

Directory of Avacal Branches

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Bordergate (Cold Lake AB) (Shire)
Seneschal: Denis Le Griz (Denis Ouellette)
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 780-594-1828 grizsho@telusplanet.net

Borealis (Edmonton AB) (Barony)
Baron and Baroness: *TE Vik Vikingsson & Inga the Unfettered* (Jim Manners & Michelle Height)
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 780-463-4445 slikboy@shaw.ca or
 michelle.height@ualberta.ca
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 780 432-7927 kintair@telus.net

Cold Keep (Prince George, BC) (Shire)
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 250-613-3769 nancoleman@shaw.ca

Harrows Cross (Strathmore & environs) (Shire)
Seneschal: *Isibel Svindandi* (Tammy Giles)
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 403-230-2641 twg88@yahoo.ca

Montengarde (Calgary AB) (Barony)
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Borealis: borealis.avacal.net/
Cold Keep: www.avacal-sca.org/coldkeep/
Harrow's Cross: www.harrowscross.ca/
Montengarde: www.montengarde.org/inside.html
Myrgan Wood: theringlord.org/mw/
Rhuddglyn: www.avacal-sca.org/rhuddglyn/
Sigelhundas: www.sigelhundas.org/
Valley Wold: valleywold.ca/index.htm
Vinjar: vinjar.antir.sca.org/
Windwvrm: people.uleth.ca/~windwvrm/



AVANTGARDE

Newsletter of The Principality of Avacal
 AS XLII * May 2008
 In the Reign of Their Highnesses
 HH Einar Vikingsson and HH Ifatahoy al-Jenne

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Cover by L. Askeff m.k.a. as Ryan Blades

(Continued from page 34)

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Vacant

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An Tir Website:

<http://www.antir.sca.org/>

Avantgarde Website

<http://users.accesscomm.ca/avantgarde/>

Avacal Circus (Mailing List):

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Avacal/>

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(no calls after 9 pm please)

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Tyler & Tamara Everett

PO Box 491, Grandview, WA 98930 (590) 786-5388

prince@antir.sca.org or princess@antir.sca.org

Their Royal Majesties maintain a single mailbox. Please send only one copy of your message to one address. An alternate address is crown@antir.sca.org.

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(Continued on page 35)

From The Gryphon Thrones:

Greetings unto the populace of Avacal

The drums of war can be heard through out our great land as we prepare to cross the mountains and make war upon the people of Tir Righ. We feel very fortunate to be Prince and Princess for the very first **Avacal-Tir Righ War**; We are honoured to lead our people forward into this new chapter of Avacal's history. We would urge all of our populace to come and take part in this new and very exciting event which will we hope become another showcase for Avacal's greatness.



Picture by HE Roxanne

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their help and support at the events we have attended over the past month. Without your help we would never be able to represent Avacal in the splendid fashion that we try to at this time.

Thanks go out to all of the feastacrat and Autocrats in Avacal for putting on the events that we attend because without you we are just a group of funny dressed people hanging out in a field or community hall.

We are, once again, asking for the worthy names of those amongst our populace in need of recognition for their deeds. Please send us your recommendations!!!

As always you should know that we are very thankful for the opportunity that you have granted us by supporting us as your Prince and Princess.

Einar Prince of Avacal
Ifatahyo Princess of Avacal

Royal Progress

Montengarde Beltaine (Her Highness)

May Crown

June Coronet

Silverwolf

Avacal/Tir Righ War

COURT REPORT

Updates Coming Soon!

For the complete Avacal OP
please visit:
<http://heraldry.avacal.net>

Any corrections or updates can be sent
to Master Mordecai Avacal OP Deputy
at rslansky1@shaw.ca

Recommendation forms!

http://www.avacal-sca.org/officer/award_rec_files/avacal_award_rec.html

<http://www.antir.sca.org/recommendations.php>

Avacal Tournament of Tournaments - Archery Division

The scores at <http://daunion.org/Main.htm> have been updated yet again. These include Spring Champions, Winter War, February Investiture and Montengarde 12th Night.

The current top ten are:

Grioffa Stoneheart Borealis 22	Baeldric of Newt Borealis 16
Elias Silver Montengarde 20	Escalus Borealis 14
James the Quixotic Montengarde 19	Mika Borealis 14
Linnét Grímólfsdóttir Myrgan Wood 17	Genic Borealis 13
Alikina Windwyrn 16	Kiera Shadows Montengarde 13

- ToT Administrator

Seneschal's Message

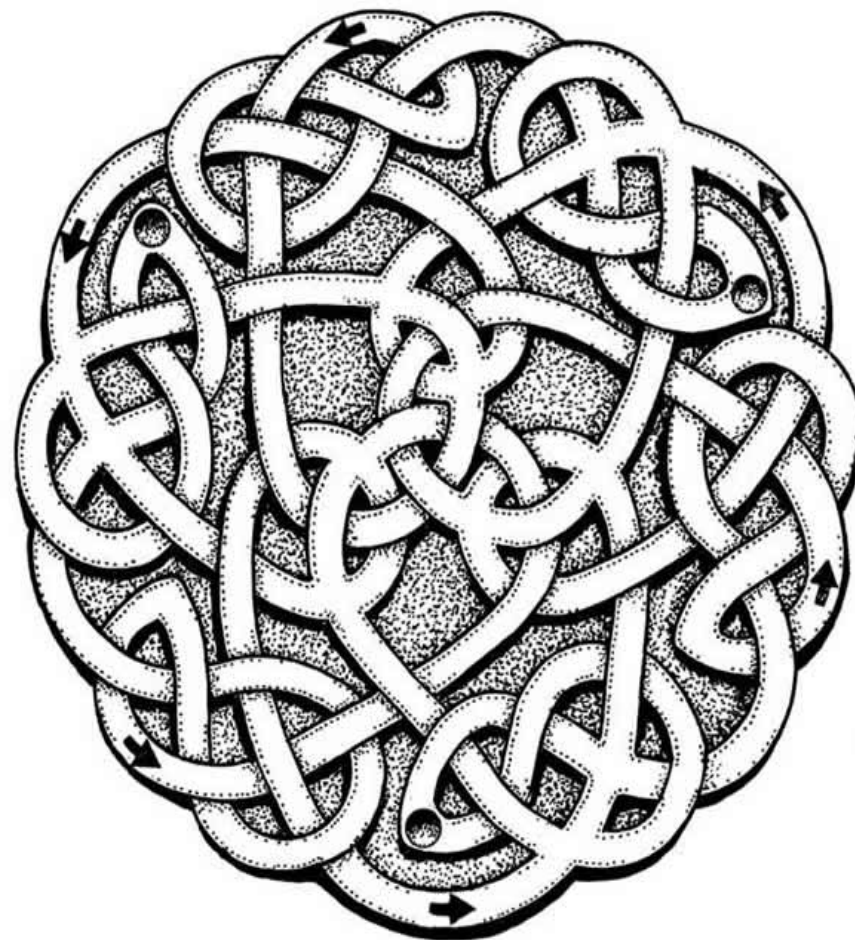
Greetings Avacal,

It's been a quiet spring so far with perhaps all our attention focused on willing the snow to melt. But I am certain things will start getting busy fairly soon and I hope that some of that busyness includes helping out our principality. There are many deputy positions up for grabs that need people to fill them. So please read through the call for officers to see if there is any way volunteer!

Just a quick reminder, if you move please update your membership with SCA, Inc. Otherwise your membership gets suspended and cease to count towards your branch numbers.

Ever in Service—Manyra

Celtic Knotwork Maze!



Quad War!! Barony of Montengarde

July 31—Aug 4, 2008
Marsden, SK

Quad War - What a way to play!!

Maps and detailed directions can be found at the website.

Gather in the heart of Avacal when the war drums sound the call to arms!

