

Fox Tales

YELLOW JOURNALISM AT ITS FINEST

APRIL, 1993

A.S. XXVII

SNOWS HIT AREA HARD

Reports from mundane sources indicate that the blizzard that hit Vulpine Reach and other villages in Meridies may have been the deepest in the Kingdom's history. Vulpine Reach alone was covered by snow in excess of eighteen inches. Local roads and the King's Highways were deemed impassable by daylight on Saturday, March 13 and the "mother of all business meetings" was postponed until March 29.

Owl's Nest was not spared either. Their ten-inch snow forced the cancellation of their event Arrows and Agincourt. In a pharspeaker interview, Ailire Elspeth MacLean, one of the autocrats, stated, "Until 6 a.m. Saturday, we didn't know whether the Parks Department would close the park we were to use. We spent the rest of the day fielding [pharspeaker] calls. So far, the biggest problem we have faced involving the cancellation is in storing the food we bought for feast. At this time, we're not sure if we will simply cancel or reschedule; there are several things we need to consider before we decide. If we reschedule, we will let you know."

Several local members "dug-in" and helped out by clearing roadways, transporting needy people in their all-weather wagons, carrying heating fuel, food and supplies, and assisting stranded travelers.

RHINO SEASON OPENS!!

The Meridies Department of Wildlife Conservation and Management (MDWCM) has declared April 1, A.S. XXVII, the first day of seasonal hunting for the infamous Meridian Hard-Headed Rhino. Potential hunters should apply for a license immediately because hunting will continue until game wardens or lists marshals detect a significant thinning of the herds.

According to recognized experts, the Meridian Hard-Headed Rhino is indigenous to SCA tournaments and is related to other varieties of Hard-Headed Rhino in other kingdoms. This creature is easily identified by two related characteristics: they are able to shrug off the impact of a sword-blow that would cave in the fender of a 1949 Cadillac and they would indicate that said blow was a "light hit".

Noted for its pugnacious nature and lack of intelligence, the Hard-Headed Rhino is fearless while in control of its immediate surroundings. However, when it realizes that it is in true mortal danger, it mimics a more well known creature: the Noble Rattan Swinger (*Sword-Jockus Domesticus*). While resembling the Hard-Headed Rhino outwardly, the Noble Rattan Swinger differs by having much higher levels of intelligence and docility, and is a more chivalrous creature.

Officials of the MDWCM emphasize that, while a reduction in numbers is necessary, only the minimum amount of force required should be used. Use of excessive force can be grounds for revocation of hunting privileges for the remainder of the season. A noted Meridian zoologist told us, "Just because these critters have cut a wide swath of destruction and have left a wake of serious injuries doesn't mean that we should treat them in less than a noble or chivalrous manner."

Game-claim tags and applications for licenses are available at all MDWCM branch offices, game check-in stations, and from Knight Marshals and armorers. All Hard-Headed Rhinos taken must be tagged and checked in so the MDWCM can keep track of the numbers taken. As of date of publication, there is no limit on the number of Hard-Headed Rhinos that can be taken during the season. However, only three adult males per day may be checked at any given check-in station per hunter.

FROM THE CHRONICLER

Good day, milords and miladies! Little did I realize in the last issue that that comment about "waiting by our warm fires" would become literal truth! I must confess, I didn't take much stock in the "weather wizards" prognostication either - betted against it, in fact! Oh, well. Live and learn; they *can* be right once in a while (I suppose).

Many here in the ol' Reach felt the effects of power outages, water outages, and cabin fever brought on by the bad weather. Others tried to be solutions to some of the problems by making "mercy runs" in sport/utility vehicles and four-wheel drive pickups. This kind of chivalry and kindness may go unnoticed by the vast majority of the city, but not by those who were helped. My chapeau is doffed in your honor.

By the way...if you were one of the "lucky" gentles that got a March Fox Tales with only odd pages printed, my apologies to you. The copier hiccuped and temporarily forgot that it was supposed to copy both sides of the sheet! Lord Llywelyn ap Alawn has corrected the issue with ALL SIX PAGES! Come and get'em while they're hot!! If, through some grave tragedy, you don't have a current issue by NOW, please get with me and I'll do what I can to get you one!

It's no secret that the "mother of all business meetings" was at the mercy of another matriarch: mother nature. As of print date, the meeting hasn't taken place yet. On the request of the Seneschal, the meeting was moved to March 29...after it does take place, I promise to do a write-up for all to read (with a little help from my friends!).

