



The Clouded Issue

A Newsletter for the Barony of Grey Niche
Kingdom of Gleann Abhann

September, 2017

Published Quarterly

Ork Wars Past, Present and Future

By Duchess Linnet MacLeod

The Barony of Grey Niche will soon be hosting another Ork Wars. This is a weekend-long event filled with the spirit of fantasy to celebrate the Halloween/Samhain holiday. With the return of Ork Wars many are wondering about the history of this unique event.

Throughout the newsletter are highlights of Ork Wars past, remembered by many different members of the barony and visitors over the years. I appreciate their contributions.

Please join Grey Niche for Ork Wars: Fellowship of the Ram to be held Oct 27 – 29, 2017 at Piersol Group Camp, Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park. Autocrat THL Luca Sacchetti and Feastcrat Dame Brenna Lowri o Ruthin promise a day filled with delicious treats from a variety of activities to scrumptious meals. You are invited to choose your side, Ork or Human, in the great battle from whence a Baronial Warlord will be named. Also there are many hands-on classes, a silent auction, costume contest and themed Arts & Science competition.

The First Sorta Kinda Probably Not Ork Wars Origin Story

By Duke John the Bearkiller

Back in the old days ("old" means prior to even the Principality of Meridies cranking up) the Shire of Grey Niche held a different kind of tournament in celebration of Halloween. The history of Grey Niche is chock full of odd tournaments using a wide assortment of odd rules. If you can imagine rules for a tournament that probably won't work in reality you can imagine some of the things we have tried.

The Halloween tournament was a local get-together created for fun only. Medieval rules be damned! Dungeons and Dragons had just begun to grow in the Memphis area so, by golly, the decision was made to have a rattan tournament with fantasy rules. Folks were encouraged to dress up as monsters and such. Fighters were allowed to have abilities to match the creature you portrayed.

This meant that Andras, KSCA and Laurel Andras btw, and I were a two headed troll/ogre. That was accomplished by crudely sewing one giant greenish tunic with two head openings. We shared one pair of oversized pants. With a big rope belt. If our huge club struck anyone it was an instant kill. The odds of that happening were small because even the act of walking took up most of our available brain cells.

The hit of the day was Lord Alvan who appeared as a balrog. He had some stringy whip thing and a young lady who ran around the field with a black garbage bag. If she was able to come up behind someone and get it over their head that fighter was considered to be under a darkness spell.

Thankfully, the tournament was a total failure. Turns out the rules that were used were dumb. And silly. And unusable.

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From the Baron and Baroness...

Greetings, Fellow Nichers!

Summer has sailed by, and now we welcome the cooler weather of Autumn. Our Barony's biggest activity during the summer months has been our participation in the Midsouth Renaissance Faire in August. The first weekend was beastly hot, with a thundershower Sunday, but the second weekend was very pleasant. We met and talked with many visitors to the Faire, and may have gained a few new members. Our heavy weapons and rapier fighters attracted a crowd, despite the heat, and our artisans drew an audience, as well, especially with a forge and a dye pot going!

The Coronation of our own Count James the Holy and Countess Joan of Ook takes place at the beginning of October, and many of us will make the journey to the coast of our fair Kingdom to witness the event. Countess Joan has been plenty busy helping people print Rus style patterns on fabric so they can up their flair points for this Viking Rus reign. Our neighbor in Small Gray Bear, Lord Jali Bukha created a number of printing blocks for Joanie and others to work with in this endeavor.

We close with the disturbing rumor that the Orks are yet again gathering for an attack against the Barony. We must be vigilant, and be prepared to defend the Niche against this scourge. We ask that our neighbors take up arms as well, lest the Orkish rabble overrun us all.

Beware of Billy Balrog!!

Guillermo and Arielle
Baron and Baroness of Grey Niche

From the Seneschal...

Unto the most Gracious and Noble populace of Grey Niche, THL Ivan Alexovich sendeth greetings.

