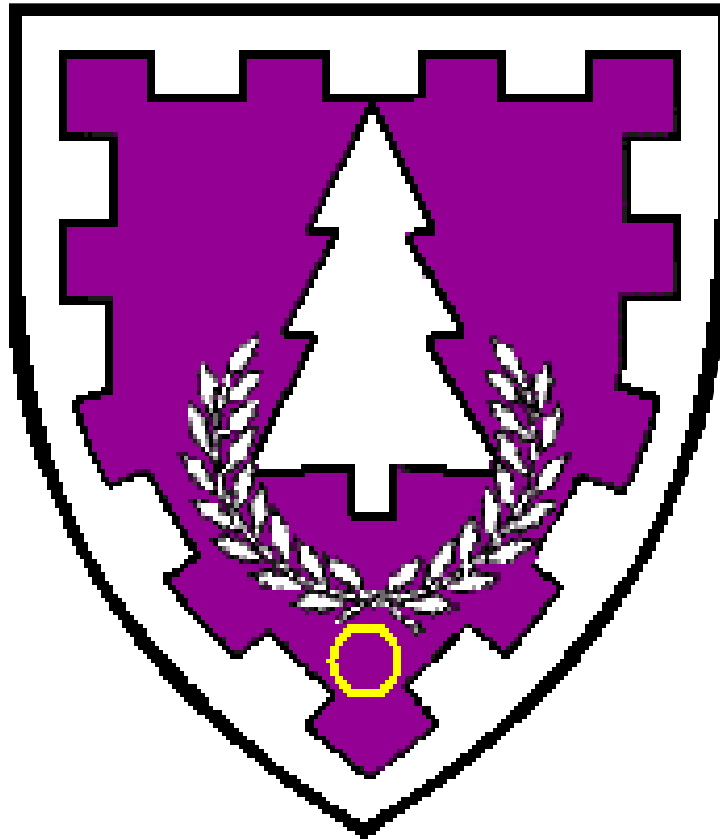


The Rimsholt Bolt

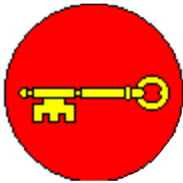
A publication of the Canton of Rimsholt

First Quarterly of 2009



This is the January, 2009, issue of the Rimsholt Bolt, a publication of the Canton of Rimsholt of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). The Rimsholt Bolt is available from Rebecca Hudson 900 Prospect Ave NE Grand Rapids, MI 49503. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright © 2007 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.

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Canton Chirurgion
Currently available,
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please contact
interested in this post



Chronicler's Report

Greetings! This is my first newsletter that I have taken over. It has been a fun process and already working on ideas for the next one. At 12th Night, there was a Chronicler's Meeting for all Chroniclers of this area. It was nice to meet several of the Chroniclers. There is now a permission form that needs to be filled out for all articles, artwork, photos and etc. that are put into the Bolt. This is to protect the Canton as well as the person that originally did the artwork. Be mindful that pictures taken at events that aren't posed can be used as long as there isn't a minor in the picture. If a minor is in the picture, we need to have parent's permission to use it. Please keep that in mind if submitting pictures to the Bolt.

I would like to thank Lady Maria for her contribution to this Bolt. Thanks! ☺ I also would like to thank the officers who reported. The Bolt deadlines for this year will be March 30, June 30, September 30, and December 30. A paper copy of the Bolt will be available at the next Canton meeting.

Rebecca Cecini



Knights Marshal's Report

Greetings! For those of you who haven't heard, Lowell Area Schools is now charging us to use the gym. To help offset the costs of renting that space, we held a silent auction at 12th Fight that raised a total of \$394. Hoobah for all those who generously donated items from their closets to help us pay our expenses. That all said; we can't go to that well too often so we're going to be looking for a new place to hold our practices. I'd like to ask all the members of the populace to keep your eyes and ears open for a place where we can train. Our requirements are pretty simple: at least 12' ceilings, about half a basketball court, and a floor that we won't mar up (tile and wood are less than desirable). It doesn't have to be a gym. A large room or corner of a warehouse would work too. If you have a location that might be suitable, please let me know. We're also going to be holding a couple of armoring days to work on the loaner armor. We'll be posting times and locations on the Rimsholt list. As the saying goes "many hands make light work" and we'd appreciate the help. Our current projects include making two pairs of arms and legs. We have the materials we just need the hands to make it happen. Stay tuned for further details.

