

Spearpoint

Barony of Red Spears

October 2020, A.S. LV

OYEZ! OYEZ!

Their Royal Majesties Felix and Madeleina have announced the incoming Baron & Baroness to be Marcos De Ribera and Bianca di Michaleto! Their majesties had a difficult choice to select from such an outstanding group of candidates. Warm wishes for their pending retirement and much gratitude for their service in these trying times are due their excellencies Konrad Mailander and Iosobail Mhic Leoid. Plans are being made for the baronial transition in the near future, so watch for announcements as more information becomes available.

30th Year Celebrations of the Founding of the Barony of Red Spears will be here soon. Start brushing the dust off those memories. Listen to the usual conversation areas for more announcements.

Cork the Potter has declared Challenge Quests for those who would like to do a project to honor October, our founding month. This being the Barony's 30th anniversary.

First Challenge: Craft a period object on the theme of Red Spears. It can contain our colors, heraldry, animal (boar) and you might consider it for largesse to be used as a gift exchange for Yule.

Second Challenge: Craft something to dress up our events. Signs or banners would go a long way towards setting the mood when we start sponsoring events again.

At the end of the month a show and tell will be posted. Make pictures of your progress and final object. "Tell" where you got the idea, how you modified it to fit the theme, and what materials and steps it took you to create it.

Society Announcement:

[Establishing the Membership Assistance Fund - SCA.org](#): In 2020, we are seeing the impact of the pandemic seriously affecting our members and their families. To help where we can, our community suggested the Society set up a donation fund to support those participants who may be unable to continue their memberships. You spoke and we listened.

The purpose of the “Membership Assistance Fund” is to allow the members of our community to request assistance directly from our Corporate Office for new memberships and renewals. For more information on how to submit a request or make a donation, visit:

<https://www.sca.org/news/establishing-the-membership-assistance-fund/>

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Gatherings and Whatnots

Covid plague pandemic protocols are still in effect. Official in-person meetings, events, and fighter practices are suspended until January 31, 2021. That is not to say that nothing is going on through virtual means on various platforms, hence the title of this column: “whatnot” (n.) an item not identified but similar to the item already named.

Check the Baronial Calendar (<http://redspears.midrealm.org/calendar.php>) for log in details:

Next Baronial Meeting: 4 pm, Saturday, October 24

8 pm Tuesdays – Fjordr’s Zoom Meeting (The Canton of Hrothgeirsfjordr)

8pm Thursdays – Marche of the Marshes (BG's) Zoom Meetings (The Canton of Marche of the Marshes)

Inhabitants of the Barony are welcome to declare celebrations of outdoor, socially distanced, Covid protocolled, not-currently-prohibited activities in the usual hang outs while the weather holds fair.

Midrealm Ethereal Courts (Virtual) Schedule

All Courts are at 2 pm CST / 3 pm EST - Live via [Kingdom YouTube Channel](#) unless otherwise noted, and posted for later viewing. Check <https://midrealm.org/ethereal-middle-kingdom/> for updates.

- 17 October 2020
 - 21 November 2020
 - 19 December 2020
 - 16 January 2021

Board of Directors for the Society for Creative Anachronism

NOTICE OF DATE CHANGE: The 2020 Fourth Quarter Meeting of the Board of Directors for the Society for Creative Anachronism, originally scheduled for Saturday, October 24, 2020, has been changed. The new date is Sunday, October 25, 2020, beginning at 12:00 p.m. PT.

Scrolling for Crumbs

Social media resources and activities are available and growing more plentiful. Archives and museums are opening their vaults to the quarantined masses for a limited time. If you come across an amazing find and want to share with your friends, this is just the space to show and tell. Listings here are not an endorsement of content found on other websites. Note that photos can be tricky to publish, but directing us the hiding spot is more fun anyway!

If you have not yet heard, JSTOR is an online library of digital academic journals, books, & primary sources with a free online reading program. JSTOR recently announced that access has expanded until the end of 2020 to 100 articles each month without an institutional affiliation (that means you can read from home if your library doesn't have a subscription). Tiny url: bit.ly/30PLu4C

Behold!

A tour stop on the highlights of the Virtual Known World

Disruption of our usual event and meeting schedule accelerated the development of our 21st century infrastructure. This column hopes to provide a tour of the Known World while we await news that the muddy roads of Spring have cleared and the next tournament season can begin. Join the virtual bus tour as we explore the wonders and etiquettes of our virtual Fall and Winter landscape.

The table of unofficial social media gatherings across the Known World that may be of interest should you wish to see, hear, or speak with anyone outside your social isolation crew. A few official happenings may have slipped past unnoticed, so speak up if you have spotted anything to share with your friends. Garb is fun, often encouraged, but not usually required.

