



Aurora Borealis

Lighting up the Northern Shores Region

Second Quarter 2010

Volume 5 Issue 2

Aurora Borealis Newsletter

Mistress Gwenhwyfar Dinas Emrys

Currently the newsletter is looking for a French Editor to co-ordinate the translation staff for the Aurora Borealis. For the next newsletter, we expect a re-formatting of the paper to reflect our new name and heraldry. We are accepting submissions for a new name for the newsletter (although we may stay with the name Aurora Borealis too!) Submissions for names can be sent to me at Gwen@moonsandstars.com

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Upcoming Events in the Northern Shores

May 1

Hocktide

Canton of Distant Shore
Stellarton, NS

May 8-9

Spring Crown Tourney

Barony of L'île Dragon Dormant
Ste. Hermenegilde, QC

May 21-23

Middleground

Shire of Lyndhaven
Jaacksonville, NB

June 18-20

Baltanes

Barony of Havres des Glaces
L'île D'Orleans, QC

Event dates to make note of:

July 9-11

GNEW

Province of Malagentia
Hebron, ME

July 31 – Aug 15

Pennsic

Coopers Campground
Slippery rock, PA

DISCLAIMER:

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War Season

Mistress Gwenhwyfar Dinas Emrys, OP

War Season is quickly approaching and now is the time to make sure you are ready for an upcoming summer of fun and war! War season goes hand in hand with camping season, and we should all be going through our gear to make sure we are ready for whatever comes our way.

Fighters, Fencers, Archers – Some light reading material while watching the last of the snow melt from your abodes, now would be a perfect time to re-read rules and regulations on your disciplines. Rules are updated on a regular basis and posted to the east kingdom war pages. The links can be found at <http://eastkingdom.org/law-policies.html>. It's also a good time to check your personal fighting gear. Make sure the armor is up to spec, no lose bits and pieces, rips or tears, broken shafts, etc. There is nothing worse than anticipating a good weekend or sparring, only to find you have armor failure.

From those out on the field to those of us watching you from the sidelines – we don't know who you are if you don't wear some sort of identification!! A tabard, baldric, your device on your shield, makes it easier for those who are watching to know WHO we are watching! If you don't have personal arms, don't fret; wear your barony, shire, or, dare I say, **your Crown Principality Arms!!** Yes, have a go at the new arms, or a portion of the arms on your gear! Show that you are proud to be in the crown principality of Tir Mara! Can't decide? A favor on your belt will do nicely as well.

War Banners! War banners are a great way to show your affiliation for a group. There are workshops ongoing, and advice online to help you with the creation of a war banner. Also, War banners flown high on the battlefield prove to be a great rallying point for those in the fight!

Now, after all that fighting, a fighter may need some personal care. Make sure that the first aid kits are equipped with the appropriate bandages, and creams, and ice packs, check expiration dates, and make sure you replace items that are past date. Good things to always include in the pack are band aids, bug spray, sunblock, aloe (for those who forget the sunblock) aspirin, prescription meds, ice packs (either the instant kind, or the kind you put ice in) and a pair of scissors (the kind that will cut heavy canvas or leather straps - just in case.)

Lastly, go through the camping equipment. Check the poles are all intact for tents, ground cloths don't have holes, tents don't have holes, sleeping bags don't have holes, camping tools aren't broken, chairs aren't broken, coolers still function. Make sure the propane tanks are full and not damaged in any way as well. If you have a nylon tent, check the seams; there is a spray you can by to seal the seams, it might get you another years use out of that old tent!

Above all, have fun. This is an escape from real life, enjoy it!

Officers of the NSR:

Seneschal

Master Aetheric Lindberende

Exchequer

Mistress Freya Manslayer Karlsdottir

Earl Marshal

H.E. Master Conrad Connor MacAllyn

Badger Herald

Mestress Lyanna Kernough

A&S Minister

Mistress Elizabeth "Bess" Darnley

Minister of Lists

Signore Cosmano Piero Michelotto de Roma

Chatelaine

Matsudaira Hoshi-san

Accessibility Porter

Lady Skya na Ruady

Youth Marshal

Baron Hensojin

Waiver Secretary

Mistress Elizabeth "Bess" Darnley

Web Minister

Lord T. Tarius Britannicus

Deputy Commander of Siege Forces

Lord Guthfrith Yrlingson

Deputy Commander of Archery

Mistress Elise ferch Morgan ap Owen

Deputy Commander of Combat Archery

Lord Aethelwulf Stealcere

Deputy Commander of Thrown Weapons

Master Ludwig von Eisburg

Deputy Commander of Fence

Lord T. Tarius Britannicus

Deputy Eku Chancellor

Lady Zelina Silverfox

Newsletter Content Co-ordinator and Production

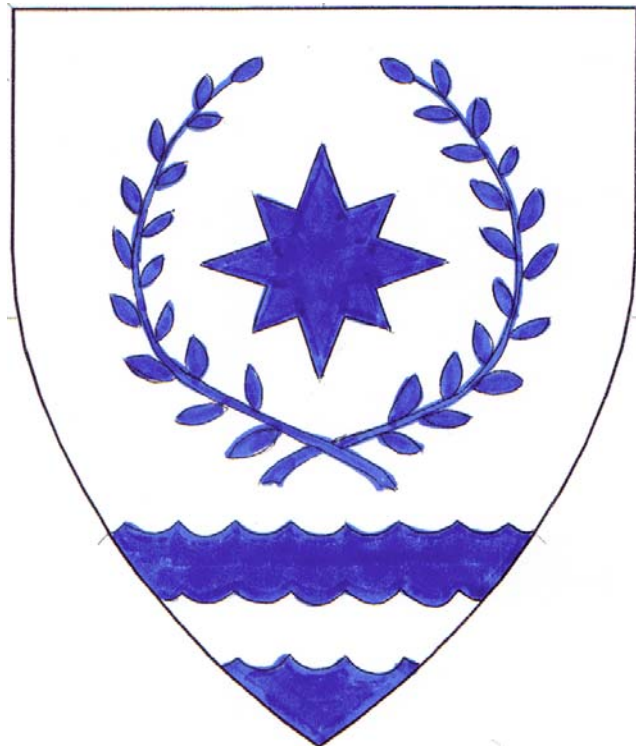
H.E. Mistress Gwenhwyfar Dinas Emrys

Newsletter Design

H.E. Mistress Zaneta Gavlinne Angiolieri

Correction

The Tir Mara heraldry as posted in the last newsletter was incorrect. The correct heraldry is here, as submitted. You can follow its progress at this site: <http://ech.eastkingdom.org/loi.html> and look for the 2010-02 entries.



Membership in the NSR

Currently our membership for the Northern Shores region is as follows;

	04/10	01/10	2009	2008	2007
<i>Ar n-eilean ne</i>	5	5	6	10	8
<i>Ruantallan</i>	115	133	118	140	149
<i>Lyndhaven</i>	28	29	29	34	42
<i>Havres des Glace</i>	50	48	46	52	62
<i>L'isle du Dragon Dormant</i>	65	69	46	76	61
<i>Castle Nor</i>	6	6	16	N/A	N/A
<i>Dragonet</i>	7	9	24	12	17
<i>Boise Ardent</i>	12	12	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	289	311	284	334	356

As I am not 100% on all the postal codes in the province of Quebec, some memberships in that region may fluctuate up or down. The total remains the same however.

NSR Regional Championships

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

Northern Shores Rapier Championships
(for Spring 2010)

Northern Shores Archery Championships
(for Summer 2010)

Northern Shores Rattan Championship
(for Fall 2010)

Northern Shores Arts & Sciences Championship
(for Fall 2010)

*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 groups considering a bid for a Kingdom level event, please advise the populace of the region, so that we, as the Northern Shores Region, can work together to avoid potential event conflicts. The region has a yahoo mailing group called "northprinc" to help facilitate communications across our vast region.

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, 2010.

All contributions for the next issue must be received no later than June 15, 2010. No submissions after that date will be accepted for the July issue.

Contributions should be sent to:
H.E. Mistress Gwenhwyfar Dinas Emrys
(gwen@moonsandstars.com)

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.

Brief Description of Upcoming Events

Hocktide

This canton sponsored event includes a mystery activity, childrens A&S and rattan fighting. Details can be found at <http://ruantallan.eastkingdom.org/events/hock.htm>

Crown Tournament

This kingdom level event is being held at a campsite. There is a limited amount of cabin space. Bring your own bedding. There is space for tenting. For more information go to:

<http://www.eastkingdom.org/event-detail.html?eid=1928>

Middleground

This Shire event is also the principality camping event. There is camping space available for tents, and limited indoor camp space. Bring your own bedding. There will be classes, rattan fencing and archery practices/skirmishes, and a tavern night in the evening. Visit the website for more information at

<http://www.eastkingdom.org/event-detail.html?eid=1959>

Baltanes

The 23rd annual Baltanes festival in the barony of Havres des Glaces is a camping event. Activities include Rattan, Fencing, Archery and Thrown Weapons. Baronial Championships for all will take place at this time. There will also be an A&S Schola. For more information, visit;

<http://www.eastkingdom.org/event-detail.html?eid=1939>

A&S Interests

Although this year did not have the Northern Lights Competition, that doesn't mean that A&S activities are not going on. Please check your local websites for more information or local gatherings. Also be aware that there are several scholas, competitions and demos where one can actively participate in A&S. Here are a few:

Stonebridge Schola – A dancing schola held may 15th in Barony of the Bridge

Daily Life schola – baking in a beehive oven will be the main subject of this day. They also hope to have fleece preparation, spinning, weaving, whipcord braiding, etc. April 16th Bowmans rest.

Remember there are classes being offered at the Middleground event, and at GNEW, as well as an A&S display/competition at both Great Northeastern and Pennsic.

Did You Know?

Hocktide was a medieval festival that may have celebrated the massacre of the Danes in England, or the death of Harthacanute in the 11th century. Traditionally the festivities consisted of a practice called binding. The me of the parish tied up the women and demanded a kiss for their release. The next day the women would tie up the men and demand a payment before setting them free. The monies collected would then be donated to the parish funds. The origins of the name Hocktide however, are unknown. Hocktide was celebrated on the second Monday or Tuesday after Easter Sunday. Hock Tuesday was an important term day, rents being then payable, for with Michaelmas it divided the rural year into its winter and summer halves. The term Hock day appears first in the 12th century.

Hocktide celebrations happened over several days with the main day being Tuesday. Tutti men would summon the commoners to the hocktide court in town hall. Those who could not attend were fined 1 penny. The tutti men carried tutti poles, and on top of the poles were cloved oranges. The tutti men were accompanied by the Orange men, who wore a hat decorated with feathers and carried sacks filled with oranges. Tutti wenches would give out the oranges and sweets to the crowd in exchange for pennies, or kisses.

Do you have your oranges ready for Hocktide??