Richard vanUtrecht
Group Knights Marshal



Archery & Thrown Weapons Marshal's Report

Not much has been going on with the snow running 12 to 24 inches deep in the range. I am available by appointment with anyone who wants to come over and work on arrows, or their bow (I can do some repairs). I can also assist in sharpening axes, balancing knives, or help making Javelins (it can be done for about \$9 each). Other than that here is a look forward to the spring.

Before and we re-open the Archery Range we should look at replacing the Stands, one is broken and the other two are not far behind. This will involve ten 2x4x5's and one 2x4x8, the rest we should be able to salvage from the existing stands. Figure about \$25 to \$30 for this. Next we need to start looking ahead into replacing the targets, from what I can figure they are 12 to 15 years old (maybe older). At least if we recover them we can get another season or two out of them, I have the materials for this though if anyone has any extra burlap it won't hurt (colors would be cool we could sew the targets on). But, if we start looking for replacements right now we might be able to find a deal. Do we want to consider foam cubes; I have not had any luck finding straw rounds. We have 5 sets of loaner arrows (4 sets for 25# or less and 1 set for 45#), plus a few spares. There are also 5 children's arrows for the small fiberglass kids bows, if we can find some it would be nice to get at least 7 more since a lot of our archers are under 10 years old. We have 2 RH 20# to 25# wood recurve bows, one 15# universal fiberglass bow (age legal for 15 years or younger) and two blue children's bows (thanks to Garth & Kassia). Other than that if anyone has a couple of cubic yards of sand or fill dirt we could use in the mud spot on the range.

As for the Thrown Weapons, I made 4 new knife and axe targets last fall so we are good there. We will need 4 new bales of straw though for the spear target (about \$12 to \$15), we made it three years on the old ones. We have 3 axes and one extra handle (I recommend getting 2 more, about \$4 each + S&H). If possible I would also like to get three mouse hawks and extra handles since most of our throwers are under 12 and lighter axes would be easier for them (about \$24 each + S&H). We also have three heavy throwing knives, and 6 darts (at some point we should give Blackhart something for making them). Again I would like to acquire some light throwing knives for our younger throwers (I have found 4 for \$20 + S&H). Finally there are 3 spears (I would like to have a couple of extra shafts about \$8 each, since we broke three last year). While I am on the idea of lighter gear some Javelins for our smaller throwers would be nice as well (these can be made for about \$10 each).

At this time I do not have a formal M.I.T. for either Archery or Thrown Weapons anyone willing to volunteer please feel free to contact me. I can train both. We did have another good year without any injuries. Other than the repairs and spare parts there is nothing we have to have, but the added items would further enhance our Archery & Thrown Weapons kits. Since I have been the Archery and Thrown Weapons Marshal we have kept the up the current equipment, but not done much to improve it. This is my Winter Report and suggestions for the future.

Isak Darkcraft the Merchant AoA, SO, OW, OE
Archery Marshal and Pentamere Regional Thrown Weapons Marshal

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Minister of Arts & Sciences' Report

Thank you everyone for such support for the 12th Fight A&S classes.

Northgate's event "A Day at the Castle" is on Saturday, March 28 2009. Let's show our support and help out with the A&S. Please, if you are interested in teaching an A&S class feel free to contact Milisandia Au Gryffydd at heimlick@gmail.com

Also - please don't forget about our own A&S inspired event the Herbal & Garden Symposium coming up as well. If you have any questions or suggestions I would love to hear them!

And please, do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about teaching or even how to teach a class. We all have such wonderful knowledge - and so many people that would enjoy sharing it :-)

Thank you again!

