Baronial Archery Marshal](#) for carpool or other information. Contact and practice time/location information for Stierbach practices can be found at the Stierbach Archery website: <http://mysite.verizon.net/vze4ks38/archery/main.html>.

Ponte Alto Scriptorium/A&S Night

May meet on a Friday during the month, as posted on the at the top of this page. Please contact Lady Perronelle la peintre (***dwatsonirwin AT cox.net***, (703) 455-0298 (H)) for more information and directions.

Stierbach/Ponte Alto Bardic

Come and share your songs and stories! Meets the fourth Friday of the month at 7:30 pm. Contact Lady Celia of Rosedale (***rosedale703 AT aol.com***, (703) 378-2441 (H)), Lady Cassandra Arabella Giordani (***cassandra AT jordanclan.net***), or Baroness Briana Maclukas (***darbyjanie AT hotmail.com***) for more information.

MONTHLY

SCA Newcomer Meetings

Newcomer Meetings occur once a month on a weeknight from 7-9 pm at the homes of various members of the Barony. Contact the [Baronial Chatelaine](#) for more information, or check out the top of this page for the most recently posted information.

Embroidery Night

Their Excellencies of Ponte Alto host a monthly embroidery night starting at 7:30 pm. Please contact the [Baron and Baroness](#) for more information, or check out the top of this page for the most recently posted information.

*** 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: <http://fcps.edu/news/emerg.htm>



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Directions to Ponte Alto Meetings

Baronial Business Meeting (Fourth Sunday of each month, except December)

The meeting is at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 7426 Idlywood Rd., Falls Church.

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.

Fighter Practice (Sundays Noon (Heavy) - Dark, Weather Permitting)

Practice is behind the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church.

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.

Indoor Heavy Fighter Practice (Thursdays 6 to 9 PM)

Lemon Road Elementary

From Southern Virginia, Maryland and Alexandria, VA

Take I-495 (the beltway) to the VA-Route 7 East exit at Tysons Corner labeled Leesburg Pike/Falls Church, Exit #47B. Continue on Leesburg Pike towards Falls Church for 1.2M. Turn left onto Idylwood Road for 0.3 miles. * Turn left into the Lemon Road Elementary School front parking lot. Park and enter the building through the main front entrance on the right hand side of the building. Proceed straight ahead past the cafeteria entrances, turn left into the hallway which leads past the stairs to the second floor and walk past the stairs to the entrance to the gym.

From Northwestern Virginia and Washington, DC

Take I-66 to the VA-Route 7 West exit for Leesburg Pike/Tysons Corner exit #66B. Continue on Leesburg Pike under 0.1M towards Tysons Corner. Turn right at the first light onto Idylwood Road for 0.3 miles. Follow from * above.

Indoor Rapier Practice (Thursdays 6-9 PM)

Shrevewood Elementary School in Falls Church

From 495 North

Travel 495 South and go to exit (Arlington Blvd/50 West). TAKE 50 WEST. Make a right onto Gallows Rd/Merrifield exit and exit to the right onto Gallows Road.

* Travel past two traffic lights (Landmarks Giant, Boyds Piano). At the third light (Landmark German AutoBody shop on right), make a right onto Route 29 (Lee Highway).
** At the third light, make a left onto Shreve Road. The School will be on your right, where Shreve Road divides. We will be in the gym; please use the rear door.

From 495 South

Travel 495 North and go to the Gallows Road exit and take a left. Travel pass the Fairfax Hospital and proceed with directions above starting at the *

From Tysons

Travel on Gallows Rd. towards Fairfax Hospital. Make a left onto Route 29 (Lee Highway). Follow from ** above.

From Lee Highway Rt. 29 from Fairfax

Travel on Lee Highway until you come to intersection of Lee Highway and Gallows Road. Follow from ** above.

From Rt. 7 Leesburg Pike (From Falls Church)

Take left onto Shreve Road (just past Chicken Out Catering on your right). If you reach I-66 intersection, you have gone too far. After approximately 1 mile, Shreve Road divides, directly in front of the school. Make a left turn into the school parking lot.

From Rt. 7 Leesburg Pike (From Tysons)

Take a right onto Shreve Road (Landmark McDonalds on right, after I-66 intersection).

After approximately 1 mile, Shreve Road divides, directly in front of the school. Make a left turn into the school parking lot.

Archery Practice (Fridays 4:30 PM - 8 PM)

Practice is at Bull Run Regional Park's Shooting Center

I-66 to exit 52, US Rt 29.

