

# The Whetstone

May 2006

## Notes from April Big-Meet

**Catherine:** 2 pieces of business. 1) the pavilion banner will be ready for the Rossini festival. 2) Does anyone know anything about the gas light Dog was going to make for the barony?

### Replacement officers:

Minister of Children office is empty

Provost is empty, Marthe Elspeth will fill in on a temporary basis.

Hospitaller: Maybe is now Sevastiana and Hank

Chronicler office is empty: Liz is filling in on a very, very temporary basis. Iasteb said he would take the office after May. The Whetstone is now a quarterly publication. The publication dates will be posted on the web.

**Catherine:** She will take another 2 year warrant for the seneshals office, unless there is an objection. None was stated. Solveig will remain her deputy til Oct 2007.

**William:** All heraldic submission stuff he has had to submit, is now submitted (except for Faelen). Those people who had stuff submitted should hear from the Cypher Herald within 6 weeks. Thor's Mountain has a new researching herald...Branna. She will be a most fighter practices on Sundays.

**Catherine:** The current crown has decided that other Kingdom events should not usurp our kingdom events, therefore, Silver Hammer can be held on 10/21/06 as planned (even though it will be up against Trimaris Panhandle Skirmishes (sp))

**Silver Hammer:** Halla and Fionn are co-autocrating this event.

**Iasteb:** He thanked everyone who helped out at the demo. It was great.

### Jerusha: Upcoming demos

Rossini Festival: 04/08/06 from 12 noon to 10pm. We do not have to man a booth the entire time. Our booth is on the corner of Clinch and Gay street. Bring chairs. Fighting on the street corner every 15 minutes before the hour would be great. Free parking in any of the city garages.

Cedar Bluff demo: 04/28/06 Only Saher has volunteered to do puppets. They would like something to be presented during the day on Friday and they would love to learn a new dance. Anyone interested????

### Maytourney: Solveig and Fritz:

Heavy's are doing 2 tourneys. One is a Bridesmaid tourney where anyone who has never won an open tourney can enter. The other one is a paired team event. Pairs will consist of an experienced fighter and a not so experienced fighter. Goldmund will be selecting the teams. Rapier will be working on the Border Raid skills or something like that, see Liz for details. Feastcrats have no worries. Spring is Alysea, Summer is Roz, Fall is William and Winter is Eleanor. There will be a quest done is teams.