Harley

PEWTER CASTING BASICS

Lady María Leonara de Luna

Equipment:

Work gloves

1 or 2 high-temperature gloves

Carving tools (wood carving tools work great; X-acto knives also work)

Hacksaw

Drill

1/8" drill bit (or a similar size)

Hot pot

Sand paper - medium grit, such as a 150

Sand paper - fine grit, such as a 220

Wire cutters

Files

Putty or play-dough

Supplies:

Pewter (a tin alloy; 95% tin & 5% copper or 95% tin & 5% antimony)

Soapstone (Steatite)

Work Space Requirements:

Cement floor (working over grass or dirt is also okay, but harder to reuse spilled pewter)

No curious children or pets

Work surface that is okay to burn with liquid pewter - Or -

Work surface that is heat resistant (such as a cement floor)

Safety:

Wear gloves. When pouring liquid pewter into the mould, wear a high-temperature glove on the hand that holds the mould.

Liquid pewter will solidify quickly. Pewter that has just solidified is very hot!

Sooner or later, you will accidentally knock over the hot pot, or a spigot-type hot pot will become stuck "open". If the work surface tilts, know which way it tilts and position yourself so that the spilled liquid pewter will flow away from you.

Shoes, long pants, and long sleeves recommended. Spilled pewter can splash.

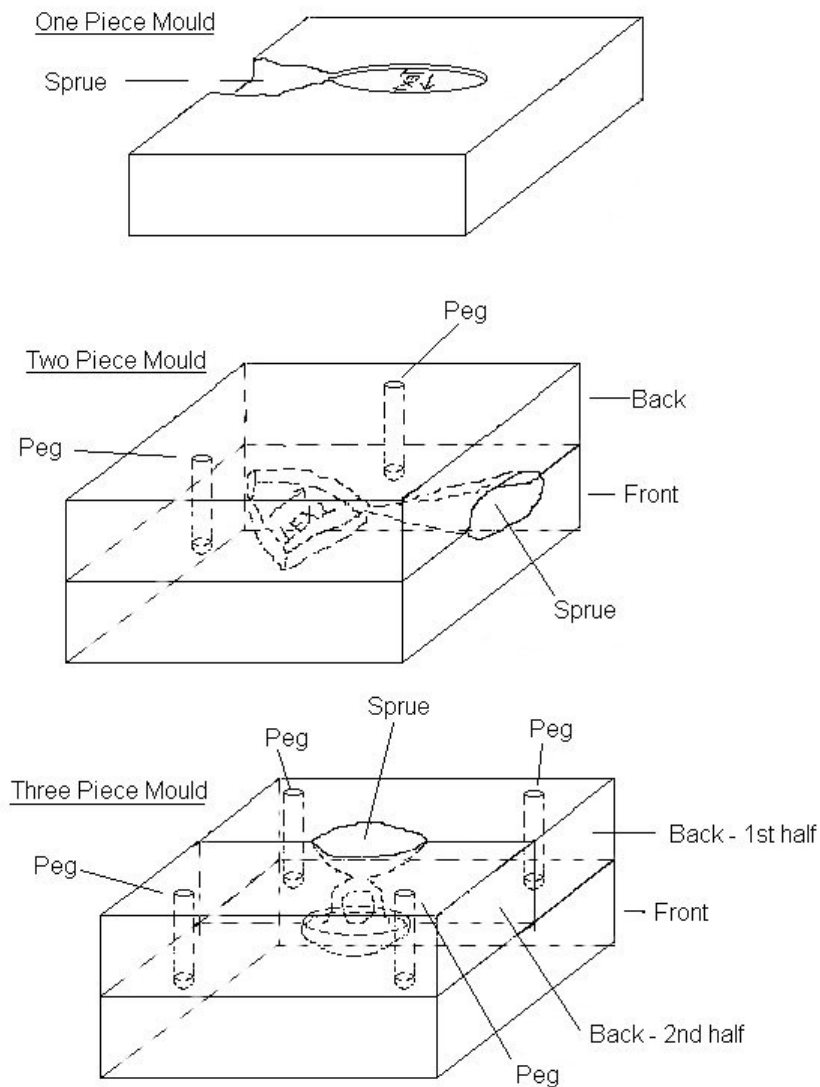
A glass of ice water can be handy if you forget the just-solidified pewter is very hot.

