

Valharic and Alys: What You Can Do to Help Their Reign

by Aldermoureis Ventske

Since many people want to help Alys and Valharic have a fantastic reign, here are some ideas that will make your offer to help better.

Some of the things where they will need assistance are public things. This includes things like retaining as well as setting up and packing at events. A Prince or Princess has at least 2-3 retainers, and that number will be larger when they ascend the Midrealm throne. At Pennsic, the need for retainers expands from a one day event to at least over a week. These retainers follow her/him around, carry stuff for them, and do tasks that they request. One will be a head retainer who helps coordinate the other retainers. At most events the Prince or Princess will have a retainer

or two arranged ahead of time and have one or two added at the event from people in that local group. Currently Aldermoureis and Tamara are setting up the prearranged retainers for Alys and Valharic with the event staff of events providing the local retainers. For Pennsic, there will probably be a sign up sheet at the Midrealm camp.

Some of the items where Their Highnesses will need assistance are not so public. For example, guess what is the favorite item for gift baskets that the royalty present each other at

Pennsic? Scroll blanks. But that is not the only item. If you want to show off your A&S excellence, consider contributing items for these baskets.

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Their Highnesses - picture by Milesent Vibert

Baronial Charter Drafted

In accordance with kingdom law, our Barony needs to draft a charter. Our seneschal, Nial, could have simply written it on his own, but decided to appoint a committee, as he said, "To make things fair for the populace." The committee agreed first that this charter should not contain too much, to leave the future leaders of the Barony free to sculpt their roles as they would see fit. The kingdom gave us four questions to

answer, and we resolved to answer those alone.

The questions were: 1. What is the term of the Baron and Baroness? 2. How often will a vote of confidence take place? 3. What are the job descriptions for the Baron and Baroness? 4. What is the term limit of the Baron and Baroness?

Secondly, the committee agreed to

keep the charter as short as possible by not repeating things delineated by kingdom law. What followed was a very calm and relaxed proceeding, hashing out the details of the charter. There was surprisingly little disagreement on the committee as each member worked toward the common goal of keeping politics as minimal as possible in our hobby.

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Our Officers

Seneschal: Lord Nial the Wanderer of Bork (A.J. Gooch)
279 East 248 St.
Euclid, OH 44123

Pursuivant: Lord Pietro Nicolo di San Tebaldo (Samuel Pearce)
2577 Exeter Rd
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Exchequer: Duchess Emelyn Carithail (Gayle Nichols)
17211 Lakewood Heights Blvd.
Lakewood, OH 44107

Knight Marshal: Sgt. Conrad Schwartzwolf (Marty Bradac)
3835 W. 40th Street
Cleveland, OH 44109

Marshal of Fence: Lady Brangwayn Snowden (Terrie Way)
3480 West 118th St.
Cleveland, OH 44111

Minister of Arts and Sciences: Lord Karl Wilhelm von Koln (Don Minch)
17545 Madison Ave. #101
Lakewood, OH 44107

Chroniclers: Ladies Lyonnete et Milesent Vibert (Marie & Grace Vibbert)
445 Richmond Park W., #328B
Richmond Heights, OH 44143

Chatelaine: Lady Alex
2616 E 124th st.
Cleveland, OH 44120
blkrose@aol.com

Royal Aide, Continued

Something else you can donate are tokens. When Their Majesties or Their Highnesses bestow an award, they often give some token of that award. Their Majesties or Their Highnesses may also bestow a token on other individuals they wish to recognize such as scribes or entertainers at feasts. Alys and Valharic would like to continue this tradition. Do you have an idea of something that would make a great token and would you like to make a bunch of them, just to make certain that your idea works well? Consider running it by Alys or Valharic or by one of their assistants (Alda, Angharad, Seadna, and Vincent).

Finally, if you are sending them a message offering assistance, be specific about how you are offering to help. For example, are you offering help as a retainer or to make something? Also, include contact information.

Their Highnesses have posted a wish list on their website if you would like further ideas on how to contribute.

[HTTP://cleftands.cwru.edu/royalty](http://cleftands.cwru.edu/royalty)

A Shot of RUM

This fall's Royal University of the Midrealm (RUM) was held in Dayton, Ohio, put together by the good folks of Flaming Gryphon in record time when the original event site was lost. A host of superb classes were available, including a full day of heavy weapons classes taught by some of the foremost fighters of our region and the known world.

Teaching at this event was a delightful experience. The organizers provided free site for teachers, as well as a "teachers' lounge" for day storage. Instructors also received special site tokens to identify them to the populace, and a bag of colored beads. Each discipline – studio arts, sciences, performing arts, etc – had a different color bead, and students could collect beads

from their instructors to wear on their site token string. It was a fun way to encourage attendees to take a variety of classes.

With classrooms clearly marked and the schedule announced every fifty minutes by heralds, there was no fear of missing a class, even if you were out on the list fields fighting.

