

# Fox Tales

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO ENGRAVE

JANUARY, 1994

A.S. XXVIII

## COMBAT AUTHORIZATION CHANGE!

### New Rule Effective 1/1/94

On December 11, I received the following memo regarding a new rule for combat authorization from the S.C.A.'s Office of the Registry:

#### "REMINDER

#### Combat Waiver Rule

The new rule on membership for combat is:

As of 1 January, 1994, all authorized participants in SCA combat and related activities will need to:

- a.) Be current paid members of the Society, AND
- b.) Have valid combat waivers on file with the Membership Services Office.

This requirement was adopted at the January, 1993 Board meeting, but the supporting procedures took somewhat longer than expected to be implemented. The text of the combat waiver was approved at the April, 1993 Board meeting, and appears on membership forms dated "Revised 8-93" or later. The rule applies to armored combat, period fencing, combat archery, marshalling, scouting, and banner-bearing in combat, as well as service as a surgeon or water-bearer within the lines of a battle scenario. Current members who intend to take part in any of these activities after the first of January should fill out the new waiver and request replacement membership cards from the Registry now. The cards are free. Non-member participants must join - with valid waivers - by 1 January 1994."

Enclosed in this issue is an updated membership/waiver form for both those who need it to keep fighting and for you who want to have "the privileges of membership." You can be a member for as little as

\$12 for an associate membership (card only). Spend \$25, and you get the card, a year's subscription to our Kingdom's Newsletter and Tournaments Illuminated, the SCA's quarterly arts and sciences publication. Additionally, as a member you receive a \$5.00 discount when you go to Kingdom-level events such as Coronation or Fighter's Collegium and a \$2.00 discount for non-Kingdom-level events.

### LOCAL COLLEGIUM SET

It's official: Vulpine Reach now has a spring collegium on the kingdom calendar! Collegium Sionnach ("shin-'ock") is scheduled for February 5th at Booker T. Washington State Park lodge.

This site is not the same as that used for Tourney of the Foxes; the group lodge at the state park is just past the Foxes area. The lodge is actually a small group of fully winterized buildings with a capacity of 50 gentles with some limited floor area for "crash" space.

Our collegium will feature various "hands-on" classes and workshops. Metal working, lace making, leather tooling, and toy making will be just a few of the classes held!

For a change, our feast will be a "covered-trencher" affair; contributors to the feast are being asked to bring a dish capable of feeding ten people. The only restriction on contributions is that they require a minimum of preparation, due to the limited kitchen size. We are also asking our local members to bring vegetable foods, while the actual shire will provide the meat dish for all.

The autocrat is Lord James Toxophilus, the breakfast-crat is Lady Diana Fiona O'Shera, and as of printing date, the feast-crat position needs to be filled.

## FROM THE CHRONICLER

Greetings, good and kind gentles!

I have really good news...my word processor is back in action (well, for the most part anyway). At least I'm not trying to trick and outguess just how this blasted collection of chips and wire thinks this month. Aaah, the relief!

Anyway, on to business. Next month, we're having a shot at our spring event, Collegium Sionnach. As the blurb on the first page says, I am the autocrat. More on that later.

First and foremost, I am the chronicler. Unfortunately, that also puts me in some tight places. As you can see below, I'm listing Glaedenfeld's 12th Night as a Best Bet - although that is the same weekend as CHATTACON. Then, if you read the calendar, you'll see that I'm going to NEITHER.

Here's the deal: even though CHATTACON has been kind to us in the past and probably will be in the future, they are **not** directly affiliated with the SCA (and this is an SCA newsletter). Then, too, we're not scheduled for a CHATTACON demo this year - that's two reasons.

As to why I'm going to neither: with the collegium coming up, I'm going to have my hands full as a first-time autocrat so I have decided to spend a fairly quiet day at archery practice and work (don't laugh, Lora). Also, due to vacation constraints at work, I'll not have the necessary vacation time to spend on two consecutive weekends (the first being taken up with 12th Night).

I realize I can't make everybody happy with my decisions, but there it is. I wish I could've listed both, but the listing is for the "best bet" for that particular weekend and I have to draw the line somewhere. Gramercy, my friends.