There are 3 types of soapstone moulds:

"One" Piece Mould: One-sided designs. Works well for site & award tokens. Only one piece of soap stone is carved; the back is a generic piece that can be used with multiple "one" piece moulds. Does not require any drilling for pegs. I have also seen rings and very small spoons made with one piece moulds.

Two Piece Mould: Two-sided designs. Works well for coins & two-sided site tokens. Two pieces of soapstone are carved. Two pegs are drilled in one side of the mould to ensure the front & back line-up.

Three Piece Mould: Three-dimensional designs. Works well for buttons & pilgrimage badges. The construction is similar to a two-piece mould, except the "back" is cut into two halves; the button shank or badge pin is carved into the surface where the two halves meet. Two pegs are drilled in each "half" of the back, four pegs total, to ensure all three pieces line up.



1. What do you want to make?

Sketch your design on paper. Draw it the same size as the pewter piece that you want to make. If you can draw it on paper, you will be able to carve it into soapstone (with a little practice). If the finished piece will be strung on ribbon (such as a site token), be sure to include a loop for the ribbon in the design.

For a one-piece mould, you will only need one drawing. For a two-piece mould, you will need two drawings, both the same size. For a three-piece mould, you will need two or three drawings: the front, the back (if there are details on the back), and the 3rd dimension. For a button mould, the 3rd dimension is the button shank; for a pilgrimage badge mould, the 3rd dimension is the pin. Be sure to make all the drawings the same size as the finished piece.

Be sure to reverse any letters or symbols (including heraldry!) in your drawing so that they will be legible in the final piece. I have tried two different methods for drawing in reverse. The first is to draw the design normally, and then use a scanner or copier to "flip" the image. The second method is to draw the design normally, then hold a mirror to the sketch and re-draw the design as it appears in the mirror.

The location of the sprue should be indicated on the drawings. The sprue is the cone- or funnel- shaped opening in the mould. The large part of the sprue is on the outside of the mould; this is where the liquid pewter is poured into the mould. The sprue narrows down to about a 1/8" (approximately; varies in proportion to the size of the design) opening where it attaches to the design cavity.

When deciding the location of the sprue, be sure to consider how the liquid pewter will flow through the mould. It will flow through large spaces more easily than small ones, and past rounded, smooth corners more easily than square corners. For three piece moulds, the sprue works better when attached to the button shank or badge pin.

2. Make a blank mould.

Now that you have good sketches of your design (front, back, and 3rd dimension), you can make a blank mould.

Very small moulds do work, and if you have a limited quantity of soapstone, this may be the best option. However, they can be difficult to handle and tend to overheat quickly, as there is not enough stone to dissipate the heat of the liquid pewter.

Very large moulds also work, and will dissipate the heat of the liquid pewter very well, but tend to be an inefficient use of soapstone.

I suggest a 3/4" to 1" margin between the design and the edge of the mould. It is wide enough to drill pegs without getting too close to the design or too close to the edge, and is enough stone to dissipate heat reasonably well.

Decide on the size of the mould pieces & write down the dimensions.

Use a pencil to mark the dimensions on the soapstone block or rock. Use a hacksaw or power saw to cut the stone. This will produce a lot of dust!

It is essential that the "inside" surfaces of the mould are flat, so any surface that is inside the mould must be sanded smooth. For one and two piece moulds, there are 2 surfaces that need sanding. For three piece moulds, there are 5 surfaces that need sanding. Use a medium grit sandpaper first and a fine grit sandpaper to finish. After sanding, blow away excess dust or wipe with a damp cloth. Check the flatness and "fit" of the inside surfaces by putting the mould pieces together and holding them up to a bright light; very little light, if any, should shine through the seams.

