



Shire of Dark River

River Runes



April 2004 Anno Societatis XXXVIII

Year 25 of the Shire

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April 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Shire Business Meeting – 7pm @ Rock Island Masonic Temple	2	3 MID-Melee in Woods Cato IN MID-Clash of 4Winds Gambier OH MID-SquirrelsTale Northfield MN MID-Our Land Fort Wayne IN MID-Tourn. Chivalry Maumee OH
4	5 M&M Event Mtg 7pm @ Norelle's Castle	6 Middle Eastern Dance Guild – 7:30pm @ Old Johnson School, Davenport	7 Fighter's Practice – 7pm @ Bethel Wesley Church, Moline	8 Calligraphy guild 7pm @ Guido's Castle	9	10 MID-3Saints&Sheep Lafayette IN
11	12 M&M Event Mtg 7pm @ Norelle's Castle	13 Middle Eastern Dance Guild – 7:30pm @ Old Johnson School, Davenport	14 Fighter's Practice – 7pm @ Bethel Wesley Church, Moline	15 Shire Revel Mtg 7pm @ Rock Island Masonic Temple	16	17 MID-Brewers 8 Vermillion SD MID-GrandTourney Oxford OH MID-Vilko Mokykla Grand Rapids MN MID-BorderSkirmish Antioch IL
18 Second Sunday Sewing Circle 1pm @ Ellonyias Castle	19 M&M Event Mtg 7pm @ Norelle's Castle	20 Middle Eastern Dance Guild – 7:30pm @ Old Johnson School, Davenport	21 Fighter's Practice – 7pm @ Bethel Wesley Church, Moline	22 Calligraphy guild 7pm @ Guido's Castle	23	24 MID-Blackstone Raid Charleston WV MID-Cleftlands Cleveland OH MID-Arm Estr Egg Bloomington IL MID-Collegium Gaylord MI MID-Dance Semin St Cloud MN CAL-Triskelion Dubuque IA
25 Runes Deadline	26 M&M Event Mtg 7pm @ Norelle's Castle	27 Middle Eastern Dance Guild – 7:30pm @ Old Johnson School, Davenport	28 Fighter's Practice 7pm @ Bethel Wesley Church, Moline	29 May 6 Shire Business Meeting – 7pm @ Rock Island Masonic Temple	30	May 1 MID-RhodeTo Isle Houghton MI MID-Chaos Caravan Westville IN MID-Mayfaire Edinburgh IN MID-Return Dragon Carbondale IL MID-NS A&S Pierre SD MID-RUM Pemberville OH MID-Spring Fair Richville MI CAL-Crown Tourn Des Moines IA

Calendar items in bold = Crown in attendance

For more information on Midrealm (MID) Kingdom events, see a Pale newsletter, seneschal flyers or the Midrealm website at <http://www.midrealm.org>

For more information on our neighbors, Calontir (CAL) and their events, see a Calontir newsletter, seneschal flyers (if available) or the Calontir website at <http://calontir.sca.org/>



From the Seneschal

No Article at the time of printing.



From the Herald

Those in need of Names or Devices please see me. Get the forms and instruction sheets before working on your Name or Device, then follow the forms and instructions in drafting something. Get this draft to me for a two or three-week review and I'll get back to you with suggestions for a final submission to me, which I will complete and copy for sending up the line. Stay somewhat flexible on your Name and Device until you finalize it for submission. This will give you the best chance for approval on the first try.

Also, please drop me a note regarding the particulars whenever you receive an Award. I need to maintain records on all awards. Information should include the following: Type of Award, Recipients Name (as listed on scroll), Reason for Award (as listed on scroll) and Date of Presentation (as listed on scroll).

Lord Eðar



From the Exchequer

Dark River has money in the coffers, but always needs more. A hat is passed at the monthly business meeting for members to make a contribution. Sometimes there are rewards! If we hold a drawing and you have put your name in the hat you may win a lovely homemade/handmade prize. But then, you are responsible to provide the prize the following month. The shire rents the meeting space from the Masonic Temple and the money acquired from passing the hat is used to help defray that cost. Please remember to donate a little something each month. If you don't regularly attend meetings and want to donate, you may send it directly to the exchequer.

Lady Ceridwen



From the Marshal

Fighter practice is held Wednesday nights at 7pm - 8:30 p.m. The location is: Bethel Wesley United Methodist Church 1201 13th Street Moline, IL 61265. For more information see Daffyd.



From the Arts & Sciences Minister

No article at the time of printing.



From the Chirurgion

This position seems to be vacant! If you are interested in this position, please see the Seneschal. If you currently hold this position, please see the Chronicler!



From the Archery Marshal

No article at the time of printing.



From the Chatelain

I am currently trying to put together some loaner feast gear for new people. I have a big basket (go figure) and a bunch of wooden bowls. If you have any items you would like to donate to the cause please let me know.