## BEST BETS

- 1/8 Vulpine Reach 12th Night Revel (Hixson, TN - 6 mi.). *Chinese gift exchange, covered dish feast, general fun and merriment! Bring a dish for 8-10 and a wrapped gift limited to \$7.50. Revel will be from 2pm - 9pm.*
- 1/15 12th Night Revel, Glaedenfeld (Lebanon, TN - 125 mi.). *\$17 - Fighting, David Lipscomb College Consortium concert, Toungue-In-Cheek Players, feast, one-day event. No overnight facilities. Wet site.*
- 1/29 Saltare Collegium, Misty Mere (Tuscaloosa, AL - 198 mi.). *\$15 (includes site fee, dance book, and music tape) Beginner, intermediate, and advanced dance classes held during entire day. Featuring mideastern, scottish country, and italian basse dances. Midwinter's Dream Ball w/finger food feast. Held at Holiday Inn of Tuscaloosa.*

This is Fox Tales, published by and for the members of the Shire of Vulpine Reach of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. It is available from the publisher at 1305 La Brea Road, Chattanooga, TN. 37421. It is not a publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate SCA policies. Fox Tales is published monthly and is distributed at the first chapter meeting of the month. Submission deadlines are listed in the monthly calendar.

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## CALENDAR

### JANUARY

- 3 Business Meeting/Dist. of Jan. Fox Tales
- 8 **LOCAL EVENT - Shire 12th Night Revel**  
**EVENT - 12th Night Revel (Arenal)**
- 10 Class: Persona Development (Lady Rachelle)
- 15 **EVENT - 12th Night Revel (Glaedenfeld)**  
**CHATTACON**  
Local Archery Practice
- 17 \* \* \* **MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY** \* \* \*  
Business Meeting: Collegium/Fox Tales Deadline
- 22 **EVENT - Emprise of the Black Rose (Iron Ox)**  
**EVENT - Midwinter Arts & Sciences (S. Downs)**  
Local Archery Practice
- 24 Class: SCA Jewelry (Lord Leo)
- 29 **EVENT - Saltare Collegium (Misty Mere)**  
**EVENT - Winter Wonders VIII (Ardanroe)**  
Local Archery Practice
- 31 Business Meeting: Collegium/Fox Tales Distribution

### FEBRUARY

- 5 **LOCAL EVENT - Collegium Sionnach**
- 7 Business Meeting, post-mortem on Collegium
- 12 **EVENT - Buccaneer's Ball IX (Seleone)**  
Local Archery Practice
- 14 \* \* \* **ST. VALENTINE'S DAY** \* \* \*  
Class: Courtly Love (Lady Rabbette)/Fox Tales Deadline
- 19 **EVENT - Menhir Collegium (Rising Stone)**

Fighter practice is held on Sunday afternoons 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. Archery practices are held at Choo Choo Archery Lanes on Bonny Oaks Drive at 12 noon (as scheduled).

## REGNUM

- Seneschal Lady Rachelle du Pied Leger  
*Rachel Lightfoot (706) 965-7947*
- Knight Marshall Lord Forddwydd Meredydd, Esq.  
*Craig Rethwilm (615) 624-3458*
- Herald Laird Cailen mich Alasdair A'Sinclair  
*Jason Tryon (615) 624-2040*
- Arts & Sciences Lee Comyn  
*Lee Cummings (615) 855-0303*
- Hospitaller Lady Diana Fiona O'Shera  
*Diane Walker (615) 875-5417*
- Reeve Mistress Lijsbeth Tijz van Brugge  
*Leslie Dulin (615) 886-6256*
- Historian Lady Madelena de Luna  
*Joy Day (615) 891-9410*
- Chronicler Lord James Toxophilus  
*Jim Long (615) 894-6487*
- Lore Keeper, Meridian College of Bards  
Lady Egelina Rabbette  
*Rabbit Kadrich (615) 877-6299*

## THE FOX FILES

This month's *FOX FILE* isn't so much a profile of an individual in our shire as it is of the shire itself; Lord Owen Arbalista is one of the original founders of Vulpine Reach and wrote this, his view of our fair shire.