Thank you Mistress Anne for taking Notes. - Liz



## *Regnum*

**Baroness of Thor's Mtn: Mistress Godelind of Windemere** (Glenda Viles), (865) 577-3546

**Seneschale: Lady Catherine Stewart** (Kelly Mcnutt), 865-310-1591,  
tmseneschal@foobox.com

**Reeve: Herrin Annchen von dem Schwarzwald**, (Laura Morris), tm\_reeve@juno.com

**Herald: Master William MacNaughton**, (Bill McNutt) mcnutt@pobox.com

**Scrollery: Mistress Marthe Elsbeth of Oak Hill** (Martha Knowles),  
wildwoman54@earthlink.net

**Knight Marshal: Lord Fionn of Dun na Gal**,  
lordfionn@gmail.com

**Rapier: Lady Elizabet MacKenzie de Ross**,  
(Liz Anderson), anderliz@yahoo.com

**Art & Scences: Mistress Anne Osgerby**,  
(TeresaWilson), aosgerby@comcast.net

**Chronicler: Lady Elizabet de Ross**, (Liz Anderson), anderliz@yahoo.com

**Web Wrangler: Lady Elizabet de Ross**, (Liz Anderson), anderliz@yahoo.com

**Chirurgion: Lady Catherine Stewart**, (Kelly Mcnutt), tmseneschal@foobox.com

**Captain of the Thegns: THL James de Lyon**  
**Baronial Warlord: Lord Faelan**

**Baronial Yeoman: This space for rent.**

**Constable: Halla Hallsdottir**,  
halla@preachain.org

**Minister of the Lists: Lord Juan Gregorio Ramiriez de Santander** (Gregory Johnson),  
gmjohnso@usit.net

**Dance: Yastreb and Esperanza**

**PTWGC: Mistress Alysea of Ashley** (Karen Farris), alysea@juno.com

**Historian: Lord Juan Gregorio Ramiriez de Santander**, (Gregory Johnson),  
gmjohnso@usit.net

**Librarian: Mistress Solveig Ericdottir**,  
(Duren Thompson), (865)523-3193  
solveig@comcast.net

**Provost: Master Ruadhan O'Cealliegh**, (Tom Anderson), ruadhainwolf@yahoo.com

**Page School: Open**

**Farspeaker: Milady Oriel d'Abernon**,  
amanda@knoxvegas.net

**Children: Kristiana Demitrinova of Trebizond,**

lalupadeniege@yahoo.com

**Hospitaller: Lady Sevastiana and Lord Hank of Oak Hill**

hospitaller\_thors\_mtn@yahoo.com

**Consul: Lady Jerusha**,  
sfarmer@sabre.goldsword.co

**Gold Key: Milady Oriel d'Abernon**,  
amanda@knoxvegas.net

## *Warlord Journey*

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Congrats to Lord Faelan, this year's Warlord for the Barony.

Congrats to Lord Tiberius who led the other side in the finals. Best of three and it came down to the last fight, actually the last two people were Faelan and Tiberius.

Nice day to test our skills at arms.

THL James de Lyon

Captain of the Theigns

## *The Iron Bow*

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At coronation one of the last acts performed by their Royal Majesties Boru and Dierdre was to ratify and grant the charter of a new guild within the Kingdom. The guild is known as THE IRON BOW and is for the promotion and building of interest in the sport of archery and live weapons.

It includes all forms of archery both live and combat and is for anyone interested. Listed below is a link to a Yahoo group that has been set up for the guild to use for ideas, discussions, and good natured fun. Please pass it along to anyone who would be interested.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ironbow>

In loyal kingdom service,

THL Ronan MacMorton, Current Yeoman to the Queen of Meridies

Seneschal of Nant-Y-Derwyddon

## *Armor Night*

For those who are wondering, "What the heck is Armour Night?" just imagine a knitting bee with lots of hammers, anvils, leather and power tools (and no knitting). Ideally, it is an opportunity for folks to get together to repair, make and discuss armour; though spectators and such 'significant others' are welcome as well. Since my garage usually has all those ingredients, we gather there about once a month. - Ld. Fionn of Dun na Gal KM, Barony of Thor's Mountain

## *Thor's Mountain Rapier*

### *Salon*

The rapier fighters of Thor's Mountain have decided to start a salon. "What is a salon?" You ask. In general, a salon in period was a place where a Fencing Master offered to teach students the fine art of defense. In Thor's Mountain it is a collaborative effort between the current Marshals, Rapier Marshals in Training (Rmits), and fighters to become better rapier fighters. A study group meets Monday nights at the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Coffee House to read and discuss various manuals, essays, and letters. This study group is open for anyone who is interested in studying the fencing manuals and master's essays from the SCA period. We are also working on a standardizing a lesson plan for the Barony's beginning rapier fighters. Please come and join us on Mondays at the coffee shop or Sundays at Victor Ashe Park. – Lady Elizabeth MacKenzie de Ross, CAR, Group Rapier Marshal for Thor's Mountain.

## *Thank You Notes:*

Rossini Entertainers and Exhibitors: Please allow me a personal opportunity to say a rousing "thank you" on behalf of all the Knoxville Opera board, staff, and crew for giving us such a wealth of first-class entertainment and exhibitions at the 2006 Rossini Festival.

You performed brilliantly under extremely adverse weather conditions and were real troopers to go on in spite of the

wind and frigid temperatures that developed late in the day. Thank you for honoring your agreement to participate this year despite the less than acceptable conditions.