Are you interested in reserving a campspot for yourself or your household? Call [Gail and Stu Hiar](#) at 780 639 6632

Join the forces of the Coronet and their Heirs as they meet as dreaded foes and dear friends in battle!

There will be activities for everyone - War and Castle scenarios for Armoured and Rapier, Tournaments for all martial activities, Target Archery, Populace shoot, Children's activities, Bardic delights, Classes for all, Siege Cooking, Arts and Sciences competitions, Merchants and more!

Driving Directions: From the North, South West and Southwest - make your best route to Wainwright AB. Go East on Hwy 14 (become Hwy 40 at the Saskatchewan border). Drive 8 Km past and turn North (left) on Artland Road. The site is 4.5 km to the West (left).

Come and enjoy Avacal's famous hospitality!

From the East and Southeast - make your best route to Saskatoon SK. Take Hwy 16 to North Battleford. As you cross the bridge, stay to the left on Hwy 40. It will turn west (right) midway through town. 5 km west of (past) Marsden, turn North (right) on Artland Road. The site is 4.5 km to the west.

Event opens six p.m. Thursday July 31st (noon for merchants) and closes at noon on Monday August 4th

Hosted by the Barony of Montengarde and the Principality of Avacal.
Event Steward - [Viscountess Morrigan](#) (Jude Harrison) #18, 643 4th Avenue NE, Calgary Alberta
T2E 0J9 403.275.0338

Please be aware that Quad War is scheduled opposite the [Big Valley Jamboree](#) being near at Camrose. When planning your trip to Quad War, please plan ahead for delays and road closures due to this very popular music event. Thank you!

Site Fee: Site Fee: \$25.00 per person 18 and over (add \$3.00 NMS). 17 and under FREE. Cheques payable to MSCA. Please bring your own drinking water - the local water is not potable.

Full event details can be found at

<http://quadwar.avacal-sca.org/>

There is no street address for this lovely private site near Marsden, SK.

From the Principality Chronicler

Ya Hala,

As much as we love, by nature of our interest in the SCA, have a vested interest in the past, we are also children of modern times and electronic communication is a fact of life. Personally, I still love reading magazines and newsletters, but when I need information and need it quickly, I turn to the internet or more specifically, I surf websites. Several articles in this edition of the Avantgarde are focused on this wonderful form of communication - please read these articles and support your local webminister, they provide a wonderful service to the SCA. If you are the webminister, please let us know if these articles were helpful. If you enjoyed these articles, please remember to thank the contributors!!

Can you believe that there are only three months until my term as chronicler is up? While I've enjoyed putting the newsletter together and having the opportunity to meet many of you in the process, it is time to pass this task on to someone with fresh ideas and fresh talents---if that person is you, please, please, please get in touch with myself, Their Highnesses or our good seneschal Mistress Manyra to express your interest. An early heads up would be beneficial for both of us, as there is much wisdom to be passed on (and a rather full filing cabinet of archived newsletters and such). While I dove in with both feet first and had several officers helping me tread water, it might be easier to get your feet wet over the next few months before your term actually starts. Helpful skills include the ability to work well with others, some experience with desktop publishing, database maintenance (access or excel), some accounting skills (minimal), access to the internet and e-mail, and the ability to post to a website. Whoever you may be - I look forward to hearing from you and look forward even more to reading your first newsletter!!

alaam Alikum — al-Sayidah umm Bishr, principality chronicler

Event Reporters Wanted! Branch Reporters Wanted! Branch Chroniclers Wanted!
For more info e-mail avacal-chronicler@antir.sca.org

A New Thrown Target Weapons Deputy!

Greetings Avacal,

I wish to announce to you all I have been given the office of Avacal thrown target weapons deputy. As such it is my responsibility to promote, educate, and record scores for thrown weapons activities within the principality.

Have you ever wondered how cool it would be to throw a knife around for real AND be allowed to do it? How would you like to help the widespread start of something new and wonderful? I'd like to hear from you! In particular, anyone that is a current TW marshal, as well as all branch archery officers or any Master's of Stables that would like thrown weapons in their own group.

I want you to throw things! and feel free to picture me in an Uncle Sam outfit if it helps.....

YIS,
Malabar Membro Spaccata,
Avacal Deputy of Thrown Weapons.

SCA EQUESTRIAN TRAINING TIPS

Those of you who have been working seriously with horses for many years will likely not learn anything from this article. This info is targeted at the weekend horseback rider, the self taught owner, and the inexperienced. It may surprise you to know that there are many horse owners/riders that do not actually know how or what to teach a horse. Many buy horses already trained and have little or no need to advance their skills. Many are self taught and have gleaned their skills through hours of riding rental horses on trails.

There is nothing wrong with that. You can have a perfectly fulfilling equestrian experience never taking a formal class. Personally, I support the idea that a good horseman is one that is continually learning their craft and applying it to their four legged friends in an effort to raise the bar on the horse/rider experience.

Having said this, you should know that I, myself, am not an accredited teacher, nor have I taken hours and hours of formal classes. I learned much like the people I describe above, but was gifted with a wide variety of opportunities and with talented horseman along the way who provided a wealth of information.

There are as many ways to train horses as there are horses to be trained, and certainly far too many methods to list here, so I won't even try. Do some research and find a method that suits both you and your horse. No one method is right or wrong. Try a little of everything, your results will tell you what works.

At first, work with your horse in a relatively small area with few distractions. Try not to repeat the same pattern over and over. Horses are creatures of habit and you may find that your horse has learned the pattern, and you are not in fact controlling him through your course. Repetition is key. A horse may finally make the connection between cue and action requested on his 478th try, but once he does, he knows it solid. Work on the slower speeds first, and then when you get the exact reaction to your cue EVERY TIME, only then should you try a faster gait. Once you have taught him your cue at all speeds, then move to a higher traffic area.

Here are some things to consider when training begins; 1. Don't assume your horse knows anything. There may be holes in his training that may lead to problems later. Run through the basics at least once, including halter and groundwork. If you encounter problems, then you know where to start, 2. Always try to end your session on a high note. If you are working for an hour and your horse finally gets something, work a little longer to make sure it wasn't a fluke and then stop. If he's not enjoying himself, then he'll stop listening. If he stops listening, he stops learning, 3. Horses are prey animals. To them, even a warm fluffy towel can be a horse-eating monster. If scared, they run, 4. Common Sense and Persistence pay off.

Horse Selection

In my opinion, the ideal warhorse should be sane and athletic. Strength is not an issue unless you plan to load him with 200 lbs of barding, but he should be able to carry you and gear comfortably. He should be bold, should take in new things casually and should have a slightly competitive streak. You don't want a psychotic racehorse that takes every opportunity to gallop, but having a little gas in the tank when

(Continued on page 7)

Dragonslayer The Barony of Montengarde

July 11 to 13, 2008
Calgary, AB

Come and join us as we choose our new Heavy and Archery Champions! There will be activities for all, including an A&S Contest, Rapier tournament, and Bardic competition around the fire pit. The Hidden Treasures tournament, An Tir's largest archery competition, will once again be run by HL Dalton Arundel, on the 24-target Roving Range.

The site is the Calgary Archers Club, on Highway 8 just south west of the city. There is no street address, but maps are available on the website, hiddentreasures.akesons.com.

The site opens at 5 pm Friday, and closes at 2 pm Sunday. The site does not have drinkable water, so you must bring your own.

Directions: Best route to Deerfoot Trail (Hwy #2) in Calgary, southbound. Take Deerfoot to Glenmore Trail westbound. Follow until the southbound turnoff for Hwy #8, at Sarcee Trail. Follow Highway 8 over the Elbow River Bridge, the site is the second driveway on the right.



Site Fee: Adults and Youth, \$10. Children under 12, Free. NMS fee is \$3.

Cheques and money orders are payable to 'Mountain Society for Creative Anachronism'.

