

THE BARONY OF PONTE ALTO'S NEWSLETTER

IL TEMPO

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MAY 2022, A.S. LVII



THE UNICORN DEFENDS HIMSELF (FROM THE UNICORN TAPESTRIES)

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Il Tempo

Welcome to *Il Tempo* (The Times), the Newsletter of the Barony of Ponte Alto, one of the northern baronies in the Kingdom of Atlantia.

Il Tempo strives to be an informative read that you look forward to. To this end, we are always appreciative of any contributions to it, perhaps an article of a project you are working on or are interested in, how to make/play a period game, your experience at an event, how/what to prepare for a day trip, a recipe/piece of garb that you've made, documentation on an item you've completed - a how to on documentation, a few words on a historical person/event, photos, a book review, something to share with a newcomer - perhaps a short autobiography of your persona or how you came to figure out your persona.

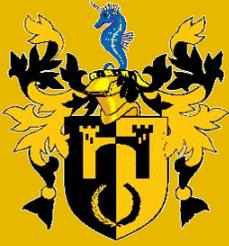
The list can go on for ages - only limited by the speed at which our hands can write out what our minds can think of.

Come, share with us adventures in the great Barony of Ponte Alto, in the grand Kingdom of Atlantia, in this - the current Middle Ages!

News & Announcements

Congratulations to all of our Pontoons who won awards!

- Sir Arnoddr i Ongulseyju
 - Onore del Ponte Nero, St. Paddy's Day Blood Bath
- Lord Hákon brimill
 - Onore del Ponte d'Oro, St. Paddy's Day Blood Bath
- Lady Teagan of Anglesey
 - Onore del Ponte Nero, St. Paddy's Day Blood Bath
- Lady Astrid
 - Companion of the Opal, St. Paddy's Day Blood Bath
- Lady Sof'ia Dolgorukaia of Ponte Alto
 - Baron's Award of Excellence, St. Paddy's Day Blood Bath
 - Companion of the Order of the Hart, Highland River Melees
- Lady Mariana Ruiz de Medina
 - Baroness' Award of Courtesy, St. Paddy's Day Blood Bath
- Lady Juliana le Webbe
 - Onore del Ponte d'Oro, St. Paddy's Day Blood Bath
 - Companion of the Opal, St. Paddy's Day Blood Bath
 - Award of Arms, St. Paddy's Day Blood Bath
- Duke Havordh Ættarbani
 - Companion of the Queen's Order of Courtesy, Spring Crown Tourney
- Master Marcellus Capozziello da Napoli
 - Award of the Fountain, Spring Crown Tourney
- Lady Delphina the Mad
 - Companion of the Golden Dolphin, Spring Crown Tourney
- Noble Demetrios Argyros
 - Companion of the Sea Dragon, Highland River Melees



Populace Gathering Minutes

Date: April 24, 2022

Began: 5:05 PM

Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Adjourned: 5:49 PM

Notes: Lord Rónán mac Ímair/
Juliana le Webbe

Attendees: 10

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Seneschal – Lord Hákon brimill (David Hultman)

- Had another seneschal class going over exchequer controls
- We are DESPERATELY seeking someone to fill the exchequer roll. We need a candidate by the end of May.
 - By end of May so they can be trained in June.
- Working on shared document repository, perhaps similar to University
 - Like forms and documents, a google drive kind of thing
 - Facebook is not official, and we don't have control over it, so we need another place

Exchequer - Astrid (Katie Bischoff)

- \$9,923.70
- Q1 report is in
- Blood Bath went well
- Sofia the SCARS check has been received. It's in Hákon's hands to be given to Exchequer
- Some signatures left, but we are almost finished with the City Bank transfer

Knight Marshal – Lord Hákon brimill on behalf of Lord Jacques Gonse

- Heavy and Rapier practices are moving back outside in May
- The first Thursday in May will be outside at Pimmit Hills park, same as Sunday practice location. JG is checking on Rapier date.
- May move Rapier to Pimmit as well, for a few crossover practices
- (MT) Talks to make Sunday a melee practice, but just talks
 - Sir Arnoddr i Ongulseyju heading this up
-