I sincerely apologize for our inability to have everything completely ready by opening and for any inconveniences caused by our scrambling to make up for lost time due to the overnight storm. I am extremely thankful that the rain cleared up before noon, allowing us to finally get the stages built and the streets readied for your appearances. Once we were finally up and running, I thought you made things go ever so smoothly and professionally. Hundreds of Festival goers commented on the great lineup of entertainment and the individual performances that they had seen and heard during the day. It was literally an artistic smorgasbord of attractions.

Thank you for joining Knoxville Opera's efforts to showcase a wide variety of East Tennessee performing arts, special interests, and living history. In my opinion you are second to none in your abilities to bring exciting artistry and entertainment to the people of Knoxville and the surrounding region.

We deeply appreciate your support and encouragement of the Festival and realize that the success of Rossini rests in large measure on your superlative talents, creativity, and wonderful presentations.

Please accept our very best for continued success in all that you undertake. We applaud each and every one of you for handsome and polished presentations on Saturday and trust that we may have opportunities to work with you again in the future under more favorable conditions. Until that time, please accept our many, many thanks.

Sincerely,

Don Townsend

Knoxville Opera

### **Greetings to all here,**

I just wanted to thank the members of Thor's Mountain that attended our Tourney of the Bull this weekend for their support for the event. I also want to congratulate Lord Faelan Haraldson on Winning the round robin tourney and proving that he is a "Bull" of the woods. He finished the day with a perfect win record. Way to go Faelan.

In Loyal Meridian service,

THL Ronan MacMorton, Seneschal

Nant-Y-Derwyddon

## *Choosing the Right Tent For*

*You - Part 1: by Master*

*William McNaughton*

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*Stand back. I am a professional. Just kidding. But I figure I ought to start out an essay like this establishing my bona-fides. Why should you listen to me? Well, I'm actually a well-informed Amateur absolutely loaded with opinions about tents, pavilions, and shade flies. In ancient times I earned the Exalted Rank of Eagle Scout. (If you think that SCA rank doesn't count in Real Life, try flashing an Eagle Scout badge and see the crowd who isn't impressed.) In addition to Boy Scout camping, I've got 24 years of SCA experience. I've a veteran of eight Pennsics, five Lilies, about ten Gulf Wars, nine Border Raids, and a host of weekend events too many to number.*

*So much for that. Now, as to the Perfect Pennsic Pavilion? There isn't one. No matter what the label says, one size does NOT fit all. Buying a pavilion is really a lot like buying a car. It's a substantial commitment of resources (money or time) that you'll spend a lot of time in. Make sure that you get one that fits. Here are some of the features you will need to consider. With that in mind, we'll look into a number of the issues involved in tent purchasing. Think about the various features you need and how important each feature is before you make your choice. Each feature, run to extreme, breaks another feature, so no matter what you choose, you'll end up with a compromise.*

### **So ask yourself the following questions:**

*Let's begin with the bottom line. **How much am I willing to spend?** Frankly, if you're just flat broke and have to get the absolute minimum in shelter for the absolute minimum amount of money spent, run to Wal-mart and pick up a Coleman 7 x 7 Sundome. Coleman's been in the camping gear business since before the first World War, and they put out a rugged, usable product. They cost under \$70 and will keep you and your absolutely critical stuff dry.*

*Most of the time. But be prepared to store your cooler and non-critical items out in the weather. 7' domes don't have a lot of room in them. Also be prepared for people to refer to your tent as an "earth pimple." If you are willing to spend just a little more, say, \$200.00 or so, I'd like to strongly, strongly recommend a medieval "wedge" style canvas tent of some type. Wedge tents are period for most cultures throughout the Middle Ages. Like the T-tunic, 6 board box, or other simple artifacts, they reach across cultures and time because they are easy to make.*

