



# the Jeoman

AS LVII  
August 2022  
Volume 36, Issue 8

The official Newsletter of the Barony of Bright Hills



**Sunrise Over Pennsic**  
photo by Scholastica Joycors



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## For Sale - Baronial Trim



*Thanks to His Excellency Gordon & Calontir*

*Trim*, we have procured 300 yards of Baronial trim!!!!

We have exclusive rights for ONE year and then Calontir Trim will sell the remainder. We will be selling it at the price that we purchased it for: \$3.00 per yard. All money will go to the Barony! Checks, which is the preferred payment, made out to "SCA, Inc., Barony of Bright Hills" will be accepted, but cash will be accepted as well. Sorry, no others forms of payment at this time.



## A Note from Your Chronicler

Pennsic Wars is looming in the near future. Some will attend and others will stay back and keep our home fires burning. As you prepare for a total immersion into this game we play, let us do so with integrity and joy in our accomplishments. Let us find ways to serve others in the background where no one sees to fill the pockets of the heart. The heat will be intense and sometimes tempers flair, so let us calm our spirits with good friends, good music and stories and of course good food. Please remember to stay hydrated and enjoy the journey. See you at the war!

If you are looking for me at Pennsic you will almost always find me in the Performing Arts tents.

Yours in Service, Story, and Song,  
Lady Scholastica JOYCORS  
Your Bright Hills Chronicler

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Submission Guidelines: Articles and artwork (including photographs) and all required signed releases are due by the 20th of the month prior to publication. For articles, pictures, and all other submissions to *The Yeoman*, please submit to the Lady Scholastica Joycors at [brighthills.chronicler@gmail.com](mailto:brighthills.chronicler@gmail.com). Email submissions are preferred; please submit using rich text format (RTF) or as an attached MS-Word file (DOC) for all articles.



# the barony of bright hills



Bright Hills, we bring greeting to all.

I had the honor of watching Lord Grimkell of Bright Hills, as he fought at the recent Storvik Novice Tourney in the hotly contested Unbelted Tournament. He successfully made it to the finals with a record of 5-0. He was bested by Lord Hugo in the finals but brings great honor to House Wulfshaven and to Bright Hills. Congratulations Lord Grimkell on a day well done.

Pennsic is here, hopefully all that have traveled to Coopers Lake had a safe trip and we hope you have a safe trip home. Her excellency and I will be having a small gathering at Camp Blackstar on the 9th, the Tuesday of war week starting at 7pm. Please join us for light refreshments.

Future events.

The Royal Rabbit Demo is the 27th of August at the Winery. This is a fun event, normally featuring a fighter, archery, and A&S demo. This is a lovely setting and fun time, please plan on attending. More information will be sent out via email and Facebook.

Trial by Fire and Royal Archery is fast approaching, September 9th through 11th. The event web site is up to date and SCARS site is up and running. This year we will have Their Royal Majesties in attendance. Please join us to see the best archers in Atlantia compete for Royal Archer title, cooks from the known world compete in primitive cooking contests and remember that the Cook's guild is planning a wonderful feast, as well. Contact Dame Wynne ferch Rhodri to volunteer to help at the event. Bright Hills Birthday, believe it or not, it is in the planning stages. We would ask that our current Champions start planning their competitions to select their replacements now. As a reminder, Wanda and I will be stepping down as the Baron and Baroness at Birthday. If you are interested, we would love to talk to you and have you shadow us at an event. Please contact the Seneschal, Mistress Jeanne Tenneur de Bec if you are interested in this position.

We would ask that everyone look for ways to support the Barony; there are a few Officer and deputy positions that need filling. If you are interested, please speak with the Seneschal, Mistress Jeanne Tenneur de Bec.

Always remember, the motto of Bright Hills, "Semper Optima Ex Coles Luminosis"; which is "Only the Best from Bright Hills."

Yours in Service,

GORDON AND WANDA

Baron and Baroness of Bright Hills





# Business Meeting Notes



July 15, 2022  
started online at 7:04 pm

In Attendance: Gordon and Wanda, Dame Wynne, Lord Alexander, Sir Kollack and Baroness Rebecca, Lady Eadyth, Lord William Ringlancer, Lady Clara, Mistress Barbara, Mistress Jeanne Tenneur de Bec.

## Officer Reports:

### ChateLain

Baroness Rebecca von Zweckel (Becky Kepple)

Had a pretty good month so far. No cold contacts but lots of planning going on for upcoming demo's. There are two in the works currently. Maestra Barbara is spearheading the Irish Festival coming up November 11th-13th. I have to say, I am thrilled beyond words that she has accepted to be the organizer since she has such a deep knowledge and wonderful history with the festival. I do plan on supporting as I may and will be joining the group on Saturday. Looking forward to it with excitement.

Speaking of excitement-we have been invited back to Royal Rabbit for their Medieval Days on August 27th. Very similar to the way it was run last year. I will be putting the call out for volunteers over the next few days. Armored Combat will also be there along with a potential for Target Archery. We will be looking for a variety of A&S and hope to set up a schedule where each discipline can be showcased.

And that is a perfect segway to mention the classes that our MOAS has been putting together for the Baronial Gatherings. I haven't participated nearly to the extent I want to and am hopeful that I can assist her more in the coming months. Classes and readings are an awesome way to get folks interested and engaged.

### Chronicler

Lady Scholastica Joycors (MyLinda Butterworth)

Yeoman out on time.

### Exchequer

Lady Clara von Wonsiedel (Michelle England)

The checks were sent to the Kingdom for both the Kingdom pavilion at Pennsic, and the Children's Fete. Seneschal has been added to the Baronial bank accounts.

### Herald

Lord William Ringlancer (Bill Soucy)

Not much to report. No June zoom due to tech issues. Considering some heraldic classes/articles for the Barony.

### Knights Marshall

Sir Kollack von Zweckel (Kenneth Kepple)

### MoAS

Mistress Deirdre O'Bardon (Debbie Eccles)

Cooks Guild met July 10 to discuss feast and cooking competition plans for Trial by Fire and Royal Archery. Eight people attended.