White eagles of the north overhead presage the solstice. Wise men seek warm hearths and beds, saving their strength for winter's challenge. In a mountain forest sundered by a mighty river is a warm-hearted shire of glowing reknown. In an ember-lit hall gather the good folk to dance and revel to the sound of pipe and tabur. A wonder it would seem to a stranger that all the folk, from baroness and squire to lowly maid and manservant, frolic with such good neighborly pleasure. Soon would a visitor learn that kindness and courtesy are as life's bread to this shire called Vulpine Reach.

Though pate be shiney or tresses snow-streaked, the backs are unbent and the eyes are clear of the ancients who first found this shire-in-exile amidst the salty red steel-edged sea of mortal conflict. Long neglected are the stories of the oldsters that have been scoffed at as fabulous inventions to wile away the short days and long, cold nights. Such is the mistake of over-eager youth burning with the passion of the present moment.

Few now are those who harken back long years to the arrival at this generous vale - precariously hidden between the feuding baronies growing to the north and the south - in what was then the eastern-most frontier of the mighty Atenveldt kingdom. Few now also know of a man of split mind and divided passion, whose emblem was the double-headed, indecisive eagle of a tiny, fabulous Duchy. This man, oft underestimated, but always faithful, had fled the reign of terror in the Barony of Thor's Mountain of the since-joyously beheaded fool, Gulden Ded Chicken.

Here in a valley blessed by God did this good lord find a goodly place to rest on neutral ground between the Baronies of Thor's Mountain and South Downs. No other person of note was here except for one vague but constant welshman. Thus was found the long lost refuge of Serpent's Crook.

Not much was done in those lonely days of exile. It was a time of poverty. Though one's heart might burn to right wrongs, it was mightily difficult to find the source of the silver-wrapped helm bane. Ignorant and unskilled were those who are now masters of the steel-tailor's trade. What passed for the practice of arms would give pause to today's well-trained and fully equipped warrior. Yet,

in those days, the seed of our majestic Kingdom's present glory was sprouting in fertile fields of raven feed.

It took a beautiful young Flemish lady, a tall and hairy Dane, and a mysterious shaman to mold this young, lazy refuge into the glowing home that it is today.

But *that* is another tale. Anon.

- Lord Owen Arbalista

## Oh, NO! It's those pesky Winter Reruns again! A Warthaven Classic



## Reminder:

Please send all award recommendations for the Companion of the Fox awards in to Lady Rachelle du Pied Leger by our shire's 12th Night Revel, to be awarded at Collegium Sionnach.

Speaking of the Collegium, we still need someone to coordinate the potluck supper. This is a good chance for relative newcomers to "get their feet wet" on working an event!

-Lady Rachelle du Pied Leger

## Unto all in this shire of Vulpine Reach:

From the autocrat of Collegium Sionnach send I most heartfelt greetings.

With the coming new year will come our spring event, Collegium Sionnach. There has been limited time for planning even such a small event, so we'll need to get as much participation from our folks as possible to make it successful.

At the January 3 meeting, I'll be bringing out sign up sheets for everyone to look over and decide how best they may help with the work. Since the event is a small hands-on collegium, it should be a good event for the first-time volunteer - after all, it's the first event I've ever autocratted; you won't be alone!

Also, since we are having a covered-dish feast, I'd like to ask you, our shire members, to bring either a vegetable or cold salad-type dish to the feast. I have a feeling that we'll have enough folks coming with bread, cheese, etc., so we should stay away from them ourselves!

Our site has only 50 beds, so if you have floor space or any spare rooms you can open up to visitors, let me know. We are planning to lock the gate for the site at midnight on Friday and Saturday nights, so there may be latecomers that could need lodging. Granted, it is a long shot but it may come in handy. At least give it some thought.

I'll keep you advised throughout the planning stages as best I can on what we need to do or plan for. For now, please think about how you can help out.

For those new in our shire, your first event is not a working event. Your very first event is to enjoy; do only what you feel comfortable with. For you "vets" out there, I'm expecting you to pitch in!