Arts and Sciences - Lord Hákon brimill on behalf of Lady Mariana de Ruiz (Emily Shifflett)

- Block printing is next month!
- We're going to start with a couple of examples of block printing in the SCA and history, talk through some tips on block printing, and sources for blocks.
- At some point in June, we're going to do a block printing day in the park
- Picnic will be separate.
- Probably first picnic in May
- We are also requesting SCA admin related classes in the line of our wiki classes or Atlantia Enterprise Login (AEL) classes



Social Media Officer - Lord Hákon brimill on behalf of Lady Mariana de Ruiz

- n/a

Chatelaine - Lord Hákon brimill on behalf of Lady Delphina the Mad (Charlene Ratliff)

- Newcomers set up for the 27th
- About 5 newcomers showing up
- 3 full newcomers at Bloodbath
- 3 at fight practice (not the same)
- Archery has been seeing some newcomers

Herald - Lord Hákon brimill on behalf of Lady Johanna le Paumer (Sarah Stango)

- Heraldry continues

Chronicler - Lord Rónán mac Ímair (Ron Hanagan)

- Continues
- Lots of pictures from Blood Bath
- Sof'ia's report about autocratting
- Always looking for new content!
- Please submit! It would be welcome
- Especially A&S Content would be nice
- (Juliana) Please send us content. If you have a friend who has something that could be content, send them to me, or have them send content my way

Web Minister - Lord Rónán mac Ímair (Ron Hanagan)

- continues

Baron and Baroness - Their Excellencies Noyon Naran Numuchi & Baroness Marie-Therese Normand (Nicholas Freer & Mary Bowles)

- Noyon Naran Numuchi
 - Blood Bath happened, it went okay
 - (Ronan) Do we have the awards list?
 - (MT) Mary has a copy. I'll send it.
 - Progress: Crown Tournament, Highland River Melees, On Target, Ruby Joust, Storvik Novice and Unbelt Tournament
 - Maybe nothing in June I'm going to.
- Baroness Marie Therese Normand
 - Progress: Crown Tournament, Highland River Melees, Ruby Joust, Summer University, Kings Assessment, Storvik Novice and Unbelt Tournament, **Not Pennsic**, Pity Party Pennsic Picnic
 - Baronial units being responsible for the Youth Toy Boxes from now on.
 - I need ideas for kids.
 - Travel fundraiser for Pennsic
 - It's the one that Mary Grace is doing
 - (Hákon) I'll make sure the link to the website is posted
 - (Hákon) mine is all martial recovery themed



- (MT) You can also just donate to the travel fund, but baskets are fun.
- Sunday practice may be Melee practice until after Pennsic
- Arnoddr is looking for the local baronial warlords. He's the northern warlord
- Want to coordinate making of baronial Baldrics, tabards, helm veils/mask veils. May need some A&S coordination.
 - For a sense of unity
 - So people all match.
- Pennsic encampment
 - Cindy from Windmaster's Hills. Are we going to be a joint encampment with them and Black Diamond? As far as I know yes. Henrick & Seneschal contact information has been sent so that there can be coordination.
- (Hákon) Storvik doesn't normally have an encampment, Gracie has a full kitchen. If they're going to join, that's lovely. Should be a Cousin's conversation.
- (MT) I'll talk to her online, but I wanted to get it out in the universe, since Pennsic is different than in the past.
- (Hákon) There is water bottle information. Buy the bottle at crown.
- (MT) Will buy pallets of single bottles, and buy a dozen Atlantia bottles to send up to Pennsic
 - (MT) we can coordinate with Henrick about this closer to Pennsic.

EVENTS

- We are looking for the new bloodbath autocrat, we have information.
- This would be a good way to dip your toes in the water, it's good beginner's event (e.g., no feastocrat needed)
- (MT) do we have fall events?
- (Hákon) no because I don't have any autocrats
- (MT) Can we post for interest to Atlantian announcement list and the Ponte Altos?
- (Hákon) we can set up a social media post.