Remember, if you go to any events, *please* let me know so I may give you an event questionnaire. This is the only way that I can do a TRAVELS piece (unless you actually do a full article for me...). This newsletter is by and for you, after all! Gramercy, gentles.



P.S. Happy All Fools Day!

BEST BETS

- 4/1 Fabric Hunt I, Mouse Hole (186,282 mi) \$0.78
First event based on finding garb fabric, Covered trencher feast (period dishes please). Camping.
- 4/8-10 Fool's War V, Novus Matisco (201 mi) \$10 + \$2 per day/person camping fee. *Biggest war in Meridies, primitive camping event.*
- 4/17 Iris Faire XIV, Glaedenfeld (150 mi) \$14 pre/\$16 door. *Great feastcrat, collegium-type event.*
- 4/24 Spring Collegium, Clan Cabal Mor/South Downs (130 mi) \$13 till 4/15, \$15 thereafter. *Equestrian classes, special children's activities, tent camping.*

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CALENDAR

- ^{BYRTNDAY}
^{DISGUISSING & MUNDANE}
APRIL
- 1 *** ALL FOOL'S DAY ***
EVENT-Fabric Hunt I (Barony of Mouse Hole)
- 3 EVENT-Spring Coronation (An Dun Theine)
- 4 *Daylight Savings Time Begins - Spring Forward!*
- 5 *** PASSOVER BEGINS ***
Class: Disguising Mundane Items (Rabbette)
Distribution of April Fox Tales
- 8-10 EVENT-Fool's War V (Novus Matisco)
- 11 *** EASTER SUNDAY ***
- 12 Banner Painting
- 15 Submission deadline for May Fox Tales
- 17 EVENT-Iris Faire (Glaedenfeld)
EVENT-Forest Wars III (Blackmoor)
- 19 Dance Class (Rabbette)
- 24 EVENT-Cabal Mor Spring Collegium (S. Downs)
EVENT-Sable Swan III (Glynn Rhe)
EVENT-Candlelight Camp (Small Grey Bear)
- 26 Class: Historical Battles (Greg Cunningham)

MAY

- 1 EVENT-Crown List (Riviere de Sang)
- 3 Banner Painting/Distribution of May Fox Tales
- 8 EVENT-May Tourney(?) (Thor's Mountain)
EVENT-Rene of Anjou/Beltaine (Grey Niche)
- 10 Business Meeting (Planning for River Roast Demo)
- 15 *** ARMED FORCES DAY ***
River Roast Demo/Regional Fighter Practice
EVENT-Dreamstone Tourney XIV (Brynn Madoc)
EVENT-Black Axe (Iron Mountain)

Fighter practice is held on Sundays in Warner Park at 2 p.m. (weather permitting); chapter meetings are in room 116 at Holt Hall, UTC campus on Mondays at 8 p.m.

Regnum

- Seneschal Lady Rachelle du Pied Leger
Rachael Lightfoot 965-7947
- Knight Marshall Lord Forddwydd Meredydd, Esq.
Craig Rethwilm 624-3458
- Herald THL Richard Fenwick
Ken Scott 698-5007
- Arts & Sciences Lee Comyn
Lee Cummings 855-0303
- Hospitaller Lady Diana Fiona O'Shera
Diane Walker 875-5417
- Reeve Baroness Lijsbeth Tijisz van Brugge
Leslie Dulin 886-6256
- Historian Lady Maria Madelena de Luna
Joy Day 891-9410
- Chronicler Lord James Toxophilus
Jim Long 894-6487

THE FOX FILES

God'ge good'en fair gentle folk. I am Lord Owen Arbalista and I have been a sustaining member of the SCA since A.S. X. Way back then, one didn't have to document one's name, but Arbalista is another word for "cross-bowman." If I *have* to, I can *prove* it!

I answered The Honorable Lord Richard Fenwick's newspaper ad back in 1976 (A.D.) and shortly was conned into being the Herald for the incipient Shire of Serpents Crook (now known as Vulpine Reach - ed.).

My first event was a May Tourney at Thor's Mountain. I made the mistake of telling Mistress Rosemunde that I was a herald and was quickly given the task of field-heralding one of the two rings of fights. I proudly upheld the heraldic tradition of butchering names!

My main interest in the SCA is currently Tournament Combat. I have been a herald, a Knight Marshal, the first publisher of *Fox Tales*, the designer of the shire device, and uh, uh, a lot of other things, too! (I forget.)