RIGHT from exit ramp onto Rt 29 (south) for about 2 miles
(see sign for Bull Run Regional Park).

LEFT on Bull Run Post Office Rd (VA Rt 621).

LEFT onto Bull Run Dr (note this is about a 90-degree turn; *do not* take the tighter left onto VA 658).

Cross over 66 and then follow signs to shooting center at Bull Run Regional Park.



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Monthly Calendar

April 2006

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
March 27 7:30 pm - Alle Psallite	28	29	30 6 pm - Rapier Practice 6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice	31 4:30 pm - Archery Practice	April 1 Coronation of Michael and Seonaid	2 Noon - Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice Noon - Ladies Instructional Heavy Weapons Practice
3 7:30 pm - Alle Psallite	4 7 pm - Scriptorium 7:30 pm - Harp and Drum	5	6 6 pm - Rapier Practice 6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice	7 4:30 pm - Archery Practice	8 Sacred Stone's Novice Tourney Tir-y-Don Baronial Birthday	9 Noon - Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice
10 6:30 pm - Asian Night 7:30 pm - Alle Psallite	11	12 7 pm - Weaving Night	13 6 pm - Rapier Practice 6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice	14 4:30 pm - Archery Practice	15 Night on the Town VIII Tournament of Chivalry	16 <i>Easter</i> Noon - Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice

<p style="text-align: center;">17</p> <p>7:30 pm - Alle Psallite</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p>7:30 pm - Harp and Drum</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p>7 pm - Newcomer's Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p>6 pm - Rapier Practice</p> <p>6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p>4:30 pm - Archery Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p>Rogues of Sherwood Forest</p> <p>Challenge of the Heart</p> <p>Spring Revel</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p> <p>Noon - Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice</p> <p>2 pm - Outdoor Rapier Fighter Practice</p> <p>6 pm - Business Meeting</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">24</p> <p>7:30 pm - Alle Psallite</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">26</p> <p>7 pm - Weaving Night</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p> <p>6 pm - Rapier Practice</p> <p>6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p> <p>4:30 pm - Archery Practice</p> <p>7:30 pm - Stierbach/Ponte Alto Bardic Circle</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p>Beltane XXV</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p> <p>Noon - Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice</p> <p>2 pm - Outdoor Rapier Practice</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">May 1</p> <p>7:30 pm - Alle Psallite</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>7 pm - Scriptorium</p> <p>7:30 pm - Harp and Drum</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p>6 pm - Rapier Practice</p> <p>6 pm - Heavy Weapons Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p>4:30 pm - Archery Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p>Atlantian Crown Tournament</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p>Noon - Outdoor Heavy Weapons Practice</p> <p>Noon - Ladies Instructional Heavy Weapons Practice</p> <p>2 pm - Outdoor Rapier Practice</p>



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Upcoming Events

Baronial Progress

Date	Event
April 1	Coronation
April 15	Night on the Town
April 22	Challenge of the Heart

April 2006

Date	Event	Group	Location
1	Coronation of Michael and Seonaid	River's Point	Petersburg, VA
7-9	Sacred Stone's Novice Tourney	Sacred Stone	Blacksburg, SC
8	Tir Y Don Baronial Birthday	Tir-y-Don	Newport News, VA
14-16	Night on the Town VIII	Roxbury Mill	Crownsville, MD
14-16	Tournament of Chivalry	Isenfir	Stanardsville, VA
21-23	Rogues of Sherwood Forest	Misty Marsh	Bennettsville,, SC
22	Challenge of the Heart	Dun Carraig	Huntingtown, MD
22	Spring Revel	Caer Gelynniog	Fork Union, VA
28-30	Beltane XXV	Berley Cort	Sedley, VA
Cancelled	Inn on the Road XI	Aire Faucon	Gastonia, NC



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Ponte Alto Officers



Baron and Baroness of Ponte Alto

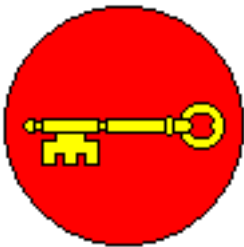
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Members of the Baronial Guard

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Lord Geoffrey ap Clywd
Myghell O'Kelly

Baronial Warlord

Lord Connor Sinclair (Kevin Houghton)
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Baronial Heavy Champion

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Baronial Rapier Champion

Hadrurus
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Meeting Minutes - March 26, 2006

Held at the Education Building of St. Paul's Lutheran Church
19 Attendees
Meeting Start Time: 6:00 pm