A virtual bardic was held by Baron Gordon on 6/18/2022 and attended by 5 people.

Classes- Lady Sindara taught a class on Scouting Out the Bead at the Populace Gathering on June 19.

Lady Eadgyth the Archer coordinated a class on leather working at the Baltimore Bowmen on 7/14/2022. 4 in attendance.

Lady Scholastica Joycors did a display at Storvik Novice showing garb made for her Persona.

Planned - There will be cooking, bardic and poetry competitions at Trial by Fire and Royal Archery.

### Minister of the List

Lord Alexander Fowler (Hunter Fowler)

No report.

### Youth Minister • VACANT

### Baronial Steward • VACANT

### Webminister

Lady Dagný austkona ( Rachael Knoblauch)

No report.

### Seneschal:

Mistress Jeanne Tenneur de Bec (Becky Ritterhouse)

I am on the bank accounts; Warrant for Lord Graham



(as deputy seneschal) approved; Working on warrant for Dame Wynne as autocrat for Royal Archery / TBF; Published information for baronage candidates on website and Facebook page. Need to check all contact information in newsletter and Facebook page for changes and corrections.

## BARON AND BARONESS

Godai Katsunaga and Wanda the Wanderer  
(Gordon & Wanda Lee Kinnie)

There will be a reception held at Pennsic on Tuesday, 8/9, at 7:00 in the House Blackstar camp.

Please get award recommendations in ASAP. Went to Storvik Novice - good event, but it was very wet

There will be a Gathering tomorrow at the Bowman, 1 - 4; Trim will be available.

## Guild Reports:

COOKS GUILD. No report.

## EVENTS:

**Birthday** - It has been verified that the site did publish the deposit check for 2021; Budge will be reviewed and hopefully approved at the next meeting

**Trial by Fire/Royal Archery** - Feast menu is published. Please register using SCARs as soon as possible

## Old Business

None

## New Business

None

Next meeting will be August 19, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting ended at 7:54 PM

*Any corrections or additions to these minutes should be sent to the Chronicler at [brighthill.chronicler@gmail.com](mailto:brighthill.chronicler@gmail.com)*



## Greetings to the Barony!

As members of the Barony, you may be aware that our esteemed Baron and Baroness, Gordon and Wanda, have announced Their intention to step down at the end of Their current term.

This means that in February 2023, at the Baronial Birthday event, a new Baron and Baroness will be invested. And it is time to begin to think about the process for the selection of these individuals.

Candidates (either as couples or individuals) will be required to submit Letters of Intent to me by 10/1/2022. The letters will be published in the Yeoman (the Baronial newsletter), and on the group list and social media. We will also schedule a time for the Barony to meet with candidates, prior to the polling.

Candidates will be reviewed and approved by the Royalty who will be selecting the next Baronage. Approved candidates will be listed on a polling that will be sent to all members (i.e., those with valid memberships who live within the defined zip codes of the Barony), in early November. This timeline is defined in Kingdom Law. The polling allows us to provide counsel to the King and Queen (or Prince and Princess) about the candidates, and to rank the candidates in preferred order.

If you are interested in submitting your name for consideration, please review the attached information from Kingdom Law and Corpora. You can also contact me or Their Excellencies with any questions.

I am, in Service to the Barony, the Kingdom and the Society,

*Jeanne Jenneur de Bec*  
Seneschal, Barony of Bright Hills



# Atlantian Calendar of Events



for more details go to <http://www.atlantia.sca.org/events/atlantia-calendar-events>

## June 2022

2-4	BAWT II:	Moorhaven	Myrtle Beach, SC
11	Atlantian Summer University	Atlantia	TBD
17	Below the Salt-Elchenburg Market Faire	Sacred Stone	Boonville, NC
25-26	Kings Assessment	Black Diamond	Roanoke, VA

## July 2022

8-10	Storvik Novice and Unbelt Tournament (Q K)	Storvik	Upper Marlboro, MD
16	Warrior Games	Tear-Sea's Shore	Harleyville, SC
29-8-14	Pennsic War IL (Q K)	Aethelmearc	Slippery Rock, PA

## August 2022

1-14	Pennsic War IL (Q K)	Aethelmearc	Slipper Rock, PA
27	Non-European Persona Workshop	Nottinghamhill Coill	Spartanburg, SC
27	Skewered 3	Roxbury Mill	Gaithersburg, MD

## September 2022

9-11	Trial by Fire and Royal Archery (Q)	Bright Hills	Glen Arm, MD
17	Atlantia Fall University - Live	Atlantia	TBD
23-25	Battle on the Bay (K)	Lochmere	Upper Marlboro, MD
24	Tourney of the Silver Chalice (Q)	Hidden Mountain	Harleyville, SC

## October 2022

1	Fall Coronation	Atlantia	TBD
8	Stierbach XXIV Baronial Birthday Celebration	Stierbach	Spotsylvania, VA
11-16	War of the Wings	Atlantia	Boonville, NC
10-29	Arts and Sciences Workshop	Nottinghamhill Coill	Spartanburg, SC

## November 2022

4-6	Crown Tournament	Hidden Mountain	Bennetsville, SC
11-13	Highland Havoc	Highland Foorde	Ijamsville, MD
11-13	Swamp Wars	Marinus	Courtland, VA
11-13	Red Mountain Tavern	Isenfir	Charlottesville, VA
11-12	Runestone Collegium	Sacred Stone	Lexington, NC
11-12	Buckston Birthday Bash	Buckston-on-Eno	Hillsborough, NC

## August Local Events

- 21 Archery Practice at the Baltimore Bowman
- 28 Gathering/Fighter Practice Cadance  
Web Minister Office Hours 7-8 pm (Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/iph-nbed-bib>)



# Calling all *Knowne World Cooks* and *Archers*

## **Trial by Fire and the Royal Archery Tournament is coming September 9-11, 2022.**

Archers...Lord Lewin has thought of a fine shoot based on Norse Tales. Be full of care my friends, Loki was last seen lurking around the area and that does not bode well.

OR

Perhaps he will be lurking around the cooking fires of the finest cooks in Atlantia. Competition in the four categories of Grains, Vegetables, Main Dish and Desserts have been known to catch the eye of the trickster of Asgard.