Feast: Once again Brian Struthers and the staff of the Archery Club will be providing a feast for us, at the cost of \$15 per person, payable in advance to either the autocrats or Brian at the Calgary Archery Center. Contact the Event Stewards to reserve.

The site is close to a major shopping center with many amenities, and there is camping available on site and in the adjoining campground. Contact us if you have an oversized tent or encampment, so that provision can be made for you.

Contact the Event Stewards for further information:

Gareth Stringbreaker (Gareth Wood), 301C – 5735 Dalgetty Drive NW, Calgary AB, T3A 2L4, (403) 697-5518, email gareththing@gmail.com.

Dalton Arundel (Jim Martin), #18, 643 4th Avenue NE, Calgary AB, T2E 0J9, (403)275-0338, email ice.tiger@shaw.ca.

Avacal-Tir Righ War Shire of Ramsgaard

In the northern principalities of An Tir, war has been declared! Avacal and Tir Righ will meet upon the field of battle and bring great word-fame to Their lands!

Siege challenges for Arts & Sciences points ~ University classes ~ Youth challenges and activities ~ Rapier scenarios ~ Tournaments ~ Parties!

Join us near beautiful Wells Gray Provincial Park in Clearwater BC- just over 7 hours from Edmonton, and less than 6 hours from Vancouver: the middle ground!

Merchants are welcome. Site rules and details will be posted shortly.

Site fee:
Adults \$18 (plus NMS \$3.00)
Youth (13-18 yrs.) \$10
Children 12 and under free.
Cheques can be made payable to "Shire of Ramsgaard"
Pre Register! First 25 adults to pre register get a FREE T SHIRT!

June 27-29, 2008
Clearwater, BC

Autocrat Chair/ Pre Reg:
Adwen Wrenn (Jenna Huxley)
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Kamloops BC V2C 1G6
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wrenshenna@hotmail.com

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E-mail: info@buffaloranch.ca
Cabins are available to rent directly from the site.

Directions:
Make your best way to
Clearwater BC.

When you reach Clearwater, turn at the Clearwater Tourist Information Centre onto Clearwater Valley Road. Follow this road for 20 kilometers and you will find us on the left hand side of the road. The ranch is half-way between the town of Clearwater and the Wells Gray Park entrance.

(Continued from page 6)

you say 'go' will improve your score on timed events. It will also help in the long run if your horse is well socialized with people and other horses.

Speed Control

It is critically important that you can control your horse at all times and at all speeds. Finding a straight path, kicking your heels and galloping off feeling the wind in your hair, albeit is great fun, does not mean you have control. The games you will ride in require that you can control your mount at a particular gait for an extended period. The gaits are Walk, Trot and Hand Gallop.

The Walk is pretty clear, but even a walking horse can be out of control if it is not taught to respect commands. The horse must be responsive, turn on cue, and stop immediately. Trail horses tend to get lazy at the walk. If they start to drag their feet, or grab for that juicy piece of grass, try changing direction, immediately begin a tight circle or some other drastic change. Keep them thinking and you will keep them learning.

The Trot is a quicker gait that can be rather rough to ride depending on your horse. Most have two trot speeds; first is a fast, ground covering stride and second is a slower and more economical stride. In my experience, many people usually allow their horse to perform the first enjoying the speed it provides, while not knowing how to get the horse to perform the second. The trot you are looking for is rather easy to sit and maintain.

I have found that what works best for me is to put your horse to the trot and gently pull back on the reins, not as severely as you would for a stop cue. If he slows up enough that he is about to begin walking, give a gentle 'go' cue, while keeping the bit pressure so that he does not forge ahead into the speed trot. Use varying degrees of 'stop' and 'go' cues to adjust your horses speed just like a volume control knob. Horses respond to pressures, so as soon as he has the gait you want, release the opposing 'go' and 'stop' pressures. It won't take him long to find the speed you want.

Much of what was said about the Trot also applies to the Hand Gallop. It is a slower, more controlled and efficient version of the gallop. Some may call it a lope or a canter, but whatever the term it is far more stable than the Full Gallop. I teach my horses to Hand Gallop in the same as the controlled Trot above.

Conditioning

Have any of you ever gone riding after a few weeks off and end up sore the next day? You are not alone. Your horse is too.

After a long time in a field, especially after the winter months, your horse will also be sore when he goes back to work. Start with some lunging for a warm up or light riding mostly at a walk for the first few times back. Slowly increase the time spent working and increase your speeds gradually. How often you ride will determine how much warm up your horse needs.

During conditioning it's a good idea to give your horse a light rub down afterwards. Brushing with the short bristle soft brush and using firm strokes will give him a massage that will reduce muscle pain the next day. I apply some liniment after a workout. If the weather is nice, I'll to add an ounce or two of Tuttle's Elixir to some warm water and

(Continued on page 8)

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shower him by soaking up water in a sponge, placing it against an upper area of the horse (neck, back, shoulder, hip) and squeezing the water out. Make to get the legs and joints.

If your he's barefoot, inspect his feet before putting him away. Look for chips, cracks or other blemishes. Try a topical dressing to improve the flex in the hoof wall if your horse develops a problem.

On the subject of conditioning, don't forget yourself. Always stretch before and after a training session. On days you are not riding, you should practice with your weapons. A lance may not seem like much when you craft it, but try carrying it around and holding it steady for minutes at a time is a harder than you'd think.

Your hands, arms and shoulders will thank you for it later.

Sacking Out

Just because Trigger has been a riding horse for years does not mean he is ready for the SCA. The most important thing you can do to get your horse ready is to sack him out. Sacking out means desensitizing your horse to his surroundings. Here's how I do it:

Step 1: Look around your home, office, school, stable, etc. Gather a collection of items that will scare your horse to varying degrees. Find things that will assault his vision and hearing. For example: plastic bags, shiny pots and pans, large feathers or fronds, clicking pen, whistle, bells, bed sheets, rope, clippers, etc.

Step 2: Put your horse in a relatively small area. **DO NOT USE HIS STALL TO SACK OUT!** The intention is to present him with scary things. You do not want him to associate scary with his home. A round pen is ideal, but a sectioned off arena or paddock would serve. Do not tie him, let him roam freely.

Step 3: Bring in the 'horse eating monsters' you have assembled and sort them from least scary to most.

Step 4: Take the least scary item and calmly approach your horse with it. If he takes one look at you and runs away, then let him. Go back to your pile and wait for him to settle down and approach again. Repeat over and over until you get all the way to him. Carefully rub the item against him starting at the shoulder and eventually covering his whole body. Be mindful of your safety at all times. Always allow him to move away if

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Silverwolf Barony of Borealis

June 21-22, 2008
Thorsby, AB

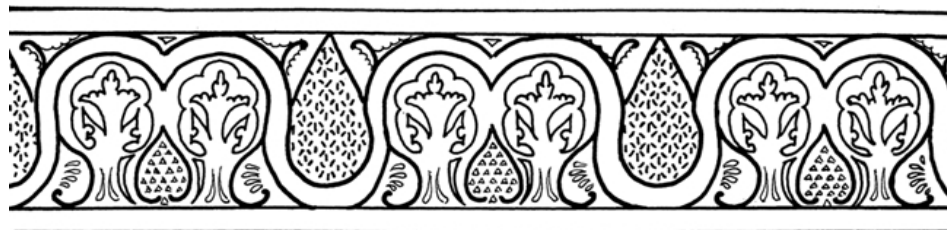
Their Excellencies Vik and Inga invite you to join Borealis as we compete in feats Martial and Artistic to determine our Baronial champions.

Site: Thorsby Community Centre
4813 49 street
Thorsby, Alberta
T0C 2P0

Event cost is \$20.00, \$10 Site fee; NMS is \$3. Make cheques payable to ASCA Barony of Borealis. For more information and to make reservations contact Fenrik fenrick@lostviking.com

Directions:

- ❖ Take Hwy 39 from Hwy 2 through Camaar.
- ❖ Turn left into Thorsby Drive to first crosswalk lights and turn left.
- ❖ Go straight into community centre parking lot.