Once the inside surfaces of the mould are sanded smooth, it is time to drill pegs for the two and three piece moulds. Mark an "x" for each point that will be drilled; the points should not be too close to the edge, the design cavity, or the sprue. Using an 1/8" drill bit (or thereabouts), drill all the way through one piece of the mould and about 1/8" into the surface of the next piece of the mould. I like to widen the peg hole opening by carving away a little soapstone; this is not necessary, but it makes the pegs a little easier to pour. Clean the dust out of the hole. Carefully line up the two pieces. The drill bit works well to make sure the two holes are lined up properly; remove the drill bit before pouring the liquid pewter into the hole.

I recommend drilling and pouring the pegs one at a time so that you can line up the pegs individually. Otherwise, the pieces might move slightly between drilling peg hole #1 and peg hole #2, and then the pegs will not line up properly.

3. Carving a one-piece mould.

For a one-sided design, draw the an outline of the design on the middle of the inside surface of the mould. Make pencil marks to indicate the location of the sprue. Carve out the sprue and the basic shape of the design (with no details). Do a test-pour to see if design cavity and sprue are large enough.

If the liquid pewter does not fill the design cavity completely, there are 6 possible reasons:

- The sprue is not big enough.
- The design cavity is not deep enough.
- The opening where the sprue meets the design cavity is not wide enough.
- The stone is too cold and the pewter solidifies before filling the design cavity.

- Air trapped in the design cavity prevents the pewter from flowing freely.
- The shape of design cavity is too complicated for the pewter to flow into all the nooks and crannies. For example: a fret or a star with several points.

More than likely, it is a combination of these reasons. So, try a combination of the following solutions to see what works best:

- Try 4 or 5 pours, one after another, to see if warming the mould affects how well the pewter fills the design cavity.
- Try adding 1 or 2 "air lines". An air line is a very shallow groove which extends from the edge of the design to the outside of the mould. It is large enough to allow air to escape the design cavity, but too small for liquid pewter to flow through; it is like a scratch on the inside surface of the mould. I usually use the tip of an angle chisel for air lines. Finished moulds will have anywhere from 2 to 5 air lines extending in different directions from the design cavity.
- Try enlarging the sprue. An effective sprue holds as much liquid pewter as it takes to fill the design cavity.
- Try deepening the design cavity.
- Try enlarging the space where the sprue attaches to the design cavity to allow the pewter to flow more freely.
- Open up the design so that the pewter has better paths to flow through. For example, round the inside corners of a fret or widen the arms of a star.

Once the liquid pewter fills the design cavity completely, test the thickness of the finished pewter piece. Thin pewter is flexible; sometimes this is desirable. For example, a long narrow piece can be bent around a dowel into the shape of a ring. If the pewter is too flexible for your purposes, deepen the design cavity.

When you are satisfied with the shape and thickness of the blank piece, then begin adding detail. Begin by drawing the design on the mould. *Remember: letters and symbols - including heraldry! - must be carved mirror-image so that they will be legible in the finished pewter piece.* Consider which areas of the design you want to "stick out" the most. These are the areas which will be carved the deepest. Likewise, figure out which areas should "stick out" a middling amount and only a little bit. Carve the areas which will stick out only slightly first. Do test pours to check your progress. Carve the areas which will stick out a middling amount next. Do test pours to check your progress. Carve the areas that stick out the most last. Do test pours to check you progress.

When you are satisfied with the look of your design, then you are ready to cast as many pewter pieces as you need.

Pewter Casting

Tokens, pins, buttons and other things can be made by pouring molten pewter (a tin alloy) into moulds carved into soapstone.

1. Carve a sprue.

2. Carve the shape.

3. Begin carving the design.

A sprue is the funnel shape where the liquid metal is poured into the mould.