**Does it need to look medieval?** *I've got a one-word answer for that. Yes.*

*There are many aspects to activity in the SCA. We spend money, time, and other resources on things like armor, costume, tools, projects, and the like. But no matter how well you are dress, no matter how medieval your feast gear, no matter how pretty your armor, you'll never really feel like you've transcended time and are actually IN The middle ages if you're standing in front of an electric blue nylon dome tent. I can't encourage a medieval tent enough.*

**How much room do I need?** *Give careful consideration to this question. Be generous. In my experience, I have occasionally stored a tent that was too big. I have pitched tents that were too big. Heaven knows, I've often carried tents that were too big. But I've never, ever LIVED in a tent that was too big.*

*What kind of activities will you be using your tent for? If you're a combat monster and spend fight-fight-fight all day and then have a beer and go to sleep, you'll never see your tent except when you crawl into it to sleep at night. Your average Viking warrior can dress by rolling around on top of a sleeping bag. But a Spanish Lady of Quality needs three ladies in waiting, a derrick and a crane just to get dressed! Just kidding.*

*Seriously, do you need to stand up? Hang clothes? Hang LONG clothes? If that's the case, you'll need more head room. Are you a clothes horse? Be honest? How many court dresses or doublets do*

you take to war? That stuff's got to be stored, sorted, and accessed conveniently. Are you a woodworker? A blacksmith? Are you thinking about taking your tools? You may need TWO tents.

So, to answer this question, make a list of everything that you normally take to War. If you are particularly detail oriented, draw all of your tubs, boxes, suitcases and back packs on graph paper and look at how your tent layout is going to look. You'll find that it takes more space than you think. But don't go hog wild. Some event sites, and Pennsic is one of them, limit the amount of space each attendee can use.

In general, the first person in a tent needs about 100 square feet of tent for SCA camping. Yes, that seems like a lot, and yes, you can get by with less, but if you're planning to live like this for several years, you'll be glad you have the room. Go to your living room with a tape measure and lay out a square 10' x 10'. That's 100 square feet. By the time you add a single camp bed (21 sq feet), a cooler (6 sq feet), one trunk (6 sq feet), an a single table (9 sq feet), it'll start looking awful small. Add an armor stand, chair, camp stove, book case . . . What, doesn't everybody travel with a reference library?

Okay, but the second person doesn't need as much room. My lady wife and I share a bed and trunks. On the other hand, now we have two suits of armor . . . Add at least 50 square feet for each additional adult in the tent. I don't have any children, so you're on your own there. Although I will say that of my friends who have children, once they get past the toddler stage, the children seem to get moved to their own tent.

**Where am I going to store it?** There's an old saying in the tent biz: "You can store your nylon tent behind your couch. You can store your canvas tent AS your couch." When selecting your tent, be sure to give careful consideration to where you are going to keep it. If you are an apartment dweller with limited storage space, a canvas tent may be too much for you.

A canvas tent suitable for two adults will require at least six cubic feet of storage space for the canvas, stakes, and ropes, effectively filling the bottom of one closet. Larger tents take up even more space. And there's a corollary to this: how is it going to be transported? The smallest of canvas tents have poles that are six feet long.

Give careful thought to how you are going to haul your mobile mansion. Canvas is also heavy. It takes a healthy person between the ages of 13 and 70 just to pick up the canopy for my big marquee.

**Who is going to pitch it?** While most of the tent-pitching process can be done alone for most tents, each design has its limitations, and most require help. So, do you have to be able to pitch your tent alone? Or would it be okay to have a tent that only needs a little help the first few minutes. Wedge tents require help to raise the ridge pole, but can otherwise be pitched alone. Marquee tents call for 2 - 3 people starting out, but can be finished alone. And there are variations.