The most recent event I attended was Silver Hammer.

A lot of humorous things have happened at events over the years — some of which can even be published! The one I remember well (I have photos) was at Cheap Wars, held at Camp Columbus. The Army of Northern Meridies had begun at the high ground and advanced on the Army of Southern Meridies which had formed up in a grove that backed up against the lake. Between the two armies meandered a road from the camp's boat ramp. Wouldn't you know it; as soon as the armies had closed *just* into charging range, a "hold" had to be called. *A mundane family in a station wagon pulling a boat trailer eased up the road between the armies!* Ah, the look on their faces was priceless!

My most memorable event was winning the Silver Hammer Tournament. If you don't believe it, just ask Forddwydd!

The proudest accomplishment I have is being a member of the Vulpine Reach Mobile Assault Force, which won Boar Hunt 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 (according to Forddwydd — please excuse me; as an old-timer, my memory isn't so good).

Persona, persona, persona. Hmhmhmhm. Let me think! I was born (weren't we all!). I seem to remember being fostered to a relative in Brittainy where I learned the lovely art of seiges. Times being what they were, I had to leave quickly (I backed the wrong side in a small disagreement). Being broke, I decided to try my hand at plundering. Luckily, I attached myself to the English armies and was assured of God's blessing as I helped loot and pillage France.

I was married but, thank God, she died in the plague. I was left with two lovely daughters — which means I have to keep plundering to provide a dowry. Somewhere in there I became a squire to a German knight, Baron Sir Seigfreid das Wiltেকে, called the bastard of Saxony.

I haven't seen him in a while; I think he's gone on crusade. I guess I'll just have to keep hold of his share of the loot. God has been good to me.

Warhaven™ Classic

**ZUFF
BREAK** by
LD. W. BLACKFOX,
CSM. CIM

THIS IS SO VERY
EMBARRASSING!

WHAT IS THE
PROBLEM, YOUR
HIGHNESS?

MY COMPANY IS SENDING ME OVERSEAS
FOR 7 MONTHS AND I HAVE TO LEAVE
ON THE DAY I WAS TO BECOME KING!

EXQUISITE TIMING, INDEED.

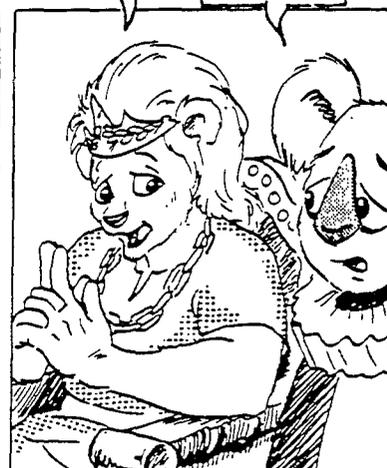


YEAH...

SAY, UH... DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT
IF I WOULD TALK TO THE PEERS
AND THE SENESCHAL THAT...

BGPRDN?

DO YOU THINK THEY'D
GIVE ME A REIGN CHECK?



TRAVELS: Iron Mt. Baronial Investiture

As we wend our way through the heartland of Meridies, the early morning dew clung to the hooves of our horses and the lowland fog shrouded all in a soft gray blanket. Still, we made good use of the light and reached the valley of the Barony of Iron Mountain well in time to join the festivities surrounding the land of their new baron and baroness.

Principal amongst the festivities was the tournament held to entertain the populous. One dozen strong and able warriors gathered at the pleasure of Their Excellencies, His Royal Majesty King John, and His Royal Highness Prince Brian.

The combatants gathered in a circle about the marshal, having surrendered their ransoms to the mistress of the lists. At the marshal's command, the fighters selected opponents and issued their challenges. The combat then took place, with victor claiming the ribbons of the vanquished in token of his ransoms. Both combatants then moved on to issue challenges and fight other battles.

When the dust had cleared, our own Laird Cailean michAlasdair A'Sinclair stood second only to one other, sharing his place with two good and valorous knights. Great treasures did Laird Cailean win to enrich his clan and gained glory for our shire.

Then did commence the archery tournament with great show of skill and valor. Many good archers did pull bow with deadly skill. Apparently, the Barony's granaries must be full to overflowing, since they did auction off baskets of diverse foodstuffs with great show.

The Crown and Their Excellencies then held court to reward the valorous and conduct with the flower of nobility the business of the Realm.

A feast of wondrous proportions followed. Although the great hall was far too small for so large a gathered populous, the Barony offered many delicacies, food in ample quantity, and great good cheer!

