

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](https://www.sca.org/news/establishing-the-membership-assistance-fund/): 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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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyPzZuaj1u2KSL67wWgLvXA...>
SCA Creative Release form
<https://www.sca.org/.../document.../releasecreativefillable/>

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 remove 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

Badge Office	Person	Contact information**
Baron	Baron Konrad Mailander	Baron {at} redspears.org Excellencies {at} redspears.org
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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.**

This is the October 2020 issue of the Spearpoint, a publication of the Barony of Red Spears of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). The Spearpoint is edited by and available from Dorothea de Beckham, chronicler@redspears.org or redspears.chronicler@midrealm.org and found on the Red Spears Facebook. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright © 2020 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.