May Crown hosted by the Shires of Briaroak, Glyn Dwfn,
Myrtleholt & Southmarch (Lake Selmac, Oregon)
<http://web.mac.com/macrenaissance/maycrown2008/>

July Coronation hosted by the Barony of Wastekeep
(Kennewick, WA)
<http://www.wastekeep.org/events/coronation2008.php>

June Coronet Cold Keep

June 6, 2008
Prince George, BC



My Lords and Ladies,
Their Highnesses Prince Einar Vikings-son and Princess Ifatahyo al-Jenne invite you to attend them in the Shire of Cold Keep, (Prince George, BC), on the grand occasion of choosing the heirs to the thrones of Avacal!! The Coronet Tournament style will be at His Highness' discretion and will be announced at a later date. All fighters wishing to enter the tournament, will be required to present themselves to His Highness in the fighting erik at 10:00 pm, Friday June 6th. Both Fighter and consort are each required to have proof of membership, heraldic banners, and subscriptions to the Avantgarde. Knight's Council will take place Saturday evening following court.

This event will take place at the Rockins River Resort, located North of Prince George. This is a camping event, NO FEAST WILL BE PROVIDED. Small convenience store onsite. Shopping and liquor stores 15 minute drive to Prince George. Hot showers are available onsite.

Site opens at 4:00 pm on Friday, June 6th and closes at 12:00 pm on June 8th. Site Info: Rockin's River Resort, 3865 Salmon Valley Road, Salmon Valley BC. (250) 971-2223 Directions to Site: From South, East and West. Find your best way to Prince George. Take Highway 97N out of town, travel 13 km. Take your first RIGHT immediately after crossing the blue bridge. Take the first driveway to your right. From North. Take Highway 97S toward Prince George. 13 km from PG Turn LEFT immediately before you cross the blue bridge. Take the first driveway to your right.

Site fee: \$15.00, Children 6 – 15: \$10.00, Under 6: free (\$45.00 family maximum). NMS fees will be in effect. Make cheques payable to Shire of Cold Keep. Autocrat: L. Markus Pheils-mid (Jeff Betke), 328 Beech Cres, Prince George, BC V2N 1K9. (250) 649-0997, cell phone (250) 649-9480. e-mail: dragon_terror@yahoo.com

(Continued from page 8)

he wants to. You want him to allow himself to be touched with the item by choice. If he is tied or restricted in movement, he will not make the choice, but will take the opportunity to run as soon as it presents itself. If he does move away, go backwards until he stops, then begin again.

Once he accepts your item, walk away and get the next one. If you are using an item that makes noise, then be certain to make the noise while adjusting him to it. You want him to be aware that it's not going to hurt him, even if it is now making a scary noise. For items such as rope, run it long his legs and apply light pressure there occasionally. That way, if he should happen to get entangled later on, he will more likely stand quietly waiting for help, rather than try to rip the ropes off himself.

Don't expect to go through the pile in one session. It's possible, even likely, that you will, but don't expect it. If you do, you may start to feel anxiety if your horse is not progressing as quickly as you'd hoped. Your horse will sense your anxiety and it will only make matters worse. In this exercise, your horse is the boss and he will decide how long this will take.

Weapon Handling

After the sacking out, your horse should be ready to have you carry weapons. Begin with a basic riding crop or just a stick. Horses find these to be minor and accept them easily. Play with it while you ride. Let your horse get used to seeing you holding it and swinging at every angle. Once his ears stop swiveling about, then look at carrying a sword. He will eventually accept that as well.

Once he accepts the larger weapons, then try banners, flags and other stuff. It won't take him long to accept the tools of our trade.

Most horses will make the shift to warhorse fairly easily. There will be exceptions, however. If you encounter serious problems, talk to a professional trainer, or other experienced horseman.

SCA mailing lists are a good resource. Most of the members understand your exact situation and may have a solution. The An Tir Equestrian Yahoo Group has been around for some time and has an archive of posts that may hold your solution. The Avacal Equestrian Yahoo Group is new, but growing. Post your challenge and solutions to help future horsemen solve their problems. The more we all work together the easier it will be for each of us.

Next Issue:

Horse Event (What to Expect) & Assigned Responsibilities

Have fun! Be safe!

Lady Lyonet Lamoureux
lyalamoureux@gmail.com

The writer of this article is always available to answer questions at the email address listed above.

An Tir Book of the Horse Draft Release

I offer greetings to all budding equestrians in our Principality.

For those who are unaware (and a reminder for the rest) the An Tir Book of the Horse ("ABoH") is the Kingdom handbook for equestrian activities in An Tir. This document is intended to be a resource for everyone interested in equestrian and is meant to cover all the rules and regulations regarding the activity.

As I have stated in my previous issues, the An Tir Book of the Horse was pulled back in December 2007 for rewriting after the changes made to the SCA Equestrian Handbook were published.

A draft of the proposed new edition has been issued. You will find a link to the document below. The rewrite committee has issued this document with the intention of receiving public feedback from concerned parties.

Many things remain unchanged, but there are some significant changes in many areas, including minor participation and authorization levels. I highly recommend that all those interested in participating look over the draft proposal.

This is your opportunity to provide your comments and concerns. Comments will be accepted until April 28, 2008, at which time it will be submitted for final draft approval. If you have something to say regarding the new rules make your voice heard!

Comments will be received and reviewed on the An Tir Equestrian Yahoo Group. Just submit your membership request and after you get your confirmation, you're good to go!

There is also an Avacal Equestrian Yahoo Group you can join. If you haven't already received an invitation, search out the group and apply yourself.

Have fun! Be safe!

Lady Lyonet Lamoureux
lyalamoureux@gmail.com

Link to ABoH equestrian rules draft:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Avacal-Horse/files/AnTir%20EQ%20Proposed%20Rules.pdf>



May Days 2008 Shire of Windwyrn

The Shire of Windwyrn invites all to join us in our annual celebration of rebirth & renewal in the month of May.

Ladies may take part in the choosing of our May Queen, who will choose her Green Man for the traditional May Pole dance. Engage in honourable combat, be it armoured or rapier, with worthy opponents. Practice your archery skills, become a sheep herder for a weekend, or show off your abilities in performance or the arts. May Days is an informal, relaxed weekend event to start the beginning of the camping season. Our site is both spacious and verdant, with little to detract from a period atmosphere.

Autocrat: Lord Matthias der Jager
99 Mt. Alderson Cres. W
Lethbridge, AB
T1K 6N8
Phone (403) 329-2343 (day) or (403) 381-7078 (night)

Site Information:
This event will take place at the Fish and Game Park in Fort MacLeod, Alberta (there is no street address). Full amenities are available 2 minutes from the site, although none are available on-site. Alcohol is permitted in period containers. No smoking except in designated area. All pets must be leashed.



May 30th – June 1st Lethbridge, AB

Site opens at 12 noon on May 30 and closes 12 noon on June 1. The site fee is \$10.00 for adults (proof of membership required) plus a \$3.00 surcharge for non-members,

\$1.00 for youths (ages 6-16), and children 5 and under are free. Make cheques payable to Lethbridge Medieval Club (L.M.C.)

Directions:
From Lethbridge: Go West on Highway 3 (Crownsnest Highway). Stay on Highway 3 through Fort MacLeod. At the west edge of town, just past the Fort Museum, stay in the right hand lane and look for the Lyndon Road Sign, opposite the Shell Station. Stay on paved road down the hill. Go past the Daisy May Campground and look for signs.

From Calgary: Take Highway 2 south then east on Highway 3 into Fort MacLeod. Turn left onto Lyndon Road, opposite the Shell Station. Go past the Daisy May Campground and look for signs.