Mellilah has turned control of the phone book project to me and I have enlisted Ghazaalah's help with this project. If anyone else is interested in helping with this project, please let one of us know. And expect to be harassed for information very soon.

I still have known world handbooks available. they cost \$16 payable to the shire.



From the Chronicler

Next Runes deadline is April 25th! Officers, **please** keep this deadline in mind when preparing your reports for the Runes. If you would like a standing monthly message, please see that I get it.

I'm slowly adding all the columns and article themes I'd like to see in our Newsletter. This issue has added a column for Persona stories. If you have a persona story you'd like in the Runes, or an article for one of the other columns, send or give it to Mellilah!

If you cannot regularly make it to the Shire business meeting, or you know you are going to miss it, feel free to contact me via email or phone to arrange something so you always get the Runes. If you would like it mailed to you, I can do that if you give me stamps.

The Shire of Dark River also has a Yahoo Groups list on the Internet at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/shireofdarkriver>. Anyone interested can sign up and get email announcements and reminders. You can be in charge of keeping your own account information correct so you will always be assured of receiving any important shire related information.

Sayyida Mellilah al-Zargah



From the Web Mistress

When checking your list for the upcoming event - please add "Take the Camera!" then, while attending or working our events - please try to grab some pictures. Last year - all I had to put on the web page were shots of archery and a couple of feast - Please try to get candid shots, as opposed to the "line up and take a group picture" variety - action pictures are so much more entertaining. Don't worry if they're not digital - I can scan them and return the original prints to you.

Lady Lia



From the Blacksmiths' Forge

No article at the time of printing.



From the Cooks' Kitchen

No article at the time of printing.



Fencing

Again my reminder, anyone interested in trying the rapier may come to fighter practice on Wednesday nights. The only requirements are a long sleeve shirt, sweat pants and a protective cup for the men.



From the Brewers' & Vinters

Summer is approaching and with it comes the warm weather for outside work. Cordial classes will be starting as soon as the weather allows for people to sit under our trees and not have to play in the mud. Our first class will be on basic honey mead. Date to be announced. Any and all are welcome to the class. When its cordial making the more the merrier. When its cordial drinking samples abound. Anyone who is interested please see me and we can talk about classes we all want to do or topics of interest for the group.
Drink sensibly, Sample cautiously, Have fun responsibly.
THL Eirik Estridsson



From the Caravan

The Near Eastern Dance Guild practice site is in the old Johnson School, which is now the Institute of Therapeutic Massage & Wellness. The address is 1730 Wilkes Ave in Davenport (that's on the corner of Locust St and Wilkes, 2 blocks west of Division and Locust). We're on the 3rd floor, room 35 at 7:30pm on Tuesday nights. Newbie Hour is Tuesday at 6:30pm.

The Troupe was asked to perform at Quinquatria Minervea, the Incipient Shire of Flynthyll's inaugural event. We were honored to be invited to perform, and the good people of Fynthyll were some of the most gracious hosts we've ever met!

With the incredible growth that the Troupe has experienced over the last year, I realized that I can't run the troupe efficiently completely alone, so at our last meeting we made official what I had always considered a fact, unofficially. Sayyida Dimya is officially the Middle Eastern Dance Guild's Deputy Minister. So if you want to talk to someone about Rakset al-Nehri, you can contact either Mellilah (Michele Donner-Ramsey) or Dimya (Valerie Meyer Hogg).

The Shire's Near Eastern Dance Guild is large and strong! We have 20+ dancers in Troupe Rakset al-Nehri (Dancers of the River). If you want to see Troupe dancers perform, catch us at one of our scheduled performances or at a Hafla (it means PARTY, talk to Mellilah for more info). If you are interested in learning Near Eastern dance, talk to Mellilah about her scheduled classes or getting a primer class before joining the Troupe.

Sayyida Mellilah al-Zargah



From the Sewing Bower

Second Sunday Sewing Circle is here to help. Bring your questions, ideas, irritations etc to Ellie's house. This month SSSC will be held on April 18th due to Easter! Join others who are merrily working on garb, planning garb or just chatting. Second Sunday Sewing Circle starts at 1:00 and a big pot of soup will be ready. If you need more information, call Ellie at 563-322-5436.



From the Basket Guild

Basket making is on hiatus right now as M&M meetings have taken over Monday nights. Although sometimes a basket might get worked on after the meetings are over. It takes very little prodding to get me to haul out the basket making stuff. We might try to make baskets again to serve bread in this year, although probably an easier pattern. I'll post something to the yahoo group if this comes to fruition.



From the Scriptorium

Dark River Scriptorium is looking for strong backs and weak minds to lift extremely dangerous bird feathers that have been magically transformed into instruments of communication.

