
Ivo Blackhawk Presents:

The *Blackfeather News*



During his monthly travels, Lord Ivo Blackhawk; Herald at large, enjoys the chance to sample the monthly happenings of the great lands of Northkeep, Mooneschadowe, Wiesenfeuer and Namron. During these travels, he sees and hears a great deal from the many people he knows. So now we invite you to join him for the next little bit as he talks about what is taking place this month in the north eastern end of Ansteorra.

News for the month of August, AS 43, being AD 2008.

Welcome again to the show. The summer heat hasn't stopped the kingdom from moving along as a steady pace, and even with temperatures breaking one hundred degrees, the north of Ansteorra continues to thrive.

Starting off with Kingdom news:

It is the pleasure of the Blackfeather News to announce that Count Gunthar Jonsson and his wife, Lady Elizabeth Seale are now the newest Heirs to the throne of the Kingdom.

Vivat to Prince Gunthar and Princess Elizabeth.

Moving on to news of a less royal nature.

As I commented on last month, Master Modius is looking to put out an A&S edition of the Kingdom newsletter. Since then, this missive went out to the mailing list.

Greeting Ansteorra!

It has been many years since the last Arts & Science Edition of the Black Star. Having been over a half a decade, I feel certain there are folks bursting with new ideas, energy, and knowledge.

That being said, I am looking for any and all A&S articles as well as poetry, songs, and the like. Articles must fit on 1-4 Black Star sized pages, contact me if they will run over. Illustrations need to be simple and be able to fit in that format and also not so numerous that they takes pages and pages. I ask that all materials be sent in [MS] Word as I will need to do plenty of reformatting.

Please remember to also send a release with any and all materials. Scanned and emailed is fine. Here is a link to the form:

<http://chronicler.ansteorra.org/Forms/PubPerm.pdf>

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Modius von Mergentheim, OL, OP

Editor in Chief

For Regional news,

Also at crown tournament last month, two notable members of Namron were recognized.

Lord Tadhg was presented with an Iris of Merit for his long standing work in A&S,

And just before the closing of court, Honorable Lord Barat FitzWalter Reynolds was called into court, and offered the chance to join the venerable Order of the Laurel in recognition for his efforts as a brewer and artisan.

His lordship agreed, and asked that the elevation be made at Namron's Protectorate. So now Namron has yet another reason to party hard at their annual event.

Now, speaking of Barat,

Lord Barat also announced that he will be hosting a Brewing Day at his home in Moore. The date is Saturday, September 6, 2008. It will run from around 8 am to roughly 5 pm. Anyone interested in learning how to brew beer (or just helping with washing bottles, etc) is welcome to come out and help. He and his wife will also be having a potluck dinner after everything is done. So please bring your favorite dish to share with everyone!

Also of note for anyone in the Barony of Namron, the Barony will be having a baronial work day at the same location in coordination with the Brewing class and potluck afterwards. Contact the Namron Seneschal or Baron and Baroness if you have any questions.

And one last bit of news, at Coronation this past month, it was read into law that the Incipient Canton of Chemin Noir is now a full canton. Congratulations.

Before I get to local news, I wanted to share with my listeners an interview I managed to do with Vanessa, now that she has stepped down as Queen. I managed to catch up with her at this month's

Namron populace meeting, so please excuse the background noise, and the rumbling volume of my own voice, out of studio interviews don't offer the best sound situation.

IB: What was your favorite part of being Queen?

Vanessa: My Favorite part of being Queen was being able to recognize people publicly for working so hard for the kingdom. To give *them* the award they deserve.

IB: Your reign was widely considered the reign of Cranes by most of the kingdom. You handed out... 20...30 of them. I mean it was not an insubstantial number.

Vanessa: I never counted...

IB: You *never* counted?

Vanessa: If someone deserved an award, I gave it to them, and I never worried about how many had been given.

IB [nodding]: there was that...

