



# Aurora Borealis

*Lighting up the Northern Shores Region*

Second Quarter 2006

Volume 1 Issue 2

## NSR Members Shine at Northern Lights

Several residents of the Northern Shores Region made the long journey south to the Northern Lights Pentathlon Competition XV. We would like to commend all those who made the effort to attend, and congratulate those who were recognized for their Arts & Sciences skills:

- **Lady Chiara da Montepulciano** won first place in both Written Poetry and Musical Composition;
- **Lady Janet Kempe** won first place in the Counted Embroidery Category as well as placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the overall Pentathlon;
- **Lady Magdalena Van der Haa** won the general Judges choice award and won medals in the Costuming 1300-1500 category, Non-Counted Embroidery, Household Goods and the Miscellaneous Category.

*Well done to all!*

## Upcoming Events in the Northern Shores

April 1  
**April Fools' Ball**  
Barony of Ruantallan

April 15  
**Athena's Thimble Collegium**  
Barony of Ruantallan

May 6  
**East Kingdom Spring Crown Tournament**  
Barony of L'île du Dragon Dormant

May 13  
**May Day**  
Barony of Ruantallan

May 19-21  
**Northern Shores Regional War Camp**  
Shire of Lyndhaven

**Special Event (out of NSR)**  
July 14-16  
**GENEW XX**  
**Seashire-Malagentia War**  
Province of Malagentia  
Hebron Maine

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Northern Lights Report	1
Upcoming Events	1
From the Proto-Curia Chair	2
Population Report	2
Period Bananas	3
Projects/Challenges	3
Heraldry Submissions	3
Court Reports	4
Fr. Boreal Army Command	4
Ludum Dare Boreis	5
The War Effort	5
NSR Officers	5
Archery News	6
Curia Positions Available	6
A Knight for the North	7

### DISCLAIMER:

This is the *Aurora Borealis*, a publication of the Northern Shores Region of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). *Aurora Borealis* is available online at [northernshores.ca](http://northernshores.ca). It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate SCA Inc. policies.

Copyright 2005 Society for Creative Anachronism Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles or artwork from this publication, please contact Lady Zaneta Gavlinne Angiolieri who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.

## From the Proto-Curia Chair

*H.E. Mistress Gwenhwyfar dinas Emrys*

There has been much talk lately on the direction of the Principality and how we should tackle the creation of it. Much talk on the Northern Principality list has pointed to where some of our greatest hurdles lie. Above all, we must start working together as a region! Whether it's supporting each other in our events with our attendance, teaching in a different area to further the knowledge of the populace, organizing travel within our region, running demos and lending support to new groups and new people, or supporting the people within our region, we need to step up to the plate. Let's put our differences aside and support Barony, Shire, Fort and Canton wherever and whenever we can.

Only when we work towards the goal of a united region will we accomplish the level of Principality. And if we are not recognized as a Principality by our Kingdom because we have not yet met a certain level of requirement, at least we can take pride in ourselves and our region, and know that we **are** working together and we **are** moving forward.

There has also been recently suggested a move toward Crown Principality. The Proto-Curia will research this option and discuss their findings at the upcoming Lyndhaven War Camp. We would like to encourage everyone interested in the Principality movement, particularly area representatives, to attend.

The following events are in need of an autocrat/event bid:

**Northern Shores Archery Championships** (last held 3 years ago)

**Northern Shores Rapier Championships** (last held at Lyndhaven War Camp – May 2005)

**Northern Shores Rattan Championship** (traditionally held in September)

**Northern Shores Arts & Sciences Championship** (traditionally held in November)

\*If you are interested in running an event to house any of these championships, please contact the current champion to see if they are interested in helping with the endeavor.

If there are any other groups considering a bid for a Kingdom level event, please let us know so that we, as the Northern Shores Region, can work together to avoid potential event conflicts.

---

## Population Report

*Information provided by Master Ætheric Lindberende*

The newest count for the population of our region is 273, down from our last count of 287. We need to encourage even more people to start playing our game. Bring friends, network, and help to keep our newcomers interested.