If you think that you have the necessary qualifications apply at the Inn of the Gilded Serpent any 2nd or 4th Thursday of the month. 768 25th Ave Ct. in the Shire of Moline. (309) 797-4134

Hot chocolate complete with seasonal ingredients is served at the Inn. Small children, well behaved spouses and over-laden money bags always welcome.

Lord Guido

Murder & Melee III

Things for M&M are coming along nicely. I will have sign up sheets at the business meeting to fill in where people are still needed. Everyone has been really great about volunteering. Jacque has volunteered to coordinate the ladies tea this year. Ellie has a great games and children's activities. Those are just two of the many people who have stepped forward. We even have people from outside our shire coming to work at our event.

More people are still needed. The biggest areas were help is needed right now are Kitchen staff (morning or afternoon shift) feast hall set up, feast hall tear down, dishes, and serving. Rene will need an archery assistant this year, as Guido will be otherwise occupied. I would like to have someone to help run the list table for heavy weapons also. After the meeting I will post what positions haven't been filled to the shire yahoo group in case you missed the meeting. There are still class times available if you would like to teach a class.

I hope everyone has had a chance to see this year's web page. We are now taking reservations. Please get them in as soon as you can. Remember that we sold out of feast last year before the event day. We are seating fewer people this year too, so early reservations are important.

Every Monday night we have M&M meetings at my house (909 43rd St Rock Island) They start at 7pm and are very informal, generally involving a lot of kibitzing. There has been mention of some feast recipes starting to appear at meetings. Please come by and enjoy the company and food. And all the hard work, of course.

Lady Norelle

Costume Corner

By Lady Ellonyia Cedricsdottir

"Trim is one of the things that can make or break a costume. Too much or too little, the wrong kind or the wrong color, can be disastrous."

When selecting trim please keep at least two things in mind:

- Fabric content
- Style of the garment you are putting the trim on

Due to the wealth of Do-It-Yourself shows now on cable, trim departments in fabric stores have exploded in yardage in the past few years. However, all trims are not created equal for all projects. Many of these trims are decorator quality and are not meant to take wear. Before you take the time to sew any trim on your garb, make sure it is the correct choice.

Think of it this way... why save money on buying cheap trim just to find that your easy to care for garb now must be dry-cleaned because the trim will fall apart in the wash. Many people have found that by investing in a better trim, that the trim actually outlives the garb it was originally placed on and that the trim could be used again!

Also understand that most of the pretty "Metallic" trim on the market is made with coated plastic. Some of these trims cannot be ironed, dry-cleaned or put in the dryer. They also tend to snag rather easily.

The general rule when looking at trim (and this is a very general rule) is that earlier period pieces would have had less "flashy" trim (both in color and pattern design). Bright colors and metallic tend to be the end range for our SCA time frame as do very busy patterns. Bold geometric patterns and color-on-color work are more in keeping with earlier time periods (geography will play an important role as well).

Time periods used trim to enhance their clothing. Can you use any trim on any costume... sure... but that does not mean it will enhance it!

Sometimes trim makes an outfit "pop" by adding texture to the piece. Just remember to check the fabric content and handling instructions before you buy trim. Keep in mind also that if you are willing to buy an entire bolt of trim fabric stores tend to give you a pretty good discount.

Some good resources for trim buying, attaching, selection, care etc. are:

- <http://www.calontirtrim.com/>
- <http://www.pillagedvillage.com/>
- <http://home1.gte.net/kmvogt/ktrim.html>
- <http://www.renaissancedancewear.com/dry.html>
- <http://www.directcon.net/wander/liztrim.htm>
- <http://www.cheeptrims.com>

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Unto all those interested:

You are cordially invited to attend a PartyLite Candle Party hosted by Danielle Lance. The party will be April 3rd at 2pm at Carlos O'Kelly's in Moline (in the Wal-Mart parking lot). Everyone is welcome, no obligation to buy! Some appetizers will be provided. Just come and socialize!

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Tidbits

Keelin helps with the summer reading program at her local library. She has requested that people save for her any of the following (I guess she needs lots of them):

- Pringles cans (or cans like them)
- Small plastic containers with lids (like cottage cheese and chip dip)
- coffee cans

If anyone could save these, she would appreciate it.

Ellonyia

Greetings to the Fair Folk of The Shire of Dark River,

It was an unexpected honor to be called before His Majesty Alasdair Macfhearghuis on Saturday to receive the award of arms. Such love, patient diligence and generosity radiates from each beauriful stoke on the scroll. Words cannot express how awesome the kind words and gracious blessing of His Majesty spoken directly to me felt. It is an award and a day I will always cherish.

Thanks so much for welcoming me and for making such an effort to help me feel at ease with this strange new area of my life called SCA. The event on Saturday, with the award I received, has helped me to feel more like a true member of the society, rather than just a "newbee" or a tag-along. I appreciate it all so much.