Officer Reports

Seneschal: Lady Marie Thérèse Normand

- 10 person membership drop in Ponte Alto this quarter (largest drop in VA) - would like to know who and why
- Countess Denise Duvalier, as VA Regional Seneschal, will compare the December 2005 (194) and March 2006 (184) members to try to determine why the drop

Exchequer: Lady Millicent Chandler

- Current balance is \$9359.64 in our account
- Made \$1196.81 from St. Paddy's Day Bloodbath!!! Still need to pay rest of site fee (\$179)
- Millicent will be making operational budget for Barony for review in April
- Lady Katharine will be stepping up as Seneschal later this year, so Millicent is looking for an Exchequer deputy who would be interested in possibly taking over the office later
- If you have Baronial belongings, let Chamberlain know, as she is taking inventory
- TOLAB - fundraiser lunch made \$307.74 for Kingdom Travel Fund

Heavy Marshal: Lord Duncan the Elder

- Northern Regional war practice had 52 fighters in attendance
- Thursday night practices now in the gym at Lemon Road - lots of space
- Sunday practices still happening, expecting pick up in attendance as weather warms up
- Ladies fighter practices will be moving to Sundays in April

Rapier Marshal: Lord Geoffrey ap Clywd

- Not present: Baroness Greta Klusenaere reporting
- Practices continue

- Sunday practices will resume the Sunday following Easter (4/23/06), weather permitting
- Lady Catalina dell'Aqua was the general in charge of the Atlantian Rapier Army at Gulf Wars and did a very fine job.
- Lord Geoffrey ap Clywd received a Shark's Tooth for his performance in the rapier battles at Gulf Wars
- Lord Geoffrey ap Clywd will be fighting his Free Scholar prize at Coronation

Archery Marshal: Lord Miles de Lochwode

- Friday night practices going well - 19 people between Stierbach and Ponte Alto - currently held at Bull Run
- In search of outdoor range for after daylight savings time change
- Baronial archery team at Defending the Gate failed to defend our title, but finished in upper half of field
- Lord Miles and Sir Thomas both need one more MIT event to complete Thrown Weapons Marshal training

A&S: Lady Renata von Hentzau

- Embroidery Night, Harp & Drum, Alle Psallite, Scriptorium, Weaving all happening
- Alle Psallite growing - we need Sopranos!
- Weaving nights popular
- Edric starting up blacksmithing - resources available
- Perhaps keep A&S skill-set list for A&S officers to connect new folks with members with similar interests - based on PA directory

Chatelaine: Lady Marsaili Johnston of Lockwood Moss

- Garbed 68 people at Bloodbath!!
- Next newcomer's meeting will be at Isabella's - need to work out date
- Demos - Stenwood asking for one in April, two set for Fairfax County in July, also requests from Faquier County in June, conflicts with Stierbach b-day
- Some more boxes of loaner garb coming to Marsailli

Herald: Lord Séamus Ó Maoil Riain

- Lord Seamus not present; reported by Lord Connor Sinclair
- Award badge submissions look like they should pass Kingdom and move onto Laurel

MOL: Lady Delphina the Mad

- Not present - reported by Baron Marcellus Capozziello da Napoli
- Bloodbath - 26 rapier fighters, 54 heavy fighters
- Lady Celia of Rosedale has completed MoL requirements, paperwork has been sent to KMoL

Chroniclers: Lady Courtney of Houghton and Lord Connor Sinclair

- Send in articles!!! Artwork! Something! ANYONE!! And read the newsletter! - Get items in by Wed, Mar 29 for this issue
- New Deputy - Lady Wulfwyn Isabella Ælfwines Dothor

Web Minister: Lady Cassandra Arabella Giordani

- The Washington Post doesn't like our web site. :(
- New Kingdom web server is being configured, should be up and running next month

Baron and Baroness: Baron Marcellus Capozziello da Napoli and Baronne Belphoebe de Givet

- Thanks to ALL for making Bloodbath a success, especially our autocrat(s)
- New archer Valerian placed well at Gulf Wars
- B&B progress: Coronation, Night on the Town, Challenge of the Heart
- We're getting lots of new heavy fighters - we need more tabards!! - need to check the storage unit - we'd like to have tabards for Sapphire - Unanimously voted to allow \$200 for new tabard materials
- Recognized Pontoons this month:
Kingdom Arts and Sciences Festival:
 - Katharina von Bayern - AoA
 - Signora Cassandra Arabella Giordani - Golden Dolphin
 - Lady Millicent Chandler - Coral Branch
 - Baronne Belphoebe de Givet - winner, vocal soloist performance competition
 - Signora Cassandra Arabella Giordani - winner, jesters/fools performance competition
 - Lord Connor Sinclair - winner, Arte of Defense research paper competitionBloodbath:
 - Lord Séamus Ó Maoil Riain - Ponte di Ferro
 - Sir Thomas of Calais and Countess Denise Duvalier - Ponte d'Oro
 - Lady Marie Thérèse Normand - Garland
- Come to Coronation!