The current breakdown by area is as follows:

Newfoundland – 4	Province of Quebec – 139 (total)
Nova Scotia – 97	PQ Postal Codes (G) – 49
Prince Edward Island – 6	PQ Postal Codes (H) – 33
New Brunswick – 27	PQ Postal Codes (J) – 57

At one point there was discussion about starting a committee to put together a demo package, including information on where to hold them, how to organize them, and how to get people involved. However, to date there is no news of their progress. Therefore, if there is anyone interested in helping with this project, please contact Proto-Curia Chair, H.E. Mistress Gwenhwyfar dinas Emrys at [gwen@moonsandstars.com](mailto:gwen@moonsandstars.com).

# Banana Baffles British Boffins

By Oliver Green

A 500-year-old banana skin has been discovered in London, which predates the earliest recorded arrival of a banana in Britain by 150 years. Archaeologists are stunned by the rogue fruit, which has shattered the conventional wisdom of British banana eaters.

Archaeologists first thought the find was a practical joke perpetrated by devious anarchists who want to vilify Thomas Johnson, a 16th century herbalist who falsely claimed to have imported the first bananas into Britain. Johnson, obviously a self-aggrandizing maniac, hung his hand in the window of his shop in Snow Hill where it became an object of curiosity in 1633. Whoever ate the banana whose skin was excavated last week from a stinky pit in the lower Thames must have been livid at upstart Johnson -- or dead and unable to raise a complaint.

The banana skin was rashly tossed into a fish-rearing tank near Southwark, on the south bank, after its contents were eaten sometime around the year 1500 in the Tudor period. Dave Saxby, chief archaeologist from the Museum of London, and the supervisor of the dig, lamented that the site is "a big smelly hole in the ground." The fish-rearing tanks were abandoned as the Thames became saturated with raw sewage, soil and rubbish. The skin, blackening but miraculously not decomposing, would have been protected by the detritus from the savage inferno of the 1666 Great Fire of London and the various calamities London has suffered since. The banana skin would have covered under rotting sludge during Nazi bombing, and lain dormant while freakish Spaniards led an invasion fleet upriver.

Whoever ate the yellow fruit would have been a brave soul: in Tudor England, fresh fruit was thought to cause ghastly and agonizing diseases, and was therefore treated with great wariness and suspicion. Pickled, cooked, and dried fruits were acceptable, and archaeologists are looking into whether the earliest banana in Britain was perhaps pickled. The banana's ancestry is unknown, but it dates from when Spain and Portugal were chummy with Britain and probably comes from one of their West African colonies. Today the banana skin is black, shriveled, and bears very little resemblance to any contemporary bananas. May the revised history of Britain's banana imports benefit mankind and advance civilization.

## **Editors Note:**

*This article was originally published on June 30, 1999 and was recently posted in an issue of SCAToday.net. For more information, the original article and information on its' author can be found at:*  
[http://www.pigdog.org/auto/crazy\\_but\\_true/shortfeature/494.html](http://www.pigdog.org/auto/crazy_but_true/shortfeature/494.html)

## Projects/Challenges

Mistress Gwenhwyfar dinas Emrys would like to issue a challenge to each Barony and Shire in our Region. Mistress Gwenhwyfar will create a silk banner or pennant for the Barony/Shire who donates the most favours for the Boreal Army. The silk banner (1m x 2m) or Pennant (3m x 55cm) will display the winning Baronial or Shire device. But it doesn't have to stop there! As a further challenge, Mistress Gwenhwyfar encourages other artisans to issue challenges within their area to further this project and help support the Boreal Army as it heads off to war!

For more information on the construction of Boreal Army favours, visit the Boreal Army website at:  
<http://borealarmy.sccspirit.com/contactus.htm#favours>

## Principality Herald Submissions

The deadline for submissions for both name and heraldry has been extended to August 2006. Submissions can be sent to:

**Badger Herald**  
**Mestress Lyanna of Kernough**  
Elizabeth Crux  
33 Spikenard Street  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia  
B2W 3B4  
badger@eastkingdom.org

Or submit your name suggestions online at northernshores.ca

## Court Reports

The following members of the Northern Shores Region are recipients of these awards and/or honours.

