

THE SHADOW PRESS



Official Newsletter for the Barony of Shadowed Stars

Constellation Region of the Middle



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FROM THE SENESCHAL

Greetings unto Shadowed Stars!

Another successful Pennsic has passed with the Midrealm and our allies finding victory in a fantastic and hard fought war. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped the Dragon achieve victory. Now that peace has been won we may all prepare for the harvest and the long winter to come. Mounted War Games is just around the corner, please look to an area that you can volunteer and come out and enjoy a great weekend together. Remember that many of the Baronial champions are ready to face challengers to retain their positions, come out and compete and see if you have what it takes to champion our great Barony. Have a great autumn season and I will see you all soon.

In Service,

Sir Ulrich

CONGRATS NEW CHAMPIONS!

Heavy Weapons - Sergeant Eoferwulf Thrainsson

Rapier - Master Geoffrey de la Mer

Archery - Lord Scipio Dominus

Thrown Weapons - Lady Prudence of Colleah

Equestrian - Lord Gwydion Glyndwr

Baroness' Champion - Lady Cassandra of Wyndhaven

FROM THE BARON & BARONESS

What Does It Take?

Recently, Fergus and I formally announced our intention to step down as Baron and Baroness as of our annual Spring event, This Land Is Our Land. We have had a few people ask us about what it's like to hold this position; what does it take to be the Baron or Baroness of our Barony?

As we all know, we are a new Barony and, so, much of what we have done or are doing has been learned along the way. There wasn't a handy dandy guidebook presented to us that outlined the job and what it entailed. We've honestly made it up as we went or have asked more experienced folks for advice and guidance.

But if you're thinking about taking on this job (and make no mistake-it's a job), we thought it'd be nice to share with you some of our experiences and favorite moments from our two-and-a-half years in the roles.



Fergus and Maggie, at Simple Day 2017
Photo credit: Tanda Ameling (Lady Zilia degli Giudici)

From the day we were invested, May 30, 2015, until the day we step down, in the spring of 2018, we will have experienced some of the biggest highs and lows of our collected 50+ years in the Society. We have never once regretted the decision to be your Baron and Baroness and may, someday, ask to serve you all again in this capacity.

We knew that getting things up and running as a Barony would be a big job. There would be lots to do; traditions to start, politics to navigate, people to be recognized. We honestly evaluated our skill sets and thought long and hard before deciding to run for the positions. We wanted to be sure that we could do a good job for you. But with so much to do these first few years, we also knew that we wanted to do one term and then step down. Not only because of the amount of work involved, but also because we are lucky to have so very many qualified candidates to be our successors.

In these two-and-a-half years, we have doubled our travel and spending in the SCA, attending 20-25 events per year. This is not at all a requirement of the position. It is something we wanted to do, to show that the Barony would be a strong presence in the Kingdom. We have all seen it happen: someone is elevated to a peerage and then drops off the face of the earth. We personally wanted to demonstrate the group's commitment to our new role as a Barony and to the Society.

In attending these many events, we were afforded the opportunity to interact with our Baronial "cousins" on a regular basis and will be stepping down with several strong friendships in place. We've also found, through Facebook pages, face-to-face meet and greets, and other encounters, that these folks are often some of our best support systems. They have been through – or are going through – the same things within their groups and it is great to have somewhere to turn for advice and friendship.

Hands down, our favorite part of the job is being able to be advocates for all of you. We have been told by each of the Crowns under whom we have served that they look VERY seriously at the award recommendations from their Landed Barons and Baronesses. Who knows the people of a Barony better than their own Baron and Baroness? I currently have 19 award recommendations in the system for people in our group and the surrounding areas. Seeing those awards being given out, from the front of the hall where you can actually HEAR things, is also an amazing plus to the job. At the recent Spring Crown and Kingdom A&S we hosted, many gentles within the group were called into Court for recognition. And we got to see and hear it all!!

Giving out Baronial Awards has also been a favorite thing, although we, as a group, are in sore need of some calligraphers and illuminators for scrolls.

Now that we are a Barony, we are looked to more often to help with things at a Kingdom level. This could be hosting Kingdom events, which we have done twice in the last two years, or helping with other projects, like cooking for Midrealm Royal at Pennsic (which we did at Pennsic 46).