Warlord: Lord Connor Sinclair

- Deputy Warlord - Mathieu Chartrain
- Sir Thomas of Calais will continue to help recruit
- Sir Guy Lestrangle and Heavy Champion Jürgen van der Vols will also be helping out
- Would like to have at least one melee practice per month and involve other local baronial warlords - try to look for archery/siege sites
- Gather list of PA fighters

Events

Bloodbath: March 11, 2006
Sir Thomas of Calais, autocrat

- 296 paid people, 15 children for free - \$1017.29 made
- Press - Washington Times, Vienna Times and the London Times
- Estimated 1000 spectators - Produced a total of 325 flyers that were given out
- Participants enjoyed having the spectators
- Thanks to EVERYONE who pitched in, in and out of Barony, to positively deal with the large crowds

Sapphire Joust: 2006

Lord Geoffrey ap Clywd, land agent

- Please sign up for "Barony of Ponte Alto" to camp with the Barony at Sapphire Joust

Pennsic: 2006

Lord Miles de Lochwode, land agent

- Thinking about designing gates - running walls - black and gold, plus list fence pieces - shouldn't cost more than \$150 for the running wall fabric and other fiddly bits
- Setup and breakdown help needed
- Talking with Pennsic Land Coordinator to try to find a more permanent home for Ponte Alto at Pennsic
- Need to include your Penn Number when you tell Miles you're camping with the Barony
- 75 sq ft give-back of your land for common area
- \$150 unanimously approved for gate/running walls material

Chalice: September 2006

Lady Katharine Devereaux, autocrat

- Reservations sent to Prince William Forest Park
- Theme Return of Poseidon
- Bardic theme - celebration
- A&S theme - accoutrements of wealth
- Talk it up!! Get other baronial champions to field teams

Day at the Races III: November 2006

Autocrat needed!!! - Assistance available, good starter event for new autocrat

- Lady Alesia la Sabia de Murcia will be cooking
- Their Excellencies Marcellus and Belphoebe will be running the donkey races

Old Business

- Olaf still working on the fences. Need to think about painting them.

New Business

- Do we want to encourage folks to come watch at events like Bloodbath was this year?

Something to consider for demos/recruiting/merchants

- Let's think about Kingdom events! Possibly Spring Crown (May 4-7, 2007), at Loudoun County Fairgrounds with Stierbach. Possibly 2007 12th Night? - Proposals at next meeting
- TOLAB: Do we want to do it next year? YES - Connor and Courtney will run it again

Announcements

- Hosen workshop in April, date/location TBA
- Next meeting is Sunday, April 23, 2006, in the "other" room

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 pm.



The Barony of Ponte Alto

Newsletter - Il Tempo

Announcements

Baronial Officer Openings

There are several openings available for Baronial officer and deputy positions. Enthusiastic newcomers looking to get more involved in the day-to-day workings of the Barony are encouraged to apply!

Minister of Minors: Potential candidates should contact the [Baronial Seneschal](#) for more information or to apply.

Deputy Exchequer: Lady Millicent is not intending to step down anytime soon, but she would like to have a deputy as a potential successor and backup in case of emergency. Please contact the [Baronial Exchequer](#) for more information or to apply.

Ponte Alto Directory

Lady Perronelle volunteered to coordinate a hard copy directory for Pontoons to use to stay in touch. If you would like to be included (only people included in the directory will be allowed to get a copy), please [download the form \(MS Word\)](#)

(http://pontealto.atlantia.sca.org/ponte_alto_directory_form.doc) , fill it out, and email or snail mail it to Lady Perronelle la peintre (***dwatsonirwin AT cox.net***, (703) 455-0298 (H)). Or use the [online directory form](#) (<http://pontealto.atlantia.sca.org/directory.php>) to submit your information via email. The first printing of the directory was at the Day at the Races event in November 2005, and copies are \$2.50 each.

Historical Event Matrix

Since the historically traditional event weekends for northern Atlantian groups have been under heavy discussion lately, Mistress Anne of Carthew put together an [event matrix \(PDF\)](#) (http://pontealto.atlantia.sca.org/group_event_history_summary.pdf) showing which northern Atlantian groups hosted events which weekends from 1998 through 2005.