Schedule:
Friday, May 30th:
1:00pm Site Opens
Dark pm Torchlight Champion's Tourney
Saturday, May 31st:
11:00am Choosing of the May Queen & May Pole Dance
1:00pm Archery?
3:30pm Heavy Fighting – War stuff? Practice?
6:00pm A&S mini-competition
Sunday, June 1st:
10:00am May Queen's Court, Prizes
1:00pm Site Closes

Cold Keep Champions May 24, 2008

The Shire of Cold Keep invites all comers to vie for the honour of representing Cold Keep as Heavy, Archery, Rapi-er and Arts and Sciences Champion of our fair Shire.

The meal will be potluck - period dishes preferred! - followed by a bardic competition to entertain all. This is a discreetly wet site!

The site will be open from 9AM until midnight.

Further detail and championship requirements can be found on the Cold Keep website: <http://www.avacal-sca.org/coldkeep/>

The event is at the Miworth Community Hall at 13510 Flint Road, Prince George, BC, V2M 7B9. Make your best way on Highway 97 (the Bypass) to 5th Avenue. Turn west onto 5th Avenue and follow it to Foothills Boulevard. Turn north onto Foothills, and continue to Otway Road (just before the bridge). Turn east onto Otway Road and continue 11 kms to Flint Road. Note the road crosses the railway tracks three times before you reach the site. SCA signs will be posted.

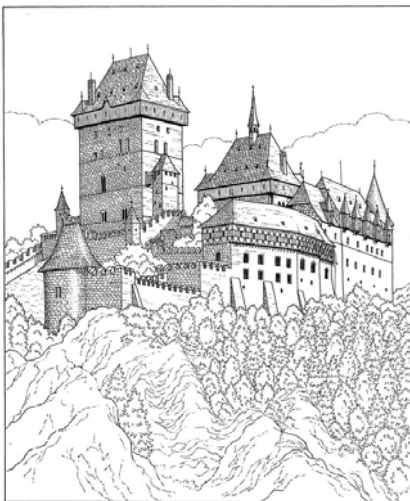
Shire of Cold Keep Prince George, BC

Site fee is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 5-12, children under 5 free: the \$4 non-member surcharge applies. Make cheques payable to the Shire of Cold Keep, SCA Inc.

Information about the tournaments will be made available by the outgoing champions and will be updated on the online event copy as it becomes available.

Autocrats:

HL Natal'ia Volkovicha
available at natalia@telus.net or by phone at 250-564-8278



Royal Summons for Principality Officers:

The following positions are open to anyone in the SCA who currently resides in the Principality of Avacal. If you would like more information regarding any of these positions please contact the incumbent or your local officer. If you are interested in applying for any of the following positions, **please submit a letter of intent along with a copy of your resume containing both SCA and mundane experience to Prince, Princess, Heirs and Principality Seneschal and the current officer.** Contact information is listed at the back of the Avantgarde.

*Anyone interested in becoming a deputy may contact the officer of the position of interest.
The help is always welcome.*

Regional Chancellor THUA (3) (May 15/08):

Their Highnesses' University of Avacal (THUA) is looking for three enthusiastic and motivated individuals to help implement the newly revised tenets of the university. If you want to promote the development of medieval and renaissance research and the sharing of knowledge in Avacal be it A&S or combat related, this is the job for you! Currently on the plate of THUA is stream lining the student and teacher recordkeeping process so anyone in Avacal can run a THUA at their local event. If you want to be a part of this solution, please apply!

All three regional posts are currently open and are all under the direction and supervision of the Lord/Lady Regent of the University. The administrative regions are broken down as Southern Alberta, Northern Alberta (including BC branches) and Saskatchewan. Specific responsibilities include the following:

- Serves as the primary contact for THUA activities in their region (helps find teachers, trains those running THUA event on recordkeeping, ensures recordkeeping done correctly etc...)

- Maintains student and instructor records for their region
- Aids in the reporting of THUA financial records to the regent
- Actively encourages the creation of new classes and promotes all THUA activities in their region
- When needed, stands in for the Lord/Lady Regent at Curia meetings and for bestowing THUA credentials
- Helps at Quad War and Grande Sessions of the University (registration, set up/tear down etc...)

This position requires good communication skills, computer skills and someone who is organized.

Principality Herald (June 01/08): The position of Avacal Principality Herald is open, and for any interested in applying for the position to send their resumes to the current Prince and Princess, the upcoming Tanist and Tanista and copy the Principality Seneschal. Principality Heralds are responsible for coordinating court, voice and book heraldry within their principalities.

New & Incipient Branch Deputy (May 15/08): The Incipient Branch Deputy is responsible for the formation and development of new branches in An Tir. The Incipient Branch Deputy acts as a resource for people wishing to form new branches, aids the Kingdom Seneschal in ensuring that proposed branches meet the requirements and monitors the progress of incipient branches in order to assist them in gaining official status.

(Continued from page 11)

Chronicler (June 01/08): As Principality Chronicler, you will be responsible for the regular publication of the Principality newsletter *The Avantgarde*. Either directly, in partnership, or through deputies, you will take Curia minutes; publish the updated Laws of Avacal; encourage the publication of the results of research; facilitate communication within the Principality; maintain a record of events and other matters which may be of historical interest; and review the newsletters within the Principality to make sure that they comply with Kingdom policy, don't violate copyright laws, and present a favorable view of the Society. You will also act as a contact between Kingdom and local groups and as a resource for branch chroniclers.

Warrant and Reporting Deputy (May 15/08): The Warrant and Reporting Deputy reports directly to the Avacal seneschal and is apart of the seneschallate team. This position was created to assist the principality officers with maintaining Avacal warranting rosters.

The responsibilities include: updating the branch and principality roster when a change of officer form is submitted; communicating with principality officers and principality seneschal to maintain the most up-to-date roster of branch and principality officer positions; creating the formal warranting roster which is reviewed by Avacal Royalty at both the spring and fall investiture; forwarding the authorized warrants to the designated kingdom officers.

Qualifications for this position include: knowledge of the principality officer positions including their reporting branch positions; knowledge of the warranting process and procedures; dealing tactfully when communicating with Royalty and other positions of authority (i.e.: kingdom officers); ability to communicate effectively via email; moderate skill level in Excel worksheets.

Requirements for this position include: access to a computer with Excel, internet, email and a printer.

Time commitment for this position: approximately 30 hours per six months to create and maintain the warranting roster. Typically 15 of the 30 hours will be one month prior to Investiture.

Web Minister (May 15/08): You will be responsible for maintaining Avacal online presence in accordance to copyright laws and SCA Electronic Policy. Duties include handling all correspondence related to Web matters and timely updates to the Web site. The web minister will be a deputy of and report to the Principality Chronicler.

Rapier Provost (June 01/08): The responsibilities of the Principality Rapier Marshal are to maintain, publish, and enforce the rules for period rapier combat and safety and equipment for period rapier combat as laid out by the Kingdom Earl and Rapier Marshals. They are also responsible for encouraging rapier combat and related activities with Avacal. A list of the full responsibilities and requirements can be found in the An Tir Rapier Marshal's Handbook.



Beltaine Montengarde

May 10, 2008
Calgary, AB

Their Excellencies Beothuk of the Beothuks and Wilma the Still invite you to Montengarde's Beltaine festivities. Beltaine is a time to celebrate renewal, and we are bringing that to life with this event. Without new blood and renewal of our energies and enthusiasm, the Dream would become an Obligation; therefore, we felt the best way to celebrate Beltaine is to make it the Festival of the New! We have a new hall and many new organizers, and would like to encourage everyone to bring people who are interested in what we do, but have not attended an event. By renewal, we ensure we can continue to have fun for many years to come!