Thence did our worn and dragged band journey homeward; the

roads and byways of Meridies were safe as always. The forested southlands gave way to the familiar mountains and vales marking the Shire of Vulpine Reach. Indeed, the lights and warm hearths of home were a welcome beacon in the night.

*-Laird Cailean michAlasdair
A'Sinclair*

SPECIAL MESSAGE TO ALL FROM GAYLWIND REDMANE: PLEASE SAVE YOUR POPULAR CHIVALRY'S FOR FUTURE DEMOS! GIVE THEM TO ME.

THE RUPTURED APPENDIX TO THE FIGHTERS' HANDBOOK: REVISED ARMOR REGULATIONS (effective April 1, A.S. XXVII)

Safety Revisions

* Cups are required for all fighters. However, coffee mugs are an acceptable substitution unless they are printed with Disney characters.

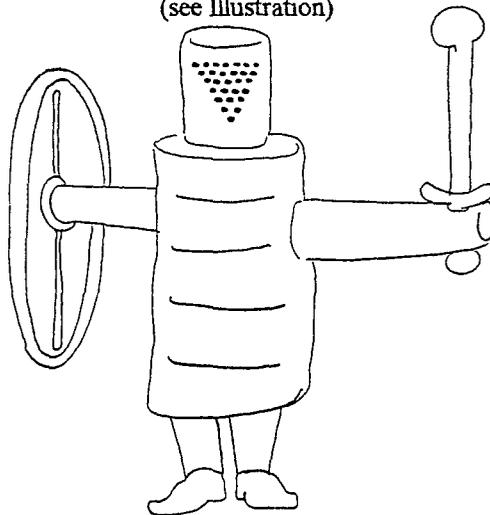
* Crotch shots are now legal, but blows must last longer than one minute.

* Thrusting tips are now required to be 7 1/2 inches in diameter (minimum).

* Daggers must be at least 6 inches in length (12 inches would be greatly appreciated).

* Shields are now to be constructed of iron plate of no less than 1 1/2 inches thick and no smaller than 40 inches in any dimension.

Body Armor Revisions
(see Illustration)



* Head: Helm must be of stainless steel, extending from 2" below shoulders and covering the entire head. Face plate will have no opening larger than 1/4" in

diameter (due to danger of an arrow nock penetrating face plate and poking out eye).

* Chest: Armor is to be of rigid material, i.e., stainless steel, and should be of one continuous unbroken, uncut piece. It must cover all areas from 1/4" beneath the chin to a point no less than 10" below the waist.

* Leg: Armor for each leg is to be of rigid material, i.e., stainless steel of one continuous piece with no breaks, bends, cuts, welds, or rivets. It must cover the area from (and including) the ankle and extend to the crotch and higher, if at all possible.

* Arms: Armor for each arm must match the construction requirements for the Leg Armor (see above). Coverage must extend from 2" beyond the reach of the longest finger back to the shoulder and farther if at all possible.

Note that ALL Knight Marshals in the kingdom are in possession of these revised armor regulations and will not allow any fighter to fight if he/she is not equipped with armor meeting these revised regulations!

*- Lord Forddwydd Meredydd
Lord Llywelyn ap Alawn
Laird Cailean michAlasdair
A'Sinclair*

MUSIC: The Chieftains In Concert at Sewanee

Okay, I played hooky on March 8. I have a good excuse for missing the meeting; I went to see "the greatest exponents of traditional Irish music" that night. That's right, I saw The Chieftains in concert up at the University of the South in Sewanee. The standing-room-only crowd was enthralled with both the music and the on-stage antics of this 30-year old group. They put on quite a performance!

Accompanying the group was KellyAnne O'Sullivan, a six-time national Irish Step Dancing Champion. Space prohibits any description of the concert aside from **FANTASTIC!**

After the concert, I spoke with Kevin Conneff, the vocalist and bodhran player who said of the audience, "This is a great place to play! They 'got' everything we did! It was great!"

It was great, indeed!

