



## *A Cleftlands (Middle Kingdom) Newsletter - 6/6/2021*

### Welcome Back - Cleftlands Reopens!

If you haven't heard the news, the SCA is back to active status in North America. The Middle Kingdom issued guidelines for reopening to meetings and other gatherings (but no martial activities) starting June 13th. Please take a look at the latest reopening information for both general and martial rules in the Middle Kingdom here: <https://midrealm.org/reopening/>

Anything posted there will be considered the current rules and may overwrite this document. The complete write-ups as of the time of publication are included at the end of this newsletter. Clarifications have been made since, which are included in the list of guidelines in this article.

But that's not all! The BoD issued proclamations to further lift restrictions on in-person activity starting July 1. While we don't yet know the full impact for the Middle Kingdom, you can read those resolutions here:

- <https://www.sca.org/news/resolution-to-further-lift-suspension-of-in-person-activity-in-the-sca-as-of-july-1st-2021/>
- <https://www.sca.org/news/from-the-society-seneschal-re-resolution-to-further-lift-suspension-of-in-person-activity-in-the-sca-as-of-july-1st-2021/>

So what does this mean for Cleftlands? **We're going to resume meetings at our previous meeting site (St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Road, Cleveland OH 44143) on Wednesday, June 16!** For the summer, meetings will be every other week as we ease back in to being together. Meetings on June 16 and June 30 will follow Midrealm rules, and not have martial activities. Meetings on July 14, July 28, August 11, and August 25 should have fewer restrictions, and should allow martial activities - but stay tuned for complete details as we get them.

Assuming all goes well, we will resume weekly meetings on September 1.

#### **For any official June meetings, the following guidelines must be followed:**

- Pre-registration is encouraged (this is something that will continue past July 1). **Sign up for the June 16 meeting here: <https://forms.gle/qyj926Tk53MNEqc46>**
- Activities are limited to 150 people who sign up - anyone attending, even if not actively participating, counts towards this number
- Please note that legal names for all attendees, including minors, are required, as well as a form of contact (phone or email) for contact tracing purposes.
- We will announce prior to the meeting if there are spots left.
- Masks are required for all attendees aged 4 and up. Medical exemptions will be honored.
- Social distancing must be followed between persons who do not already live together.
- There is no shared food, drink, armor, gear, garb, crafting tools, or other materials.
- Eating and drinking should be done while seated, and only near people with whom you live.
- Activities should be held outdoors if at all possible.
- Indoor activities are permitted as a backup if social distancing and all other restrictions are followed.
- Hosts of SCA gatherings can require additional restrictions, at their discretion (they can be more restrictive than Society, Midrealm, or local laws, but not less).
- Attendance will be confirmed at the meeting. The final list of attendees for any SCA activity should be sent to the seneschal ([seneschal@cleftlands.org](mailto:seneschal@cleftlands.org)) for contact tracing if needed.

*See page 2 for more details.*

# Reopening - continued

## And even more rules for June meetings:

- If the SCA gathering is in a public place, please maintain distance from any non attendees.
- No demos in June.
- These restrictions apply to any SCA gathering advertised through the Baronial Facebook page or email list.
- We are following the Midrealm guidelines, which are more strict than the CDC guidelines.
- Failure to adhere to these rules may result in being asked to leave the meeting/event. Abuse of rules or 'loopholes' may be escalated to regional and kingdom officers.

We'll post up sign-ups for each meeting separately.

At the June 16th meeting, it will be like we never stopped, as Lord Cadfan will be acting as Deputy Seneschal for the evening. Please pay heed to him as he enforces these rules to keep us safe so we can continue to gather and have fun.

If you have any questions, you can send them to [seneschal@cleftlands.org](mailto:seneschal@cleftlands.org), Their Excellencies, or post to the Baronial Facebook page.