In addition to archery, rapier, rattan combat, an A&S display, and a games table, the next Montengarde Bardic Champion will be chosen at this event. Merchants are also welcome. Finally, Her Excellency Wilma and the Serjeantry of Montengarde will be holding classes and testing of new applicants to the Guard. Please see <http://www.montengarde.org/> or contact the Event Stewart for further details or questions.

Event Steward: Lianor de Najera (mka: Allison Roth),
#4 1704 35th St SE,
Calgary, AB T2A 1B5.
403.850.5715,
beltaine@montengarde.org.

Feast Steward: Ellias Silver
(mka : Paul Cote)



Site Info: Irish Cultural Society,
6452 35th Avenue NW,
Calgary AB, T3B 1S6.
Hall opens at 10:30 and closes at
23:00. Archery is off-site at the
Calgary Archery Centre,
4855 47 St. SE,
which opens at 9:30 for warm-ups.

Site fee: \$10 (12 and under free).
Feast tickets: \$10 (12 and under \$5).
Non-member surcharge: \$3.
Archery fee (to be paid at Archery
Centre): \$7.
Make cheques payable to MCSA (note:
this cannot include archery fees).

Enclosed flames or tea-lights only,
please.

Directions: Best route to 16th Ave N
(Highway 1). From 16th Ave, turn north
on 49th St NW, then left on
Bowness Rd, left at Bowwood Rd, and
a slight left on 35th Ave.

AVACAL CALENDAR

May		
10	Beltaine	Montengarde
24	May Champions	Cold Keep
31	May Days	Windwurm
June		
7	June Coronet	Cold Keep
21	Silverwolf Champions Tournament	Borealis
28	Avacal-Tir Righ War	Ramsgaarde
July		
12	Dragonslayer	Montengarde
26	Turkish Picnic	Myrgan Wood
31-Aug 4	31 - Aug 4 - Quad War	Alfheimland

*Bold = event information has been submitted. * - Royalty Attending*

Calendar Policy: Autocrats MUST submit *Date Reservation* and *Event Information* forms to Kalends (see officer listings) before an event is officially reserved or put on Calendar. Forms available from your Seneschal or the Kalends officer. On-line forms which may be filled out electronically can be found on the Avacal webpage, under Officers/Seneschal/Forms.

All event copies for the Crier, Avantgarde, and Avacal Webpage have to go through the Calendar Officer. Make sure to note if you do not want the event copy in the Crier. The Avantgarde and webmasters do accept longer/fancier versions of the event flyers but **it still must be sent through the Calendar**. Please have the event information form (with appropriate signatures) and event copy to the Calendar Officer by the **15th of the month**, 2 months prior to the event. (i.e. If your event is January 22, have event copy in by November 15th).

Please include the following as required by the Crier:

- Date of event (day and month and year)
- Time of event (when site opens and closes)
- Name of sponsoring group
- Location (name, street address, and town) of the site. The postal code should also be included if available. If there is no street address, this must be noted in the copy.
- Name (society and modern) and mail address of the autocrat; email address or phone number are discretionary but are very helpful. (I find it useful to include the feastocrat as well)
- If there is a fee for the event, the statement "make cheques payable to <Group>" must be included.
- Official SCA Event Title
- Modern Location (town/city)

The event copy can be a maximum of 300 words for branch or baronial events, 350 for Principality events.

Principality Events require a Principality Event Info form as well as an EIF form and Event copy. These forms are due to the Calendar Officer a minimum of 6 months prior to the event.

Baronial Polling announcement!

Unto the populous of this great Barony of Myrgan Wood...

It is time again to determine all worthy applicants to be set before the populous and crown for the next installation of our rightful Baron and Baroness.

Be it known, the call is begun for interested people who may want to try for the positions of Baron and Baroness. All having such intent shall be advised to send forth-with their letters of intent and accompanying resumes to both myself and to the Crown at the soonest possible.

The deadline for these to be in is set to be absolutely no later than the hour of sundown, 28 days hence from this day upon the 15th of May. Expect the time and place of polling to be set and announced immediately there after.

L. Citvogl, loyal seneschal to the Baron of Myrgan Wood

A call for teachers at Quad!!

I, Bryjna Lovisdotir of Axewater, the Thua Co-ordinator for Quad war this year, would like to draw you near and request your aid.

We need classes for Quad, therefore we need teachers. Although I have spoken to a few of you in person and you have agreed to teach, I know that there are many amongst you who would love the opportunity to share your knowledge with others, that I have not yet had the opportunity to speak with. If you are interested in hosting a class at Quad War this year, please send me an email at mommaquilter at telusplanet dot net (remove the spaces and replace with the @ and the .)

I am not going to accept registration for the classes yet, however if you have information on the classes you would like to teach (how many students, whether it needs to be out of the elements, what your cost will be per student, what you will teach of course, etc), it would be appreciated. I will also need to know if you are helping someone teach anything else, so that when I create the schedule I won't conflict. I would like to make sure that the teachers get first naysay on the schedule - that way if there is a class you want to take, I will try to the best of my ability to prevent conflict.

I would also like to make sure that the teachers are NOT overwhelmed - if you want to teach more than once at Quad, please let me know. Otherwise I will most likely try my darndest to schedule only one class. Having taught 4 times in a row at Clinton and missing out on virtually everything (including visiting with mundane family who came to the event specifically to see me!!), I will NOT allow that to happen to anyone else. This event is for everyone to have fun!!

So....again, if you would like to teach (and even if you aren't sure you know enough to teach something - remember you know more than SOMEONE!!) Please, give me a shout/ email, and I'll schedule your class.

SCA Websites for the Non-techno Maven

Why an article dedicated to websites?

For some time now, it has been the norm for branches to maintain a website. That was not the case when I first started in the SCA. Email was just gaining as an accepted medium for communication and PDF wasn't even an option for our many handbooks. There was always a quotient of high tech folks but the general internet knowledge was nowhere near where it is now. But I'm not writing to muse about the good ol' days... Rather I'm writing to bring light to the ever increasing importance of a group's online presence and hopefully, to encourage people, both web-savy and non, to take a look at how they can help their branch's online home. We will explore the ways the general branch membership can help their lonely web minister and provide hints and advice for web ministers to make their site more usable and easier to maintain. We will touch on SCA policy and general design issues, and hopefully, inspire a new interest in how Avacal and its branches portray themselves online.

How can we help our webminsters?

One of the major issues in web design is learning who is your audience? Basically, there are two types of people who visit a group's website – those that know about the SCA and those who don't. More and more of the general public are coming to learn about their local groups through the website. SCA veterans often log on searching for officer emails, official documents, or event copies. Web designers have to provide information about their group that caters to both.

For most newcomers, once they hear about the SCA, all they need is a meeting location and contact email to get involved. Some groups also provide a links on their websites for how-tos on etiquette, making garb or starting armour. But what really keeps them reading online are stories. This is where members of the branch can step in, providing branch history, news updates, event reports and persona profiles and stories. These not only record the going-ons of the branch but gives new people a better idea of what they are about to become a part of.

One way to make it easy for the populace to provide information is to create a template. For example, to help create membership pages Rhuddglyn has in the past asked people to answer in the following:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ❖ Medieval Date of Birth: | ❖ Offices Held: |
| ❖ Medieval Place of Origin: | ❖ Activities & Interests: |
| ❖ Family members: (Parents, etc) | ❖ A&S |
| ❖ Personal Bio: | ❖ Combat (weapon styles) |
| ❖ SCA Bio: | ❖ Other: |
| ❖ Time Spent In SCA: | ❖ Awards Earned: |
| ❖ Title: | ❖ Household Affiliations: |

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This is a terrific source for cheap, high-quality, royalty-free photos, illustrations, etc. You can search for photos by subject, size, price, and even by colour (an awesome feature if you're trying to match a colour scheme). Use the Advanced search for even more options.