OLD BUSINESS

- n/a

NEW BUSINESS

- (Hákon) List fence in on loan to Stierbach for Crown
- (MT) I will be fighting in Crown, so if you would like to walk in with her, please have a sash or armband in Ponte Alto colors to show support for the Barony.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- n/a



Martial Activities

Martial Activities Update

Happy May Ponte Alto!

Spring marked a boom in participation for Ponte Alto martial activities, growing both practice size and participation in kingdom events.

Barony members participated in and advanced in both heavy fighting and rapier tournaments during the March-May months, received multiple martial awards including one sea dragon, a rapier excellence award, and one shark's tooth, a melee excellence award, and held Ponte Alto's own St. Paddy's Day Bloodbath on 9 April, 2022.

Moving into the late Spring and Summer months, the Barony will have wide participation in Ruby Joust on 28-29 May, the Pennsic War July 29 - 14 August, and much more.

If you're interested in Martial Activities in the Barony, don't hesitate to reach out to Jacques Gonse (JG), Barony Knight Marshal, at knightmarshal@pontalto.atlantia.sca.org.

YIS,

Lord Jacques Gonse





Autocrat at Work

By Lady Sofia Dolgorukaia of Ponte Alto (*Autocrat, Blood Bath 2022*)

St. Paddy's Day Blood Bath is a long standing Ponte Alto tradition. Begun as a fighter practice held in a backyard, it has morphed into an event that allows our Northern Atlantian fighters to shake off the malaise of winter and prepare for Pennsic.

For those who do not know, I was the co-autocrat for the Blood Bath in 2020, which was the first Atlantian event canceled due to the Plague. Having had the first event I autocrated canceled due to world circumstances, I was pleased to be able to autocrat this time from start to finish.

Autocrating is unlike any other role in the SCA. The autocrat is responsible for securing the site, recruiting the necessary support staff for the event, and giving that staff any assistance they need to ensure their portion of the event goes smoothly. An autocrat is only successful with a good staff and I have been lucky enough to have the best support throughout the planning of this event.

Two weeks before the event, we received the unexpected news that the newly crowned King of Atlantia would be attending Blood Bath as His first royal progress event. This requires additional coordination between His Majesty's staff and a member of the barony acting as Royal Liaison to ensure that all His Majesty's needs were met.

In total we had 84 attendees troll in for the event. We also garnered a lot of interest from those in the park.

The winners of the day's activities were:

- Heavy: Ragnar Blackhammer
- Rapier: Bumi Fong
- A&S, Scroll Blanks Competition: Demetrios Argyros

I would like to give a massive "thank you" to the people that made Blood Bath happen.

- **Knight's Marshal and Event MIC:** Jacques Gonse
- **Rapier MIC:** Cailin Blackwood
- **Heavy MIC:** Heinrich von Holstein
- I also want to thank all the Marshals who helped on the field.
- **MOL:** Kunigunde von Darmstadt, who was also assisted by Wilhelm and Sarra de Vicenza
- **A&S and Social Media:** Mariana Ruiz de Medina
- **Troll:** Astrid, Maria Chiara Datini, and Charlotte of Ponte Alto
- **Chatelain/Gold Key:** Delphina the Mad
- **Herald:** Maria Chiara Datini
- **Retainers for Their Excellencies:** Lizbet of Spinning Winds and Juliana le Webbe
- **Royal Liaison:** Hrefna blinda
- **Seneschal:** Hákon brimill
- **SCA-rs Deputy:** Briana Morgan of the Valley



I would like to thank Hákon brimill, Heinrich von Holstein, and Sir Arnoddr I Ongulsey for helping load the truck/trailer for the event. I would also like to thank everyone who stayed after to help take down and load the trailer for home including Hákon brimill, Maria Chiara Datini, Brian and Maura.

I have enjoyed my tenure as your Blood Bath autocrat this year and look forward to passing on the mantle to another worthy gentle.