One of the other things you were known for, even before you became Queen for a second time was you were a longstanding member of the Foxtails. Correct?

Vanessa: Yes.

IB: There are a lot of people who don't know anything about the Foxtails. I was wondering if you could talk a little bit about them, what they do, when they were formed... when you joined?

Vanessa: The Foxtails are a group, mostly of ladies...of the Northern region, mostly from Eldern Hills. They are people who... *work*. I very much value people who spend a lot of their own time doing for others... And it's very nice to be recognized by a group who feel the same way.

IB: How long have you been a member for?

Vanessa: Several years now... I wish I could tell you how long it's been. I know they said that they had been trying to catch me sitting still long enough to give me the award for like three years. So, obviously... there are drawbacks as well as benefits to being a worker.

IB [laughing]: There are... I can see that.

You and Aaron did what was widely called a split reign, with he having a very strong presence down in the south, and you-of course-having a very strong presence in the north. Um... In retrospect of how Ansteorran reigns are traditionally done, did you like this format, or would you have preferred a more unified presence of the crown?

Vanessa: I especially like it, because now with gas prices being so expensive, and everybody saying that, a lot of people have to decide which event they can go to. So... in order to have a crown visible to more people, and have more interaction with the populace, it works very well to have us on opposite ends of the kingdom.

Plus, there were a lot of events that we both attended. So, it's not as if there were an either, or. We had the flexibility of going to separate events or going to the same one. Plus when we had an event and they had a BOD meeting the same weekend, that gave us the opportunity for one of us to go Houston and one of us to get stuck in the BOD meeting. So I felt that it worked very well for *us*. It wouldn't work for everyone, because we're not a couple. We're just friends. And this might be more suitable... because... we are friends, and obviously, it seemed to have worked.

IB: I don't think anyone is disputing that assumption.

How long have you known Aaron for?

Vanessa: Well, he told everyone-and he told me-I was his first queen. So... the very first crown he ever saw in the SCA was me, And that was rapidly approaching twenty years ago. Gerard and I took the thrown in January of eighty-nine.

IB: How does it feel now that its all over? You get to ware the Ducal, I mean the Duchy coronet and you get to be Vanessa again. No more formal titles...except for the occasional herald who might insist on calling you your grace.

Vanessa: I love it. I didn't realize how much I was putting on my own shoulders when I was Queen because other people were not putting the pressure on me, *I* was. And I was amazed at how many people came up to me at [the most recent] crown tourney and said "your really having a good time aren't you?" And I said "why?". And they said "Because of how much you've been smiling." And I have to admit, standing there cutting up all of those oranges, I was having a blast.

So yes, I am enjoying being me. And if I have to have some time where I have to be in a more structured role, I guess I can do it. And if I don't have to be, I'm just Vanessa.

IB: Because I know a lot of people probably don't think about this, and I know that money is probably one of the most tangible factors that everyone can understand in pretty solid terms, I was wondering if you would be willing to say just how many miles you, personally, put into travel during your reign.

Vanessa: Well, for the major events, I had to keep the miles and turn it in to the kingdom treasurer.

IB: Ok...

Vanessa: And we were supposed to let them know our milage. And I didn't list everything, and I know that it was over ten thousand miles.

IB: Over the course of nine months or six?

Vanessa: We weren't there for Nine months, but over the course of six, no... over the course of seven months. So, over the course of seven months, it was over *-in excess of-* ten thousand miles.

IB: And this was, in general terms, at the heights of the current gas crisis?

Vanessa: Yes. And... that was just my millage. As King, Aaron also went to Estrella, and Calontir Coronation, and considering the fact that he lived in San Marcos Texas.

IB: I knew he was Texas, I didn't know he was San Marcos.

Vanessa: That is an extremely long haul to Calontir.

IB: That's...God, that's fourte hours...

Vanessa: Yes, that and Estrella [war].