It is coming up on two years since I became your servant as Seneschal, and I am long overdue in writing to you all. As I near the end of my time in this office, I have come to respect and have even greater affection for this amazing group. As I approach the end of my time in this service, I find I am reflecting on the events of the past two years, the new people that have come along, and the others who are no longer with us. There has been much change, and I am hopeful that I will have left this office and the Barony that it supports in at least as good a shape as I found it. I do feel that we do have "more people doing more things", and that thought gladdens me.

I am confident that my successor, THL Sarah De WARENNE, will serve this group very well. I will support her in the success of maintaining the high standards that this office demands, and am confident that the group will do so as well. I am looking forward to finding other ways that I may serve my Barony, as well as my Kingdom. I feel that service as your Seneschal has helped me in maturing in my SCA life, and that the crucible that can sometimes be this office has made me a better person for having served it.

I would like to thank you all for your kindness, patience, and support of me - and to a greater degree to and for each other in our Fair Barony. We have faced many challenges - both major and minor - and I have been unfailingly filled with awe by how we step up and face them together.

Your servant, Ivan

Regnum

Baron & Baroness—Master Guillermo Berenguer de los Almogavars & Mistress Arielle de Brabazon

Seneschal— Lord Ivan Alexovich

Herald—THL Sean Patrick O'Donnell

Reeve—Lord Geirmundr Hrafnsson

Knight Marshall—THL Thorgrim Riftwalker

Youth Marshall—Baron Uryuu Ujishige, called "Waffle"

Rapier Marshall—Master Damiano Elie Bellini

Live Weapons—Lord Eoghan Mac Iomhair

Arts and Sciences—Signora Leonora di Vitale

Chatelaine—Lord Sindri Ivarsson

Historian—THL Rhiadain n'a Rind Ailue

Chronicler—Duchess Linnet MacLeod

Sheriff—Lord Hrafn Knutsson

Webminister—Baroness Teresa Berconi

Quartermaster—Baron Uryuu Ujishige, called "Waffle"

Geirmundr's Games

Thanks to Geirmundr Hrafnsson's suggestion, we will have some kind of game in each issue of the newsletter. I claim no expertise in games. These games and prizes are for entertainment purposes only.

The first member of the Barony who solves the puzzles will receive a prize at the next business meeting. Time stamp on correct entries will decide winner. Please submit your solution to: chronicler@greyniche.net

Good luck,
Línnét

Famous Name Anagrams

These are hard, and I'm not helping by telling you how many words each one makes. Your only hint is a category.

Explorers

ISFENICLREO

OORLACPOM

AGDCAAVOMSA

DGELNAFAMELINDARN

ERCARIDSNKRA

THEALGREWRAIL

BTOMUCROSHILUCHREPS

ZARFINSRCCORAIPO

The Arts

CRADOILIONANVEO

FHUREGOREYCAFEC

LENDOLOET

IZECLEMDONREDIO

LEBOCHIMELUNGORANITRAO

TELSDIRABCOTNILO

NUBGNEJROETGHAN

BEAREDLEBVEEN

World Leaders

GALMECHENRA

ATAONEFQIRNEALIEOU

FAHITGAOCANREENRO

HILKNABUKA

NOSTENCATNI

DILNASA

RECLATMIOQIWLOHUERN

DALAHRRDARAHDA

Orkian Arts & Sciences

By Baron Uryuu Ujishige

At an Ork Wars in the late 1980s I was in charge of the Arts & Sciences competition. Being an Ork Wars, it was all things Ork. Prior to the event the group did the best we could to promote the five categories and conditions of the onsite competition where all materials would be provided by the group and that there were no age divisions (adults and children would be in the same competitions).

Accordingly almost all of the people entering brought the things they needed to compete in their categories. Calligraphers brought their professional quality pens and inks. Illuminators brought their exquisite paints and brushes. Tailors brought their high quality sewing machines. Upon the start of the competitions they were all told to put those things away because they could only use the materials provided. I still fondly remember the looks of dismay on their faces as they begrudgingly put their wonderful tools away.

An expert panel of judges had been assembled (forced) to evaluate the entries. Except in one category, I do not remember the names of those who won, but the entries of certain categories were extremely memorable.