## Cleftlands Meeting Dates:

- **June 16 (under June Midrealm restrictions)**
- **June 30 (under June Midrealm restrictions)**
- **July 14 (martial activities resume, and further restrictions lift from here)**
- **July 28**
- **August 11**
- **August 25 (weekly meetings resume from here)**

### Additional SCA News -

- A new social media policy was posted: <https://www.sca.org/news/new-social-media-policy/>
- The April 2021 SCA President's report is available: <https://www.sca.org/news/april-2021-presidents-report-now-available/>
- The BoD issued a request for nominations to the Board: <https://www.sca.org/news/request-for-nominations-board-of-directors/>
- Reminder - SCA, Inc. is accepting applications for a Project Management Officer and a Volunteer Recruitment Officer: <https://www.sca.org/news/open-positions-pmo-and-vro/>

## Random Period Object - Cleveland Museum of Art



Nataraja, Shiva as the Lord of Dance; South India; 900-1200s

Bronze; ~44.5 x 40.2 x 12 inches in size - <https://www.clevelandart.org/art/1930.331>

The figure of Shiva displays some of the fundamental tenants of Hinduism. One is that time is cyclical - the world is created and destroyed over and over. To those for whom Shiva is an all-powerful creator, he both creates and later destroys. The fire he holds and that rings the figure represents the destruction. The constant beat of time marching on is represented by the drum in another hand.

Another hand, held with the palm out, implores Shiva's followers not to fear, for they can be free from this never-ending cycle through their devotion (signified by pointing to his raised foot).

The smaller figure he stands on is ignorance (it holds a serpent).

## For the Combat & Ranged Arts

### Armored:

#### Duke Eik's Videos:

Advanced Longsword Kata 2:

<https://youtu.be/kCWaj6teBFY>

Sword & Shield Cor a Cor Thoughts:

<https://youtu.be/YAs1KCT4TpU>

Variant Half Sword Technique:

<https://youtu.be/lZKyCauZizw>

**Backyard Basics:** Footwork #1:

<https://youtu.be/Vgl0x7TmWbc>

Footwork + Cuts #1:

<https://youtu.be/gPaY6MNu6gw>

Footwork + Bladework #1:

<https://youtu.be/8LjNGA8YNHI>

**Rapier:** Maestras of Defense Ep.3 Pennsic Pity Party:

<https://youtu.be/uQ5PNpG2Rp8>

Ep.4

<https://youtu.be/8wXJlDjdWs>

**Midrealm Archery Challenge:** Go shoot!!

## Call for Content

We want to make sure there's a central place to get information and see posts that might get buried, or resources that might not be shared.

If you have info to share - an upcoming virtual gathering, activity ideas, or a great website, please contact me: [clariciadlm@gmail.com](mailto:clariciadlm@gmail.com).

Thank you and stay well!

## 5 Questions for Cleftlanders: Tanárnö Tyzes Sofia, called Zsof (mka Karoline Kramer) (she/her/hers)

### 1.) What was your first SCA event?

Pennsic 22 (1993). I do not recommend having Pennsic as a first SCA event. It ruined regular SCA events for me for a long time - how can you compare a day-long event with Pennsic?

### 2.) What are your two main activities in the SCA?

Performing Arts and encouragement. I do other things (like thrown weapons), but nothing as much as I perform and support the performing arts. I focus on encouraging people, whether it's in the arts, service, or martial areas.



### 3.) You've been active in discussing Peerage - what's something everyone should know about being a Peer?

Being a Peer is a major responsibility. I believe a Peer's main job is supporting and encouraging others to explore and grow. If you want to dive deeper into what I think is required of being a Peer, start with my "Rules" (<https://zsof.livejournal.com/531820.html>)

### 4.) Tell us about your show - how did it come to be, and what's something interesting that you've learned while doing it?

I noticed my Facebook timeline was filled with lots of zoomcasts that focused on Peers. I was frustrated because I have learned as much from those who aren't Peers as I have from those who are. I was determined at that moment to start a show focusing on the "regular folks" in the SCA. I reached out to my apprentice, Lucas, who has been a fringe player in the SCA for 20 years. I knew he would have an interesting outlook on the SCA, and I was right.

