



Shire of Dark River

River Runes



June 2004 Anno Societatis XXXIX

Year 25 of the Shire

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June 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Middle Eastern Dance Guild – 7:30pm @ Old Johnson School, Davenport	2 Fighter's Practice – 7pm @ Bethel Wesley Church, Moline	3 Shire Business Meeting – 7pm @ Rock Island Masonic Temple	4 MID-Murder & Melee 3	5 MID-Murder & Melee 3 Blue Grass IA MID-Death & Taxes Walhalla MI MID-Don't Bluff Me 3 Camp Douglas WI MID-War Manuevers 8 Wellington OH
6 MID-Murder & Melee 3	7	8 Middle Eastern Dance Guild – 7:30pm @ Old Johnson School, Davenport	9 Fighter's Practice – 7pm @ Bethel Wesley Church, Moline	10 Calligraphy guild 7pm @ Guido's Castle	11 MID-Peasants Revolt 2 MID-Tourn. @ Mugmort Stables	12 MID-Peasants Revolt 2 Big Rock IL MID-Tourn. @ Mugmort Stables 2 Laurelville OH MID-Raiders Paradise 4 Winchester IN MID-Grand Tourn. Archery Royal Oak MI MID-Officers Day LaCross WI CAL-Lillies War Kansas City MO
13 MID-Peasants Revolt 2 MID-Tourn @ Mugmort Stables 2	14	15 Middle Eastern Dance Guild – 7:30pm @ Old Johnson School, Davenport	16 Fighter's Practice – 7pm @ Bethel Wesley Church, Moline	17 Shire Revel Mtg 7pm @ Rock Island Masonic Temple	18 MID-Baronial Border War MID-Jubilee Faire MID-Encampment at the Castle 4 MID-Spring Fling	19 MID-Baronial Border War Grand Rapids MI MID-Jubilee Faire Demo Brimfield IL (Peoria-ish) MID-Encampment/Castle 4 Mansfield OH MID-Spring Fling Oshkosh WI MID-Melee in the Park Lebanon IN CAL-Lillies War Kansas City MO
20 MID-Baronial Border War MID-Jubilee Faire MID-Encampment at the Castle 4 MID-Spring Fling	21	22 Middle Eastern Dance Guild – 7:30pm @ Old Johnson School, Davenport	23 Fighter's Practice – 7pm @ Bethel Wesley Church, Moline	24 Calligraphy guild 7pm @ Guido's Castle	25 MID-Border Raids MID-Med. Village MID-Pleasant Days MID-Thatsa Mare	26 MID-Border Raids 32 Fort Knox KY MID-Howell Med. Village Demo Howell MI MID-Pleasant Days Winnepeg MB MID-Thatsa Mare Thunder Bay ONT MID-Ragnarok Rampage DeKalb IL
27 Runes Deadline MID-Border Raids MID-Med. Village MID-Pleasant Days MID-Thatsa Mare MID-Ragnarok	28	29 Middle Eastern Dance Guild – 7:30pm @ Old Johnson School, Davenport	30 Fighter's Practice 7pm @ Bethel Wesley Church, Moline	July 1 Shire Business Meeting – 7pm @ Rock Island Masonic Temple	July 2 MID-Swine & Roses MID-Mad Dogs MID-Muster o'Steel	July 3 MID-Swine & Roses South Bend IN MID-Mad Dogs & Raiders Souix Falls SD MID-Muster of Steel 2 Deer River MN

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

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'BRECHAN

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 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.

Do you want to be noticed in the kingdom? Hoping to receive an award? A great way is by performing service to the shire as an officer. I am looking to step down from the office of exchequer in the fall and will need a replacement. I am not a math whiz, so if I can do it, so can you. Any interested parties, please contact me for further information.

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.



From the Archery Marshal

No article at the time of printing.



From the Chatelain

Known world handbooks still available. I'm still collecting loaner feast gear, Drinking vessel would be a welcome addition. I would like to declare June "drag a new person to an event" month. Coming soon.. a shire phone book and a newcomers addition to the shire webpage.



From the Chronicler

Next Runes deadline is June 27th! 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.

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

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 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

No article at the time of printing.



From the Basket Guild

No Article at the time of printing.

Murder & Melee III

I always feel silly writing a newsletter thing for the day before the event. There are of course lots of people who have done lots of work before today, and even more people who will be doing lots of work this weekend. It makes me feel all warm and fuzzy inside to know that the words I'll be saying most this weekend are "thank you." See you this weekend!