Now, since that interview, I received a message from Vanessa. Evidently my question about awards was enough to make her go back and look up exactly how many awards she did give out. According her her own research, her and Aaron's reign handed out more Comets than Cranes, and more AOAs than the previous two put together.

If anyone is actually interested in in knowing the numbers, the Ansteorran Role of Awards database, linked off of the Star Principal herald's web page, will help you answer that question. And if you don't know how to use that, feel free to pester your local herald.

And for local news, if any one word could be used to describe this month, it is Expedient.

Northkeep's populace meeting got under way at the end of last month running a little light. Due to mundane circumstances that were truly above and beyond anyone's control, the landed nobles were unable to attend the meeting, leaving the good Seneschal to conduct the meeting by himself.

However, the barony was proven to be in capable hands as the entirety of the meeting, including several items of important business were covered roughly in less than thirty five minutes time.

While a good portion of the business was inconsequential beyond that it was mentioned that night, some items were of note;

Heavy weapons, Rapierm and archery practices are all reported to be going well and are well attended.

The Hospitaller and the Chrirurgion's positions are open for applications.

And youth boffer combat is looking like it will begin soon now that Her excellency Kelandra has her background check done.

Wiesenfeuer was no less expedient, clocking in at just a hair under thirty minutes.

The Baronial-get-together, better known as Water Wars was reportedly a roaring success, with everyone having fun, eating good food and getting totally soaked.

On a more serious note, the barony is looking for some event site alternatives for next year, Presently camp Eh Ko Ah has raised their fees to the point that they are no longer feasible for SCA events.

The archery Marshal and the Minister of Children positions are both open for applications at this time.

The Herald reported that the Baronial heraldic Reference and resource books are being made available for name and device research at A&S nights.

The Present Minister of Children is looking for ideas and suggestions for children's activities at Yule Revel in December.

And in Closing, His Excellency Uriah of House Wolfstar performed a song for the assembled populace in honor of his tradition of composing such a piece for each group who's bardic championship he had once held.

Moving north to **Mooneschadowe**.

The Province didn't exactly have the option of a short populace meeting this month, having just finished hosting crown tourney, and now is getting geared up for King's Round Table this month, and then its own Triumphe of the Eclipse in September. Still, for a group that more often than not ends its populace meetings at Nine o'clock, the fact that closing vivats were at 8:30 still holds true to the seeming theme of the month.

items from the meeting include:

The Reeve reported that Crown Attendance was 238 people through gate.

The hospitaler talked about a campus demo at OSU for August 27th. A lot of information is still in flux, but she said she would make news available as soon as it was nailed down.

Also, The Stillwater Relay for life is scheduled for Friday the 22nd of august, and yes, that is the Friday before Red Tape.

From the Relay for life web page:

Each year, across the nation, one event brings together entire communities to take part in the fight against cancer. That event is the American Cancer Society Relay For Life®. It's a time and place where people come to celebrate those who have survived cancer, remember those we've lost, and fight back against a disease that touches too many lives.

Won't you join us this year and be a part of Relay?

It's not just an opportunity to celebrate, remember, and fight back, your involvement will help the American Cancer Society work toward a mission of eliminating cancer as major health issue and will support much-needed services in your community. Thanks in part to the donations from Relay For Life and other events, the Society is saving lives, helping those touched by cancer, and empowering people to fight this disease all over the world.

If you want to be a part of the fight against cancer, Sign up today for the Relay For Life of Stillwater, OK .

Our Relay will be held on:

August 22 at 7:00 PM to August 23, 2008 at 7:00 AM at Couch Park

If you're interested in learning more or receiving an invitation to either the Kick-Off Celebration or Relay, please email us at kenm@meridian-technology.com or call (405) 612-6198.

The Rapier Marshal and Minister of Children positions are presently open for applications.

The archery marshal was happy to report that she is hopefully going to be able to host another archery practice this month, but told everyone to watch the mailing list because she couldn't promise a specific date and time at the meeting.