Photo Credit: Lady Sofia Dolgorukaia of Ponte Alto

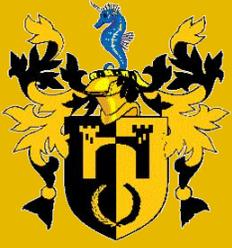


St. Paddy's Day Blood Bath

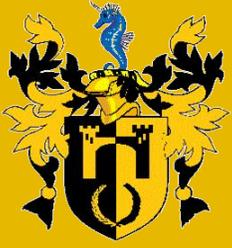
Lord Rónán mac Ímair blessed the barony by creating a photographic record of Ponte Alto's event, St. Paddy's Day Blood Bath. Here are some moments from that event, captured on Lord Ronan's camera. Enjoy! 😊





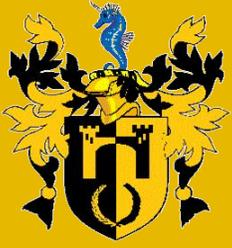


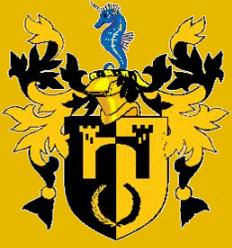






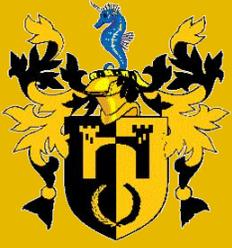


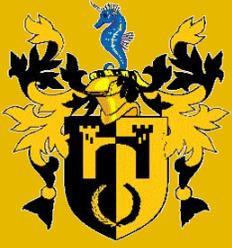


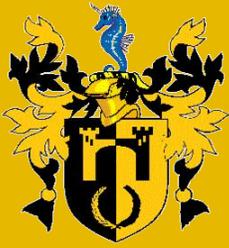






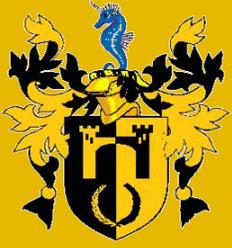














Many Games From 9 Dots

By Lady Lisbet of Spinning Winds



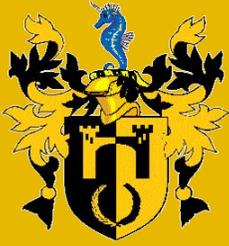
Figure 1. *Alquerque de Tres*, *Three-Men's Morris*, *Tapatan*, *Achi*, and *Nine Holes*. Game Boards and photo by author.

The game *Alquerque de Tres* is described in the famous 13th century *Book of Games* by Alfonso X and played on a board with nine dots and three markers per player. Since the illustrated players are smaller than the watchers, it may be a training game to help children or inexperienced players learn strategies used in the similar but larger *Alquerque*.

Identical boards identified as *Three-Men's Morris* are carved in Hadrian's Wall and may date from the 3rd or 4th century. *Tapatan* is the Philippine version. In Africa, *Achi* is played on this board with four markers per player. Add more diagonal lines and you have *Picaria* (featured last month). Rearrange the nine dots into a circle with a center dot and we can play *Rota* (an ancient Roman game with a speculative reconstruction published in the *Journal of Antiquities* more than a century ago).



Figure 2. *Mu Torere*, *Shisima*, and *Rota* boards of ash stained with tea and a vinegar/iron solution. Boards by author.



The African game Shisima (water-skater insects and a pond) and Maori game Mu Torere (stars) are also played on 9-dot circular boards. Remove or ignore all the lines for Nine Holes, which some claim is played by a group of Flemish children in the 1560 painting *Kinderspiele* (Children at Play) by Pieter Breughel the elder.