### Event: King and Queen's Bardic Championships – Barony of An Dubhaigeainn

**SCA Name**

Lady Chiara da Montepulciano

**Award/Business**

King's Bardic Champion

### Event: Baronial Investiture Anniversary – Barony of L'île du Dragon Dormant

**SCA Name**

Lord T. Tarius Britannicus

**Award/Business**

Dragon Dormant Rapier Champion

### Event: Northern Lights Pentathlon – Shire of Panther Vale

**SCA Name**

Lady Janet Kempe  
Lady Janet Kempe  
Lady Chiara da Montepulciano  
Lady Chiara de Montepulciano  
Lady Magdalena Van der Haa  
Lady Magdalena Van der Haa

**Award/Business**

1<sup>st</sup> place in Counted Embroidery  
3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Pentathlon  
1<sup>st</sup> place in Written Poetry  
1<sup>st</sup> place in Musical Composition  
1<sup>st</sup> place in Miscellaneous  
Judges Choice Award

## From the Boreal Army Commander

*Sir Gareth Grey de Wilton*

April showers bring May flowers, and with it the clash of weapons! Never have I been so excited for the start of the war season. People from all over the region, fighter or not, are coming together and getting revved up, and I hope you're one of them. We will need the support of all our populous whether on the various fields, making Boreal Army favours, making banners and pennants, and more, your support is needed.

So far practices have been taking place from one end of the region to the other, and I encourage you all to keep it up and especially to foster the growth of new fighters by taking the time to teach them and help them build their first set of armour. I myself remember how intimidating it was to make my first suit of armour, so please lend them a hand.

Several events have been designated as Unbelted Practices for the Northern Shores Region. I hearten all heavy fighters, whether you are planning on traveling to Pennsic or not, to make the effort to attend these events.

### Unbelted Team 2006 Training Calendar

Apr 15 – 12e Croisade, Rimouski, QC\*  
Apr 29-30 – Fighting Demo, Trois-Rivières, QC\*  
May 19-21 – NSR War Camp, Woodstock, NB\*\*  
May 26-29 – War of the Roses, Albany, NY\*\*  
Jun 9-11 – Baltanes, Quebec, QC\*\*

Jul 16-18 – Vinland Raids, Yarmouthport, MA\*  
Jul 30-Aug 1 – EK War Camp, Warrenburg, NY\*\*  
Jul 14-16 – GNEW, Hebron, ME\*\*  
Aug 4-20 – Pennsic War Unbelted Championship

### Legend

\* attend if possible

\*\* make every possible sacrifice to attend

## Ludum Dare Boreis

*Lord Domenego Paladin Triestino, Scripteur (Administrateur LDB)  
Lord T. Tarius Britannicus, Membre Fondateur*

To all rapier fighters and interested parties:  
If you've been around l'Île du Dragon Dormant in the last few months you might have noticed a great number of fencers wearing blue arm bands with white compass stars. Let me explain what we're building, and encourage you to join in. A number of fencers in the Northern Shores have been working on the creation of an organization for the support of rapier in the Northern Shores region. This group, the Ludum Dare Boreis (Latin for 'Northern Training Ground'), was set up to give us a system with a Regional level focus where recognition is based on activity and effort, not on skill. Membership in the league is voluntary, does not preclude membership in other fencing organizations, and each member is free to choose his or her own level of involvement within this group. If you are interested in following the happenings of this organization, or would like to join in, feel free to subscribe to our mailing list by following this link:

<http://lists.wolfstar.ca/mailman/listinfo.cgi/sca.ldb>

And to learn more, please let me refer you to the following website, or contact me at [scriptor@thehillfort.com](mailto:scriptor@thehillfort.com):  
<http://www.thehillfort.com/nsrleague/en/index.php>.

At the above you will find a copy of our Charter, an FAQ and further resources.

## The War Effort

The first war practice of the year, held in Le Dragonnet, was well attended by members of Le Dragonnet, Le Baronie Isle du Dragon Dormant, and three fighters from the Kingdom of Ealdomere. There were many authorizations, melee work, one on one combat, and they even had room and time for Rapier Rounds.

A group of dedicated fighters then headed off to the Winter War Practice in Potsdam, New York. In attendance with our Boreal Army fighters were a strong crew from Ealdomere as well, and we certainly showed them we were a force to be reckoned with!

### Contribute to the NSR *Aurora Borealis*:

The next edition of the Northern Shores Regional Newsletter, the *Aurora Borealis* is due to be available online by July 1, 2006.

All contributions for the next issue must be received no later than June 1, 2006. No submissions after that date will be accepted for the July issue.