The Chronicler was happy to present one of the largest newsletters in Mooneshadowe history. 28 pages long! This is also her last month, and the office is still officially open for applications.

The Minister of Arts and Sciences was pleased to announce that this month's A&S class will be a Communication's class hosted by Lady Katrine.

And finally, the Guard captain is hoping to get guard practices back up and going on the Sunday after King's Round Table. He set the time for 7pm, hoping to be in armor after the majority of the day's heat has dissipated.

Finally, we come to **Namron**.

The Baron and Baroness announced that their will be a meeting of the members of the Heart of the Sable Storm on August 24th, at 6pm at the Denney's in Norman where the populace meeting are traditionally held.

Also, the City of Chickasaw now finds itself home to a small group of SCAers who want to start their own canton, but have demonstrated close ties to the Barony of Eldern Hills. Evidently, their excellencies of Eldern Hills have petitioned Namron to reclaim the city for its own territory. Baron Donnchadh & Baroness Muriel consulted the populace, and were told of no direct objection to the action by their people, but some members did ask if there would be any payment for the lost land...

Donnchadh and Muriel said they would consult on the issue.

A representative from Skorragarðr spoke of the Regional fighter practice, which evidently saw very little fighting thanks to an oppressive level of heat. But no one was regretting inviting Wiesenfeuer to have the aforementioned Water Wars there. Evidently all in attendance had a wonderful time, and there is high hopes of the activity repeating itself next year.

Now, moving to the Kingdom Calendar for the months of August and September;

August 15th through the 17th will be Steppes Artisan - TX

Baroness Katheryn Cunninghame
invites all artisans of Ansteorra to compete for the title of

STEPPEES ARTISAN XXI

THE COMPETITION FOR STEPPES ARTISAN IS A BODY OF WORK COMPETITION!

Pre-registration is requested. Table space will be limited to one five- or six-foot table per artisan; persons with small displays may be asked to share. A separate area and tables will be provided for those wishing only to display their works and not competing for Steppes Artisan. There will be no feast so please plan accordingly. Site is dry. Please contact the Steward if you plan on displaying alcohol.

That will be held in Allen TX, 209 miles, about 3 hours 20 minutes from OKC

August 23rd Will be King's Round table, held in Mooneschadowe at the Stillwater community center. At 315 West 8th Ave. Directions are available on the event web site linked off of the kingdom calendar.

On **August 29th** through September 1st, the forces of Baron Chiang ti Lung, Baron of Bonwicke, and Baron Gavin Mac Iain, Seneschal of Trelac will collide at Gothic War XVII. (17)

The Armies of Baron Chiang ti Lung, Baron of Bonwicke, and Baron Gavin Mac Iain, Seneschal of Trelac will hold forth on the field of battle. Come join these stalwart combatants to seek glory both individually and collectively.

Baron Gavin calls for aid from all loyal Ansteorran's, be they North or South (Central or Coastal)! Let not this villain Baron Chiang divide our great Kingdom. Already has he begun a wall crafted of gifts presented at his investiture court. If this seeming custom of his people is allowed to grow and continue - the Great Wall of Chiang could cleave our Kingdom in twain.

And that is set to be held in Sweetwater TX, 304 mi – about 5 hours 10 minutes from Oklahoma city.

On **September 5th** through the 7th, The Shire of Gate's edge will be hosting the event Harvest End.

The Shire of Gate's Edge invites you to Harvest End - A Viking celebration. Join us for a weekend of great feasting and championships as we celebrate the end of another great Harvest.

Champions will be chosen for the following endeavors:

Archery, Armored Combat, Rapier Combat, Arts & Sciences, Bardic Arts, Thrown Weapons and Youth Boffer. An Overall Champion will also be chosen. This Champion will be chosen from those participants who enter at least 4 of the individual competitions.

