



The Barony of Ponte Alto

Newsletter - Il Tempo

Welcome to Il Tempo!





Les Tres Riches Heures: The month of January depicts the giving New Years' gifts (a custom which seems to have died out now). Jean de Berry himself can be seen on the right, wearing the brilliant blue robe.

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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

As usual, there will be no **Baronial Business Meeting** in December due to the holiday season.

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](#).

MONDAY

Alle Psallite (Vocal Music)

Every Monday, 7:30-9 pm in Herndon. Please contact Mistress Anne of Carthew ([anne AT ravenstreet.org](mailto:anne@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](mailto:ellen.m.davis@att.net), (703) 815-0310 (H)) or Lord Ii Saburou Katsumori ([logan AT modzer0.cs.uaf.edu](mailto:logan@modzer0.cs.uaf.edu)) for more information or directions.

TUESDAY

**Ponte Alto
Scriptorium**

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

WEDNESDAY

Armor Night

Third Wednesdays of every month from 7-10 pm (when she's home from college - look for emails on the list) at the home of Helena Kaltenbach ((703) 503-3459 (H), (571) 232-9055 (M)), whom you should contact for more information and directions.

THURSDAY

Rapier Practice

*

Every Thursday at Shrevevood 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 A&S Night

May meet on a Friday during the month, as posted 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 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.

Heavy Weapons Fighter Practice (Sundays Noon - 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)

Shreveewood 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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Ponte Alto Officers



Baron and Baroness of Ponte Alto

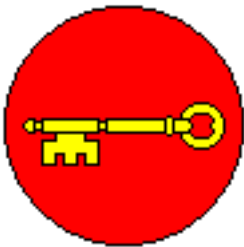
Baron Marcellus Capozziello da Napoli and Baroness Belphoebe de Givet

(Bob Capozello and Laura Martinez)

(703) 625-3883 (H)

baron AT [pontalto.atlantia.sca.org](mailto:baron@pontalto.atlantia.sca.org) and baroness AT [pontalto.atlantia.sca.org](mailto:baroness@pontalto.atlantia.sca.org)

baronage AT [pontalto.atlantia.sca.org](mailto:baronage@pontalto.atlantia.sca.org)



Seneschal (President)

Lady Katharine Devereaux (Kimberly Barker)

Alexandria, VA

(571) 239-2183 (M)

seneschal AT [pontalto.atlantia.sca.org](mailto:seneschal@pontalto.atlantia.sca.org)

Deputy Seneschal

Master Tirloch of Tallaght (Tom Bilodeau)

13456 Cobra Court

Oak Hill, VA 20171

(703) 437-6271 (H)

GMT53 AT [ravenstreet.org](mailto:GMT53@ravenstreet.org)



Minister of Minors (Childrens' Activities)

Vacant

mom AT [pontalto.atlantia.sca.org](mailto:mom@pontalto.atlantia.sca.org)



Chancellor of the Exchequer (Treasurer)

Lady Millicent Chandler (Melanie Cozad)
976 Holborn Court
Sterling, VA 20164
(703) 430-3675 (H)
exchequer AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

Deputy Chancellor of the Exchequer
Lady Celia of Rosedale (Tamara Brown)
3714 Sudley Ford Court
Fairfax, VA 22033-4811
(703) 378-2441 (H)
celia AT ravenstreet.org

Chamberlain
Lady Katharina von Bayern (Tracy Fussell)
(703) 994-3960 (H)
chamberlain AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org



Knight Marshal

Lord Duncan the Elder (Duncan Cooper)
(703) 801-6867 (H)
marshal AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

Deputy Knight Marshal
Lord Christopher Hare (Chris Harrop)
harrophare AT aol.com

Deputy Knight Marshal
Baroness Agnes Daunce (Nellie Miller)
14201 Arbor Forest Drive #301
Rockville, MD 20850
(301) 309-0419 (H)
agnes_daunce AT yahoo.com

Deputy Knight Marshal
Lord Connor Sinclair (Kevin Houghton)
connorsinclair AT yahoo.com



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

Deputy Rapier Marshal
Baroness Greta Klusenaere (Barbara Reed)
(703) 960-5388 (H)
bereed26 AT yahoo.com

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

Deputy Rapier Marshal
Baron Marcellus Capozziello da Napoli (Bob Capozello)
(703) 625-3883 (H)
afpopa AT cox.net