## HOW TO DO IT:

### Basic Leather Care

Leather is a wonderful material. It is lightweight and strong, easy to work with, pretty to look at, and has that pleasant leather smell. However, if not properly cared for, leather will deteriorate and, depending on the situation, this can be detrimental to one's appearance or downright dangerous (just ask anyone who has ever had a stirrup leather or girth strap break on them). And as leather is quite prominent in the clothing, armor, and other accoutrements of the Society, I have been asked by our esteemed chronicler to produce a short article on basic leather care. Note: the steps I am about to describe apply to smooth leather only! Please do not apply them to suede -- it has special needs and you will have to ask someone else about those.

The biggest threat to leather is drying and cracking. To avoid this, you simply need to clean and condition the leather on a regular basis. The basic tools required are: glycerine saddle soap (they are essentially all the same) and a small sponge (I prefer natural sponge because it seems to stand up to abuse better than synthetic). I also recommend the use of a leather conditioner, Lexol is my personal favorite.

To begin, remove any excess dirt and crud (an old, soft-bristle toothbrush works well). Then dampen - damp, not dripping - the sponge and work up a lather with the saddle soap; rub this into the leather thoroughly. Pay particular attention to areas that collect a lot of dirt or that are under a lot of stress -- bends, under the bar of a buckle, attachment points. When you've gotten the piece fully soaped, wipe off the excess with a clean rag and if the leather still seems dirty, do it all again.

Once the leather is clean, it is time to condition it. Take another sponge, moistened just enough to soften it, and apply Lexol in a light coat to all parts of the leather. If the leather is very dry or seems to be absorbing the Lexol extremely quickly, apply another coat or two. Lexol has an advantage over neatsfoot and other oils in that it stays in the leather -- it will not ooze out of the leather onto everything that comes into

contact with it (one of my white saddle pads was permanently stained by the oil in my saddle when I first got it). Do not, however, just slop large amounts on the leather at once -- this just wastes Lexol and leaves the leather somewhat slippery until the excess is absorbed or wiped off.

That is basically all there is to it. If you take care of the leather -- clean and condition it every 3-4 weeks, or more often if it is used a great deal or in very dirty situations -- it will last longer and serve you better, be it boots, gloves, a saddle, or those straps holding your armor on. If you don't care for it, it will eventually dry and crack. Leather that is dry can be repaired to some extent -- there are products on the market that claim to work but I have never had the opportunity to try them. Cracking leather cannot be repaired. You are stuck with the cracks, which may or may not be a serious problem: cracks in boots or saddle flaps may be unsightly, but cracking along a stress line on a strap weakens the leather, and Murphy's Law being what it is, that strap will give out at the worst possible moment. Once an important piece of leather starts cracking, about all you can do is to replace it. Now, doesn't it seem easier to care for it all in the first place rather than having to replace all the leather straps in your armor every year or so? I know it is when you are talking about saddles that have to be professionally repaired....

A final note about shoes and boots - the steps mentioned above will encourage the leather's natural waterproof qualities. However, for extra insurance and for around the seams, I recommend mink oil, applied after the Lexol has been fully absorbed. Just work in a light coat (I use my fingers, but rags will also do) all over the exposed leather, paying particular attention to scuffed areas and stitching. When it has had a chance to dry/absorb a bit, rub off the excess. A top coat of shoe polish can then be applied but is not necessary.

-Lora Greymare

**FOR SALE: PERIOD DOGS!**  
**Too many Vizsla puppies! Breed dates back to 15th Century Hungary. Sweet, adorable, easily trained. Call Mistress Lijsbeth:**  
**(615) 886-6256**



# SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE ANACHRONISM, INC. (SCA)

## membership application

ENCLOSE YOUR PAYMENT OR COMPLETE CREDIT CARD INSTRUCTIONS AND SEND FORM TO:

**The Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. • Office of the Registry**

**P.O. Box 360743 • Milpitas, California 95036-0743, U.S.A. • Telephone (408) 263-9305 • Fax (408) 263-0641**

**CREDIT CARD INSTRUCTIONS ARE ACCEPTED BY FAX**

### MEMBERSHIP TYPES:

• **Sustaining: \$25.00** Subscribing membership for those served by U.S. and Canadian postal systems. Includes *Tournaments Illuminated* and the home Kingdom's monthly newsletter. Any \$8 subscription may be substituted for the newsletter. \$12/yr tax-deductible in U.S..