This year we will be awarding hand made wooden boxes crafted by Lord Jean Micheal du Meaux filled with goodies and trinkets for each of the competitions. The Overall Champion will have the distinction of winning a hand crafted wooden chair by Lord Malachai Morgan.

Now Google maps shows the drive down to Houston from Oklahoma city to be 445 mi – about 7 hours drive.

Now the following weekend, **September 13th**, will see the Shire of Seawinds host Laurel's Prize Tournament.

Have you ever wanted to get ideas on how to better your entries for Arts and Sciences competition? Have you ever wondered how to better your documentation? Ever wanted to meet a Laurel? Come join the Shire of Seawinds as we host Laurel's Prize Tournament at beautiful Choke Canyon State Park, Calliham Unit, in Three Rivers, TX, halfway between Corpus Christi and San Antonio,.

What is Laurel's Prize Tournament?

The Laurels of Ansteorra believe that artisans who don't compete should have a venue for display of their works and for constructive criticism.

Laurel's Prize Tournament is a body of work display of all of the various types of arts that a person has researched and attempted, or a display of a single art showing improvements and variations over time.

And that shows to be 535 mi – about 8 hours 15 minutes from Oklahoma City.

The following weekend has events on two ends of the kingdom. In the deep south, at the Barony of Raven's fort, they will be hosting their annual Defender of the Fort event near Huntsville, Texas. That is roughly 375 mi – about 6 hours for Oklahoma City.

And in the North, the Province of Mooneschadowe will be Hosting its annual Event, the Mooneschadowe Triumphe of the Eclipse, at Will Rogers' Boyscout Camp in Cleveland OK.

The last weekend in **September, the 26th through the 28th**, will see Elfsea Defender, down in Canton Texas.

The Barony will have an event full of fighting, food and merriment. Along with the Defender Championships we will be having a Dinner at the lyst field, followed by a Torchlight Tourney and finally a Hafla to round out Saturday evenings entertainment. Bardic will be held Friday evening as well as a juried Bardic performance by three of the Kingdom's most talented Bards during dinner on Saturday. There will also be a prize basket given away Saturday evening that will make staying for the evening activities worth it. You must be present to win.

And that looks to be about 270 mi or 4 hours from Oklahoma City.

So, that is the news for this month.

I hope everyone enjoyed the interview I did with Vanessa, and if you did, please drop me an e-mail or a phone call and let me know. Also, I am looking into doing more interviews in the future, so if there is someone in the North that you would like to know more about let me know. I can't promise an interview, but I will certainly try.

On a side note, I found out that my listenership is a little farther afield than I had originally guessed. I have gotten word from a listener in Arkansas and another from Illinois. Beyond this, I have been asked for permission to include my print edition in with a local SCA newsletter.

All of this, of course, is wonderful news, and I truly appreciate the words of support and encouragements I've been getting over past six months.

But still, this show isn't about me, it's about you out there, the people listening, and as much as I travel, I still have a lot of the North that I can't get to. If you're out there, and you have something you want me to know about, something you want me to read on the show, or someone you want me to interview, make sure to tell me.

As always, if you want to get a hold of me, you can leave me an e-mail at Ivo@hailmog.org, or you can call the show's voice mail line at (405) 708-4892, and that is local to Oklahoma City.

As always, I would like to thank my wife, Honorable Lady Lillias MacGuffin for additional readings, as well as editing the print edition before it went out.

And a special thanks to her grace Vanessa for taking time to speak with me this month.

Print edition note: This episode of the show was done entirely in a free ware environment. The original notes were transcribed into Google Documents, and the Final editing was done in Open Office. If you are at all interested in learning more about these pieces of free software, feel free to read more about each one at www.docs.google.com, and www.OpenOffice.Org respectively. -Ivo Blackhawk

“The Mission of the Blackfeather news is to inform, entertain and connect all who listen to us such that we can further and more fully enjoy this dream in which we strive to live.” - Ivo Blackhawk



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