Deputy Rapier Marshal
Baroness Belphoebe de Givet (Laura Martinez)
(703) 625-3883 (H)
belfebe AT yahoo.com

Deputy Rapier Marshal
Lord Séamus Ó Maoil Riain (Dwayne Eckman)
duds62 AT hotmail.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

**Minister of Arts & Sciences**

Lady Renata von Hentzau (Clare Cronin)
3304 Willow Crescent Drive
Apt. 34
Fairfax, VA 22030
moas AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

Deputy Minister of Arts & Sciences
Lady Delphina the Mad (Charlene Ratliff)
ms_spydra AT hotmail.com

**Chatelaine (Newcomers)**

Lord James de Biblesworth (James Barker)
(703) 338-4057 (H)
chatelaine AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

Deputy Chatelaine
Lady Flora de Bayeaux (Jerri Lyn Mooney)
(703) 945-0515 (M)
weebaby58 AT hotmail.com



Gold Key (Loaner Costumes)
Lord James de Biblesworth (James Barker)
(703) 338-4057 (H)
flonzy AT hotmail.com

Deputy for Demos
Lord James de Biblesworth (James Barker)
(703) 338-4057 (H)
demos AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org



Herald
Lady Katharina von Bayern (Tracy Fussell)
(703) 994-3960 (H)
herald AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

Deputy Herald
Lord Séamus Ó Maoil Riain (Dwayne Eckman)
duds62 AT hotmail.com

Deputy Herald
Lord Connor Sinclair (Kevin Houghton)
connorsinclair AT yahoo.com



Minister of the Lists
Lady Delphina the Mad (Charlene Ratliff)
mol AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

Deputy Minister of the Lists
Countess Denise Duvalier (Denise Hundley)
(703) 339-4114 (H)
DCADenise AT aol.com



Chronicler (Newsletter)

Lady Courtney of Houghton and Lord Connor Sinclair
(Courtney and Kevin Houghton)
chronicler AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

Deputy Chronicler

Lady Wulfwyn Isabella Ælfwines Dothor (Patricia Cheshire)
snoleopard4 AT aol.com



Web Minister

Lady Cassandra Arabella Giordani (Kim Jordan)
webminister AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org

Deputy Web Minister

Lady Courtney of Houghton (Courtney Houghton)
courtneydehoughton AT yahoo.com

Deputy Web Minister

Lady Brigid O'Hara (Karen Miller)
Oakton, VA
(703) 620-4945 (H)
mill3rs AT yahoo.com

Members of the Baronial Guard

Baroness Catalina dell'Acqua (Captain)
Lord Geoffrey ap Clywd
Myghell O'Kelly

Baronial Warlord

Lord Connor Sinclair (Kevin Houghton)
warlord AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org



Baronial Heavy Champion

Lord Jürgen van der Vols (Joorkin Volz) (Jeffrey French)
heavychamp AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org



Baronial Rapier Champion

Hadrurus
rapierchamp AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org



Baronial Archery Champion

Anais Enderwick (RJ Crocker)
(571) 236-0037 (M)
archerychamp AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org



Baronial Artisan

Lady Millicent Chandler (Melanie Cozad)
976 Holborn Court
Sterling, VA 20164
(703) 430-3675 (H)
artisan AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org



Baronial Bard

Lady Luce Antony Venus (Liz Georges)
10106 Copper Court
Oakton, VA 22124
(703) 242-2339 (H), (703) 395-9487 (M)
bard AT pontealto.atlantia.sca.org



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Meeting Minutes - November 26, 2006

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

Officer Reports

Seneschal: Lady Katharine Devereaux

- Still looking to meet with each officer/notable one-on-one for status
- Unevent - if you can't make your meeting or find a substitute, let Katharine know so we can get everything covered

Exchequer: Lady Millicent Chandler

- Not present - reported by Lady Celia of Rosedale
- Current balance is \$9302.80 in our account
- Celia will be attending Unevent as Exchequer

Heavy Marshal: Lord Duncan the Elder

- Some practices cancelled due to weather
- Good war practice today
- Thursday practices holding steady

Rapier Marshal: Lord Geoffrey Clywd

- Thursday night practices continue

Archery Marshal: Lord Miles de Lochwode

- Practices indoors at Bull Run - \$3/person at practice
- Good shoot at Holiday Faire

A&S: Lady Renata von Hentzau

- Harp & Drum discontinued

- DATR - Lady Brigid did her first illumination
- Holiday Faire - Lady Marsaili won a prize for her basket
- Tempore Atlantia at 12th Night - early period
- Perronelle will be hosting weekend Scriptorium in January
- Their Excellencies will hold an Embroidery night in January

Chatelaine: Lord James de Biblesworth

- Lord James stepped up as the new Chatelaine at DATR
- Been working demos - need to reschedule one that was cancelled for school closing
- Think about loaner gear for youth combat?