Most of these happen on a more or less regular basis. This is by no means an exhaustive list and if you regularly listen to or attend something, contact the Chronicler to get it added to an upcoming article. Being listed here is not an endorsement of anything, and as with all social media parental supervision is advised. Times, dates, and connection info may have changed without notice. Etiquette across the Known World, and the wide web, is subtle and varied. Be alert! Please gather all your belongings before stepping off the bus, and have your mute button handy.

This issue's featured virtual tour stop:

Bardic Campfires, Virtual Home Parties, Practice sessions, Showcases, Classes, Non-events, Music Lessons, Vocal Lessons, Dance Lessons, Short Stories, Poetry, Riddles, and well, if you haven't got the picture yet

Classes, discussions, performance and practice spaces:

[Bardic Madness Online Edition](#) – Everyone had so much fun last July, there will be another event: *Virtually Bardic Madness South XXII* on October 17, 2020, 10 AM – 8:30 PM CDT*. A day for Bardic Fun and Community! Challenges, classes, concert, followed by an evening bardic circle which will end ... eventually. Zoom meeting information and more details on the website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/bardicmadnessmid/home>

Hosted by: Bardic Madness South and The Bardic Barracks

*This is not an official SCA or Kingdom of the Midrealm event, hosted by any group.

Royal University of the Midrealm (RUM) has set an October theme of Performance A&S. At this time, the class schedule is full, and it is worth noting that not all classes follow the theme of the month. If you wish to take or teach a future class, go to rum.midrealm.org for more details.

Useful links:

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- BLUM community

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/eBUMcommunity/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BLIMYoutube>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyPzZuaj1u2KSL67wWgLvXA...>

SCA Creative Release form

<https://www.sca.org/.../document.../releascreativecommonsfillable/>

Midrealm Bardic Showcase is usually held on the fourth Friday of the month

October 23rd from 8pm-10pm Eastern Standard Time, Hosted by Dame Honor von Atzinger, Dragon Bard. The theme for September was Inspiration. The theme for October is Macabre!

Here is the link to sign up as a performer:

<https://docs.google.com/.../1-nJPvXzS6p0A5kDlxOGVwCW.../edit>

Watch social media for the audience links. This is a recorded event live streamed on Facebook and posted to the Kingdom Youtube channel after the event.

Bardic gatherings for most* things bardic! These are not official SCA or Kingdom events, unless otherwise noted. Please stay muted entering and during a performance (usually less than 5 minutes unless otherwise encouraged).

* Internet lags make sing-a-longs a terrible crash that once experienced no one wishes to repeat. Believe me.... horror stories are already circulating. That being said, there is a Falsa Musica group that has formed to use that lag to beautiful advantage for select choral pieces.

Format varies, sometimes there is a queue to ask to be added to and others are welcome to converse using the chat, sometimes everyone participates even if it is only to pass on that round. Hosts are happy to explain the turn order and any game that might be in play.

There's still time to visit every kingdom in the Known World this year!

Start your bingo card with a few of the neighbors:

Barony of Flaming Gryphon Bardic: Mondays starting at 7pm Eastern (Midrealm based; Passcode Gryphon) <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78794611102>

Coastal Bardic: Friday nights, 8-11pm Eastern (Atlantia based)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87981449096>

Dahrien's Bardic Sprawl: Weekly usually starting 7pm Eastern - day of the week rotates (Northshield based) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85062066750>

Midrealm and Friends Virtual Bardic: 8 pm Eastern, Every other Saturday evening, Oct 10, Oct 24 (*may shift a bit and merge with the Midrealm Bardic Showcase*), Nov 7, and so on (Midrealm based) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/587186300>

Three Rivers Zoom Bardic: Friday nights - 9pm Eastern until everyone decides they are done (Calontir based; Passcode Calontir) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/587186300>

Where to Find Announcements and Discussions:

Unofficial groups for kingdoms, regions, and themes have been established on multiple platforms such as Discord, Facebook, and others. A few that might be of general interest include:

SCA Bardic Arts (Unofficial)

This is a moderated Facebook page, and an unofficial group for information related to all things Bardic in the Society for Creative Anachronism. Share times and places for bardic circles and competitions, show us your work, ask for or offer wisdom. You do not need to be or consider yourself a "bard" to participate. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bardicarts/permalink/2093732154093853>

Known World Entertainment Guide:

This is an official page dedicated to providing a weekly directory of online medieval content from across the Known World of the Society for Creative Anachronism. Content shared on this site has agreed to comply with the Society's Social Media Policy. <https://www.facebook.com/KWEGuide>

What to expect

Showcases:

These may be an official Kingdom events and tend toward the performance arts this past summer. Usually there is a sign-up sheet announced on multiple platforms during the weeks leading up to the Showcase gathering. Performers add their name, what they are doing, and the duration of their offering. Contact information is also needed because they have a separate login and different instructions than the audience. The host and support team provide context, facilitate the transition between performers, record and post to the Kingdom's Youtube channel.