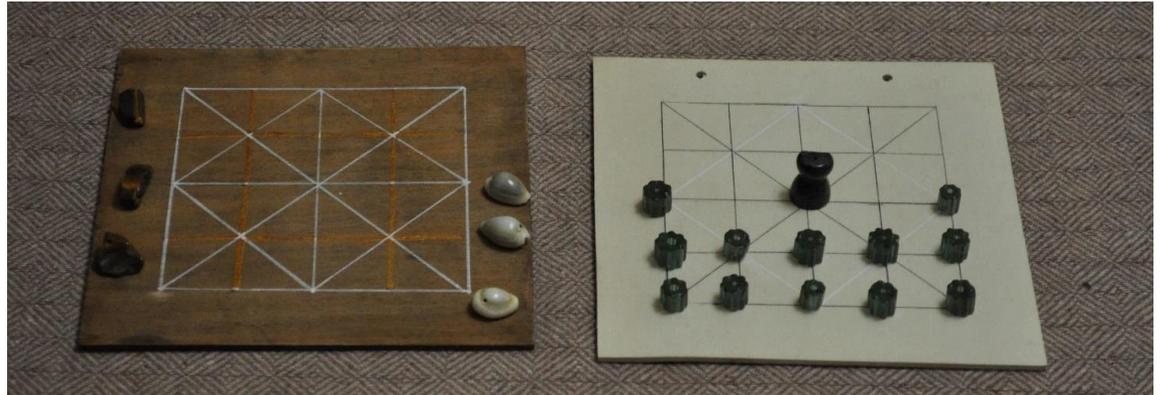


Figure 3. *Picaria* Game Board with stone and shell markers. Board and photo by author.

Unfortunately, sources in English give less than precise dates for the non-European games. Many internet sites have playable rules including:

- Damien Walker
 - <http://www.cynningstan.com/game/107/achi>,
 - <http://www.cynningstan.com/download/268/mu-torere-leaflet>
- the Elliot Avendon Museum of Games
 - <http://healthy.uwaterloo.ca/museum/VirtualExhibits/rowgames/tapat-an.html>
 - <http://healthy.uwaterloo.ca/museum/VirtualExhibits/rowgames/nine-holes.html>
 - <http://healthy.uwaterloo.ca/museum/VirtualExhibits/rowgames/shisima.html>
- Ancient Games
 - <https://www.ancientgames.org/rota/>
- Wikipedia
 - (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three_men%27s_morris
 - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achi_\(game\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achi_(game))

If you prefer print references, look for

- Bell, R. C. (1979). *Board and Table Games from Many Civilizations, revised edition*. New York: Dover Publications. [a combined and revised book encompassing Part 1 (1960) and Part 2 (1969)]
- Botermans, J. et al. *The World of Games*. New York: Facts on File, Inc., 1989
- Murray, H. J. R. (1952). *A History of Board-Games Other than Chess*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Merrill, Elmer Truesdell (March 1916). "An Old Roman Game". *The Classical Journal*. 11 (6): 365–366. [JSTOR 3287728](https://www.jstor.org/stable/3287728).



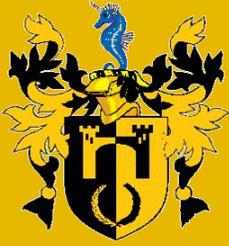
Art Spotlight: A Goldsmith in his Shop

Petrus Christus, Netherlandish, circa 1449



[From the Met's website:](#)

A celebrated masterpiece of Northern Renaissance Art, this painting was signed and dated 1449 by Petrus Christus, the leading painter in Bruges (Flanders) after the death of Jan van Eyck. The panel attests to Netherlandish artists' keen interest in pictorial illusionism and meticulous attention to detail, especially in the luminous jeweled, glass, and metallic objects, secular and ecclesiastic trade wares that are examples of the goldsmith's virtuosity. The main figure in this enigmatic painting was long identified as Saint Eligius (the patron saint



of goldsmiths) due to the presence of a halo, which was recognized as a later addition and subsequently removed. The panel is likely a vocational painting, which portrays the profession of goldsmithing and perhaps a specific goldsmith. Technical analysis reveals the underdrawing of the goldsmith's face to be very carefully modeled—more so than the faces of the couple—indicating the possibility of a portrait. It has been suggested that he is Willem van Vleuten, a Bruges goldsmith who worked for Philip the Good, duke of Burgundy. In 1449, the date of this painting, the duke commissioned from van Vlueten a gift for Mary of Guelders on the occasion of her marriage to James II, King of Scots. That couple may well be depicted in this painting, portrayed buying a wedding ring that is being weighed on a scale. The girdle that extends over the ledge of the shop into the viewer's space is a further allusion to matrimony. The convex mirror, which links the pictorial space to the street outside, reflects two young men with a falcon (a symbol of pride and greed) and establishes a moral comparison between the imperfect world of the viewer and the world of virtue and balance depicted here.