News

Gulf Wars

Gulf Wars took place in the brand new Kingdom of Gleann Abhann, with several Pontoons in attendance.

- Lady Catalina dell'Acqua served as the captain of the Atlantian Rapier Army at Gulf Wars
 - Lord Geoffrey ap Clywd was awarded a Shark's Tooth for his performance on the rapier field
 - Valerian, a new archer, placed well at Gulf Wars
- Vivats to all the Pontoons who supported Atlantia at Gulf Wars!

St. Paddy's Day Bloodbath

This years' St. Paddy's Day Bloodbath was the most successful one ever! We had beautiful 70 degree weather, a Washington Post article the previous weekend to draw extra crowds, and a record-breaking 307 attendees! Many SCAdians came out to handle the curious public and help out anywhere it was needed. At the end of this fine day, Their Excellencies, Baron Marcellus and Baronne Belpheobe, held a baronial court:

- Mistress Anne of Carthew presented bouquets of roses to Lady Celia of Rosedale to wish her a Happy Birthday and thank her for serving as an MoL this day.
- Then Mistress Anne presented a new Ponte Alto war banner to Their Excellencies, to replace the 14-year-old (and venerable!) one.
- Their Excellencies called Sir Thomas of Calais into court to thank him for his service as Baronial Warlord these past two years; Lord Connor Sinclair was then made the new Baronial Warlord.
- The winners of the heavy tournament were then announced: Sir Vlad and Sir Aradd were the belted tourney winners, with 115 and 100 points, respectively. Lord Robert Wardog, with 78 points, was the unbelted winner of the Heavy list, with Lord Odde ap Tam (with a most acrobatic court entrance) in 2nd place; both of these gentles were presented prizes by Sir Thomas.
- Dominic won the Rapier tourney.
- The two youngsters who participated in youth combat tied, and both were awarded prizes.
- Then Master Kevin of Thornbury was called into court (bringing cute little Thomas Dudley with him!) and was thanked for his service as heavy champion. Lord Jürgen van der Vols was then made the new heavy champion.
- Lord Séamus Ó Maoil Riain was then thanked for his service as rapier champion, and Hadrurus was asked to assume the responsibility, which he accepted.
- Not yet finished with Lord Séamus, Their Excellencies then awarded him the Ponte di Ferro for his efforts on the rapier field and for the rapier community.
- Typically, Bloodbath is considered an "easy" first autocrat event, with just fighting and lunch to deal with. This year, with the large turnout, there was much more to be done than usual. For taking on the extra challenges with great success, Sir Thomas of Calais and Countess Denise Duvalier, autocrats extraordinaire, were awarded the Ponte d'Oro.
- And last, but most certainly not least, our intrepid Seneschal and fighter chic, Lady Marie Thérèse Normand, was inducted into the Order of the Garland, Ponte Alto's highest honor.
- Vivant for all awardees, champions, tournament winners, and event helpers of the day!

Kingdom Arts & Sciences Festival

Kingdom Arts and Sciences Festival was a lot of fun, and it was wonderful to see many

Pontoons showing their work, performing, or simply supporting your fellow Pontoons and having a good time.

It was a banner day for Ponte Alto. Their Majesties saw fit to recognize several of our populace for their good works:

- Katharina von Bayern, our Baronial Chamberlain, was awarded Arms.
- Our own Lady Cassandra Arabella Giordani was inducted into the Order of the Golden Dolphin.
- And Lady Millicent Chandler was inducted into the Order of the Coral Branch.

But wait! There's more! Ponte Alto fielded a number of players in the performance competition. The Ponte Alto performers put up a terrific show.

Lady Cassandra won the Jesters and Fools category in the performance competition for her juggling.

Baronne Belphoebe de Givet won the solo vocalist category in the performance competition.

And outside the performing arts, Lord Connor Sinclair won the Arte of Defense research paper competition.

Also Lady Hrosvitha von Celle -- a former Pontoon, apprentice to our own Master Tirloch, and very close to our hearts -- was inducted into the Order of the Opal.

Vivant for all our artistic Pontoons! You make us proud!



The Barony of Ponte Alto

Newsletter - Il Tempo

The Black Death

The Black Death was a devastating pandemic that first struck Europe in the mid-14th century (1347–51), killing up to a third of Europe's population, an estimated thirty four million people. A series of contemporaneous plague epidemics also occurred across large portions of Asia and the Middle East, indicating that the European outbreak was actually part of a multi regional pandemic. The same disease is thought to have returned to Europe every generation with varying degrees of intensity and fatality until the 1700s.