There will be classes, challenges and bardic also scheduled...stay tuned to the web site!

Whether you to shoot, cook, or just watch; plan to spend a few days in the lovely and gracious lands of the Barony of Bright Hills. Everyone is welcome!

**Location:** Baltimore Bowmen, 10310 Harford Rd, Glen Arm, MD

**Activities:** Cooking, Archery, Arts and Sciences classes so far!

**Web Site:** <https://www.eventatbrighthills.com/>

**Price:** Adult member- \$15.00

**Adult Non-member-** \$20.00

**Child-** (6-17) \$5.00

**Feast:** \$12.00 **FINALLY!!! Please pre-register with SCARs, to ensure a place at feast.**

**Camping Fee:** \$5.00- age 6 to adult, not to exceed \$20.00 per family unit.

**Friday, 9 September:** Site opens at 5:00 pm.

**Saturday, 10 September:** Troll opens at 9:00 am/ closes at 2:00 pm Pre-registration required, link to come.

**Everyone will check in with Troll first and then to either competition tables.**

- **Archery Competition:** 10:00 am
- **Trial by Fire (TbF):** Noon- 4:00 pm. Charcoal and wood fires may be started at 11:45 am.
- **TbF Judging:** After 4:00 pm
- **Court:** 5:00 pm
- **Feast:** After court and judging are done. Please contact the Head Cook for any food concerns/allergies. Please pre-register with SCARs, to ensure a place at feast.

*After feast, Bardic and Bonfire in the campground. Enjoy the evening with stories, song, and any other fine family entertainment. There will also be games in the Pavilion until we are all too sleepy to keep our eyes open.*

*Please remember, this event will be following the current Covid-19 rules. Watch this page, the Baronial e-mail list, the Baronial Booke of Faces page, and the event web site.*

**Autocrat- Dame Wynne-** [jay\\_wynne@hotmail.com](mailto:jay_wynne@hotmail.com)

**Cooks-** Mistress Jeanne- [beckyritterhouse@yahoo.com](mailto:beckyritterhouse@yahoo.com)

**Archers-** Lord Lewin- [lewindepartone@gmail.com](mailto:lewindepartone@gmail.com)

**Head Cook-** Mistress Brienna- [ladybrienna@gmail.com](mailto:ladybrienna@gmail.com)



# Lore from the Larder



## The humble Strawberrye

BY LADY SCHOLASTICA JOYCORS

**M**edieval recipes for summer fruit are rare. Strawberries, raspberries, brambles, blue and blackberries; they were all eaten as we like to eat them; 'straight from the bush', but you don't need a recipe for that. This wild strawberry or the *Fragaria vesca* is smaller than our strawberries today and littered the woodlands throughout Europe; just like the ones you find growing in your lawn sometimes today. The strawberries we eat today are varieties from American (North and South) strawberries. These were introduced in Europe in the seventeenth century.

Cultivated strawberries didn't occur until the early 1300's in France and mostly in home gardens. Then in 1368, King Charles V had 1200 strawberry plants planted in his Parisian gardens at The Louvre blanketing it in a sea of red. A few years later the Duke and Duchess of Burgundy planted a flour-block area on their estate near Dijon in strawberries.

The strawberry, a sweet member of the rose family, came to prominence around 1560 when Bruyerin-Champier, King Henry IV's physician reported that the English ladies were quite fond of strawberries and had even begun to plant them in their gardens so that they could indulge in A Dysschfull of Snowe or what we have come to call Strawberries and Cream. The wild strawberry was also used in medieval cooking to make strawberry wine, jams, jellies, tarts and strawberry shortcake. Aside from being used in cooking the humble strawberry was used in myth and legends and medicinal uses.

### INTERESTING TIDBITS:

- The medieval people believed that the strawberry represented righteousness and perfection and it's likeness was often carved into altars and pillars and around colonnades and pillars at churches and cathedrals to symbolize these desirable traits. Artist frequently depicted the Virgin Mary with strawberries to symbolize perfection and righteousness.
- Fresh wild strawberries were often only eaten by the peasants, because the nobility thought that raw food such as fresh fruit was suspicious or dangerous. Thus, the sweet strawberry was served cooked, boiled, or baked at important events to bring about peace and prosperity.
- Pregnant women of the this period avoided eating or even touching raw or cooked strawberries due to the superstition that their babies would be born with a strawberry-shaped birthmark.
- The strawberry was used as a medicinal herb as *Fragaria vesca* and was believed that it would help sunburn pain, skin blemishes, brighten discolored teeth and cure various digestive ailments such as diarrhea, upset stomachs and gout.
- In the late 12th century, Abbess Saint Hildegard von Binger, announced that one should not eat strawberries





because they grew on the ground where toads and snakes crept over them, making them unclean. Local political figures spread this fallacy and discouraged people from eating strawberries, this lasted for several years.

- ❏ In Norse mythology Oden's wife, Friggia gave strawberries as a symbol to the spirits of young children who had died in infancy who would then ascend to heaven hidden within a strawberry.
- ❏ Freyia, the Norse goddess associated with love, sex, beauty, fertility, gold, seiðr, war, and death used the strawberry as one of her symbols and her sacred food.

#### Bibliography:

<http://www.coquinaria.nl/english/recipes/03.4histrecept.htm>

<https://abbeymedievalfestival.com/category/medieval-householding/>



## A Dysschefull of Snowe STRAWBERRIES ON SNOW

(A Proper Newe Book of Cokery c.1575)

To make dyschefull of Snowe: Take a pottel of swete thycke creame and the whytes of eyghte egges, and beate them altogether wyth a spon, then putte them in youre creame and a saucerful of Rosewater, and a dyshe full of Suger wyth all, then take a stick and make it cleane, and than cutte it in the ende foure squsre, and therwith beate all the aforesayde thynges together, and as ever it ryseth takeit of and put it into a Collaunder, this done take one apple and set it in the myddes of it, and a thick bushe of Rosemary, and set it in the myddes of the platter, then cast your Snowe uppon the Rosemary and fyll your platter therwith. And yf you have wafers cast some in wyth all and thus serve them forthe.