Estrilda Le Siffleur

Lottie Trudell

A friend of Mellilah's is working with Playcrafter's production of "The Hobbit". They are looking for help with costuming, make-up and sword-fighting instruction. They are also looking for adults and kids under five feet tall. If you are interested, call Mellilah, who can put you directly in touch with someone who may be able to expedite getting you into the production.

Anyone who is in need of feast gear, (bowls and plates) Please contact Annyse at either the meetings or by phone.

Thank you

THL Annyse Lionstone

AKA Jacque Chandler

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Classifieds

ADVERTISE HERE! For free!

In need of something particular, an item or a service? Do you have something that you just know someone could use? Or perhaps you have a skill you would like make available? Call or email Mellilah about putting your classified ad in this space. It's free and easy!

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Allow Me to Introduce....

Eirik Estridsson

My name is Eirik Estridsson, great grandson of Svein Estridsson, the true king of Denmark, although he was dethroned.

I am a trader by profession, an artisan by chance, and a cook by necessity. Born in 942 on the banks of the Ladoga Bay, I remained there through childhood until I became 18 years old. My childhood was much like any other. Hunting, fishing and learning a useful trade. My father died when I was but 7 years and my mother never remarried although it expected for my uncle to take her. I was never very good at the sword nor the axe, but with pen and paint I could do more damage than a legion of warriors.

At 18 I left my home to seek fortune in the world. I found I had a certain knack for selling. It has been said I could sell a book to a blind man, so I became a trader by profession. Not having a wife to cook and clean for me made me learn the ways of a kitchen very fast. Many have marveled at what I produce.

At the old age of 27, I met a young woman during my travels. Her name was Annyse, and I didn't know it then but she was to become my wife. I found her on the Isle of Man preparing for a life in the convent. A year later we were married. This union produced me a son. His name is Leviah, meaning great lion. Together we three travel the known world selling our goods, creating art for those worthy and cooking for those deserving. Some day I will return to Denmark and take my rightful place as king, but until then I and my family will do what we must to survive.

....and the story has not ended yet...

A Taste of Olde Thymes...

Cossack Chicken & Mushrooms

From the cookbook of Katta cel Batrin

12 oz	Boneless & skinless Chicken
5 Tb	Butter
1	Garlic clove minced
1	large onion, coarsely chopped
½ ts	ground nutmeg
½ C	grated Swiss cheese
½ C	crumbled Feta cheese
3 Tb	Sour cream or yogurt
½ lb	Mushrooms; fresh, washed, coarsely chopped

Cook the onion & mushrooms together in 4 Tb of the butter. Mince the onion/mushroom mixture and the chicken together. Add the garlic and cook for 5 minutes adding salt & pepper to taste. Remove from heat and stir in the yogurt or sour cream and the nutmeg. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Pour the chicken mixture into a baking dish and sprinkle with grated cheese. Bake for 15 minutes.

Web bits

Interesting or fun websites for the net savvy SCAdian!

Links for those wanting a Norse/Scottish Persona:

<http://viking.no/e/scotland/> & <http://viking.no/e/maps/ekart-skottland.htm> - The Viking Network Web has a brief summation of the areas of Scotland settled by the Norse, along with a map of Norse settlements in Scotland and a handful of related articles which could help you start to narrow down your search for detailed info with which to build a persona.

<http://www.panix.com/~mittle/names/scottish.shtml> - The Medieval Names Archive: Scottish Names includes information on the cultures and languages native to Scotland at various points in the Middle Ages. It's also an EXCELLENT place to look for names, when you're ready.

<http://www.vikingswerlady.com/scotland.htm> - "The Vikings in Scotland and the Western Isles", by the Viking Answer Lady, provides a good overview of the history of Viking Age Norse contact with Scotland, plus a bibliography. This site is, by the way, one of the premier Norse-related sites on the web, and contains any number of well-researched, thoroughly-cited articles that will be invaluable to you if you decide to incorporate Norse elements into your persona.

<http://www.ucc.ie/ucc/chronicon/ocor2fra.htm> - "The Vikings in Scotland and Ireland in the Ninth Century", by Donnachdh O'Corrain is on the scholarly side, but will point you to materials you can use as documentation of this kind of bi-cultural persona, as well as just generally educating you about it.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/genes/vikings/survey/vikingmap.shtml?sotland> - BBCi History has some interesting information about current research on the distribution of Norse genes in the British Isles, coupled with historical info about Norse settlement patterns. The section on Scotland is at.

<http://www.hie.co.uk/default.asp.LocID=hiestrpriCulnor.htm> - Highlands & Islands Enterprises has some information on the areas of Scotland, which were most heavily influenced by Norse settlers, including a sampling of Norse placenames still in use (which, again, might be useful for persona construction).

Dark River Caravan

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