There is more of a spotlight on us, as a group, than there was before. This means that our functions – and dysfunctions – are on display. One of the more challenging aspects of the job is dealing with the varying personalities within the group.

It is, at times, hard to remain objective in this role. But being the Baron and Baroness means that we should try to see things from all sides, putting aside personal relationships where needed. Although this has proven difficult, I believe we have found a mostly positive balance within the group and are all able to play together and enjoy our shared hobby.

Some of the more interesting parts of the role are getting to work with Royalty on event and court planning, meeting other Barons and Baronesses from around the Kingdom and Known World, participating in the Known World Baronial Championships at Pennsic, choosing and bragging on our Baronial Champions, and having some of the best possible seats for court. We also love the pageantry of being part of processions at events like Coronation, Crown Tournament and Pennsic.

We'd love to talk with any of you that might be interested in serving the Barony and Kingdom in this capacity. As I mentioned early on, it is a job, but it has been the best, most rewarding job we've ever had!

Sincerely,
Maggie and Fergus

Draco Invictus; Draco Invictus indeed!

This was an amazing Pennsic War! The Middle Kingdom allied with the East and Ealdormere against the known world.... And we were victorious with 29 war points. Rapier points: 13 Armored points: 9 Archery points: 4 Arts & Sciences: 2 Thrown Weapons: 1 The constellation army was few in numbers this year. As acting commander, I was disappointed with that, but was incredibly proud of those warriors. We were matched up with other units for most of the battles and hit above our weight class every single time. To everyone that went to Pennsic this year.... I thank you. I saw many of our baronial populace volunteering and making Pennsic better for everyone. From fighting, marshalling, watch, Gate, water, etc.. we covered everything. Now we enter into the slower season, but we must look forward to the next year. GULF WARS IS COMING!

Baron Fergus

BARONIAL CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

October 2017

(see NOTE below)

November 2017

(see NOTE below)

December 2017

(see NOTE below)

NOTE:

For the times, locations, class information, and most up-to-date info on these and other Shadowed Stars activities, please visit the Baronial Calendar online at:

<http://shadowedstars.midrealm.org/calendar>.

A Note From Our Historian

The Historian needs pictures of any event or demo the Shire and Barony have done over the last 30 plus years. I will copy and return pictures, if need be. Also, any information on any history of the Shire and Barony would be appreciated.

Thank you,

Lady Zoe

State of Barony 2017

• Barony: Shadowed Stars

Cantons/Shires: none

Region: Constellation

Date of Investiture: May 30, 2015

Remaining length of term: 6-7 months

Events attended in last reign: Spring Crown Tournament and Kingdom A&S (5/27-5/28), Baron Wars (6/23-6/25), Simple Day (6/30-7/2), Swine and Roses (7/14-7/16), Pennsic (7/29-8/13), Baroness Wars (8/25-8/27), and Mounted War Games (9/1-9/4)

Events attending during your reign: Fall Coronation (9/23), Fall Crown Tournament (10/21), Grand Day of Tournaments (11/4), Crystal Ball (11/10-11/12), Yule Feast (12/9), St. Nicholas Tourney for Tots (12/16), Local Twelfth Night (1/6), Maidens (1/20), Val Day (2/10), Gulf Wars (His Excellency) (3/10-3/18), Day of Ranged Weapons (4/7), Grand Tournament of the Unicorn (4/14), Spring Coronation (5/5)

Shadowed Stars' strengths and positive attributes: Strong retention of existing members, growing rapier and armored combat communities, regular A&S activities, several new members joining in the last 2-3 years. We continue to work towards having more new people take on responsibility within the group. We also are working to find people to step up into either deputy officer roles, or positions in running our events (event steward, feast steward, etc.).

Shadowed Stars' weaknesses and areas that need more attention: We have some people in the group who may be taking on more than they can handle. We are trying to be more conscious of what folks take on and how we can help them. We have started an officer/event staff mentorship program to help train folks and share the workloads. Ulrich has two deputy Seneschals and is working with them to be sure they fully understand the role and all it entails. Maggie is serving as Royalty Liaison for Fall Coronation, and took on two deputies so that they can learn how to do it effectively and train others.