Contributions should be sent to:

**Mistress Gwenhwyfar Dinas Emrys**  
[gwen@moonsandstars.com](mailto:gwen@moonsandstars.com).

### Officers of the NSR:

#### Seneschal

*Master Aetheric Lindberende*

#### Exchequer

*Mistress Freya Manslayer Karlsdottir*

#### Earl Marshal

*Baron Conrad Connor MacAllyn*

#### Badger Herald

*Mestress Lyanna Kernough*

#### Chatelaine

*Position currently vacant*

#### A&S Minister

*Lady Joane Steward*

#### Minister of Lists

*Signore Cosmano Piero Michelotto de Roma*

#### Accessibility Porter

*Lord Dugald the Sheepstealer*

#### Chirurgion

*Position currently vacant*

#### Minister of Children

*Gebiedster Mergriet van Wijenhorst*

#### Youth Marshall

*Honorable Lordship Yesungge Altan*

#### Waiver Secretary

*Mistress Elizabeth "Bess" Darnley*

#### Web Minister

*Lady Zaneta "Gavlinne" Angiolieri*

#### Deputy Commander of Seige Forces

*Signora Aurelia da Calabria*

#### Deputy Commander of Archery

*Lady Elise ferch Morgan ap Owen*

#### Deputy Commander of Thrown Weapons

*Lord Ludwig von Eisburg*

#### Deputy Commander of Horse

*Lord Cailean mac Eachduinn*

#### Deputy Commander of Fence

*Lord T. Tarius Britannicus and Lord Rufus Fletcher*

#### Newsletter Design and Production

*Lady Zaneta Gavlinne Angiolieri*

#### Newsletter Translation Team:

*Mistress Alisay de Falaise  
Baron Godfroy de Falaise  
Lord Lorenzo Della Rocca  
Lady Alix de Minerve  
Lord Matsudaira Yoshi  
Lady Marion d'Arpheuilles*

## From the desk of the NSR Archery Commander

*Lady Elise ferch Morgan ap Owen*

Lord Aethelwulf Stealcere has placed me in charge of archery at Lyndhaven's Spring Schola. The Spring Schola is less than two months away, and GNE is just around the corner. Time to get ready!

All archery marshals attending the Spring Schola are requested to volunteer for shifts on the archery range. Gentles training to be marshals are also requested to help out and learn the ropes. Volunteers (manual labour) and some marshals are required to also help set up a safe range on Friday. Please contact me directly so that I may schedule the archery range and so that we can post a schedule before the event. If you know in advance how much time, or when you can run the lines, let me know asap. I would like to fill the sign up list as much as possible in advance. There will also be a shift sign up list at the front gate Friday. Let's all strive for a two hour shift on the archery range between Friday afternoon and Monday morning. We have approximately 12-14 hours of range time to staff, depending on weather. Warranted archery marshals may begin equipment inspections Friday afternoon to help speed up the lines. Please let me know if you are good with instructing children and beginners. Time is set aside for these folks, so the focus is on them. They get our full attention and later we can focus on advanced skills ourselves.

Anytime we do not have sufficient marshals to run lines, the archery range will be closed.

Here are some of my ideas for what we can run for archery. It's all up to us to work together, so if you also have some ideas, please contribute. Feel free to bring extra targets for RR or Novelty shoots.

Archery practice based on war points for GNE (unknown at this time), including clout, advancing barbarians, slot shoot, unknown distance, speed shoots, small targets, etc.)

Royal Rounds

Novelty Shoots

Children's Instruction Time

Novice Archery Instruction

Intermediate/Advanced Instruction

Archery marshal training – for existing marshals and people who wish to be marshals. If you want to be an archery marshal, you need time on the range under the supervision of a warranted marshal. This is a perfect event for it. Contact myself or your local Lt. General-At-Large in your area for details.

Many of us do many things at the Spring Schola, but if we all work together, there will be a lot of work spread out over many people. Many archers are also artisans, fencers, and fighters, who will be busy at the war camp. I understand completely, as I am also a person who will be undergoing intensive melee drill training with the other fighters. Please contact me directly at [Corinne.lewandowski@gmail.com](mailto:Corinne.lewandowski@gmail.com) if you have questions or would like to volunteer. Let's all show the Malagentians what our Northern archers can do!

Up Your Average!

### **Northern Shores Curia and Principality Proto-Curia Positions Available**

The following positions are currently vacant within the Northern Shores Region:

- Chatelaine
- Chiurgeon

If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact the corresponding East Kingdom officer for more information.