To Make a tarte of Strawberries. Wash your strawberries, and put them into your Tarte, and season them with suger, cynamon and Ginger, and put in a littl red wine into them. (*The Good Housewife's Jewell*, T. Dawson)

#### Redacted Recipe:

Snow:	2 pints strawberries
8 egg whites	1 cup red wine
1 pint whipping cream	1/4 cup sugar
1/2 cup sugar	1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1-2 Tbsp. rose water	1/4 tsp. ginger

#### Method

**For Snow:** Whip cream and set aside. Then beat egg whites until they form soft peaks. Add egg whites to whipped cream and whisk together. Add rose water and sugar - adding a little sugar at a time. This stuff will have a consistency something like Cool-Whip, but will taste lots better.

**For Strawberries:** Clean strawberries and place into bowl. Mix red wine, sugar, cinnamon, and ginger. Pour mixture over strawberries and allow to marinate for an hour or so.

Serve "snow" with strawberries on top and with a couple shortbread cookies, ratafia, amaretti biscuits or wafers on the side.

#### Resources:

A Proper Neue Book of Cokery, T. Gloning (ed.) <http://www.staff.uni-giessen.de/gloning/tx/bookecok.htm>

<http://www.medievalcookery.com/notes/ghj1596.txt>

<http://www.medievalists.net/2015/09/recipes-from-the-tudor-kitchen/>



# Things To Do At Pennsic


by Lady Katharine of Caithness

1. Camp with friends. Life in camp is always nicer with your best friends about you.
2. Take the bus all the way around it's route at least once, only then will you have an idea of how large an area Pennsic covers.
3. Go to as many classes as you can. Not only will you learn more about your favorite subject you will meet lots of interesting people who share your interests.
4. See at least one battle on the battle field. It is SCA warfare at its most impressive. You will get a real feel for what warfare was like in medieval times and best of all everyone who gets killed gets up at the end and with only their pride hurt with a few bruises.
5. Take a trip or two to the food court. There you will find just about any kind of food you could want.
6. Walk about and visit other groups camps you may not only get something to eat you may be invited to sample some of their home brewed/made beer and wine.
7. Go for a walk about in the merchant area. You will need to know the layout.
8. Attend court. It is perhaps the only time when all the barons, baroness and royalty of the kingdom of Atlantia are together on one platform at the same time.
9. Attend at least one party. There are plenty always going on.
10. Take in a evening stage performance or two. The singing groups are first rate and the comedy and acting is not too shabby either.
11. Go and take in Midnight Madness (no this is not the Rocky Horror Picture Show movie being shown at midnight). This is shopping Scadian style. Even if you don't buy anything, the street performances, music and food are worth the walk.
12. Stop by the archery range. Yes it is out of the way but it is very impressive seeing so many archers shooting, especially if you happen by when they are doing a clout shoot.
13. Do remember where you are camped. There are no street lights at Pennsic so bring a flashlight to get around after dark.
14. Go by the thrown weapons range. Why? Same reason as archery.
15. Pick up a postcard when they become available from the Pennsic Post Office and send it to yourself. They have a special post mark for each year. It is one of the cheapest memories you can buy, But years from now it will be priceless.
16. Go to Coopers Camp store and get some of the locally produced chocolate milk. (unless you are lactose intolerant) it is some of the best tasting you will have.
17. Stop by and see the street performers, along the various places on your way to coopers store.
18. Stop by and try the Mist tent. Best done when you are hot and sweating in your garb. Most refreshing
19. Go to Heralds Points and observe the heralds consulting with clients about names and devices. It is very interesting to see how they research a name and device. While things can get a bit tense and they are testy with one another at times it is amazing what they are able to do. And if per chance you are having trouble getting that name or device approved this is the place to go.
20. Finally Have A Wonderful Time. No two Pennsic's are ever the same and you will not pass this way again so go out and as Auntie Mame said " Live Live Live!"

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# Curiosity Corner



## Households in the SCA

by Gunnbjorn Gunnarsson

*The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author, and do not represent the SCA or any of its associated groups, kingdoms or members other than the author himself.*

**A**t a recent Talonvale Wednesday night meeting, the subject of Households in the SCA was discussed in brief. I thought that perhaps a bit more on that subject should be said, hence this article.

The following is taken from a larger "SCA Introduction" I wrote for a local computer bulletin board before Talonvale was founded, when Hawk, Fernando and I were trying to create local interest in the SCA. Look for other excerpts in the future.

### What is a household?

An SCA "household" is a difficult thing to define. No two are alike. Households have no "official" status in the SCA, but are a recognized part of SCA life.

Households are groups of people in the SCA who do things together, or pursue a common interest, or follow a particular leader, or simply enjoy each other's company. Most successful households will meet several of the above criteria. Each household will have a name, such as House Darkyard (a prominent household in the Detroit area) or, if they're Scots, Clan Whatever. The larger and more established may have their own emblems and badges, customs and traditions.

At its simplest, a household may be just a few people who like to hang together at events, perhaps camp together at the War. Such households seldom have any real structure beyond the "who's-in-charge-this-week?" level.

Many households are begun by an individual who becomes the "head" of the household, which will often be referred to as "(Name)'s household." If this person has strong leadership skills, the household may thrive; if not, it won't be around long.

Peers (Knights and their equals) will usually head households of their own. These consist of their current "significant other" and, in the case of Knights, the Knight's Squires and/or men-at-arms and anyone else he or she may invite to join. (Rather than squires, Masters/Mistresses of the Laurel take Apprentices, while Masters/Mistresses of the Pelican take Protégées.)

Since many families are now involved in the SCA, a household may even be an actual family unit. Even if none of a household's members are actually related, a good household should feel like a family.

Many households have no more than five or six members. Most will have less than twenty. Some have more than a hundred, and a very few have over two hundred.

A household may register its name and heraldry with the SCA College of Arms, just as an individual might.

### JOINING A HOUSEHOLD...OR MAYBE NOT...

Now, don't all of you rush right out and find a household to join! There are a few more things you might want to consider first.