Herald: Lord Séamus Ó Maoil Riain

- Lady Katharine von Bayern will be stepping up as herald
- Names for Argento and Oro passed - Ferro name did not pass - Connor will be resubmitting
- Device for Ferro passed, devices for Argento and Oro no word yet

MOL: Lady Delphina the Mad

- Not present - reported by Their Excellencies
- TOLAB looking for MoL help

Chroniclers: Lady Courtney de Houghton and Lord Connor Sinclair

- Lady Wulfwyn will be taking over in February
- Potential deputy being investigated

Web Minister: Lady Cassandra Arabella Giordani

- Lady Brigid O'Hara is new web deputy

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

- Holiday Faire - Emily (Mathieu's daughter) awarded Sea Urchin - Marsaili won a prize for her basket
- DATR - Lots of fun
- B&B Progress: Storvik Investiture, Lochmere's Dance event, TOLAB and new Baronial Bard and Artisan
- Send in recommendations - baronial and kingdom! TOLAB is a royal progress, and TOLAB and Bloodbath will hold baronial courts

Heavy Weapons Champion: Lord Jürgen van der Vols

- Starting February 22, one Thursday every-other month would like to start double-elim tourney to help folks get up to speed, and practice for MoLs as well
- Looking for two tokens to use as prizes for these tournaments, one for the winner, one for the most chivalrous, to be passed on each tournament. Also looking for volunteer Heralds, MoLs and Marshals to assist.

Warlord: Lord Connor Sinclair

- Not present - reported by Sir Thomas of Calais
- War practice today went well - 20+ fighters, 5 Knights - melee tactics - fewer Pontoons than non-Pontoons

Events

Day at the Races III: November 2006

Autocrat: Mistress Anne of Carthew

- Not present - financials reported by Lady Celia of Rosedale
- 69 attendees - lost \$42 on event, but made \$640 on silent auction

Tournament of Love and Beauty: February 24, 2007

Autocrat: Lady Courtney of Houghton

- Need volunteer for decorations Friday night - James volunteered
- Borrowing Sir Thomas' list fences just in case
- Endurance, Humility, Prowess - new virtues
- Fighting for virtues may be sequential - rapier tourney - cut and thrust demo - heavy tourney, with heavy melees against the rapier tourney, and rapier melees against the heavy tourney
- Space heaters are allowed
- Will be dealing with dust control
- Rapier and Heavy winners of virtues - 20 total
- Lunch, Feast, A&S, and Merchants in the hall - need to post that in the fighting area so folks get lunch

Bloodbath: March 10, 2007

Autocrat: Sir Thomas of Calais and Lord Mathieu Chartrain

- Need to wait until January for site reservation
- Budget - \$125 expected site fee, \$100 for lunch. Parks are now requiring 15% of gate take - change fee to \$6 instead of \$5 to cover that 15% - Budget passed

Crown: May 2007

Autocrats: Iustinos/Marcellus

- Decision on bid will be made by the Heirs in the next month - they have been given our bid

- Kingdom has mandated that a \$1500 profit be built into budget - if we increase the gate fee from \$8 to \$9, and not rent the extra buildings we don't need, we can make this
- If Their Highnesses accept the bid, we'll revisit in January

Pennsic: July/August 2007

Land Agent: NEEDED

- Anyone interested in stepping in should contact the Seneschal

Chalice IV: September 2007

Autocrat: Lady Katharine Devereaux

- Nothing new

Event: November 2007

Autocrat: Lady Luce Antony Venus

- Not present

Old Business

- Pewter tokens for baronial awards - hand casting within the barony is more cost-effective option, since we are not mass producing - we now have one badge to work on!
- Storage unit space OK now that silent auction stuff is gone. :)

New Business

- Perronelle will be updating phone directory - use online form to update entries - new issue at TOLAB (\$2.50), cutoff date Jan 30.
- Early January - banner making workshops by Courtney and Connor with overhead projector - draw and paint on canvas for TOLAB spiff!

