



# Shire of Dark River

## River Runes



May 2004 Anno Societatis XXXX

Year 25 of the Shire

### Guide to Shire Officers & Contact Persons



**Seneschal:** Lord Corceran O'Brenan  
(mka Kevin Woods) 309-792-8397  
playerk@aol.com



**Scribe's Guild:** Lord Guido De Canale  
(mka Steve Morford) 309-797-4134  
canale@mchsi.com



**Herald:** Lord Edar ap Gwynedd  
(mka Terry Paul) 309-755-1072



**Cook's Guild:** Lady Annyse Lionstone  
(mka Jacque Chandler) 309-786-1852  
annyse24@aol.com



**Exchequer:** Lady Ceridwen verch Gruffyd  
(mka Sarah Malaise) 309-787-6653  
wmal@mchsi.com



**Brewer's Guild:**  
**Brewing:** Lord James the Brewer  
(mka James DeSchinckel) 309-757-8911  
**Vinting:** Lord Eirik Estridsson  
(mka Tony Chandler) 309-786-1852



**Marshal:** Baron Dafydd de Saer  
(mka Dave Apple) 309-752-0122  
deapple@mchsi.com



**Sewing Guild:** Lady Ellonyia Cedricsdottir  
(mka Ellie Yenney) 563-322-5436  
ellonyia.yenney@mn-ia.aaa.com



**A & S:** Lady Rosalynd de Sant Angelo  
(mka Brenda Sherfey) 309-736-0201



**Blacksmith Guild:** Lord Gunther Todmacher  
(mka Rich Faith) 309-736-0385  
rjfiii@revealed.net



**Chronicler:** Sayyida Mellilah al-Zarqah  
(mka Michele Donner-Ramsey) 563-355-4130  
habibidancer@mchsi.com



**Near Eastern Dance Guild (Troupe Rakset al-Nehri)**  
Sayyida Mellilah al-Zarqah  
(mka Michele Donner-Ramsey) 563-355-4130  
habibidancer@mchsi.com  
Sayyida Dimya (mka Valerie Meyer Hogg)  
563-324-1594



**Chatelaine:** Lady Norelle of Scolairi  
(mka Donna Weeks) 309-738-3356  
ladynorelle@yahoo.com



**Chirurgeon:**  
*Vacant*



**Fencing:** Lord Corkeran O'Brenan  
(mka Kevin Woods) 309-792-8397  
playerk@aol.com



**Archery Marshal:** Lady Lia de la Fontaine  
(mka Rene Robinson) 309-797-4134  
ladylia@mchsi.com



**Basket Making:** Lady Norelle of Scolairi  
(mka Donna Weeks) 309-738-3356  
ladynorelle@yahoo.com



**Webminister:** Lady Lia de la Fontaine  
(mka Rene Robinson) 309-797-4134  
ladylia@mchsi.com

**Minister of Children:**  
*Vacant*

This is the May 2004 issue of the River Runes, a publication of the Shire of Dark River of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. The River Runes is available from Michele Donner-Ramsey, or at <http://www.midrealm.org/darkriver/runesmenu.html>. The Runes is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Incorporated, and does not delineate SCA policies.



# May 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> M&M Event Mtg 7pm @ Mellilah's Castle	<b>4</b> Middle Eastern Dance Guild – 7:30pm @ Old Johnson School, Davenport	<b>5</b> Fighter's Practice – 7pm @ Bethel Wesley Church, Moline	<b>6</b> Shire Business Meeting – 7pm @ Rock Island Masonic Temple	<b>7</b>  MID-Military Art	<b>8</b> <b>MID-Northshield Crown</b> Green Bay WI MID-Military Arts Collegium Carlyle IL MID-Adelcrag Althing Grand Rapids MI MID-North Oaken A&S Maumee OH
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> M&M Event Mtg 7pm @ Norelle's Castle	<b>11</b> Middle Eastern Dance Guild – 7:30pm @ Old Johnson School, Davenport	<b>12</b> Fighter's Practice – 7pm @ Bethel Wesley Church, Moline	<b>13</b> Calligraphy guild 7pm @ Guido's Castle  MID-Camelot 6	<b>14</b>  MID-Camelot 6 MID-Baron Wars	<b>15</b> <b>MID-Coronation</b> Chicago IL MID-Quest for Camelot 6 Rapid City SD MID-Baron Wars Perrysburg OH
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> M&M Event Mtg 7pm @ Norelle's Castle	<b>18</b> Middle Eastern Dance Guild – 7:30pm @ Old Johnson School, Davenport	<b>19</b> Fighter's Practice – 7pm @ Bethel Wesley Church, Moline	<b>20</b> Shire Revel Mtg 7pm @ Rock Island Masonic Temple	<b>21</b>  MID-AARG 3	<b>22</b> <b>MID-AARG 3</b> Ripon WI MID-Medieval Fest/Demo Athens OH MID-Const. War Practice Peru IN MID-May A&S Radcliffe KY MID-Tyger Hunt Clarkston MI MID-Beltaine by the Bay Ashland WI
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> M&M Event Mtg 7pm @ Norelle's Castle	<b>25</b> Middle Eastern Dance Guild – 7:30pm @ Old Johnson School, Davenport	<b>26</b> Fighter's Practice – 7pm @ Bethel Wesley Church, Moline	<b>27</b> Calligraphy guild 7pm @ Guido's Castle	<b>28</b>  MID-RndTable	<b>29</b> <b>MID-Midrealm Crown A&amp;S</b> Allen Park MI MID-Round Table Kansas City KS MID-War Camp Golden Valley MN
<b>30</b> Runes Deadline  MID-Crown/ A&S MID-RndTable	<b>31</b> M&M Event Mtg 7pm @ Norelle's Castle  MID-RndTable	<b>June 1</b> Middle Eastern Dance Guild – 7:30pm @ Old Johnson School, Davenport	<b>June 2</b> Fighter's Practice 7pm @ Bethel Wesley Church, Moline	<b>June 3</b> Shire Business Meeting – 7pm @ Rock Island Masonic Temple	<b>June 4</b>	<b>June 5</b> <b>MURDER &amp; MELEE!</b>

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/>

## Dark River Caravan

Drums, Dance Accessories,  
Jewelry, Costume items & Décor  
One stop shopping for YOUR Caravan!