In most cases, you join a household only after being invited to. If you find a household you want to become a part of, start hanging with those people, maybe let a few of them know you're interested, and be patient. Don't push. Some households have procedures for considering new members, most don't. In Households centered around an individual (a Knight or other peer, for example) the decision may be entirely up to that individual. Some households will require that potential new members be sponsored by a current member. As in most matters, it's difficult to find two households that do this alike.

### **But wait a minute...are you really sure you want to do this? Read on...**

Joining a household can be a big decision, so don't make it lightly. At its best, a household can help you get what you want out of the SCA; it can provide an extended family to support you, a knowledgeable hand to guide you, and good friends to have fun with. At its worst, it can deny you all of the above.

I firmly believe that it would be a mistake to join a household before you've figured out what you really want from the SCA. And that takes time. It would also be a mistake to join a household before you know what they're all about. I would advise anyone new to the Society to avoid joining any household for at least a year. (That advice is based on my own personal experiences and observations; your mileage may vary.)

When you join a household, it becomes part of your identity in the SCA. The reputation of the household reflects on you, and your conduct will reflect on the household. In other words, you're trusting the household and its membership with a part of your honor, and in turn a part of its/their honor is entrusted to you. So be careful.

And remember, you don't HAVE to join any household at all! In fact, most people don't.

Also consider that sooner or later the household you join may cease to exist. Like any social organization, households are subject to pressures internal and external. Power struggles, personality conflicts, member apathy, leaders moving on, a couple breaking up, any of these can be the death of a household.

Another thing; as you grow in the SCA, you just might outgrow your household.

I have been in two households since I joined the SCA. The first one disintegrated while I watched. I left the second for personal reasons. Joining the first may or may not have been a mistake; joining the second had been the right thing to do at the time. I'm in no hurry to join another; in fact, I doubt that I will. Perhaps one day I'll start my own; probably not, though.

## **how to FORM a household...OR NOT...**

Forming a household can be as simple as a group of people saying, "Hey, gang, let's be a household!" Once again, I recommend that you give the matter a bit more thought.

Before you leap, have the answers to these questions in your minds:

What kind of household do you want?

What do you expect to accomplish by forming a household?

What will the household require of its members?

What sort of leadership or social structure will the household have?

Do all of you agree on the answers to these questions?

Once you've resolved all of that, decide on a name, a theme (if you want one, such as a clan of Scots), a device and/or badge, bylaws if you want them, officers if you want them, and all the boring stuff like that. Congratulations. You're a Household.

## **ONE LAST COMMENT**

Please don't get the idea from reading any of this that I'm down on households. I like households. I liked being in households. I liked the people I was in households with.

Belonging to the right household brings a new dimension to your involvement in the SCA. It gives you an extended family within the larger extended family of the SCA as a whole, something on a more personal level.

I have, however, seen people's SCA experience spoiled by a poor choice of household, or by jumping too soon



at a chance to join a household before they really knew what they wanted from the SCA. All I am saying is, look well before you leap.

## The Great Dark Horde

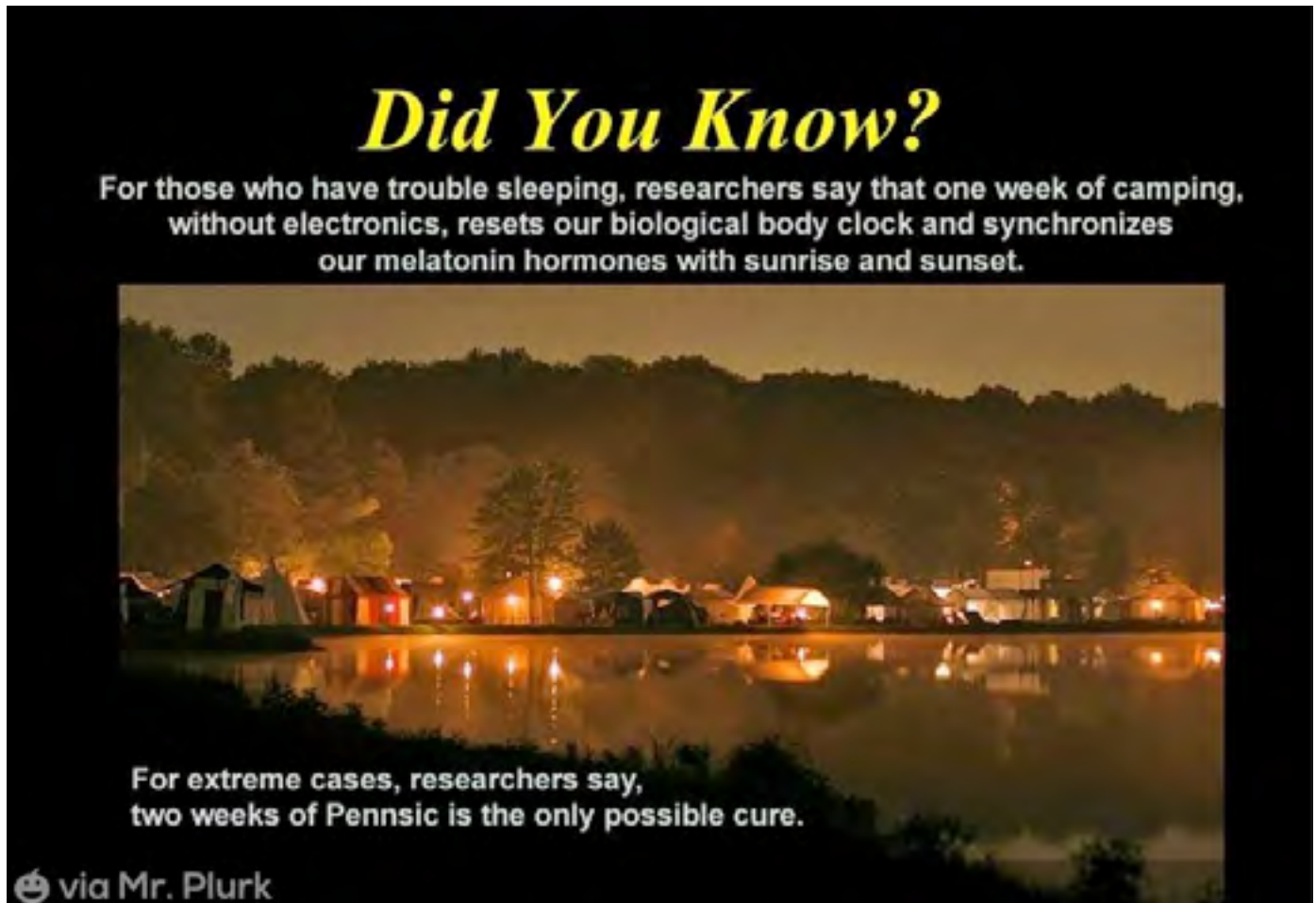
The Dark Horde is a household that deserves a special mention, if for no other reason than that it's the largest household in the SCA.