Wikimedia Commons

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

Another source of (possibly) royalty-free images. Make sure you check the license of whatever image you want to use!

Clip Art

<http://www.dregate.com/clipart.html>

Accessibility

<http://www.w3.org/WAI/>

World Wide Web Consortium – an organization which develops web design standards to increase accessibility. Provides code validation & design information. This is THE place to go to make sure your site is accessible to everyone.

<http://www.w3schools.com/>

This is an amazing free resource for learning new languages. Topics include HTML, CSS, XML, PHP, JavaScript, AJAX, SQL, and too many others to name. It's a cool site because it has sample code that you can alter right on the site and see how your changes affect the output.

Open Source software:

<http://sourceforge.net/>

A growing collection of downloadable software ranging from graphics editors to website content management systems and beyond. Level of know-how needed varies.

Forum Boards:

<http://www.phpbb.com/>

Open Source software that can be install and customized.

<http://www.proboards.com/index.html>

Provides hosting for bulletin boards so BB software does not need to be installed on the domain.

Creating PDF's

PDF's are the most popular format for online downloadable documents.

Adobe Acrobat - www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/index.html.

PDF Online - https://www.pdfonline.com/convert_pdf.asp

CutePDF - <http://www.cutepdf.com/Products/CutePDF/writer.asp>

PDFCreator - <http://sourceforge.net/projects/pdfcreator/>

PrimoPDF - <http://www.primopdf.com>

Interesting Links (to spice up your branch website...)

(Thanks to HE Sir Ivar the Black for providing these!)

General Web How-To's and Advice:

A List Apart

<http://www.alistapart.com/>

This is an incredible resource for any web person. It includes articles on graphic design, usability, accessibility, CSS layout, and just about everything else that has to do with the web. It includes code samples, best practices, and so much more. I was on this site daily when I was doing web design (no time for that these days).

Web Monkey

<http://www.webmonkey.com/>

Another great site for aspiring web developers. Includes code samples, advice on design, reviews of new technologies, etc.

<http://webdesignfromscratch.com/>

Similar to A List Apart, this is another excellent site for code samples and general advice on how to build a great web page.

<http://websitetips.com/>

an educational Web site design and development resource especially for anyone wanting to learn about Web sites

Web Design Library

<http://www.webdesign.org/>

Gadgets:

Google Gadgets

<http://www.google.com/webmasters/gadgets/foryourpage/index.html>

Cool little things (local weather, driving directions, count-down timers, etc) that are easy to add to any web page.

Counters:

Statcounter.com

<http://www.statcounter.com/>

This is an excellent free web tracker that keep track not only of the number of visitors, but also provides statistics on where they are located, how they found the site, what operating system they use, what resolution their monitor is, how long they were on your site, etc.

Images:

Stock images

<http://www.istockphoto.com/index.php>

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Another way is to pose specific questions, such as what was most memorable about your first event? Or how did you become interested in such & such culture. To find out more about the branch ask about the firsts: The first meeting, attendees, event or royal visit declaration of Incipientship, or gaining full status. Other highlights to investigate on include other past events, past champions, officers, former members and the progress to Barony if it applies.

Individuals may also come forward to help if they can post their own information, perhaps through a wiki ("A website or similar online resource which allows users to add and edit content collectively"). An Tir has a culture wiki set up at <http://wiki.antir.sca.org/> with pages already in place for each branch and some individuals including most of the peerage members & royalty. It's very easy to contribute and keep up to date. Visit Avacal's page at: <http://wiki.antir.sca.org/index.php?title=Avacal>

Most web ministers are delighted to have any information that can make the website more interesting and helpful but it's often a problem of where to find it. By stepping forward to help, we can be our best cheerleaders, to write our own stories.

The 3 P's - keep present, remain positive, and obtain permission.

There are a lot of us out there in the SCA that use branch websites at least weekly. As many groups slow down or stop publishing newsletters websites begin to take on the many roles newsletters, while still serving their original function of providing a basic contact point.

"If someone picks up a newsletter, they look at the print date. If it is from a year ago, they can't expect the information to be current and accurate. Whereas with a website people expect the information to be the latest and greatest at all times. There are challenges in this, indeed. It is as though you're working at a newspaper rather than a magazine. Newspapers are published daily whereas magazines are published monthly (in many cases). If you approach websites as newspapers, and have staff who understand this, your content can stay fresh. When maintenance ceases it is as though your newspaper is stuck in time."

- Kevon Houghton, Webminister, SCA Inc.

webminister@sca.org

Now, thankfully our branch websites do not need to be updated daily, especially considering we are a volunteer organization. But they do need to be reviewed regularly and provided with current content. Again, this is where the branch members can step in to help: providing feedback, ideas, and submissions to post. If there is an outdated link, let your webminister know. When an officer changes ensure the webminister is notified.

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Keeping the content positive is more of an editorial task but not an arduous one. Slander, liable and accusations should be avoided, as should links offsite to questionable pages. Off color stories should be saved for the campfire. The website is one of the many faces we show to the world so it's to our benefit to keep good news stories front and centre. Keeping that in mind will make it easier to decide an item is usable or not.

And for the last P – Permission, well, this is not only SCA policy but general good sense. Get permission for everything. In Canada, the simple act of creating an image or writing an article automatically enables copyright. Just because you can copy it from another web site doesn't mean that you are allowed to! There many talented photographers and writers in Avacal. A sample permissions form is located below:

Publications Permission Form

I, _____, being known within the Society for Creative Anachronism as _____, do hereby grant permission for the (article/poem/picture/song/other _____) entitled: _____ to be used as to post on the Web page for: _____ {Branch Name} _____

The following disclaimer may also appear:

I recognize that persons unknown may link to this site or may use my work without my permission. I shall hold the web page owner harmless from such activity if proper notice appears on the Web page, and I am immediately notified when the link or use is discovered.

Gaining permission also applies to contact information. SCA policy states that for officers we are free to publish SCA names and email aliases but that's it. In most cases, it's not necessary to post your address or phone number but if you wish provide your web minister will a quick email that states you can post your personal email. (On the other hand, if your branch has a newsletter that is posted on your website, drop your chronicler an email if you wish to give permission to publish your full contact information in the online newsletter.)

Now I realize that this is beyond the simple idea of putting together a few HTML pages, but it is a necessary part of the SCA. Since there are no limitations of page count or print costs, it may be tempting to create a huge, intricate website. Web ministers should consider how cumbersome updates or maintaining permissions may become before going forward, hopefully with the help of the branch members.

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3. Use caution when typing in all caps as it LOOKS LIKE YOU ARE SHOUTING AND IT IS HARD TO READ FOR MORE THAN A FEW WORDS!

4. Do add some variety. The playful addition of some novelty fonts can add just the right touch in certain situations. There are a few examples below all set at 12 pts. Note how much size difference there is.

American Uncial – *the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.*

Anglo-Saxon 8th C – *THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPS OVER THE LAZY DOG.*

Viking—The Quick brown Fox Jumps Over the Lazy Dog.

Old English – *The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.*

Lucida Calligraphy – *The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.*

Pseudo Runic Characters – ↑*| ■N|Y BR†■† ††■ INYBh †NIR
↑*| ††■ †††.

5. Do not over use ornate or script fonts. Many of these are great for headings, but

become very tiring to read large blocks of text. *Blackletter* fonts are a good

example of this. So is Alexei Copperplate (*The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog*) just to name a few. These should also NEVER be used in all caps, as they become nearly illegible:

6. Avoid using more than 2 fonts in a page. Highlight the header (and sub headers) with one font and use your regular font for the body.

7. Consider changing the letter spacing. Placing individual letters further apart or closer together can affect a person's ability to read. This may be good or bad depending on what font you use. Spacing may help fill in blank spaces when you need to or fit words into tighter spaces.

From the Principality Webminster

Greetings Avacal!