The five categories were as follows:

Costuming: We had gone to the local fabric stores, bought every non-period, gaudy looking, modern patterned, off-colored fabric we could find on the remnant tables, cut it all into six inch squares, and mixed it all together. We provided the competitors with an extremely large needle and skeins of thick yarn with instructions to make a costume.

All of the entries were essentially a basic tunic and the decision came down to an artistic one. The winner had taken pieces of every different type of fabric in the barrel and had combined them into the most outrageous, atrocious, assemblage of patterns and colors one would never ever hope to see ever again.

Calligraphy: The competitors were given a first grade "learn how to write" writing book and a Texas-sized pencil that you almost have to rest on your shoulder to use, and asked to write the alphabet.

If I remember correctly, the winner had done the alphabet of what he believed would have been the Ork alphabet.

Painting: Poster boards and finger paints were the materials for this category.

Finger painting is, well, finger painting. A little girl won this one, because she should.

Sculpture: Play doh was the medium for this competition.

All of the entries in this category were well done and used great imagination, but one stood out far above the others. The entry was done by Dulinn. On a green piece of construction paper there were several blobs of play doh. Upon closer examination it was apparent that the different blobs were actually body parts. A torso, two arms, and two legs spread out to different parts of the paper. In one corner the artist had stuck a shish-ka-bob skewer in a small mound of play doh. Atop the skewer was a head with pointed ears. The name of this work of art: "The Good Elf."

Illumination: Various different colors of construction paper and a basic pack of crayons were given to the competitors, who were told to use their imagination and have fun.

I wish I could remember the name of the person that won the category. It was one of the most memorable works I have seen in almost any competition. This artist took basic materials and created a scroll, that in my opinion was worthy of a peer. I, and the panel of judges, oooed, ahed, gushed, and praised the quality of the work, the exquisite nature of how the piece was laid out, and how the colors were done. After a period of time, the artist thanked the judges for their compliments while he slowly rolled up the work of art. He then quickly took out a lighter, lit the scroll on fire, raised his hand with the scroll above his head, and exclaimed: "ILLUMINATION!!!!!!!" He received a standing ovation from the judges and the hall.

The following Baronial Officers need Deputies:

Reeve	Chatelaine
Knight Marshall	Historian
Rapier Marshall	Chronicler
Minister of Children	Quartermaster
Sheriff	Webminister

The Unknown Ork

By Baron Uryuu Ujishige

The first Ork Wars after I returned to the barony from the Coast Guard was the second Ork Wars held, and my first Ork Wars as an Ork. I had no idea of what I wanted to do, or be, as an Ork. My criteriastupid and ridiculous. Others were doing things like the Burger King Ork, using the tops of Burger King Whopper containers to make a scale like armor cover, and the Toilet Seat Cover Ork, who used ter-rycloth toilet seat covers to do the same for their armor. I was at a loss for an appropriate idea.

One day I was watching a popular daytime talent show, which had the theme of; "The stupider/more terrible the act the better", called The Gong Show. On that show they had a reoccurring act of a standup comedian who delivered bad (really bad) and inappropriate one-liners. Besides the 1950s geek/nerd/hick/dufus suit he wore, his signature look was that he wore a paper bag on his head and was known as "The Unknown Comic". Inspiration!!!!

I took a paper bag, which was the standard grocery bag at the time, and repurposed it to cover my helm. I looked at it in the mirror and realized that while it accomplished what I wanted, it was far from the desired effect. I realized what needed to be done and took several more paper grocery bags, disassembled them into flat pieces of paper and reassembled them into one gigantic paper bag. With a little trimming here and there, and some tape, the ensemble was complete—a paper bag to cover my helm and a paper bag to cover the rest of my body from my

shoulders to my ankles. The Unknown Ork was born.

Now, for a stupid and ridiculous weapon to match stupid and ridiculous armor. I had a 5' piece of 2 ½" diameter rattan I didn't know what to do with, but it seem to be the perfect base for a weapon. After some thought, a large outrageous mace seem to be the ideal thing. I made the head about 2' long and almost a foot in diameter, and extra, extra poofy. I looked at my creation, and again it was what I wanted, but it was missing that final extra touch. SPIKES! It needed spikes. I took some foam pipe insulation, cut it down into 3" pieces, covered them in black tape, and attached them all over the mace head with the same black tape.