The site was lovely, a beautiful new classroom building with an adjacent soccer field for the fighting classes and a high terrace balcony for rapier. The only drawback I saw was, being a classroom building, there were no large halls for indoor fighting or the feast, and the merchants had to be stowed in classrooms in the basement, which decreased their walking traffic.

Overall the experience was one that made this reporter eager to attend more RUMs in the future.

Distillations of Ether

By Milesent Vibert

The past month has been an excellent one for our Baronial webpage. The new asp (Active Server Pages) driven design, created mostly by Brian Crick's effort, was completed and unveiled to the populace. The new site is a bit less friendly to older web browser programs, but much easier to navigate and update.

The number one reason for moving to the database-driven format is that it allows the web ministry to easily keep an updated version of our Baronial directory. Simple to update using the web format, the directory can be printed at any time, hopefully making all the headaches of starting a new directory from scratch every few years a thing of the past. All contact information, personal addresses, mundane names and phone numbers, etc. are only visible from the Cleftlands server itself or Brian's office computer, locked by the internet addresses of those particular machines. If you would like your email address, phone number or other information posted on the web site, please let Milesent know. Most baronial officers have their email addresses and phone numbers posted on the site, and have had that information posted since the first Cleftlands site went on line. If you are an officer, and wish to suppress or amend what the public sees, again, see Milesent.

No web page is ever truly completed and the web ministry has many plans for continued improvement. Currently in the works are more graphics of awards, household badges and coats of arms, transporting the over 100 pages of minutes from baronial meetings into the new database, and a search engine for the picture archive. The new site has an individual page for every guild, household and member of the populace. If you have additions to your page, or if your guild or household was overlooked please let the web mistress know.

Not everyone responded favorably to the new, cleaner more 'commercial' look, missing the illuminated appearance of the old site. If you have an opinion about the site's graphics please see Brian or Milesent. The former site is still available on a secondary port on the Cleftlands web server. <http://cleftlands.cwru.edu:8883/index.html>

For those curious about the colorful, if short, history of the baronial webpage, there is a webpage about it in the Baronial History section. <http://cleftlands.cwru.edu/archive/about.asp>

Charter, Continued



Said Lord Nial, "When I told a member of the populace some of the happenings of the committee meeting, that person said, 'what kind of black magic is Laurelen using?'"

The charter has not been ratified by the kingdom yet, and so it was decided that printing specific information in *The Forum* was premature. Watch this space for a full printing of the charter once it is approved by the kingdom seneschal.

The charter committee consisted of Laurelen, Nial, Aiden, Alaric, Clariel, Darius, Lyonnete, Rutgur, Timothy, and Vincent as special legal attaché.

Contrary to what was written in the previous issue of *The Forum*, the populace will not be voting on this charter. It needs only to pass the kingdom's approval to be enacted. We apologize for any confusion. The opinions of the populace were taken in consideration by the committee, and they would like to thank all those members of the populace who took the time to write their comments to the committee.

Shall We Dance?

Washerwoman's Bransle

By Milesent Vibert

As we bid a fond farewell to the summer melee and fighting events, I know at least a few gentles' fancy has turned to thoughts of dance in warm winter feast halls. Afraid to journey from the list field to the dance floor? Fear not. There are several dances simple enough for even the most stalwart 'stick jock'.

Washerwoman's Bransle is a fun, simple little dance for couples in a circle that provides a lovely opportunity to ham it up and play act.

The dance starts with everyone in a circle holding hands. Yes the dance requires partners, line up boy-girl, boy-girl. Gentlemen, the lady to your right is your partner. Just remember, the lady is always right. I'm sure she'll help you remember.

The first part of the dance is the simplest; everyone does a double left. This means we all take two steps to the left. Take your left foot and step to the left with it, bring your right foot over next to it so you don't fall over, and step to the left again. There, that wasn't so bad was it? Now go back to the right because medieval people just loved symmetry. Two steps, right, left and then right. No arguing that that was three steps. There, we're all back where we started so... let's do that again. Double left, and then double back to the right. Nice and simple, but that's a bit boring so it's time for the second part of the dance, and the laundry.

Everyone drop hands (you were



holding hands, remember?) and face your partner (Lady is always Right). Everyone takes a step to their own personal left, and back to their own personal right, yes your partner is moving in the opposite direction as you. While we're hopping from foot to foot in this little side step the gentlemen waggle their fingers at the ladies. If it helps gentlemen, try saying something like "Did you put starch in my shorts?" to put yourself in a properly naggy mood.

As we believe in equal opportunity, it is now the ladies turn. Again everyone takes a step to their own personal left and back to their own personal right, but this time the ladies waggle their fingers at the lords and nag right back at them "You try starching your own shorts!"

This little argument over whose turn it is to do the laundry done with, we're ready to actually clean the clothes. Facing back into the circle, everyone doubles left (you should remember how to do that from the first part, right?) while clapping four times. That's two claps a step for those keeping score. A whole circle full of people clapping kind of sounds like a washerwoman beating starched shorts against a rock...

or so I'm told. You beat, beat, beat, beat... and double back to the right to reset. Double left again with four more claps, just in case you didn't get that starch out the first time. Clap, clap, clap, clap. And for a dramatic finish, the spin cycle. Move a double back to the right while spinning. This is the complicated part, if it helps just turn around and move back where you came, you can worry about how many steps you took in the advanced Bransles course.