One common theme that comes up is engagement and retention of new people in the SCA. There are some great ideas out there and we need to start asking those "regular folks" for their input and feedback on how the SCA can grow.

### 5.) What is your favorite piece that you've ever performed?

This is a hard question! All of my pieces are like my children - I've spent so much time working on them. I literally spend months working each piece before I perform it for a main audience. But I guess I would say my vampire piece - The Lid-erc is one of my favorites. I spent over a year working on it. At first I tried to make it a humorous piece and it just wouldn't gel. I tried over and over to make it funny before I gave up and wrote what I perform today - a scary story with little bits of humor.

### Kingdom News

- Their Majesties call for heirs! Those interested should submit their letters of intent and all required documentation to the Kingdom Seneschal by June 19.
- A Crown Tournament will be held on July 17 in the Barony of Flaming Gryphon: <https://www.facebook.com/events/161244346019115/?ref=newsfeed>

### Baronial News

- A big welcome to the new Cleftlands Chatelaine: Lady Jaqueline la Deiciere. Thank you to all who applied!



# SCA Period Book Review - “In Search of a Kingdom: Francis Drake, Elizabeth I, and the Perilous Birth of the British Empire”

By THL Jolicica atte Northclyffe

The tale of how the partnership between Queen Elizabeth I, and her “royally sanctioned pirate” Francis Drake brought riches to England, made the nation a world power, and set in motion the Spanish Armada is explained in rich detail in the new book “In Search of a Kingdom: Francis Drake, Elizabeth I, and the Perilous Birth of the British Empire” by Laurence Bergreen (464 pp. Custom House. \$29.99).

Schoolchildren learn that Drake was the first captain to successfully circumnavigate the globe (Ferdinand Magellan died before he returned home), but there is so much more to his story. Bergreen — who has previously written about Christopher Columbus, Marco Polo, and Magellan — brings a flair for storytelling and vigorous research to his examination of Drake’s life in the context of 16th century global politics.

Drake learned seafaring and pirating from his older cousin John Hawkins, a court-sponsored pirate who seized slave ships and sold the captured cargo in the Spanish Caribbean. Drake came to hate the slave trade and the Spanish. The daring brigand formed an alliance with escaped slaves to raid a Spanish mule train carrying gold and silver across Panama and carry the treasure back to England.

Elizabeth encouraged Drake’s voyage around the world in search of new trading opportunities and plunder because she was seeking ways to bloody the Spanish without provoking war. If Drake’s actions ruffled too many Spanish feathers, she could claim that she had nothing to do with it.

Setting sail in 1577, Drake and his men sailed to Brazil, beheaded a minor nobleman on charges of witchcraft, and navigated the Strait of Magellan.

In Chile and Peru, Drake boarded Spanish treasure ships and stole their cargo. As his journey continued, he claimed what would become California for his queen, avoided huge crabs living on Pacific islands, and returned to England after first setting sail nearly three years earlier.

Drake brought home the century’s biggest haul of precious treasure; Elizabeth’s own share was bigger than the crown’s annual income. Drake’s voyage changed how the world perceived England, and England’s perception of itself as a world power.

It also humiliated the Spanish, who retaliated by sending the Spanish Armada to punish England. The English victory saved the country from a Spanish invasion, but less than a year later, it was the English Armada that tasted defeat at Spanish hands.

Drake fought against the Spanish Armada, but it is his daring and dangerous journey around the globe that has made him an unforgettable historical figure.

[To get a copy of this book, check your local library and local booksellers; or visit Amazon [here](#).]

## This Week in History

June 6 1523 - Gustav Vasa is elected King of Sweden, and that date becomes Sweden’s national day.

June 7 1099 - The Siege of Jerusalem begins in the First Crusade.

June 8 793 - A Viking raid of the Lindisfarne abbey is thought to begin Norse activity in the British Isles.