Lady Norelle



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

Tidbits

pennsic news

Due to mundane life stepping in, I have had to decide not to go to Pennsic this year, unfortunately. So, I've turned over Land Agent duties to Katta. So those of you going to Pennsic and camping with the Shire, talk to Katta! And have a great time!

Pennsic Food Cooperative

For those who will be camping with the Shire and are interested, I will be organizing a food cooperative for Pennsic. (If you are camping with the Shire, you do not need to feel that you have to participate)

What is this you might ask Good question!

How it works is like this. Each family will take responsibility for 1 day at war (from 8/14-8/21). You are responsible for providing snacks, lunch and dinner for those who have signed-up to be involved with the co-op. The next day the co-op shifts to another family.

People are asked to provide a menu of what they intend to offer on their day. The really nice thing about this is that you only have to deal with food for 1 day. If you don't like what is scheduled for dinner on a particular night then you will know that you should plan accordingly, but at least you will know the menu ahead of time.

I will be bringing my camp stove and individuals may feel free to use it (I just ask that you help supply propane if you are going to be using the stove).

If you are interested in participating, please let me know and we will have more specifics closer to Pennsic.

Ellonyia

Costume Corner

Article by Kelly Vogt (reprinted with permission)

Adapting Modern Patterns for Use as SCA Garb

My own garb-sewing history:

I began making garb in 1985 using an old '70's wedding dress pattern. In fact, a few of the dresses I wear today were made using that pattern. No modern pattern is totally accurate for use as garb, but you can find some reasonably close ones. The following patterns are good for making later period garb, such as Cotehardies and Italian Renaissance. Early-period tunics are easy enough to make, a modern pattern isn't necessary. See my instructions on making a T-Tunic. And garments such as Houplandes have no modern equivalent, so a pattern must be worked out independently or purchased from a SCA pattern merchant.

I use the following three patterns most of the time:

- McCall's #6895, Wedding dress pattern from 1979
- McCall's #5743, Casual fitted dress pattern from 1992 with princess seams
- Butterick #4946, Hospital Scrubs, pants pattern

I haven't been able to find 5743 in recent pattern books, so I'm afraid it's been discontinued. But any dress pattern with princess seams and no waistline seam can be adapted easily. Most have a back zipper, which I replace with grommets and lacing. And the hem just needs to be extended eight or ten inches to make a floor-length dress. The scrub pants are loose and comfy and you don't need to guess at the construction of the crotch seam. Good for earlier time periods where men wear pants, not hose.

Recommended patterns:

The following patterns are currently available at your local fabric store.

McCall's #8518, "Eight Great Looks, One Easy Pattern"

Pattern has princess seams, flat front. Choose the round neck, long dress pattern and just lengthen the hem and remove the zipper. Because this dress does not have a front center seam, it lends itself to back lacing. However, if front buttons are desired, the pattern can be adapted. If you are new to sewing, you may want to leave this type of alteration for later, after you've had some practice.

McCall's #2644 This makes a good chemise! The shirt/dress has raglan sleeves and a drawstring neck. Good for Italian underwear. Just make it the length you need. Also could be used for Men's late-period poofy shirt.

For Kids:

Butterick #6657 Cute Girl's Belly-Dancer outfit from this! The short top has elastic all around. Flouncy skirt with elastic waist. Or make some baggy pants with elastic at the cuffs for more of the I-Dream-of-Jeanie look.

Butterick #6227, 6285, 6364 All good patterns for Italian Renaissance Girl's dress. These pinafores come in a variety of styles, allowing front, back or side opening. Just make a gathered chemise to go under. I see a lot of these at events.

Butterick #.... Kid's Scrubs. Perfect for making boy's pants and even tunics.

Converting Patterns

Length of Dress

The first consideration is the length of the dress pattern. First, hold a front pattern piece to your body and have someone measure how far it is from the hem to the floor. You will need to add this much to the pattern to make it floor-length. I usually tape a big piece of brown paper to the bottom of each pattern piece and mark down eight inches (the right length for me) in several places, then connect the dots. Don't forget to add an inch or so for seam allowance at the bottom. Cut away the excess paper and tape or staple the extension securely. Tape loses its holding power after a while...found that out the hard way.