This being the web issue of the Avantgarde I thought it appropriate to give an update on the state of Avacal's online presence.

A new service we are providing is mail forwarding to generic addresses for officers of the branches of Avacal. The advantage of using addresses like these is that the contact email address for officers doesn't change when the office turns over. The address is set to forward to the new officer's email address. This is especially handy for officers that deal with the public like the Chatelaine and the Seneschal. If your shire or barony is interested in using avacal-sca.org addresses for its officers please let me know.

It's not new but I would like to remind people that most of the officers have online forms available that can be used for submission of quarterly reports. A link to the report form can be found on each officer's page. Fill in the form and hit 'Submit' and the report will be emailed to the Principality officer, your branch seneschal (as well as Baron and Baroness if in a barony) and a copy is mailed to you as well. Hopefully these forms make reporting a little easier each quarter.

It has been over 2 years since I became Web Minister and so the time has come to advertise the position. I have really enjoyed the opportunity to serve Avacal in this office and recommend it as an excellent way for those with some web skills to get involved in the organization and development of our great Principality.

Raoul
Avacal Web Minister

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This article is created using Times New Roman which is a serif font. Serif fonts have little tags at the top and bottom of the letter which help join the letters of the word together to make them easier to read as full phrases. It is suggested you use serif fonts for your body text. Other examples include Aldine, Book Antiqua, and Garamond.

Arial and Verdana are examples of san serif fonts. These work well in captions and sidebars with small amounts of information. Also text boxes with black background and white letters benefit from using san serif.

1. Choose your type fonts with care. Fonts always look different on paper than they do on your computer screen.
2. You can add interest and emphasis to your page by adding style variants such as **bold** and *italics*.

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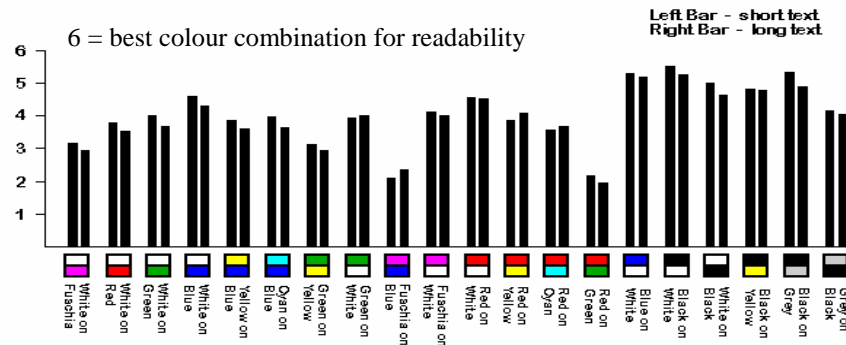
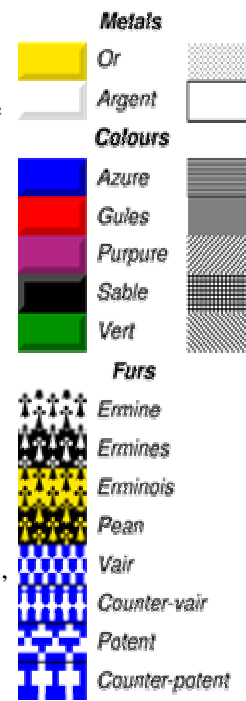
Readability: Colour & Font Use

Colour is the first thing to make an impact. It takes just mere seconds for a visitor to decide that the website is unreadable and move on. There are a few excellent online sources such as <http://hubel.sfasu.edu/research/surveslts.html> that examines the readability of colour combinations and basically, heraldry is right – colour on colour is hard to read and high contrast is best. After black text on a white or grey background, the most readable colour combination is blue text on white background or black text on a yellow background. The lowest score in legibility is fuchsia on blue and red text on green.

Unfortunately, no one to my knowledge has created a list of heraldic colours corresponding to their web colours. The following contain my best guess: Azure – 0000FF, Gules – FF0033, Purpure – 990099, Sable – 000000, Vert – 009900, Or – FFFF00, Argent – FFFFFFFF. If anyone has better matches, please share them with us.

More information about online colour usage.

- <http://websitetips.com/colorcharts/weinman/value/>
- <http://www.sibagraphics.com/colour.php>



A Few Font Do's and Don'ts

With the variety of fonts available today, especially medieval looking scripts, it may be tempting to spice up your website with as many as possible. As with colour, the main thing to remember when using fonts is to be consistent and keep it readable. Simple, well thought out pages are much easier to read, and frankly, easier to create & maintain.

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From the Principality Scribe!

Greetings to the populace!

I am Lady Findabhair na Noinini, your Principality Scribe. My main mission is to encourage the scribal arts in our fair principality. I would like to encourage all of you to take a look at the scribal website:

<http://www.avacal-sca.org/scribes/>

I also have a few requests:

Some of the awards given out by their Highnesses require original artwork, as opposed to charters, which simply need to be painted. If you are interested in creating any of these illuminated documents, or if you know someone that enjoys creating these special documents, please contact me so that people can continue to receive these beautiful items. These cannot be made if I do not know who can do the work!

Also, if you are interested in painting charters, please contact myself or the Royal Scribe, Lady Guillane de Gaulle.

If you would like to commission a scroll, please contact me, and I can find someone to create it for you.

Finally, I am sure that there are those in our Principality who have damaged or missing scrolls. Perhaps the seal on your AoA has broken. Perhaps there was a fire and your scroll was destroyed. Perhaps you simply didn't receive a scroll when you should have! If there is any reason that you do not have the scroll to go with your award, please contact me, and I will make any necessary arrangements to ensure that your beautiful document gets back to its original state. Please note: If the seal on your scroll has broken, please save the pieces for me, as they can be used to create new seals.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope to hear from many of you soon. My email address is noinini@telus.net.

Yours in Service,

Lady Findabhair na Noinini
Gules Signet Scribe



Call for Largesse!!

Slainte Avacal,

Their Highnesses, Einar Vikingsson and Ifatahyo al-Jenne, would be grateful and honoured to receive contributions of largesse from the people of Avacal to show its generosity and bounty. The reputed skill of Avacal's artisans is spreading and gifts from the hands of the Coronets Avacal are becoming more eagerly anticipated.

Examples of items that are sought for largess:

- *Wool trim (Tablet or inkle woven bands)
- *Skeins of hand spun wool
- *Felt items or any other type of textiles
- *Metal work/small hand forged items - such as eating ware, small hooks, strike a lites, arrow heads, ring pins, etc.
- *small metal or wooden boxes that look hand-made in period styles
- *hand carved wooden, bone or antler items - such as household items, toys, sewing implements, etc.
- *napkins or other table linens made from natural fibers
- *handmade lampwork beads
- *period toys, games, children's activities
- *large bags and pouches made from natural materials
- *tassels and other ornaments (that can be used to decorate largess please use natural-looking yarns or thread)
- *pottery

Make sure to attach a tag to your donated item with your SCA name and branch - - Their Highnesses want to make sure that people are properly thanked for their contributions, and it is important that the items be labeled when they are gifted during the reign to demonstrate the talent and generosity of the people of Avacal.

Please avoid items such as:

- *potpourri, candles, or other scented items
- *cordials, homemade wine or other food products (largess that is consumable really should be commercially produced and packaged - please ask regarding special circumstances)
- *anything especially fragile, very large or heavy, or that requires special handling
- *used items

Thank you for your consideration. Their Highnesses appreciate the time, effort and creativity that goes into making largess and will be extremely proud to gift your donated items during Their reign.

Please contact me if you would like to make a largess donation and we will make arrangements for the delivery of your thoughtful gift of largesse.

Slan,
Maistreas Sadb ingen Thuathail
Avacal Largess wrangler for Their Highnesses Einar and Ifatahyo
vfoster @ xplornet.com or 780-354-3803 (no calls after 10:30 p.m.)