The Shire of Vulpine Reach and the Kidney Foundation of the Greater Chattanooga Area present:

River Roast II

A Regional Fighter Practice, Demo, and Feast

May 15, 1993, Ross's Landing, Chattanooga TN, 1pm-6pm

The Kidney Foundation has again asked us to be a part of River Roast, their annual BBQ cook-off, volleyball tournament and music festival on the river in downtown Chattanooga. Due to the loud volume of the bands appearing at River Roast, we have found that the only "entertaining" that can be successfully done is FIGHTING. And since you have been asking for another regional fighter practice, we have decided to combine it with our demo! The demo lasts from 1 pm-6 pm, with fighting beginning by 2 pm. Afterwards you are invited to join the Shire of Vulpine Reach for a picnic/party at the beautiful Chattanooga Riverpark nearby (dry site). We will provide a cold feast FREE. Food donations will be welcome, but no refrigeration is available. We also plan to have dancing and bardic entertainment after dinner. Crash space will be available by prior arrangement.

Ross's Landing is behind the fabulous new Tennessee Aquarium. You may wish to come early to see it. We will have a changing tent on site so you can get into your garb. As this event regularly draws 20,000 or more people, there will be NO PARKING AT THE SITE. We suggest that you drive to the River Roast gate on Chestnut St. and let everyone with you take your armor and garb to our tent. Then move your car to the free Provident parking lot at 3rd and Walnut Sts. We will have a truck to shuttle drivers and their gear to the site, but only from 12:30 -1:30. It is a short 5-block walk if you arrive late. Please do not bring coolers or extra large items to the demo, as it will be harder to get them off site than on due to the large crowds. Wear cool, comfortable garb - the ground is wood chips over mud and it may be a very hot day. The Shire will provide munchies, Gatorade, and water for everyone; and soft drinks, beer and BBQ will be available at the festival. River Roast admission is free to all SCA members who tell the gate that they are with Children's Programming. Look for our pavilions!

All proceeds from River Roast benefit the Kidney Foundation and go to help kidney patients in 19 counties in TN, AL and GA. This is a worthy cause and our participation helps draw larger crowds for them.

DIRECTIONS: Take your best route to Hwy. 27 to Downtown Chattanooga. Take the 4th St. Exit, which heads you to downtown. Get in the left lane and turn left on Chestnut St. at the first light. Drive down to the River Roast gate and unload QUICKLY. Turn right on Riverfront Parkway. Go up the hill, under 2 bridges. Take the first exit on the right just past the 2nd bridge. There is no name on the exit, but you will be on Lookout St. Turn right at the stop sign onto 3rd St. Cross Walnut St. and turn into the parking lot on the right. If you are walking from the lot, head down the hill and aim for the left side of the aquarium, the huge brick bldg. with the glass windows on top.

AUTOCRAT: Baroness Lijsbeth Tijz van Brugge, 4446 Shackelford Ridge Rd., Signal Mtn. TN 37377 (615) 886-6256 BEFORE 10 PM EDT, or Lady Rachelle du Pied-Leger (706) 965-7947 BEFORE 10 PM EDT
All calls will be returned Collect. Your seneschal will receive a map.

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the contributors to the April issue:

Ailire Elspeth MacLean of Owl's Nest

Lord Owen Arbalista

Baron William Blackfox

Laird Cailean michAlasdair A'Sinclair

Lord Forddwydd Meredydd

Lord Llywelyn ap Alawn

Gaylwind Redmane

Baroness Lijsbeth Tijisz van Brugge

Lord Tarn Southart

Announcement: Just in case you weren't paying attention, all the pieces that specifically had a date of April 1 were real items of real value; they were not All-Fools-Day gags. By the way, I know a store that specializes in stainless steel. You can get the stuff for about three cents per square yard (minimum purchase: 1, 839, 227 square yards, cash and carry).

Reminders:

We have a demo/regional fighter practice on May 15 with the Kidney Foundation at River Roast '93. We also have two sessions of banner-painting during meetings; be thinking about the device that you'd like to display and speak with the shire herald, THL Richard Fenwick. His job is to help you come up with a unique device of your own.

Next issue:

Fox Tales presents a summary of the "mother of all business meetings."

TRAVELS visits the Black Gryphon Collegium, Boar Hunt, and Gatalop (maybe...).

FOX FILES introduces you to another shire gentle.

Baron William Blackfox takes you on a visit to WARTHAVEN.

Plus: The Calendar, Best Bets, and all the other regular features of your Shire's newsletter!

CORRECTION

In the last issue of Fox Tales, in several places (too many places, actually) I misspelled a name; the correct spelling is Lord Llywelyn ap Alawn. Just because it's Welsh doesn't mean it shouldn't be correctly spelled.... My apologies, friend.

FOX TALES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHIRE OF VULPINE REACH

C/O JIM LONG
1305 LA BREA ROAD
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37421