At the war I was quite satisfied with the inquiries of "What the heck are you supposed be? ", and other such comments. At the beginning of the first battle the fighters on the opposing side took stock of me and asked what I was and what the heck is that thing? I answered, off the top of my head, but with great bravado, "I am the Unknown Ork, and this is a Thermo-nuclear Mace! "That's a what?" came the inquiry. I said, "This is a Thermo-nuclear Mace! This is a nuclear powered mace. You see these black round things on the mace?" "Yeah", they replied. "These are the control rods. If one of these gets knocked off, THIS EVENT IS OVER!!" A couple of them actually backed up a couple of steps, and we won the battle. Such is the power of the thermonuclear mace and THE UNKNOWN ORK.

Origin

Continued from Page 1

So that was never tried again. It did plant a seed of goofiness in most heads that it would be possible to have an event with a similar theme. If we were careful and kept to most SCA conventions.

Later on Ork Wars was begun. Somehow, it was successful even with rotating rules sets for fighting, feasting, games, A&S contests, etc. But it does make me think back to the day when the Niche tried that Halloween tournament. My thoughts are not fond but perhaps a little tolerant. We were all young then.

Sir Andras, OL, and I did talk recently online and discussed that tournament. He also asked me "Do you remember the hand mortars we used to use made out of cans, duct tape, that shot tennis balls using lighter fluid? We treated them as an harquebus." That is another story for another time. As I said, we were all young then.

The year for this is probably late 1975. Might be 1976, but I doubt it.

Memories of Ork Wars Through the Years

THL Padruig Aoghann, called the Uncle, remembers the first Ork Wars, which was held at a campground in Forrest City, AR. He also attended one at Chickasaw State Park near Jackson, TN. The first of his favorite memories are a costume contest in which Edmund, the Sentinel of Glastonbury, had a Smurfette mask on over an Ork mask. The other is of Duchess Ana, dressed in a racy witch outfit complete with hat.

'How do you do...I...see you've met my...' Lord Ambrose Tallis remembers the debute of *The SCA Horror Picture Show* at an Ork Wars in 1999 where he portrayed the lead character Frank N. Furter. It was a hit!

Duchess Linnet MacLeod was co-feastcrat with Countess Jane Falada of Englewood in 1993. Falada did a beautiful and perfectly period job with the "people" food while Linnet got to serve dirt with worms as part of the "ork" food.

THL Kathryn of Lindsey fondly remembers Sir Geoffery de Bradelei, called Dulinn running down the field with streamer flames on his costume.

Baroness Arielle de Brabazon remembers not being able to go to the first Ork Wars because she was scheduled to go see family. Baron Guillermo Berenguer de los Almogavars told her all about it—they had just started dating at the time.

THL Jakob Gempel von Essen remembers an Ork Wars at the Henry Jacob camp. THL Luca Sacchetti was the autocrat and she brought her Miniature Pincer, Elfie, to the event. "Elfie chewed thru her leash and ran down to the lake...and jumped in! Swam around for about 5 minutes until she started to get tired. Came to the edge and let me pick her up over the wood retaining wall...then slithered away like a greased pig and ran away again. Luca and I gave up chasing her at that point, and let her come back to us."

For the same Ork Wars he had grown a beard for 4 months during the summer to go dressed as a garden gnome. He blames that one on THL Chiere of Ravenglass because she made the hat for him.

Also he enjoyed watching Master Cormac the Bald be freaked out every time he looked at Countess Miriel du Bois because she was wearing colored and shaped eye contacts and Cormac has a phobia of eyeballs. She also gave Cormac floating glow-in-the-dark eyeballs at that event.

Lord Geirmundr Hrafnsson's favorite Ork Wars memory is the event at Stinkin' Jim's Campground where many gathered in the big field after feast to watch the meteor shower. Unfortunately Geirmundr fell asleep in his chair and never saw the meteors.