Adapting the Zipper

Next, you need to get rid of the zipper in the back! Zippers are not period, Period! There are two ways to cut the back of the dress: I sometimes cut the pattern out as if I were going to sew up the back seam completely, ignoring the extra fabric built in around the zipper hole. Alternatively, you can cut the pattern to include the extra zipper fabric, and incorporate this into the grommet-support I describe below. Remember to mark the point on the pattern where the zipper stops in either case, because you still want the opening to be about that big. If I have cut away the extra zipper fabric, I cut a couple long strips of fabric about 4 inches wide to use as a facing for the back opening; a single layer of fabric is not sufficient to support grommets and the tension of the lacing. I also buy some belt stabilizer (a kind of stiff webbing strip) and incorporate that into the reinforced opening, too. After sewing the facing to the edge of the fabric, I slip the stabilizer in between the two layers of fabric, tuck the loose edge of the facing under, and topstitch that edge down (all on the inside of the dress opening). I also topstitch the edges of the opening for good measure.

Installing Grommets

To install the grommets, first mark out their locations. I usually space mine about 2 1/2 inches apart. Starting at the top edge of the garment, mark the first grommet position 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch from the top edge. Then mark every 3 inches or so down to the bottom of the opening. Be sure your grommets match up on each side before you install any of them! Once you've made a hole, you can't repair it. I usually pin the two sides of the opening together, mark one side and then transfer the markings right across to the other side. That way, I'm sure the grommets will line up.

The Neckline

Finally, you may want to alter the neckline. I start with the most conservative, highest neckline, and then after the dress is sewn together I re-cut the neck. I put on the dress and mark with chalk where I'd like the neckline to fall. I mark one side only since it's hard to mark symmetrically. Then I fold the dress in half, matching up the seams and (current) neckline, and cut both sides together. (Don't forget the seam allowance!)

The cut of the neckline is completely up to you. Some people like a more conservative cut, offering more coverage, warmth and modesty. Others like the daring, romantic look of a low neckline. Some are cut so low, there is no longer a shoulder to the dress. If you like this look and think you can pull it off, go right ahead. There were some very daring necklines in period; downright racy! Just remember, you can always take more fabric away, but once it's gone it can't be added again. I recommend starting out a little more conservative than you'd like, and altering the cut later after you've test-driven it.

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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!

Host a Basket Making Party!

Great for a "Ladies Night", church group, bridal or baby shower. Its tons of fun plus it gets everyone together in a relaxing environment. Basket patterns and materials can be specialized for different skill levels, which means that classes can be structured for a range of ages and abilities. If you have never made a basket before who caresthats why you have a teacher!

Reasonable rates, free hostess basket kit (for parties over 5), door prizes available, and Have Baskets, Will Travel policy. This means that all reed, tools and accessories are provided, so your guests just bring themselves and can leave the class with a basket. Call Ellonyia for more info.

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info@darkrivercaravan.com

TRIBE RAKSET AL-NEHRI IS PROUD TO BE HOSTING A THEME PARTY ON SATURDAY FOR MURDER & MELEE III. BUT BE WARNED... AT THIS PARTY THE HERETICS STRIKE BACK! THE PARTY BEGINS AT O'DARK THIRTY, AND WE WELCOME ALL TO JOIN US AT THE RAKSET AL-NEHRI CAMPING AREA. DANCE WITH US AROUND THE FIRE, OR BRING YOUR DRUM AND JAM! GET YOUR FUTURE FORETOLD BY OUR GYPSY FORTUNETELLER! THE FIRST 100 GUESTS WILL RECEIVE 1 RARE, HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER, PLASTIC DOUBLOON! (OK, SO THEY ARE NOT SO RARE. BUT STILL KINDA COOL!) WHATEVER YOU DO, DO NOT LOSE IT! SEE, THERE ARE STEALTHY GYPSIES AND PIRATES AFOOT, OUT TO LINE THEIR POUCHES. THE PERSON WHO HAS THE MOST DOUBLOONS WHEN THE CLOCK STRIKES MIDNIGHT SHALL HAVE EARNED THEIR TREASURE! BRING YOUR TANKARD, AND **Photo ID** IF YOU INTEND TO SHARE OUR ADULT LIQUID REFRESHMENT. WATER, POP, AND SNACKS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE UNTIL SUPPLIES RUN OUT. HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!

Tidbits

Links for Period Games!

<http://www.xmission.com/~psneeley/Shareware/Index.htm>

<http://www.pagat.com/index.html>

<http://www.waks.org/game-hist>

<http://www.personal.psu.edu/users/w/x/wxk116/roma/rbgames.html>

<http://www.chessvariants.com/>