• **Foreign: \$25.00** Subscribing membership not served by U.S. and Canadian postal systems. Includes *Tournaments Illuminated* only. \$12.00/yr tax-deductible in U.S.. Note-members in Australia and Europe do not use this form. Write Registry for correct form.

• **Contributing:** Subscribing members may add to the basic donation, to help in the general operation of the society.

Suggested U.S. tax-deductible Amounts:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ other

• **Associate: \$12.00** Non-subscribing membership. \$12/yr tax-deductible in U.S..

• **Family: \$5.00** per Non-subscribing membership for immediate family residing with a subscribing member. Attach a separate form, with address and waiver information completed, for each family member covered. \$5/person/yr tax-deductible in U.S..

### • Other subscription publications

Compleat Anachronist—Bi-monthly pamphlet series.  
Board of Directors Minutes—Published quarterly.

### SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE ANACHRONISM, INC. WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND AGREEMENT TO MEDIATE OR ARBITRATE DISPUTES

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print legal name), as a condition of membership in the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA), do hereby waive any claim for liability for any injury to myself or damage to my property I may receive by reason of participating in martial arts or other activities or events sponsored or arranged by SCA. I am aware that SCA activities are potentially dangerous and can result in serious harm. I agree to follow all SCA rules or directions of SCA officials regarding equipment, participation or personal safety and voluntarily accept all risks associated therewith.

In the event of a dispute arising out of my participation in any SCA-sponsored activity, I agree to work through the internal dispute resolution procedures of the SCA. If these procedures do not lead to the resolution of the dispute, I agree to submit it to binding arbitration in accordance with the rules for commercial arbitration of the American Arbitration Association (AAA), with three arbitrators, at least two of whom must be SCA members (one chosen by myself and the other by the other party, and the two of them to select the third.) The arbitration may take place wherever the parties mutually agree, but will be in San Francisco, California if they do not agree otherwise, and in any case the laws of the state of California will apply. During arbitration, either party will be entitled to discovery pursuant to the procedures available in litigation in California.

THE UNDERSIGNED AFFIRMS THAT HE OR SHE HAS READ AND UNDERSTOOD THIS STATEMENT, AND AGREES THAT THIS IS A WAIVER OF ALL CLAIMS ARISING FROM PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS SPONSORED BY SCA TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN (IF APPLICANT IS A MINOR) \_\_\_\_\_

Note-parental signature binds both the parent and the minor to the terms of this agreement, but does not authorize participation by a minor in armored martial arts, period fencing, marshalling, archery, scouting, or banner-bearing in combat. A separate parental consent and waiver form is required to authorize a minor to participate in any of these activities.

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership information:

Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Society Name \_\_\_\_\_

(For reference only: Society names are registered through the College of Heraldry)

• **Additional subscriptions**—U.S. and Canadian subscribing members may use this form to order extra items. Subscriptions must have the same expiration date as the membership. Current subscribers may add subscriptions at the following rate:

7-12 months left—full price      1-6 months left—half price

**Non-subscribing members may not order subscription items. Overseas members must use a separate form available from the Registry.**

### PROCESSING TIME: 4-7 WEEKS.

The cutoff for each month is NOON of the last working day of the month. Forms that come in after the cutoff are processed for the following month. Newsletter cycle is: January deposit equals March labels, etc.