Announcements

- None

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15 pm.



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Announcements

Baronial Officer Openings

Openings available for Baronial officer and deputy positions are listed below. 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.

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 next printing of the directory will be at Tournament of Love and Beauty February 24, 2007, and copies are \$2.50 each. Submission deadline for this printing is January 30, 2007.

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

Holiday Faire

Congratulations to Lady Marsaili Johnston of Lockwood Moss, whose woven basket won a prize in the A&S competition.

And our own Baron Marcellus Capozziello da Napoli showed his fighting prowess by winning the rapier tournament.

Also, Their Majesties awarded Emily, daughter of Lord Mathieu Chartrain, the Sea Urchin. Vivant for Lady Marsaili, Baron Marcellus, and Emily!

Day at the Races III

One if by land, two if by sea, and three if by air! The third Day at the Races event took to the air, racing falcons of all kinds (though mostly of the balsa wood glider variety). Sir Aelfred of Cres, last year's winner of the boat races, returned to defend his title, and succeeded with his bird, a pelican named Nellie the Pellie. The winner of the children's races was young Robert, son of Talitha. And the prize for the best bird went to Lord Pagan Grendel for his well dressed bird, Jezabelle, who sported a hood with a red plume.

Falcon races were not the only tournament of the day, however. Sir Thomas of Calais ran a chess tournament, which was clearly won by Haddrurus.

After the competitions were complete, Their Excellencies held court and conducted the following business:

- Lady Marsailli Johnston of Lockwood Moss stepped down as Baronial Chatelaine, and Lord James de Biblesworth took on the office.
- The Bead of Ponte Alto was given to Mistress Anne of Carthew for her work as autocrat, Lady Delphina the Mad for being rental coordinator for all three DATR events and the Minister of the List for the past two years (with an injunction to submit a report for this one to the Kingom MoL), Signora Cassandra Arabella Giordani for being Baronial Bookie for the past two years, and Lady Perronelle la peintre for running an on-site bird hospital.
- The Ponte di Ferro was awarded to Baroness Catalina dell'Acqua for her excellent work in the rapier community.
- Baroness Greta Klusenaere was inducted into the Order of the Garland for her many years of service to the Barony.

Vivant to all deserving award recipients, and to all the race and tournament participants!

War of the Wings

Windmasters' Hill battled Sacred Stone at the War of the Wings. It was a beautiful day for war! Ponte Alto allied with Windmasters' Hill for the day.

Four Ponte Alto rapier fighters, Lord Geoffrey Clywd, Baroness Catalina dell'Acqua, Baroness Greta Klusenaere, and Haddrurus, took to the field and the woods in battle. Haddrurus, as baronial champion, was also invited to participate in the Champions rapier battle.

The Ponte Alto Performance Mercenaries, Mistress Anne of Carthew, Mistress Allasondrea de Fano, Lady Celia of Rosedale, Signora Cassandra Arabella Giordani, and Lady Millicent Chandler, earned 475 points for Windmasters' Hill in the Performance competition, to help win the war point for our allies.

Vivant for the Ponte Alto Mercenaries!

In other news of note, the last piece of business at royal court involved a former Pontoon, Master Herveus d'Ormande, who was served with a writ to contemplate joining the Order of the Laurel at a future date to be determined. Vivat for Master Herveus!



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The Tradition of Wassail

Wassail is a hot, spiced punch often associated with winter celebrations of northern Europe, usually those connected with the Christmas holiday such as Christmas, New Year's and Twelfth Night. Particularly popular in Germanic countries, the term itself is a contraction of the Old English toast *wæs hæl*, or "be thou hale!" (i.e., "be in good health"). Alternate expressions predating the term, with approximately the same meaning, include both the Old Norse *ves heill* and Old English *wes hæl*.

While the beverage typically served as "wassail" at modern holiday feasts with a medieval theme most closely resembles mulled cider, historical wassail was completely different, more likely to be mulled beer. Sugar, ale, ginger, nutmeg, and cinnamon would be placed in a bowl, heated, and topped with slices of toast as sops. Hence the first stanza of the traditional carol the Gloucestershire Wassail dating back to the Middle Ages:

Wassail! wassail! all over the town,
Our toast it is white and our ale it is brown;
Our bowl it is made of the white maple tree;
With the wassailing bowl, we'll drink to thee.