Notable late outbreaks include the Italian Plague of 1629-1631, the Great Plague of London (1665–66), and the Great Plague of Vienna (1679). A significant outbreak of the bubonic plague, the Great Plague of Marseille, occurred in France in 1720 - 1722. As the Middle East was the direct source of infection, this outbreak is probably not a continuation of the Black Death.

In addition to its drastic effect on Europe's population, the plague irrevocably changed Europe's social structure, was a serious blow to Europe's predominant religious institution, the Christian Church, resulted in widespread persecutions of minorities such as Jews and lepers, and created a general mood of morbidity that influenced people who were uncertain of their daily survival to live for the moment.

The initial fourteenth-century European event was called the "Great Mortality" by contemporary writers and, with later outbreaks, became known as the "Black Death" because of a striking symptom of the disease, called acral necrosis, in which sufferers' skin would blacken due to subdermal haemorrhages. Historical records attribute the Black Death to an outbreak of bubonic plague, an epidemic of the bacterium *Yersinia pestis* spread by fleas with the help of animals like the black rat (*Rattus rattus*), although there is still some debate about the exact microbiological organism responsible for the plague and its mode of transmission.

European Outbreak

In October 1347, a fleet of Genovese trading ships fleeing Caffa reached the port of Messina. By the time the fleet reached Messina, all the crew members were either infected or dead. It is presumed that the ships also carried infected rats and/or fleas. Some ships were found grounded on shorelines, with no one aboard remaining alive. Looting of these lost ships also helped spread the disease. From there, the plague spread to Genoa and Venice by the turn of 1347/1348.

From Italy the disease spread northwest across Europe, striking France, Spain, Portugal, and Great Britain by June 1348, then turned and spread east through Germany and Scandinavia from 1348 to 1350, and finally to north-western Russia in 1351. It even spread to parts of Norway. However, the plague largely spared some parts of Europe, including the Kingdom of Poland and parts of Belgium and the Netherlands.

Recurrence

The plague repeatedly returned to haunt Europe and the Mediterranean throughout the fourteenth to seventeenth centuries, and although the bubonic plague still exists with isolated cases today, the Great Plague of London in 1665-1666 is generally recognized as one of the last major outbreaks. The Great Fire of London in 1666 may have killed off any remaining plague bearing rats and fleas, which led to a decline in the plague. The destruction of rats in the Great Fire may also have contributed to the ascendancy of brown rats in England. According to the bubonic plague theory, one possible explanation for the disappearance of plague from Europe may be that the black rat (*Rattus rattus*) infection reservoir and its disease vector was subsequently displaced and succeeded by the bigger Norwegian, or brown, rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), which is not as prone to transmit the germ-bearing fleas to humans in large rat die-offs (see Appleby and Slack references below).

Late outbreaks in central Europe include the Italian Plague of 1629-1631, which is associated with troop movements during the Thirty Years' War, and the Great Plague of Vienna in 1679, which may have been due to a reintroduction of the plague from eastern trading ports.

Depopulation

It is estimated that between one-third and one-half of the European population died from the outbreak between 1348 and 1350. As many as 25% of all villages were depopulated, mostly the smaller communities, as the few survivors fled to larger towns and cities. The Black Death hit the culture of towns and cities disproportionately hard. Some rural areas, for example, Eastern Poland and Lithuania, had such low populations and were so isolated that the plague made little progress. Larger cities were the worst off, as population densities and close living quarters made disease transmission easier. Cities were also strikingly filthy, infested with lice, fleas and rats, and subject to diseases related to malnutrition and poor hygiene. According to historian John Kelly, "(w)oeefully inadequate sanitation made medieval urban Europe so disease-ridden, no city of any size could maintain its population without a constant influx of immigrants from the countryside." (p. 68) The influx of new citizens facilitated the movement of the plague between

communities, and contributed to the longevity of the plague within larger communities.

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The Barony of Ponte Alto

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New Caption Contest for April/May!



This month's caption contest is for the above illustration. Please submit your captions to chronicler AT pontelato.sca.org. The results will be posted in next month's "Il Tempo". Please make sure your entries are fit for print!

Source: Wikipedia.



And the winner (with the only entry fit for print) is...

Celia of Rosedale: "Hmm ... that reminds me I should tell the cook to serve armored turnips with dinner tonight."