The Horde was founded in Ann Arbor by science fiction author Robert Asprin, whose SCA name is Yang the Nauseating (no kidding!). That was over twenty-five years ago. Since then, the Horde has spread across the country like...well, like a horde!

At first, they were all Mongols, but somehow a bunch of Vikings got into it. They would do authentic Barbarian schtick which would often offend the Euro-centrist medieval "purists" of the Society as a whole. This gave them a bad rep that stayed with them for a time, but which they may never have deserved and have largely put behind them.

The Horde is big. Really big. I'm not even sure how big. They have the biggest single camp at Pennsic War. Their membership is spread across the country, mostly in the northern Midwest and the Great Lakes states. They have their own social structure and newsletter.

These days, the Horde commands a great deal of respect. Because they field a larger fighting unit at the War than some Kingdoms, and because they owe no fealty to any particular Crown, the Midrealm and the East Kingdom each spend a great deal of time and effort trying to gain the Horde as allies. And while there are some people in the Horde I don't personally care for, the same can be said of the SCA as a whole and I wouldn't judge either the Horde or the Society by its worst examples. I should also say that some of the best people I have known in the Society are or were associated with the Dark Horde.





# The Bard's Corner

*Where story, poem and song gather together for the sharing*

## GUNNBJORN'S COLLEGE OF BARDIC KNOWLEDGE OR, MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE BORED

by Gunnbjorn Gunnarsson

*who used to get called a Bard a lot but was never really comfortable with it*

**B**ard" is a term you'll run in to frequently in the SCA. In current SCA usage, it refers to someone who sings songs and/or tells stories and/or recites verse and/or writes songs or stories or verse. And some people calling themselves bards can't really do any of these things worth a damn but insist on calling themselves "bards" nonetheless.

Throughout Medieval history (and for a very long time before and since) there have been wandering musicians/storytellers, and different cultures have given them different names. Bards, minstrels, troubadours, skalds, whatever; their rolls in Medieval society may have varied from time to time and place to place, but in the SCA we tend to lump them all under the term Bard.

Unfortunately, few "bards" in the SCA bother to find out much about this profession during their persona's time and place, and quite happily adopt the SCA usage of bard to describe themselves. But if you think I'm going to waste this space trying to correct people's misconceptions on this point, you're wrong; I am going to stick to talking about the "SCA Bard" from here on.



"Bard" is not an official title of any kind, although in some kingdoms there may be a position of "Kingdom Bard." This is usually an unofficial or honorary position. It may be an official title in some kingdoms, and some kingdoms may have a recognized "guild" of bards or even a College of Bards. In the Midrealm (where I'm writing this) there is neither guild nor college, but occasionally .Midrealm kings have appointed Kingdom Bards. I was once "King's Skald" ("skald" being roughly the Norse equivalent of "bard") in the Midrealm, but the only time I ever refer to myself as "former Skald to the King of the Middle" is when I'm trying to establish my credentials to pontificate on matters bardic. Like now.

### "How can I become a Bard in the SCA?"

There's an old joke about a lost tourist in New York who goes up to someone and asks, "How do you get to Carnegie Hall?" The New Yorker answers, "Practice." Same goes for becoming a bard.

I used to get asked this all the time (no, I don't mean the "Carnegie Hall" question!), and frankly I've never felt I had an adequate answer. I actually find the question somewhat embarrassing, since I never describe myself as a "bard" (and only ever referred to myself as a "skald" when actually serving as Skald to the King of the Midrealm). I hate to sound like a shoe commercial, but the best advice that I can give is just do it. Learn some material and go forth and perform.

But ask yourself this first: Why do you want to be a bard? Your answer should be, "I like to perform and entertain, and I'd like to be good at it." You should enjoy entertaining people, and not mind getting up in front of an audience and looking like an idiot (which can be quite entertaining indeed!).

A lot of articles I have seen on this subject stress regular practice sessions and serious vocal training. Sure, all



of that will certainly help, especially if you are pursuing a career as an opera singer. For the SCA bard, however, being able to read, work, and satisfy a crowd is of far more importance. This only comes with experience, though some people will initially be better at it than others. If this kind of thing doesn't seem to come naturally to you, don't despair. Work on it. Find an audience and perform. Take note of what works and what doesn't. Keep what works and discard the rest. Keep trying new stuff. Keep performing.

I am not saying that you should entirely forsake trying to improve your vocal skills; indeed, I often wish I had paid more attention to my High School Choir Director or studied vocal performance in college. I often practice my SCA material while driving to work. If you are having problems with your voice, ask someone who knows more about singing than you (such as a college voice major). Joining a community or church choir is a very good and cheap way to receive basic vocal training and experience.

Even if all of your efforts to become a better singer should fail, don't give up! Poetry and prose are sadly neglected in most SCA bardic performances but can be damned good stuff to listen to.

Then again, if you have any real talent for instrumental music you may not need to open your mouth at all. If you can play an instrument that sounds even remotely period and play it well you will be more than welcome at most fires. For this kind of performance, there is really no substitute for regular practice and study but you will still need to develop a sense for the crowd, which only comes from repeatedly performing to an audience.

If you don't know how to read music, don't rush right out and sign up for a music theory course (even though this is valuable stuff to know). Most of

us learn new songs by ear anyway. A few of the best musicians I know can't read a note.