June 9 1572 - [Jeanne d’Albret](#), mother of King Henry IV of France and leader of the French Huguenots, dies.

June 10 323 BC - Alexander the Great dies at the palace of Nebuchadnezzar II, in Babylon, at age 32.

June 11 980 - Vladimir the Great consolidates the Kievan lands from Ukraine to the Baltic Sea and is proclaimed ruler of the Kievan Rus.

June 12 1429 - Joan of Arc leads the French to capture the city of Jargeau.

## Cleftlands Officers' Contact Information

- Baron: Baron Crispin de la Rouchefoucald; baron@cleftlands.org
- Baroness: Baroness Gianna Vettori; baroness@cleftlands.org
- Seneschal: Lady Claricia de la Mere; seneschal@cleftlands.org
- Exchequer: Lord Robert atte Northclyfe; exchequer@cleftlands.org
- Chatelaine: Lady Jaquelinne la Deiciere; chatelaine@cleftlands.org
- Web Minister: Lady Brangwayn Snowden; webminister@cleftlands.org
- Social Media Coordinator: Lady Æthelwynn Skerra Dimma, social@cleftlands.org
- Herald: Sergeant Njall Orkneyjarson; herald@cleftlands.org
- Minister of Arts & Sciences: Baroness Angharad ferch Tangwystl; moas@cleftlands.org
- Knight's Marshal: Baroness Constanza de Mendoza; knightsmarshal@cleftlands.org
- Rapier Marshal: Lady Ragna Storrada Ulfsdottir; rapiermarshal@cleftlands.org
- Archery Marshal: Lord Cadfan of the Autumn Wood; archery@cleftlands.org
- Youth Marshal: Sergeant Bastian Eychener; youthmarshal@cleftlands.org
- Chronicler: The Honorable Lady Jolicia atte Northclyfe; chronicler@cleftlands.org
- Minister of Youth: Lord Rojhon the Wanderer; youthminister@cleftlands.org
- Demonstration Coordinator: Lord Carl of Cleftlands; demo@cleftlands.org
- Gold Key: Lady Fritha Eikbrandrsdottir; goldkey@cleftlands.org
- Iron Key: Lord Tryggr Gillason; ironkey@cleftlands.org
- Quartermaster: Lady Sarra Bossard; quartermaster@cleftlands.org

## Upcoming Cleftlands Events

- Wednesday, June 16 - In-Person Cleftlands Meeting: St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Road, Cleveland OH 44143. 6:30pm - 10pm.
- Wednesday, June 30 - In-Person Cleftlands Meeting: St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Road, Cleveland OH 44143. 6:30pm - 10pm.

*Portrait photo of Tanárnö Tyzes Sofia and Lady Jaquelinne la Deiciere credited to Lord Tarmach ben Yehuda al-Khazari.*

*Image of the Nataraja is courtesy of the Cleveland Museum of Art. As of January 23, 2019, the Cleveland Museum of Art is an Open Access institution, using the Creative Commons Zero (CC0) designation for high-resolution images and data related to its collection. This means the public now has the ability to share, collaborate, remix, and reuse images of many as 30,000 public-domain artworks from the CMA's world-renowned collection—all without asking permission. In addition, portions of collections information (metadata) for more than 61,000 artworks, both in the public domain and those works with copyright or other restrictions, are now available.*

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# Rules Regarding Reopening the Middle Kingdom