(In the next Whetstone we will continue with Master William's Essay series addressing the advantages and disadvantages of the diverse categories of tents. – Liz)

## *Joelisms*

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If we're on F, I got missed. – Bridgit

Don't you just hate it when your food fights back. – Ariel

I've never frostbitten my head, but I've soaked my pillow. – Solveig

That was pretty good for a chance encounter. – Will

Zinc plated Play Doh? - Solveig

She laid an egg and we ate it. – Catherine

I cant believe you told that story! – Alysea

*The smack talk needs to stop. – Solveig*

*Do not strip the worthy opponent for body parts. – Will*

*Wives overrule shift leaders. – Catherine*

*Your arms are broken? There's the knife. – Solveig*

*They're not open by noon, they're losing all the drunks. – Solveig*

*I'm going to mug you tonight.... with duct tape. – Solveig*

*Zig had a minor sheep seizure. – Will*

*That's how it went today. Squeak. Crunch. – Will*

*You missed my green belt moment. – Iastreb*

*Don't think of it as getting beaten. Think of it as being beaten by an art major. – Will*

*Crunchy fur. - ??*

*Yes, I had an idea, but I'll keep it to myself. – Faelen*

*They had nukes and all he had was a plastic spoon... you take it from there. – Will*

*I'm not an apprentice. I use a stapler. – Catherine*

*I cant remember it sitting down. – Yazzy*

*This is actual, honest to God, documentable Viking humor. – Will*

*This ought to be, as they say on the field, interesting. – Faelen*

*This is what happens when people make me print stuff out... and I file it. – Solveig*

*The yurt is decorated with sharp, pointy things*

*that go into soft, squishy things. – Will*

*I'm innocent! I only write erotic poetry part of the time. – Siannan*

*I'm a schoolteacher. I've developed extreme peripheral village. – Yazzy*

*I never promised jokes down to your level. – Benign Despot*

*Smack talk is easy to aim by candlelight. – Benign Despot*

*The world's vertical tonight. – Emma*

*When I die, I think I want to be born smart. – Faelen*

*So you want to come back as a girl? - Ariel*

*I want to involve you in bondage activity tonight. I have the duct tape. – Solveig*

*I knew it wasn't me. I hadn't opened my mouth. – Tormod*

*You don't want your day cut short by a rock. – Catherine*

*Radu, his great and powerful Mooseness. – Faelen*

*I get to tell this story. You don't tell it right. I don't know what crack you're on. But mine's funnier. – Yazzy*

*I'm going to tie you up in a different way. – Solveig*

*It's okay to love your ax, it's not okay to \*love\* your ax. – Catherine/Yazzy*