PLEASE CIRCLE CORRECT AMOUNTS:

Membership Type	1 Year	2 Years
Sustaining	\$25.00	\$50.00
(U.S. First Class Postage)	5.50	11.00
(Canadian Delivery)	7.00	14.00
(Contributing donation)	_____	_____
Associate	12.00	24.00
Family (\$5 x # members x years)	_____	_____
Foreign	25.00	50.00

Enter total for membership & postage: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Publications:

	1 Year			2 Years		
	Third Class	First Class	Canadian Mail	Third Class	First Class	Canadian Mail
<input type="checkbox"/> Ansteorra	\$8.00	\$13.00	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$27.00	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> An Tir	8.00	13.50	15.00	16.00	27.00	30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Atenveidt	8.00	13.50	15.00	16.00	27.00	30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Atlanta	8.00	13.50	15.00	16.00	27.00	30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Caid	8.00	13.50	15.00	16.00	27.00	30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Calontir	8.00	13.50	15.00	16.00	27.00	30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> East	8.00	13.50	15.00	16.00	27.00	30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Meridies	8.00	13.50	15.00	16.00	27.00	30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Middle	8.00	13.50	15.00	16.00	27.00	30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Outlands	8.00	13.50	15.00	16.00	27.00	30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Tramaris	8.00	13.50	15.00	16.00	27.00	30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> West	8.00	13.50	15.00	16.00	27.00	30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Lochac	N/A	14.00	14.00	N/A	28.00	28.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Drachenwald	N/A	14.00	14.00	N/A	28.00	28.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Board Minutes	N/A	8.00	8.00	N/A	16.00	16.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Compleat Anachronist	8.00	12.00	12.00	16.00	24.00	24.00

Enter additional publications amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enter additional \$2.00 amount when paying by Credit Card: \$ **2.00**

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Please send U.S. Funds only)

Please type or print clearly—no calligraphy!

New Membership

Renewal

Change of Address

Replacement Card

Method of payment

Check/MO

VISA

Mastercard

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (credit card only) \_\_\_\_\_

### FOR REGISTRY USE ONLY

Bank Number \_\_\_\_\_

Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_

Revised Domestic 9/93

*The Shire of Vulpine Reach presents*

# Collegium Sionnach

February 4-6, 1994

## Booker T. Washington State Park Group Lodge

Join your friends in Vulpine Reach for a hands-on collegium for everybody! The site opens at 6pm on Feb. 4. (NO early arrivals, please). The Group Lodge is fully winterized, with 2 bunkhouses and a dining hall, has 40 beds with some crash space on concrete. NO camping. Please note: The Park gate will be locked at midnight both nights, so plan accordingly!

As of printing date, we have scheduled classes in: Lacemaking, Leather Tooling, Medieval Technology and the Lace Industry, Beginning Metalworking, Fabric Painting, Medieval Toys, Period Jewelry, and Using Acting Techniques to Enhance your Persona. Some classes will be held in an outdoor pavilion, so dress warmly. Classes will begin at 10 am on Saturday.

Because we want to keep the price of the event low, we are having a pot-luck feast. The shire will provide continental breakfasts both days and the meat for the feast. Please bring a dish large enough to feed 10 gentles. Our kitchen space is extremely limited, so please bring either cold dishes or food in crock pots. Count on minimal preparation space. Feast attendance is limited to 50.

Cost: \$7 for daytrips, \$12 for the weekend before Jan. 10. After Jan. 10 and at the door, daytrip with feast is \$10, daytrip without feast is \$7, and weekend is \$14. \$2 off with proof of membership. Children 6 and under are 1/2 their parents' rate. All confirmed collegium instructors get an additional \$3 discount.

Autocrat: Lord James Toxophilus, mka Jim Long (615) 894-6487

Reservations: Mistress Lijsbeth, mka Leslie Dulin, 2641 Kell Road, Signal Mt., TN 37377

Make checks payable to: SCA Inc. / Shire of Vulpine Reach

Directions: Take your best route to I-75, north of Chattanooga. Take TN-153 exit. Go 4.5 miles and take the Hwy 58/Decatur exit. Go 3 miles to Champion Rd. on the Left. Booker T. Washington State Park is 8/10 mile on Champion Rd. on the left. The Park gate will be locked at midnight.