4. The deeper the mould is carved, the thicker the finished piece will be.

5. Remember, lettering must be carved mirror-image.

3. Carving a complex mould.

For a two-sided design, the design cavity on the front piece of the mould needs to line up with the design cavity on the back piece of the mould. There are two ways I've discovered to accomplish this:

- Use a stencil. Make a stencil of the outline of your design out of an index card. Paper works too, but an index card is more durable. There are two ways to create a stencil: at the same time as assembling the mould blank or after the mould blank is complete. To create the stencil while assembling the mould blank, put the index card between the mould pieces when drilling each peg hole. Sometimes this causes the mould pieces to shift position too easily, so be cautious. To create a stencil after the mould blank is finished, put the index card between the mould pieces and press carefully together; the pegs will make indentations in the index card. Cut holes in place of the indentations. For either method, once the peg holes are in the stencil, cut out an outline of the design. Line up the stencil with the pegs (or peg-holes) and trace the outline of the design onto the mould.
- Eyeball it. For a two-sided design, carve the "front" first, as if it was a simple one-piece mould. When the design cavity in the front piece is satisfactory, guesstimate the corresponding location on the back piece of the mould and make a few light scratches with the tip of a knife. Do a test pour. Use the locations of the scratches on the pewter piece to identify where the design should be located on the back piece of the mould.

For a three-dimensional design, the design cavities on all pieces of the mould need to line up. I think it is easier to line-up a 3 piece mould than a 2 piece mould.

- Put one half of the back of the mould on the front of the mould. Trace the edge of the half. Repeat with the second half. These lines should match up.
- Draw an outline of the design on the front the mould. For buttons, the design should be centered on the half line. For pilgrimage badges, you may want the half line to be on one side of the design, so that when the pin is bent over, it folds across the width of the badge.
- Place the first half of the back on the front. A portion of the design outline is visible. Using the visible portion of the outline as a guide, draw the button shank or badge pin and sprue. Extend the lines of the sprue onto the outside of the mold.
- Place both halves of the back on the front. The outline of the sprue on the first half of the back is visible. Extend those lines onto the second half of the back.
- The first half of the back has both marks for the sprue and button shank (or badge pin). Carve these out. The second half is only marked with the sprue. Carve out a portion of the sprue.
- Do a test pour. Let the pewter cool enough so that it's comfortable to touch. Because the cooled pewter will fit like a puzzle piece into the small portion of the sprue in the second half of the back, it makes an ideal stencil. While the pewter is nested in the second half, trace around the button shank / badge pin.
- Carve out the button shank / badge pin from the second half of the back. Do another test pour to check that everything lines up properly; adjust as needed.
- Carve out the button or pilgrimage badge design using the same methods as for a one-piece mould.

4. Finishing Touch: Clipping & Filing

After the mould is finished, you can cast as many pewter tokens / coins / awards / badges / buttons as you need. Use wire cutters to clip the sprue off each piece. The clipped sprues can be remelted and reused. Use files to smooth the sharp edges where the sprue was. For tokens with loops and buttons with shanks, it is advisable to use a small round file to smooth the inside of the loop and shank. Doing so will reduce the possibility of rough edges fraying and breaking threads.

Sources for soapstone:

Chinese Soapstone

www.chineses soapstone.com

Contact: Wen Xie

Email: xie1964@hotmail.com

Phone: 416 462 8770

Fax: 416 462 8770

Location:

204-1001 Lawrence Ave E

Toronto ON M3C 1R3

Rough stones. 4x4x6" is about 10 lbs. \$1.60 - \$2.00 Canadian per pound + Shipping

Stone Sculptors Supplies

www.stonesculptorssupplies.com

Contact: Patricia or Karen

Email: info@stonesculptorssupplies.com

Phone: 707-869-1666

P.O. Box 2124.