<http://www.darkrivercaravan.com/>  
[info@darkrivercaravan.com](mailto:info@darkrivercaravan.com)





### From the Seneschal

Greetings to all,

The springtime deepens and the needs of nature are being met. I would like to begin by mentioning that which I spoke of at the last business meeting. I would like to step down from my office this fall and I am looking for someone to assume the position, (no Animal House pun intended). If you would like to contribute to our shire, please consider being our next Seneschal. Should you feel that you lack the experience in the SCA to hold this office, let me assure you that there is no great store of knowledge required, (I think I've proven that), and what you need to know I can pass on to you. If you are interested you may contact me and we will discuss the responsibilities and the privileges, (yeah that will be a quick talk). Anyway, talk to me.

CORCERAN O'BRENNAN

Yours in Service



### 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 EDAR



### 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 still have known world handbooks for sale for \$16. Please let me know if you need one. I am still collecting loaner feast gear. I hope to have a full basket for new folks at M&M. Speaking of M&M, the best way for a new person to see what the SCA is all about is to come to (or help at... hint hint) an event. If you know someone who has expressed an interest but hasn't come to a meeting, this is an excellent time to bring them along.



### From the Chronicler

Next Runes deadline is May 30th! 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-Zarqah*



### 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**

A special congratulations to Steve Gaskin, one of our newest members, for not only authorizing in Single Rapier, but for winning the Novice Tournament at the Armored Easter Egg Hunt. A big hoobah and well fought in Bloomington.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, room 35 at 7:30pm on Tuesday nights. Newbie Hour is Tuesday at 6:30pm.

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 postponed due to Mother's Day. Since M&M is rapidly approaching, if you need help on garb, feel free to contact Ellie at 563-322-5436 and she will try to help you!



**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**

Plans for M&M are coming along nicely. All the site tokens, tent tags, etc. have been made. We've also had a chance to sample some of the wonderful feast recipes at the Monday night meetings. Feast reservations have started rolling in. Please don't wait until the last minute to send yours in. We still need servers and kitchen help. Please let me know if you are interested.

We had a meeting with the new Camp Abe Lincoln director. He seems very excited about having us come out. There are some changes at camp that he is making, almost all of them positive ones. At the business meeting I will be asking people when the best time is to make another visit to the camp. I know Rene is anxious to see where the new archery field might be. If you can't make the meeting but have an interest is visiting the site before the big day, please let me know.

Lady Norelle



**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!



## Costume Corner

By Mellilah al-Zarqah

### Cover Thy Head!

No matter what level of authenticity you strive for, headwear is always a good idea. In the Middle Ages, with a few exceptions, most men and women of every country wore head gear of some sort. Unmarried ladies may have gone about bare-headed, but in those days, many marriages happened when the girl was child, with consummation when she had her first menses.

Practically speaking, headwear can be a good thing. During the hot and sunny days of summer camping events, headwear can provide needed protection from the sun, as well as an accessory that can keep you cool. In the winter the same headwear can keep you warm.

Now I admit, I rarely wear the headwear that I should be wearing with whatever costume I am dressed in. I find that when I'm looking at gentles dressed in the neatest garb, invariably their heads are properly dressed as well. The look is completed and enhanced when someone is dressed head to toe.

Take the extra time to research the headgear for your garb. Then, get creative and find inexpensive ways to achieve that look. This is one of the most neglected areas of medieval dress in the SCA... be the one to set standards!



## Tidbits

### pennsic

The pre-registration deadline for Pennsic rapidly approaches!!! If you are planning to camp with the Shire at Pennsic this year, be sure to pre-register BY JUNE 1<sup>st</sup> with the group "Shire of Dark River" to ensure your camping space. Once you've pre-registered either online at [www.pennsicwar.org](http://www.pennsicwar.org) or by mail, you will get a PENN # verifying your registration. Please get that PENN# to Mellilah (Michele Donner-Ramsey), this year's Land Agent for the Shire. Be sure to let her know how many are pre-registered and the number of tents (and space requirements) you have.

\*\*\*

### WANTED

As silly as it sounds, I am looking for automotive seatbelts. If someone happens to have some old seat belts I would love to have them. If they have the clips etc attached that is cool, but they don't need to. Thanks  
Elfonyia

\*\*\*

### Top 10 Reasons to Join the SCA

Lady Anonymous writes:

10. In a former life, you slept with Henry VIII.
9. Finally! Somewhere to use that Medieval History degree!
8. You have no aesthetic problems with putting 13th Century English coif on top of an 8th Century Spanish tunic.
7. You love paperwork, really, really love it.
6. The sound of an American accent does something to you ...
5. You could join one of those narrow-focus groups, but then you'd have to give away all your Norman gear, or the Nuremberg frocks, or the Viking ...
4. You already have a frequent buyer's card at your local fabric shop.
3. You can hit people in the head with sticks. Again and again.  
Legally.
2. When you get a leadership you didn't vote for, you wait six months and they go away.
1. If you want to get rid of all your spare time, income and shelf space in one hit; it's either join the SCA or have kids.