### How to do it:

#### **The Care and Feeding of Bows**

*The following is adapted from a handout I made for use in my beginning archery class. It is basically a 'Baker's Dozen' of 'Do's and Don'ts.'*

1. Always use a bowstringer to string and unstring recurves and longbows.
2. Always store longbows and recurve bows unstrung to reduce the possibility of limb warpage.
3. Wax the bow periodically with a quality automobile wax or good furniture wax.
4. Avoid dropping the bow.
5. Always inspect both your bow and your arrows prior to shooting. Look for stress cracks or splits, particularly near the riser/limb joint, limb tips, attachment areas for takedown, string notches, and interlaminate areas. Inspect arrows for straightness, damaged nocks, loose points or fletching, or damage in the shaft.
6. When not in use, hang your bow either vertically by the top loop of the bowstring or horizontally on pegs beneath the limbs. Never lean the bow on its bottom limb against a wall in a closet or store it in a car on hot days.

7. Never dry-fire a bow (releasing the string with no arrow in place). Dry-firing can, at the very least, shorten the bow's service life.

8. Check the bowstring for frays, loose strands, or worn servings. Frayed strings and those with loose or broken strands should be replaced immediately. Worn servings can sometimes be renewed at an archery pro shop. Keep in mind that replacement strings should be of the same length, number of strands, and string material as the original string. NEVER replace a B-50 Dacron string with one made of FastFlight material.

9. String life can be prolonged by use of either beeswax or special bowstring wax. Waxing the string prevents the string strands from absorbing water, thus "slowing" the bow while shooting in wet conditions.

10. Always draw and let down your bow two or three times prior to shooting sessions to flex the limbs. This is especially important in cold weather.

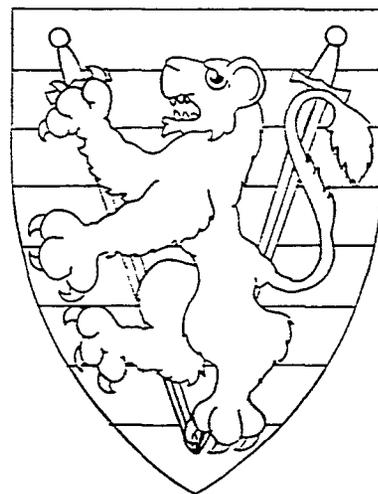
11. If you borrow someone's bow, treat it as if it belongs to the King.

12. Never use another person's equipment without permission.

13. Here, I cannot speak any plainer than one of the great modern archers:

"Your archery equipment should always be given the same intelligent care that you would give any fine sporting gear." (Fred Bear)

- Lord James Toxophilus



**The Device of Laird Cailen mich  
Alasdair A'Sinclair.**

Status: Submitted to College of Heralds,  
approval / return pending.

## Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the contributors to the  
January issue:

*S.C.A Office of the Registry*

*Lord Owen Arbalista*

*Baron William Blackfox*

*Lady Rachelle du Pied Leger*

*Lora Greymare*

*Mistress Lijsbeth Tijsz van Brugge*

*Laird Cailen mich Alasdair A'Sinchlair*

*Malcolm mich Alasdair A'Sinchlair*

### REMINDER!

Shire 12th Night Revel

January 8, 2 pm-9 pm, Spangler Farm, Gadd Rd.  
Pot luck supper to be held at 4:30 (bring a dish for  
10 people). "Chinese gift exchange" at 5:30.  
Bring a wrapped SCA-related gift (no food or

alcohol) valued at \$7.50 or less. We must leave at 9  
pm, so please come early to have the best time!  
Directions: Turn onto Hamill Rd northbound off  
of Hwy 153 by North Park Hospital. Go to Gann  
Store Rd. on the right. Spangler Farm is on the  
right at the stone gate.

### LAST WORDS

As of January 1, I will have been the shire  
chronicler and editor-in-chief of Fox Tales for one  
year. For this past 12 months, I have tried to produce  
the best possible shire newsletter, but the main  
responsibility for its quality is you, the members of  
Vulpine Reach. Being the chronicler of this shire is  
grand, because you've contributed so much to this  
newsletter. All I can say is, **DON'T STOP NOW!!!!**

If you have an article, ad, story, how-to piece, or  
you just want to comment on anything SCA-wise,  
don't be afraid to contribute! I don't bite (hard,  
anyway) and you would have the pleasure of seeing  
your work in print! *Contribute Today!!!*

# FOX TALES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SHIRE OF VULPINE REACH

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