In addition, the following groups have not appointed a representative for the Principality Proto Curia:

- Shire of Ar n-Eilean-ne
- Canton of Rives d'Estnordia
- Shire of Les Sylves Constellees
- Canton of Wolfsgate
- Canton of Ynys y Gwaed

# A Knight for the North

*Baron Conrad Connor MacAllyn, on the Knighting Ceremony of Sir Gareth Grey de Wilton*

A Market Day at Birka (pronounced beer-ka, with a Scottish roll of the "r") is a fantastic event for those who love to go shopping. I must admit that I was extremely tempted to sell my soul for some of the items they had for sale there, but I kept it down to a new bow sock and archery glove for Esyllt and a new coronet for myself.

The real reason for me to be there however, was to bear witness to an event that is rare to us who reside in the Northern Shores Region: the making of a Knight.

After several hours perusing the many wares being hawked by the many merchants at the event, as well as registering and preparing for the ox-hide tournament, the moment had finally arrived.

Court was called in the middle of the list field (which is really a ball room at a hotel). The crowd consisted of a mix of fighters in armour and other spectators in their finest garb, and all were assembled to witness the event. After several awards were handed out the fateful moment had come. My best friend and sword brother, Gareth Grey de Wilton was called before Their Majesties. The sad thing was, he didn't hear the call, as his back was turned to the crowd and he was speaking with his man-at-arms Giovanni while in full gear with his helmet on. After walking over to him and grabbing his attention, he removed his helmet, sword, and shield, and proceeded through the assembly to kneel before Darius and Roxanne, King and Queen of the East.

Clutching each others hands, His Majesty said to Gareth: "It's okay. It's time." The herald called in the Order of the Chivalry, and Gareth embraced his Majesty and wept. As he was being lead away by the Chivalry he saw some people he did not know were going to be there, his brother-in-law Lord Derfel Mallory, his sister Lady Mellisande du Rocher, and the last person he'd expect to see at Birka, his own father Lord Liam McHaley, whom had only just arrived and did not have a chance yet to don the proper attire for the occasion.

Gareth was brought to his Vigil room where the ritual bath, symbolizing the cleansing of all his past transgressions, was given, and he was then attired in a white tunic to receive his congratulations from friends, and council from the other members of the Order he was about to become part of.

I had the chance to see him close to the end of his vigil, about 3 hours after he was led away from the field. His room was decorated and adorned with icons and artifacts appropriate for his Crusader persona. His belt, chain, and spurs were on display, and a table filled with

sumptuous treats and drink was prepared to one side of the room. We had a wonderful chat, and then I was off to do my own preparation for court.

The ceremony was wonderful. His household led him into court with crusader banners and song. As Gareth knelt before Their Majesties he was asked the question: "Will you accept the accolade of the Order of the Chivalry?", to which he responded "Yes."

"Will you take the belt, chain, and spurs of a Knight, or the baldric and spurs of a master?" asked the King.

"I have chosen the belt, chain, and spurs of a Knight," responded Gareth.

With that, the spurs were brought forward. Jarl Thorson then spoke: "These spurs are to signify the equestrian class which all Chivalry represent. They were crafted by Gareth's father, and in his words, he said that he made these not for a knight, but for HIS SON." The spurs were then strapped to Gareth's boots.

Then the belt was presented, which was passed down through many generations of knights. Worn previously by Sir Ishido, preceded by Jarl Thorson, preceded by Sir Stephen, preceded by others, the belt has a lot of history. Mistress Gwenhwyfar dinas Emrys, Gareth's adoring wife, wrapped the belt around his waist.

The fealty chain came last, which Gareth swore fealty on and then was placed about his neck by Their Majesties.

Then came the moment... the Knights and Masters assembled behind Gareth, poised to catch him. "Let this be the last blow to go unanswered", and \*slap\*, a one second pause, then His Majesty shook his head and said "Nah." \*SLAP!!!\* Satisfied, Sir Gareth was then to be greeted by the Members of the Order.

After the ceremony was over I embraced my friend, congratulating him one more time, then we parted ways as I headed off for the land of the midnight sun.

For Sir Gareth Grey de Wilton, our region's newest member of the Order of the Chivalry, Vivat! Vivat! Vivat!

## **Please note:**

Newsletter editors reserve the right to edit content as required for space and content. We will do our best to present your contributions in full, however, some edits may be required to accommodate for limited space.