Kingdom Universities:

Classes are being offered in an expanded array of topics. Courses that would be difficult for an in-person or physical travel context are now being offered. Craftsmen can demonstrate in their own workshops. Equestrians have their own corrals. Musicians can show off those instruments that don't travel well. The kingdoms are experimenting with class schedules. The Royal University of the Midrealm (RUM) is using themes as a broad, but not exclusive, selection of classes scattered throughout a month. A calendar is posted with the class time, duration, topic, links to access, and any additional information the teacher wants known. Other kingdoms may have multiple classes happening simultaneously over a weekend. Credit for classes taught or taken in other kingdoms is reciprocal with a form provided for that process.

Other groups, both official and unofficial, are also offering opportunities to dance, make music, improve technique, hone skills, discuss practice, research, or philosophy, and chat with others from across the Known World. These do not count toward RUM or other kingdoms' universities' credit unless they have made arrangements with the kingdom universities, such as happened with Bardic Madness.

Bardics:

Bardic (n.): A gathering of varying formality to listen, share and learn from each other in the form of song, instrument, spoken word, motion, dance and other accompaniments (puppets, props, and so on). Fire may or may not be involved.

This is our history. Whether documentable to the SCA time period, or related to our kingdom and friends, this is our culture. Songs and stories, reminiscences and tall tales, and too many forms to list here. Kingdom and Baronial Bards, where they exist, are the formal representative of this aspect of our society.

Gatherings take many forms and participation expectations follow. Classes are often the teacher and pupils format. The Enchanted Ground, hosted by His Grace Cariadoc at Pennsic War and a few other places, tries to re-create as non-modern an atmosphere as possible and the more frequent Virtual Enchanted Grounds have similar expectations – glasses are OK, but try to remove modern distractions from your background, attire, speech and introductions, offerings, and farewells. It takes practice to shift from your perspective to your persona's daily experience, and this is the place to practice. Be warned that His Grace has a deep repertoire at the ready.

Gatherings such as camp fires, campsite and home parties, corners of events, are sometimes called 'circles' as everyone sits around the fire pit or the room. New and unpolished pieces can be practiced; old favorites are usually available for the asking. Moods vary from somber to silly, and expectations vary across the Known World, time of day, day of the week, and if you want to write an article expanding on these topics the Chronicler would be open to taking that under consideration. What is familiar to one area may be unknown to another.

Participation is not required. It is OK to sit and listen, and come and go as you want. Heckling is right out and the hosts will mute or removed troublemakers. General courtesy is to not interrupt a performance (use your mute, and recognize that announcements can wait a few minutes), ask if the format of taking turns isn't obvious, and keep offerings somewhat relevant to the setting (again, ask if you are not sure it would be appreciated at that gathering).

Games among bards are subtle and not always fleeting. Producing new pieces in response to another is not unheard of, and appreciation of the impetus is part of the allure. "Filk" is a term that is applied differently depending on region – to the older science fiction convention community it means a space theme to a known tune; in the Midwest and a few other places farther from the coasts, it means a group-related song put to a known tune. Filk-Filk would be a response to an older filk song, and Filk-Filk-Filk does happen on occasion, usually with a long story for an introduction.

Games you may expect to encounter at a casual bardic include: 'Follow the Theme' (not always following the previous piece), which may be based on subject matter, age, mood, by the same author, from the same kingdom, or something and this is some of that subtlety – it isn't always declared. Spontaneous improv on a word or mood, or using a particular form, is found less frequently, but some use it to generate new material. Grab Bag – or Pick Three (subject, mood, resolution for example), is another way to get creative.

Please do not record live or on social media without the permission of the performer and participants. If you want to learn a piece, ask for source material or chat with the performer. If you want your own background noise, there's Youtube and many other platforms to access for that.

Memorization is wonderful if it works for you. During this stressful time, several authors who would otherwise prefer you perform their works without a song sheet, have waived that for the duration of this disruption. Our brains are mush right now, and it is more stressful to watch everyone stumbling where that is the only barrier. Crash and burn, restarts, and wandering melodies still happen. Deep breath. It's OK. We understand.

As we approach the 56th year of the Society, social media has allowed many of our isolated, distant, or older families to participate in classes and gatherings. Go find them, and be open to listening for a few hours.

All Aboard!

Ever try to explain something and “too much, let me sum up” still didn’t satisfy? Now’s the chance to monologue in print! Seeking article submissions for upcoming newsletters.

Current Red Spears Baronial Officers

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**** Note: Both e-mail addresses work for any of the officers. You need to only send to one of the listed e-mail addresses.**

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