May 15, 2021

- 1. All rules are subject to change according to the direction of the Crown / Kingdom Seneschal.**
- 2. Masks and vaccinations**
  - a. Masks are required for all attendees.
  - b. Masks must be worn correctly.
  - c. Medical exemptions will be honored.
  - d. Reminder: NO asking for vaccination cards or negative test results.
    - i. If sites require vaccination cards or testing results, they must contact Corporate and copy Kingdom Seneschal.
  - e. COVID symptoms sign must be posted. Local Seneschals will be provided with the sign.
- 3. Attendance**
  - a. Attendance of SCA participants is capped at 150 people and is an absolute limit.
    - i. If State and Local guidelines state a lesser cap, the stricter guideline must be followed. I.e. If local regulations say max cap is ten (10), then only ten will be permitted.
  - b. Members of the public at Events
    - The public is not allowed and does not count toward our limit.
    - The Public are those dressed in modern clothes and not participating in our activities.
    - The public is permitted to watch SCA activities so long as they remain beyond a perimeter.
    - Facility/Site Staff does not count toward maximum attendance limits.
- 4. Events**
  - a. "Events" are defined as any official SCA activity including practices, meetings and weekend events
  - b. Events will be outside only
  - c. Pre-registration for events is required
    - i. SCARs should be used for pre-registrations for "Weekend" events where gate or other fees are taken for admission
    - ii. Practices, meetings, and gatherings (A&S) should have sign-ups via the host (Seneschal, Knight's Marshal, etc) to ensure SCA/state/local restriction limits.
      1. Sign in is required.
  - d. We are going to ask people to stay in their region.
  - e. The setting aside of pre-registrations is permitted for required event staff and the Crown but no other reservations are permitted.
- 5. Food at Events**
  - **NO COMMUNAL FOOD**
    - This means no fighter food
    - No shared drinks/Gatorade
    - No group provided lunch tavern

- No hospitality table
- Events can provide individual bottles of water/Gatorade/etc.
- Eating and drinking must be done while sitting. NO walking around.
- Eating should be done in day camps.
  - Small households are permitted to eat together.

## **6. Camping**

- a. NO camping.

## **7. COVID related event supplies**

- a. Sanitizer is not required to be provided by the SCA.
  - i. Events can provide or people can bring their own.
- b. Masks are required to be worn.
  - i. Groups are not required to provide masks, but may make masks available to attendees.

## **8. Gold key / Loaner gear / Class tools**

- a. No gold key, loaner gear or class tools may be provided at an Event.
  - i. New members may make arrangements for gold key prior to a “Weekend” Event.

## **9. Non-compliance**

- a. Failure to adhere to these rules may result in being asked to leave the Event.
- b. Abuse of rules or ‘loop holes’ may cause the Kingdom to be closed down.

## **10. Marshalled Activity**

- a. See Rules established by the Kingdom Earl Marshal for any marshalled activity while restrictions are in place.

## **11. Timeline**

- a. Small local meetings and gatherings will be permitted beginning on Sunday, June 13, 2021. THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE WHAT IS OFTEN REFERENCED AS “WEEKEND” EVENTS. You will be advised when traditional “Weekend” Events will be permitted.

# MARTIAL ACTIVITY RESTART UPDATE – 29 May 2021

Marshal, Seneschal / By jahanara alhafeeza

This morning, Their Majesties announced that the kingdom will allow a full restart of activities, within the confines of the new Society directives and state/local guidelines and orders.

After consultation with Their Majesties, the Martial Activities Restart Plan is hereby rescinded.

**Martial activities will continue to be prohibited in the Middle Kingdom through June 30, 2021. This includes meetings, practices, and events.**

Starting on **July 1, 2021**, all martial activities will be permitted as normal, with the exception that we must continue to follow Society directives on no shared water/food, and attendance at activities should be preregistered.

ALL directives and restrictions from the Martial Activities Restart Plan are void, meaning all remaining marshal training zoom meetings are canceled, and no one is required to participate in the Reintroduction process.

All martial authorizations and marshal warrants that were valid at the beginning of the shutdown will have their expiration date set for **July 1, 2022**.

Questions may be sent to [marshal@midrealm.org](mailto:marshal@midrealm.org)

Concerns about restarting activities may be emailed to [sca-comments@lists.sca.org](mailto:sca-comments@lists.sca.org)

As a final note: activities being allowed does not require you to participate. Please do not do anything, or let yourself feel pressured to do anything, that you do not feel safe doing.

I want to thank all of my deputies for all of their hard work as we prepared for a restart on an ever-shifting landscape.