*Nobody likes a limp spear. – Yazzy*

*Kelly's just in it for the duct tape noises. – Solveig*

*I'm largely not a mutt. – Faelen*

*Wow. That duct tape gives you abs! -*

*Catherine*  
*The Mistress Solveig Duct Tape Diet. – Yazzy*

*Dirty Elizabethan Dancing. – Catherine*

*The cold salad tongs of doom. – Catherine*

*I would like to meditate on a morphine  
syringe. – Catherine*

*Where are you going with My Beer? - Valaria*

*You go into choco-shock. – Gwydion*

*We don't do rules, we just do exceptions. –  
Gwydion*

*They went to the letter store and 'g's were on  
sale? - Marta Bon*

*Umpalumpa for the despot. – Catherine*

*You could stand vertical and stay in your  
square. - ??*

*The Des-Po needs olives. – Sionnan*

*Solveig, I enjoyed being your muscle monkey  
today. – Faelen*

*I don't think my tools would be up to it. – Will*

*She's having a chocolate-gasm. – Sionnan*

*Have I been Zoot yet? - Solveig*

*I hate it when you forget your 'safe' word. –  
Andrew*

| May 2006  |        |                                     |           |                               |                                   |                             |
|---|--------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sunday  | Monday | Tuesday                             | Wednesday | Thursday                      | Friday                            | Saturday                    |
|   | 1      | 2 - Business Meeting @ UC. 7pm.     | 3         | 4 – PTWGC @ Alysea's 7:30 pm  | 5                                 | 6                           |
|   |        |                                     |           |                               | <a href="#">Spring Crown List</a> |                             |
| 7 - Fighter and Rapier Practice In Garb @ <a href="#">Victor Ashe park</a> 1:00-4:00pm. | 8      | 9                                   | 10        | 11                            | 12                                | 13                          |
|   |        |                                     |           |                               | <a href="#">May Tourney</a>       |                             |
| 14 – May Tourney  | 15     | 16.                                 | 17        | 18 – PTWGC @ Alysea's 7:30 pm | 19                                | 20 - 1pm Dance @ Iastreb's. |
| 21 - Fighter and Rapier Practice @ <a href="#">Victor Ashe park</a> 1:00-4:00pm.        | 22     | 23 – Scrollerly @ Elizabet's 6:30pm | 24        | 25 – PTWGC @ Alysea's 7:30 pm | 26                                | 27                          |
| 28 - Fighter and Rapier Practice @ <a href="#">Victor Ashe park</a> 1:00-4:00pm.        | 29     | 30                                  | 31        |                               |                                   |                             |

| June 2006  |        |                                    |           |                               |                                     |          |
|--|--------|------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Sunday   | Monday | Tuesday                            | Wednesday | Thursday                      | Friday                              | Saturday |
|  |        |                                    |           | 1 – PTWGC @ Alysea's 7:30 pm  | 2                                   | 3        |
|  |        |                                    |           |                               | <a href="#">Kingdom A&amp;S/RUM</a> |          |
| 4 - Fighter and Rapier Practice @ <a href="#">Victor Ashe park</a> 1:00-4:00pm.          | 5      | 6 - Business Meeting @ UC. 7pm.    | 7         | 8 – PTWGC @ Alysea's 7:30 pm  | 9                                   | 10       |
| 11 - Fighter and Rapier Practice In Garb @ <a href="#">Victor Ashe park</a> 1:00-4:00pm. | 12     | 13                                 | 14        | 15 – PTWGC @ Alysea's 7:30 pm | 16                                  | 17       |
| 18 - Fighter and Rapier Practice @ <a href="#">Victor Ashe park</a> 1:00-4:00pm.         | 19     | 20 – Scrollery @ Elizabet's 6:30pm | 21        | 22 – PTWGC @ Alysea's 7:30 pm | 23                                  | 24       |
|  |        |                                    |           |                               | Border Raids                        |          |
| 25 - Fighter and Rapier Practice @ <a href="#">Victor Ashe park</a> 1:00-4:00pm.         | 26     | 27                                 | 28        | 29 – PTWGC @ Alysea's 7:30 pm | 30                                  |          |

| July 2006   |        |                                    |           |                               |        |          |
|---|--------|------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|--------|----------|
| Sunday  | Monday | Tuesday                            | Wednesday | Thursday                      | Friday | Saturday |
|   |        |                                    |           |                               |        | 1        |
| 2 - Fighter and Rapier Practice @ <a href="#">Victor Ashe park</a> 1:00-4:00pm.         | 3      | 4 - Business Meeting @ UC. 7pm.    | 5         | 6 – PTWGC @ Alysea's 7:30 pm  | 7      | 8        |
| 9 - Fighter and Rapier Practice In Garb @ <a href="#">Victor Ashe park</a> 1:00-4:00pm. | 10     | 11 – Scrollery @ Elizabet's 6:30pm | 12        | 13 – PTWGC @ Alysea's 7:30 pm | 14     | 15       |
| 16 - Fighter and Rapier Practice @ <a href="#">Victor Ashe park</a> 1:00-4:00pm.        | 17     | 18                                 | 19        | 20 – PTWGC @ Alysea's 7:30 pm | 21     | 22       |
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| 30 - Fighter and Rapier Practice @ <a href="#">Victor Ashe park</a> 1:00-4:00pm.        | 31     |                                    |           |                               |        |          |