Guerneville, CA 95446

Rough stones \$1.50 - 1.75 + shipping

Stoneman Distributors

www.stoneman.ca

Contact: Robert

Email: sales@stoneman.ca

Ph. 519-668-3996

Fax. 519-668-2562

Unit 1 - 79 Bessemer Rd

London Ontario N6E 1P9

3x3x5" blocks \$12.00 Canadian each + Shipping - other sizes available

Vermont Marble, Granite, Slate & Soapstone

www.soapstone-co.com/carving_soapstone.html

Contact: Paul Thompson

paul@vermontmarbleandgranite.com

PH: 802.468.8800

FX: 802.217.1044

Sources for pewter:

[Aladdin Welding Products, Inc.](#)

www.aladdin3in1.com

1300 Burton St. SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49507

[Amazon.com](#)

Showroom: 1565 Main Street



Castleton, Vermont 05735

www.vermontmarbleandgranite.com


















www.soapstone-co.com

Calendar of Events






February 2009









- 14 -     [Val Day 36 & TOC](#) {Three Hills} [Kalamazoo, MI]
- 20-21 -  [Eight Annual Quest for the Golden Seamstress](#) {Brakendelve & Roaring Wastes} [Dearborn, MI]
- 21 -  [Masque of Courtly Love](#) {Alderford} [North Canton, OH]
- 21 -   [Winter's End](#) {Fenix} [Edgewood, KY]
- 28 -  [25th Birthday of the Kingdom of Calontir](#) {Three Rivers} [St Louis, MO]
-   Melee of Chivalry - MOC {Val d' Azure} [Lexington, KY]

March 2009

- 1 - **PALE DEADLINE FOR APRIL 2009**
- 7 -  [A&S Education Day II](#) {Ravenslake} [Crystal Lake, IL]
- 7 -   [Ceilidh XXI](#) {St. Joan} [Dayton, OH]
- 7 -   Midrealm Pelican Peerage Retreat (Groups may schedule events within 100 miles of this event.) [Fort Wayne, IN]
- 7 -  [The Feast of St. Patrick](#) {Afonlyn} [Muncie, IN]
- 7 -  [Winter Dance and Game Revel](#) {Eastwatch} [Fairport Harbor, OH]
- 14 -  [Oaken Regional Cook's Symposium III](#) {Three Towers} [Mansfield, OH]
- 14 -  [The Awakening](#) {Baile na Scolairi} [Bloomington, IL]
- 14-15 -  [Freezing Our Haflas Off](#) {White Waters} [Mishawaka, IN]
- 15-22 -    [Gulf Wars XVIII](#) {Gleann Abhann} [Lumberton, MS]
- 22 - [Regional Herald's Pointe Symposium](#) {Weld Lake (Northwoods)} [Brighton, MI]
- 28 -  [A Day At The Castle](#) {Northgate (Andelcrag)} [Stanwood, MI]
- 28 -  Ayerton Carnivale {Rokkehealden} [Northbrook, IL]
- 28 -   [Northern Oaken A&S Faire](#) {Alderford} [Canton, OH]
- 28 -  [Terpsichore at the Tower XV](#) {Cynnabar} [Saline, MI]

April 2009

- 1 - **PALE DEADLINE FOR MAY 2009**
- 4 -   Grand Tournament of the Unicorn {Unicorn} [Oxford, OH]
- 4 -  [Ides and Arrows](#) {Iron Oak (Northwoods)} [New Lothrop, MI]
- 4 - [Qaina - A Middle Eastern Dance & Music Event](#) {Brendoken} [Akron, OH]
- 4 -  Stone Dog Inn VI {Grey Gargoyles} [Chicago, IL]
- 11 -  The Feast of Three Saints {Rivenstar} [Lafayette , IN]

- 18 -  [Constellation Regional A&S](#) {Greyhope} [Otis, IN]
-  [It Takes My Child To Raze A Village](#) {Weld Lake
(Northwoods)} [Howell, MI]
- [Mugmort Melees IV](#) {Mugmort} [Circleville, OH]
-  [Rites of Spring](#) {Illiton} [Sparland, IL]
- 23-26 -  [Blackstone Raid XVIII](#) {Blackstone Mountain} [Ripley,
WV]
- 25 -  Andelcrag Althing {Three Hills} [Kalamazoo, MI]
-  Brendokenfest {Brendoken} [Dover, OH]
-  Grog {Gleann Iaruinn} [Portsmouth, OH]
-  South Oaken Regional A & S {Flame} [Louisville, KY]