To Find out more, visit The Met website [here](#).

Looking for a way to get involved? Why not try retaining!

What is retaining?

Their Excellencies need help with taking notes (e.g. for gifts or to-do stuff), staying hydrated, reminders to stay on schedule, fetching things, and otherwise keeping Their Excellencies comfortable and out of trouble (especially the Mongol one)!

Who can retain?

Anyone can retain! If you've got free time at an event, Their Excellencies will be very appreciative of your assistance. Plus, it's a great way to learn more about what it means to be part of the pageantry of the SCA!

How can I volunteer?

If you are interested in volunteering, or even just finding out more, reach out to our head retainer!

[*headretainer@ponteaalto.atlantia.sca.org*](mailto:headretainer@ponteaalto.atlantia.sca.org)



Weekly/Monthly Events

<i>SUNDAY</i>	
Outdoor Heavy Weapons	Weather permitting, 12:00 noon until dark, outdoors at Tysons-Pimmit Park, behind Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Contact the Baronial Knight Marshal for information (see Regnum). (cancellations posted on the Ponte Alto e-list) Directions: Take your best route to I-495. Get off at the exit for Route 7 East (Falls Church). Go about 1 mile; the library is on the left. Park in the library lot and walk down the hill to the park.
<i>MONDAY</i>	
Stierbach/Ponte Alto Archery Practice	Practice is held at Grimmsfield. 16132 Crusade Ct. Haymarket, VA 20169. 5:00pm until dusk. If you need loaner gear, or would like more information, please contact the Archery Marshal, Lord Rónán mac Ímair.
<i>THURSDAY</i>	
Heavy Weapons Practice	Summer, outdoors at Tysons-Pimmit Park, (see Outdoor Heavy Weapons and Rapier Practice above). Winter, Lemon Road Elementary School cafeteria (7230 Idylwood Road, Falls Church), weather and school events permitting (cancellations posted on the Ponte Alto e-list)
Rapier Practice	Summer, outdoors at Tysons-Pimmit Park, (see Outdoor Heavy Weapons and Rapier Practice above) Winter, Shrevevood Elementary school cafeteria (7525 Shreve Rd, Falls Church), 6:30pm-9pm (cancellations posted on the Ponte Alto e-list)
<i>FRIDAY</i>	
Stierbach/Ponte Alto Winter Archery Practice	ON HOLD
<i>MONTHLY</i>	
SCA Newcomer Meetings	Newcomer Meetings are held the <u>4th Tuesday</u> of the month at 7:30 p.m. via either Zoom or Google Meets. Contact the Baronial Chatelaine for information (chatelaine@pontalto.atlantia.sca.org) or check out the Events/ Activities page on the website for the most recent information.
Ponte Alto Baronial Populace Gathering	Populace Gathering (and Business) Meeting, usually the <u>4th Sunday</u> of the month at 5:00 p.m. virtually on Zoom. The Zoom link is posted on the Ponte Alto calendar. Everyone is welcome to attend.
A&S Projects Night	<u>1st & 3rd Tuesday</u> , via Zoom or at private residences. Address will be posted on a private site (Facebook A&S Event) to preserve the privacy of the host. If you'd like to host or don't have a Facebook account and need the address, please contact Lady Mariana de Ruiz (mka Emily Shifflett) moas@pontalto.atlantia.sca.org .