## “Bardic” Material

Most of the material performed by SCA Bards falls into three categories:

**Period Material** - I should say right off that most SCA Bards don't do a lot of period music. There are two main reasons for this. One, there's a lot more non-period-yet-non-mundane (see below) music to choose from; and two, most medieval music doesn't sound particularly good to most modern ears. Finding period vocal music suitable for singing around a campfire will take some research, but there is some out there. Period prose and verse, however, aren't that hard to find, and some of this stuff is very entertaining. Additionally, mythology can be an excellent source of stories for you to retell. Why I don't hear more of this type of material in Bardic Circles I don't know. Perhaps because of the pervasiveness of the non-period stuff that has become popular in the SCA. Maybe it's because poems and stories (and most period songs, for that matter) aren't nearly as much fun to sing along to. For period “Bards” (using the term in a generic sense), myth and legend were their stock-in-trade.

**Out-of-period-but-not-quite-mundane Material** - This is what you hear the most of from most SCA Bards. Folk songs from the 17th, 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries account for most of this material, as well as modern songs written in the style of songs from these eras. Many such songs are extremely popular in the SCA, and more than a few of them have been written by people in the Society. Obviously, all original material by people in the SCA falls into this category.

**“Filk” Songs** - “Filk” is a term we inherited from Science Fiction fandom. An obvious misspelling of “Folk,” “Filk” refers to the practice of singing new lyrics to old (and not-so-old) tunes. I'm talking about the sort of thing Weird Al Yankovic does to popular songs, but done with a quasi-medieval or SCA theme.

Most people in the SCA (and most anywhere else) like to sing along to songs they know and like. It's hard to find a lot of period material to fit this requirement, but since many of us have recordings by a small core group of folk artists (including Roberts and Barand, Stan Rogers, Leslie Fish, Joe Bethancourt and The Clancy Brothers) there are some songs that nearly everyone at an SCA campfire will know. Some people, however, get very tired of hearing the same songs over and over. Still others would prefer to hear more period songs and stories. And some people positively hate filk songs. Moral: you can't please everyone.

Photo by Cassair Warwick



## Sources for Material

Recordings are a good place to steal material. Any recording by any of the artists named in the paragraph above is likely to yield something suitable. Bands like Steeleye Span and Schooner Fare specialized in doing modern renditions of old folk songs, even doing some actual period songs, and their recordings might also be of use. There will also be recordings for sale at many SCA events covering period, folk and filk music.

Photo by Cassair Warwick



There are a lot of SCA-specific song collections on the World Wide Web. Doing a search for the keywords "SCA" and "Song" will turn up a fair number of entries. Additionally, there are non-SCA archives of folk music that can be extremely useful. Search for "folk" and "music" and ignore anything about Bob Dylan.

A good music store, especially one which specializes in folk instruments, will usually have a good many books of folk tunes from around the world. Songs from England, Scotland and Ireland will often work as will many traditional sea chanteys. (I tend to buy music books at a dulcimer store near my office.)

Period music will be harder to find. A college music library would be a good place to look. Ask around in your local group for someone who knows more about period music than you do (it wouldn't be me) and

ask them about sources.

As for stories and poems, libraries and bookstores are the place to go. Especially books on mythology. Many period stories and poems will be available in the Medieval History section of a good bookstore.

Lastly, when you hear someone perform something you like, try to get a copy from them. Don't be pushy; just ask politely.

## Making Yourself Heard

I find few things as annoying as trying to listen to someone reciting or singing in a voice too quiet to be heard by most of the crowd. Learn to project. This is an area where voice training can be a big help, but you might also consult any singers or field heralds you know for advice. Remember that you don't just need to be heard, you need to be heard clearly.

Actually, I can't be of much help here since being heard has never been a problem for me. I can advise you to fill your lungs and speak or sing from the diaphragm, but beyond that I can't quantify what I do. A trained singer would be of much more help. Better still, join a choir.

## Where to Perform

The best place to start, in my view, is at an inter-kingdom war such as Pennsic War (in Pennsylvania each August) or Estrella War (in Arizona each February). There will be lots of campfires to sing around that will welcome you if you are any good at all. There will be Bardic Circles to perform at (see below). There will also be bards there that really know their stuff. Listen and learn.

**Campfires** - When you and your friends are sitting around and staring into the fire, ask if anyone would like to hear a song/story/poem. Do this a few times and when you feel you are ready, take a stroll some evening to another fire and repeat the process. Some of the most fun I have had at Pennsic War has involved this kind of "wandering bard" act.

**Bardic Circles** - A Bardic Circle is a gathering of people to hear and perform. Most of the people there will only be interested in listening, but anyone with a story or song will also be there. Be warned; you will hear better



Photo by Ursus





performers than you. You will also hear worse performers than you.

Some such circles are run in an organized fashion with a running list maintained of who is up next. This gives everyone a chance to perform without the circle becoming dominated by one or two “Big Bards.” (I have seen the Big Bard thing happen more than once. Indeed, to my discredit I have even been one of the Big Bards involved. Moderated circles are better than “free form” ones, in my opinion, for just that reason.) Another method I have seen (and like) is to go around the fire (these things are almost always held around a fire) and allow each person in turn to either perform or pass. This seems to work best when the circle is a moderately small one.

However the circle is being run, be polite, wait your turn and listen attentively. You might learn something.

**Feasts** - Most SCA feasts feature some kind of entertainment between removes. If you let the Autocrat of the event know you’d like to perform during feast, you have a good chance they’ll say yes (especially if the material you intend to perform is in some way related to the theme of the event). If you have some reputation as a bard, you may be invited to perform by the autocrat before you can ask. Keep it to one piece (maybe another one later in the feast).

**Court** - I’d advise against asking to perform during a Royal Court unless you are presenting an original piece to the Crown. Even then, this is a request that a bard of known reputation will have a better chance of being granted. Remember that no one speaks in court without the Crown’s leave. If making such a presentation, be sure to let the court herald know well in advance of court and don’t start until and unless you are called.