Congratulations! You've finished the dance. If the music repeats again simply start over from the top. The steps in short are:

Double left

Double right

Double left

Double right

Face partner

Single left, single right, man shaking finger at woman

Single left, single right, woman shaking finger at man

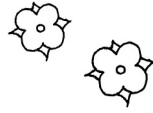
Double left with four claps

Double right

Double left with four claps

Turn a double back to the right.

Notes and Happenings



Northern Oaken War Manuvers is coming up in June, and Standard Bearer's in May. Ever wanted to autocrat a big or small event? Nial would like bids by December dessert revel so that he can have a decision by the first meeting of January. A month ago would have been a good time to start planning for NOWM, but we all know how busy The Barony has been this fall! Pitch in to make sure we continue to serve up great events in the year to come.

Their Highnesses have requested that we put in a bid for Their coronation. See Darius for details.

Sir Alaric is collecting information and concerns about possibly finding a new meeting site. See him if you have comments, concerns or ideas. Our current site costs approximately \$75 a night and is not handicapped accessible. A good meeting site should be centrally located, if possible, be handicapped accessible, have room to allow fighting indoors during the winter, and have plenty of parking.

The Chronicler is organizing a Cleftlands Literary Review, to be published for this year's Standard Bearer's tournament. Please get your black and white artwork, short stories, poetry or essays to Lyonnete by February Desert Revel. It's coming up faster than you think!

Lord Nial and Jess of the CWRU Medieval Society are gathering interest to start a medieval gamers guild. If you are interested in medieval games, please see Nial or Jess.

The Dance Guild has temporarily lost thier meeting site. If you've a sugestion or would like to volunteer to host the Dance Guild (all we need is a bit of floor, honest!) please see Milesent or Kathryn verch Rhys. Remember, the stringent joining critera for the guild is simply: show up. We welcome all dancers, no matter how inexperienced.

Our Regional Scroll Blank reserves have been depleted! The Regional Signet has mentioned scribal contests at upcoming events to help generate more scrolls. Keep your art supplies handy.

Anyone interested in learning about Calligraphy or Illumination please see our Scribe's Guild mistress Guenhwyfar. She's planning several scribing classes at upcoming guild meetings and has information on all you need to get started. No previous artistic experience required!

Archery Guild has moved indoors for the winter at Lucus Archery. They're looking for a new Outdoor range for the spring, if you've suggestions please see Darius or Christina.

Congratulations to THL Isobel Wren on becoming co-Minister of Arts and Sciences.

Rutgur is selling his house, if you're in the market for a new home see him for details.

The CWRU department of Information Services is trying to get a group together to rent a theater for a Midnight showing of Lord of the Rings Dec. 18th. See Milesent for details.



Prepare to Make "Khan-tact"

The January Event: First Kahn-Tact will take place in the Bohemian National Hall on Saturday, January 26. Sir Ephraim is autocrating, with Sara Rex as his co-autocrat. See them for details on how to help out. Their Highnesses will be attending as well, so start getting those award recommendations in. There will be fighting, classes, a sumptuous feast based on a Chinese Text called "A Soup for the Kahn", and a pun contest! THL Angharad and Lady Francesca are once again teaming up to create a no-doubt splendid feast. Lady Maria Vincente de Castilla is the Merchant coordinator and is looking for a deputy. For up to date information on the event, check out <http://cleftlands.cwru.edu/jan02.html>

Calendar

As Usual:

Regular Meetings on Wednesday Nights at the Shore Center

There will not be a meeting Wednesday, December 26th due to Christmas.

Archery Guild Sundays at 1pm at Lucas Archery

Armorer's Guild Thursday nights at Ealdred's house

Dance Guild Second Monday at Euclid Public Library

Fencing Practice Sunday nights at Wulfgar's Dojo

Please check with your guild leaders for exceptions caused by the holidays.

CWRUMS Meeting Tuesday nights at 7pm at Carlton Commons.

CWRUMS will shut down for the semester on Dec. 6 and will resume on January 17 due to Winter Break.

Local Happenings:

12-20-01 Cub Scout Demo at Oxford Elementary School in Cleveland Heights, 7 to 8:30 pm.

1-26-02 The January Event

1--1-02 Domesdays are due! Officers get 'em in to your regional superior and to Nial.

Selected Events:

12-1-01 Christmas Tourney - Flame [Louisville, KY]

12-8-01 Boar's Head - Caer Anterth Mawr {Waukesha, WI}

12-8-01 Red Spears Yule Feast - Hrodgeirsfjodr [Toledo, OH]

Would you like your guild or household meeting or event posted here? Just get it to the Chronicler by the last Monday of the month!