*Note on school locations for activities: There will be no activities at schools during school holidays or on other days when Fairfax County schools are closed or all nighttime school recreational activities are canceled. Notification of cancellation or alternate site location will be posted on the web as soon as possible. You can visit the Fairfax County Public Schools Emergency Announcement page for school closure status: <http://fcps.edu/news/emerg.htm>

* A reminder to those to attend marshal activities and practice at Fairfax County Public Schools: NO FORM of real weapons, even Swiss Army knives, box cutters, etc. are to be brought onto school property.*



Upcoming Events in Atlantia

Date	Event
5/27 - 5/30	Ruby Joust : Ashland VA (Caer Mear) (Q K)
6/2 - 6/4	BAWT II : Myrtle Beach SC (Moorhaven) (Q K)
6/11 - 6/12	Summer University 2022 : Lynchburg VA (Seven Hills)
6/17 - 6/19	Below the Salt - Elchenburg Market Faire : Boonville NC (Sacred Stone)
6/25 - 6/26	Kings Assessment : Roanoke VA (Black Diamond)
7/8 - 7/10	Storvik Novice and Unbelt Tournament : Upper Marlboro MD (Storvik) (Q K)
7/16	Warrior's Games : Harleyville SC (Tear-Sea's Shore)
7/29 - 8/14	Pennsic War II : (Aethelmearc) (Q K)
8/26 - 8/28	Sacred Stone Baronial Birthday 40 Year : Ellerbe NC (Sacred Stone)
8/27	Non-European Persona Workshop : Spartanburg, SC (Nottinghamhill Coill)
8/27	Skewered! 3 : Gaithersburg MD (Roxbury Mill)
9/9 - 9/11	Trial by Fire and Royal Archery : Glen Arm MD (Bright Hills)
9/17	Atlantian University TBD (In-Person) : (Atlantia)
9/23 - 9/25	Battle on the Bay : Upper Marlboro MD (Lochmere) (Q K)
9/24	Tourney of Silver Chalice : Harleyville SC (Hidden Mountain)
10/1	Fall Coronation (TBD) : (Atlantia) (Q K)
10/8	Stierbach XXIV Baronial Birthday Celebration : Charging of the Crimson Bull : Spotsylvania VA (Stierbach)
10/11 - 10/16	War of the Wings : Boonville NC (Atlantia)
10/29	Arts & Sciences Workshop : Spartanburg, SC (Nottinghamhill Coill)

*Note that these dates and links are subject to change. For a full and updated list, please visit the Atlantia Kingdom Calendar at <https://atlantia.sca.org/calendar/>.



Baronial Progress

Date	Event	Progress
5/27 - 5/30	Ruby Joust	Naran
6/25 - 6/26	Kings Assessment	MT
7/8 - 7/10	Storvik Novice and Unbelt Tournament	Naran & MT
7/29 - 8/14	Pennsic War II	Naran
8/27	Skewered	Naran
9/9 - 9/11	Trial by Fire and Royal Archery	Naran
9/17	Fall University	Naran & MT
9/23 - 9/25	Battle on the Bay	Naran & MT
10/1	Fall Coronation	Naran & MT

Do you have an A&S project you'd like to share with your fellow Pontoons?
We'd love to publish it! Contact our [Minister of A&S](#), Lady Mariana Ruiz de Medina!

We really could use your help!

There are several positions in our Barony that could use a Deputy; actually, all of the positions that we have could benefit by having at least one deputy.

Why a Deputy? Well, it is easy for any one of us to intend to do something if we don't consider that the SCA is what we do with our time after we are finished doing what we do to pay the bills.

With deputies, the workload can be shared, allowing more work to be accomplished with less time and stress for any one individual.

Besides, it is a great way to work with others to do something different to help make yours, and others', SCA experience that much better!



Ponte Alto Notables



Archery Champion: Sof'ia Dolgorukaia
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A&S Champion: Briana Morgan of the Valley
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Bardic Champion: Celia of Rosedale
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Brewing Champion: Heinrich von Holstein
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Heavy Champion: Hákon brimill
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Rapier Champion: Colette Vitalis
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Thrown Weapons Champion: Rónán mac Ímair
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Looking for Largesse

We are in need of largess for the upcoming year! Please contact Her Excellency about your donations. 😊



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