**Targets of Opportunity** - You can sing for your supper. You can sing for your friends. You can sing with the gang as you walk down the road. You can sing on the battlefield to work up your blood. You can sing something sweet to that cute blond you met at the Swimming Hole. You can sing anytime and anywhere you feel like singing and won’t get killed for it, and you can sing for no other reason than the love of song.

## Coda

I must admit, I don’t really like the generic use of a culture-specific term like “bard” as a sort of entertainer catch-all phrase, but I can live with it. Nor do I much like the use of the term “bard” by every Tom, Dick and Ulrich who knows a couple of tunes to describe themselves. You don’t have to call yourself a bard in order to sing or recite (or whatever) in order to entertain people. Just do it. Do it for its own sake. Do it because it makes you happy. Do it because it makes others happy.

I have almost never referred to myself a bard. I was actually surprised the first time I heard myself called one, until which time I had never really considered the matter. When His Majesty Dag named me his Skald, I suppose it became “official” and I started getting new people asking me how *they* could become a bard. I can’t answer that question any better than I have in this article, which I suppose I wrote in order to find an answer to give.

Anyone can call themselves a bard. You become a bard when other people call you a bard.

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# The Barony of Bright Hills



## Practices

Heavy & Light Weapons Fighter Practices and A&S classes are held the second and fourth Friday nights from 7:30 PM-10 PM at the Baltimore Bowman see



Business Meetings are held from 7 PM-8 PM the fourth Friday of the month as an online meeting

### Sunday Afternoon Archery Practice

Most Sundays 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm (See Calendar)  
Location: Baltimore Bowmen Site

Go to [www.baltimorebowmen.com](http://www.baltimorebowmen.com) for directions. If the gate is closed, check to make sure it is not locked. If it is not locked, open it and drive down the hill to the butts. If the gate is locked, park your car and walk down the hill to the butts. Please join the BH archers google group to receive practice schedule emails NOTE: PRACTICE WILL NOT BE HELD WHEN THERE ARE WEEKEND-LONG EVENTS AND WHEN THERE ARE EVENTS AT THE BOWMEN SITE.



### INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If Baltimore County Schools announce they are closed or closing early, there will be no practice that night. You can usually hear the school closing lists on virtually any local radio station broadcast throughout the morning.

### Cook's Guild

Baroness Jeanne Tenneur de Bec, phone at 410-239-8794, or by e-mail at [beckyritterhouse@yahoo.com](mailto:beckyritterhouse@yahoo.com).

Meets second Sunday of the month. Check calendar for location and time.



## Guild Gatherings

### Electronic Connection

#### Bright Hills Website

The Baronial website, <http://brighthills.atlantia.sca.org/> contains a listing of current officers, regularly scheduled meetings, events and other items of interest. If you have an item for the website, please send it to the Webminister,

Dagný austkona at [rmknoblauch@gmail.com](mailto:rmknoblauch@gmail.com)

#### Bright Hills FaceBook Page

The new baronial Facebook page is located at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/brighthills/>. Further information can be obtained from the administrators Lady Reyne Telarius at [robbynbecker@comcast.net](mailto:robbynbecker@comcast.net), and Dagný austkona at [rmknoblauch@gmail.com](mailto:rmknoblauch@gmail.com)

#### The Yeoman On-Line

<http://brighthills.atlantia.sca.org/yeoman/yeoman.html>

*Everyone is encouraged to contribute to  
The Yeoman*

Please, remember that all submissions for The Yeoman should be accompanied by an SCA release form. Below are the links to the necessary forms.

#### Society Chronicler forms:

[http://www.sca.org/docs/library.html# release forms](http://www.sca.org/docs/library.html#release%20forms)

#### Release form for writing or artwork:

<http://www.sca.org/docs/pdf/ReleaseCreativeFillable.pdf>

#### Release form for photographs:

<http://www.sca.org/docs/pdf/ReleasePhotographerFillable.pdf>

#### Release form for models (the subject of your artwork or photograph):

<http://www.sca.org/docs/pdf/ReleaseModelFillable.pdf>





# Regnum

## The Barony of Bright Hills

Please try not to call after 9 PM



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VACANT



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### Minister of Arts & Sciences

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### Deputy Youth Minister









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### Deputy MOAS

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<p><b>MINISTER OF LISTS</b></p> <p>Lord Alexander Fowler  <i>Hunter Fowler</i>  443-538-2220  hunterfsca@gmail.com</p> 	<p><b>KNIGHTS MARSHALL</b></p> <p>Sir Kollack von Zweckel  <i>Kenneth Kepple</i>  443.254.1206</p> 	<p><b>Thrown Weapons Deputy Marshal</b></p> <p>Lady Beatrice Shirwod  <i>Annelise Bauer</i>  843-312-5971  spindlebird@gmail.com</p> 
<p><b>Deputy MINISTER OF LISTS</b></p> <p>Lady Livia di Samuele  <i>Sherrill M. Abramson</i>  301-807-5476  Abramsonsm@yahoo.com</p> 	<p><b>Deputy heavy Marshal</b></p> <p>Master Heinrich Kreiner  <i>Robert Stephen Kriner</i>  lands_heinie@yahoo.com  443-789-8109</p> 	<p><b>Rapier Deputy Marshal</b></p> <p><b>VACANT</b></p> 
<p><b>Target Archery Marshal</b></p> <p>Lady Eadgyth the Archer  <i>Erin Markel</i>  410-459-3959  eadgyththearcher@gmail.com</p> 	<p><b>Target Archery Deputy</b></p> <p>Lord Aiden Killkenny  <i>Jessee Trump</i>  770-845-7962  HesseTrump@Hotwire.com</p> 	

**CURRENT BARONIAL CHAMPIONS:**

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- Arts and Sciences:** Lærimoðir Deirdre O'Bardon
- Bardic:** Lady Scholastica Joycors
- Baronial Warlord:** Baron Kollack von Zweckel
- Brewer:** Lady Livi de Samuele

- Equestrian:** Mor Inghean Ui Dochartaigh
- Heavy Weapons:** Okai of Bright Hills
- Thrown Weapons:** Lord Trygvvi
- Rapier:**
- Children's Archery-** Cedric and Moira