Opportunities that your group may initiate to increase the effectiveness and positive well-being of your group: We are currently looking into ways to increase social interaction, outside of Baronial functions. Maggie and Fergus have the Baronial banner at events and encourage members to join us for a part of their day, as possible.

Active peers in your barony: Master Jean Paul Pierrepont, Master Geoffrey de la Mer (slowly rejoining the group), Sir Ulrich attends practices and works with new fighters and Maggie was elevated to the Order of the Pelican at MWG and is continuing her work to encourage others to find joy in volunteering. Although Darkmoon is not active with the local group, their knights are counted in our Barony, for the most part. We do sometimes see them at practices and events.

The state of new recruitment in your barony: We are fortunate enough to have recruited several new members in recent years, either through demos or events. A few have found us online as well. We work with these new members to help them find their niche within the activities and counsel on how to start slow, because so many of them want to do All. The. Things. A few have stepped up and into officer or deputy officer roles and are figuring out what they'd like to do to help run the events we host.

Additional note: We announced that we would begin the polling process for the new Baron and Baroness in the spring and those members interested in serving in this capacity should let us know by 12/1. Our plan is to have the investiture at our spring event, This Land is Our Land, on May 19, 2018.

BARONIAL OFFICERS

Seneschal

*Captain Ulrich
Halfdan Ulfsson*

Chatelaine

*Warder Mael Duin mac
Gilla Ennae*

Minister of A&S

Lady Aveline de Ceresbroch

Herald

*Lady Muirenn Ingen Faelchon
Ui Clerigh*

Exchequer

Lord Gavin Hawkerton

Knights' Marshal

Lord Fergus McPherson

Rapier Marshal

Lord Rashid Al-Sanna

Archery Marshal

Lord Velos tou Patmos

Thrown Weapons Marshal

Lady Prudence of Colleab

Equestrian Marshal

*Lancer Gwendolyn of
Shadowed Stars*

Webminister

Lady Prudence of Colleab

Chronicler

Lady Zilia degli Giudici

Dance Coordinator

Lady Leandra Corzj

Historian

Lady Zoe Dukiana

Chief Armorer

Lord Gian di Fauro

List Mistress

Lady Zoe Dukiana

FROM THE CHRONICLER

THE BARONY WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- ◆ We need everyone to submit content for our newsletter! Things like: Editorials, pictures, Event Reports, Persona Bios, Artwork, and short stories up to 3,000 words for the quarterly newsletter!
- ◆ If you would like to create a regular or semi-regular column or have ideas of things we can include in future issues, please contact us at chronicler@shadowedstars.org



DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:

- ◆ **Submit by November 15, 2017, for inclusion in the 4th Quarter issue.**

RULES FOR SUBMISSIONS:

- ◆ Release Form types:
 - * Creative - For all articles, poems, original artwork that is not a photograph, and the like // We bring this to you and we keep on file.
 - * Photographer - Photographs // We bring this to you and we keep on file.
 - * Model - For the recognizable person(s) in the photograph(s) // You get signed by people in your submitted photograph, turn it in with your photo, and we keep on file.
- ◇ Model Release Forms are available for download from midrealm.org/chronicler.
- ◇ **If you are unable to print needed Release Forms, please let the Chronicler know and they will be supplied for you.**
- ◆ Pictures:
 - ◇ Submit as many photos as you can of our Barony activities as well as events and happenings of the SCA groups around us!
 - ◇ Needed with Submission: Name of Event, date, location, SCA titles and names of those in the photo
 - ◇ Appropriate Model Release forms for those who are recognizable
- ◆ Images from the internet:
 - ◇ If you include an image from the internet with your submission, please make sure to include the active URL link to it.

PUBLISHED MEETING MINUTES:

- ◆ Monthly Business Meeting and Officers Meeting minutes are being transcribed and are available for viewing after the meeting takes place.
- ◆ To view them, please access the online Files section on the Shadowed Stars Facebook group or at the links available on the Publications page at shadowedstars.midrealm.org.

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