Thank you to everyone who shared their memories.

Order of Denial Meeting

(after the business meeting)

Oct. 5, 8:00 p.m.

Martial Activities...



Heavy Combat, Light Weapons & Youth Combat

Sunday practice
3:00 p.m. til dark
Audubon Park
corner of Southern Ave. and S. Goodlett St.

Iris Keep Workshop 2017

Friday, September 22 @ 6:00 p.m.—Sunday, September 24 @ 10:00 a.m.

This year's theme is camp bling, or creating awesome period furnishings to take your encampment to the next level. Tradition has changed this year with the workshop not being held at Arielle and Hoppy's house, but at Sindri and Janet's house in Drummonds, TN. There are 3 acres of land, so limited camping is available with prior permission from the hosts.

Workshop areas include a forge, woodworking station, outdoor period kitchen and natural dye area. It is garb-optional during the day. For the evening please bring garb and gear for a period feast and bonfire. Food donations for the feast are being organized ahead of the event, so contact Arielle with what you can bring to contribute. If you wish to teach a class, please contact Arielle or post on the Facebook event.

Classes*:

Six Board Boxes

Forged Feast Gear

Outdoor Period Cooking

Painted Floor Cloths

Fire Starting with Flint and Steel

Basic Wood Furniture for Camp

including two-piece Viking chairs, round tables, trestles for tables and banner stands

Natural Dyes (this is an Iris Keep Workshop tradition since 1987)

*Some class instructors are accepting monetary donations for class materials.

For the most current information, please see the Facebook event page.

This is a household sponsored workshop open to all who wish to attend
—NOT an SCA event.

Growing Up SCA

By Lady Flora MacLeod

Hello, my name is Lindsay. I am your average teenager. I spend a lot of my time at work, school or doing other normal teen things, but what you wouldn't know is that I grew up in the Society of Creative Anachronism.

What on this fine earth is the Society for Creative Anachronism? Well, everyone will have a different way of explaining it, but I like to tell people that we are a group of people who study the Renaissance Era through living in the moment. We have closed events that anyone can come and participate where we try to put ourselves into the time period. Our events span from only a day long to a two-week long period. At these events, we have fighting, archery, arts, food, dancing and many more activities. My personal favorite activity is working in the kitchen and serving feast. Don't worry we aren't going to automatically put you to work the second you walk through the door, we are a strictly volunteer-based group.

While, making delicious food, taking classes, and watching my dad fight is extremely fun, my favorite

part of the SCA is the people. We are some of the friendliest people you will ever meet and if you stick around long enough, we might start to feel like family. For example, I grew up in the society with a girl who, even to this day, we are like sisters. We constantly pick on each other every time we are together. We are extremely close, even though, without the SCA, we would have nothing in common. I also can't forget to mention my other friends who live in different states. Once again, if it weren't for the SCA I would have never made friends with a nice, diverse group of people.

The same goes for my parents and their friends in the SCA, they are a very important factor in my life. What I am trying to say is that they have watched me grow up and know my parents well, so if I ever needed anything, they would be there for me on a good or a bad day.

Going to these events may seem a little weird, and we know it is not for everyone, but if it is for you, then we will gladly accept you. We are one big, happy group of nerds who would love for you and your friends to come and see what we are all about.

Meeting Calendar...

September

19—Business Meeting
26—A & S—Tablet Weaving #2

October

5—Business Meeting
10—A & S
17—Business Meeting
24—A & S
31—Dance Practice ?

November

2—Business Meeting
14—Business Meeting
28—A & S

December

7—Business Meeting
12—A & S

All meetings start at 7:00 p.m. and are held at 1750 Madison, Suite 303

Seating is limited, it is recommended you bring a chair.

Your Chronicler Needs You!

Please consider contributing articles, poems, artwork and/or photographs for the next issue.

Deadline December 1.

Contact the Chronicler for more information.

Thank You!

Every effort has been made to present correct information as a form of communication to the members of the Barony of Grey Niche. Please send all corrections, concerns and suggestions to Duchess Linnet MacLeod at chronicler@greyniche.net.

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