Recipes vary, but usually call for a base of either wine or fruit juices (apple being popular) simmered with mulling spices, possibly fortified with spirits such as brandy. Orange slices might be added to the mixture. (In northern Europe, oranges once enjoyed the status of a novelty Christmas fruit. As oranges come into season in the winter, in pre-refrigeration days that might be the only time of year that they were available to cold climates -- provided they survived shipment from the warmer countries in which they were grown.)

Wassail is very similar to a Roman winter beverage called *calda* which, according to the recipes of Apicius, consisted of wine cut with water, then heated, sweetened with honey, and flavored with aromatic spices. (Many Christmas traditions actually derive from those of the Roman festival of Saturnalia, so a connection between the two is possible.)

The Traditional Wassail Ceremony

Some scholars prefer a pre-Christian explanation of the old traditional ceremony of Wassailing. How far the tradition dates back is unknown but it has undeniable connections with Pagan ritual. Of recent times the word Wassail (from the Anglo-Saxon toast *wæs hæl*, "be thou hale" -- i.e., "be in good health") has come to be synonymous with Christmas but this is incorrect. The pre-Christian tradition of wassailing far outdates the celebration of Christmas. Traditionally the Wassail is celebrated on Twelfth Night (6th January). However most people insist on wassailing on 'Old Twelvey Night' (17th January) as that would have been the correct date before the introduction of the Gregorian Calendar in 1752. The purpose of Wassailing is to awake the cider apple trees and to scare away evil spirits to ensure a good harvest of fruit in the Autumn. The ceremonies of each wassail varies from village to village but they generally all have the same core elements. A wassail King and Queen to lead the proceedings, and song and/or a processional tune to be played/sung from one orchard to the next, the wassail Queen will be lifted up into the boughs of the tree where she will place toast that has been soaked in Wassail from the Clayen Cup as a gift the tree spirits and to show them the fruits of what they created the previous year. Then an incantation is usually recited such as

Here's to thee, old apple tree, That blooms well, bears well. Hats full, caps full, Three bushel bags full, An' all under one tree. Hurrah! Hurrah!

Then the assembled crowd will sing and shout and bang drums and pots & pans and generally make a terrible racket until the gunsmen give a great final volley through the branches to make sure the work is done and then off to the next orchard. Perhaps unbeknown to the general public, this ancient English tradition is still very much thriving today.

A Traditional Shropshire Wassail Recipe @ for hardened Wassailers!

10 very small apples

1 large orange stuck with whole cloves

10 teaspoons brown sugar

2 bottles dry sherry or dry Madeira

1/2 teaspoon grated nutmeg

1 teaspoon ground ginger

3 cloves

3 allspice berries

2 or 3 cinnamon sticks

2 cups castor sugar

12 to 20 pints of cider according to the number of guests

1 cup (or as much as you like) brandy

Core the apples and fill each with a teaspoon of brown sugar. Place in a baking pan and cover the bottom with 1/8-inch of water.

Insert cloves into the orange about 1/2" apart.

Bake the orange with the apples in a 350° oven.

After about 30 minutes, remove the orange and puncture it in several places with a fork or an ice pick.

Combine the sherry or Madeira, cider, nutmeg, ginger, cloves, allspice berries, cinnamon, sugar, apple and orange juice and water in a large, heavy saucepan and heat slowly without letting the mixture come to a boil.

Leave on very low heat.

Strain the wine mixture and add the brandy.

Pour into a metal punch bowl, float the apples and orange on top and ladle hot into punch cups.

Makes enough for 15-20 people

Wassail - nonalcoholic

1 large orange stuck with whole cloves

4 Litres apple cider or apple juice

2 Litres soft fruit juice (we like peach)

1/2 cup fresh lemon juice

6 cinnamon sticks

Insert cloves into the orange about 1/2" apart. Bake the orange in a 350° oven. After about 30 minutes, remove the orange and puncture it in several places with a fork or an ice pick.

Place the orange and the remaining ingredients in a large pot and cover it.

Bring it to a boil and simmer over low heat for another 30 minutes.

Transfer to a heat-proof punch bowl or crockpot.

Float the orange and cinnamon sticks.

Serve in heat-proof punch cups.

Makes 30-40 servings.

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