

Voxx Borealis

First Time Edition



*Supplemental Newsletter for the
Kingdom of Ealdormere, November 2023*

Anno Societatis LVIII

Regnum Ealdormerensis

Their Royal Majesties

Their Royal Highnesses

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This newsletter is available online at <http://enewsletter.sca.org/> for current Sustaining, Family,
& International members. Membership forms available at: <https://membership.sca.org>

Welcome Newcomers!



This, *First Time*, issue came together because of the many articles Matilda of Swynford posted to the [Kingdom of Ealdormere—Official](#) Facebook group, now here for prosperity. Xandra Rozina Xiberras Galea (Rozi) wrote the article about attending your first fight practice. Brand Thorwaldsen, Kingdom Chatelaine, stepped forward to help me with edits and additional information.

Vox deputy Catherine Townson will hopefully be back once she recovers from her misadventures.

I would like to let you know we have a mailing list to receive the latest issue of the Tidings and Vox Borealis. To join the list on emaildodo email me at ealdormere.kchronicler@gmail.com. The list email will be ealdormere.chronicle@emaildodo.com.

Joyfully Yours
Baroness Lucia de Enzians



Photo by Fisher of Ben Dunfirth. Ash holding populace of Ealdormere banner for opening ceremonies at Pennsic War 2023

From the Kingdom Chatelaine

Welcome To The SCA!

Inside this issue you will see some entry level information to our club, a medieval theme party that started in the 60's in California, and hasn't stopped since. We've been developing our game for over 50 years, and while we try to use plain language where we can, I'm certain you will have questions!

Don't be shy about stopping us to ask questions, and ask different people ... we all play inside this club in a different way. Some people come out 2-3 times a year to camp and see friends around a campfire, some folks dedicate every spare weekend to crafting authentic medieval gear to make their time in the club more immersive and educational. And most of us fall somewhere in between ...

And once you have found your footing, don't be afraid to try anything and everything to see what you like ... maybe you'll love archery, or doing calligraphy, or putting on armor and hitting your friends with a rattan sword. The possibilities are endless!

My job as the Kingdom Chatelaine is to make all the new people across Ontario feel welcome, so if you have any questions, stop me at an event, join me at a Newcomer Corner, or send me an email. Thanks for joining us!

Blair DeMarco-Wettlaufer
(in the SCA as Brand Thorwaldsen)
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Photo by Daffyd App Alan, Brand Thorwaldson standing wearing black coat and hat holding a spear at Fruits of our Labours event, (May, 2023)

What is the SCA?

The Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) is an international non-profit volunteer educational organization. The SCA is devoted to the research and re-creation of pre-seventeenth century skills, arts, combat, culture, and employing knowledge of history to enrich the lives of participants through events, demonstrations, and other educational presentations and activities.

Members of the SCA study and take part in a variety of activities, including combat, archery, equestrian activities, costuming, cooking, metalwork, woodworking, music, dance, calligraphy, fiber arts, and much more. If it was done in the Middle Ages or Renaissance, odds are you'll find someone in the SCA interested in recreating it. sca.org

Local Meetings by Lucia de Enzinas

The backbone of any of the local SCA groups (like Cantons or Shires) is the business meeting. All are welcome. Often monthly, this is the time when groups vote on budgets or plan the next events.

- You do not have to wear pre-1600s clothing to a meeting, be comfortable.
- You can bring craft projects to work on, like you would in a sewing circle. Sometimes there is a hands-on class offered.
- You are encouraged to ask questions about the upcoming events, or any agenda items, even if you are new to the SCA.
- Let the local [Seneschal](#) (group meeting Chair) or the local Chatelaine (newcomer contact) know you are coming.

Sometimes these meetings take place at a martial practice, restaurant, community center room, or public park, but sometimes they are in a private home. This depends on the local group. Plan accordingly for your own comfort (ie bring a chair if it is in a park).



Photo by Lassarfhina inghean Uilleag ; shire costuming class 2023

First Martial Practice by Rozi

So you've seen people fighting with swords, be it rattan swords while wearing heavy metal helmets, or thinner metal swords while wearing lighter armour. Why not try it out for yourself? Somewhat confusingly, you'll hear them called different things:

- Fighting with heavy rattan swords is sometimes called "Armoured Combat", or "Heavy List"
- Fighting with lighter, metal swords is sometimes called "Fencing", or "Rapier Fighting"

As with all SCA activities, you'll find that people who participate in these sports are generally more than happy to talk to you about it, and most will even teach. There are likely practices that your local folks attend, and each practice has a Marshal in Charge. Best way to have a successful first practice is to let that Marshal know that you would like to attend. You can find which group is local to you by putting your address into this website: <https://ugdsb.maps.arcgis.com/apps/ZoneLookup/index.html?appid=8f4d9db66fcf49cbac2ae830e6e64565>

It will tell you who your local Senechal(e) is – that's the person who is in charge of the business end of the SCA – and they can point you to your local Marshal.

After contacting your Marshal, the main thing you have to do is Go To A Practice! You'll be able to participate a bit more if you bring / wear the following:

- Closed toed shoes (like sneakers!)
- Clothes you can move in (for fencing, wear long sleeves and long pants)
- Rigid athletic protector for male genitalia (in armoured combat, female genitalia also has to be covered with an athletic protector, but you may not need that for your first time at practice – ask the Marshal)

The one big thing to know at a practice, whether you are participating or just watching, is the shout of "HOLD!" . It means everyone should stop what they are doing and look around ... maybe someone lost a piece of armor, or are about to run into someone just watching.

At your first practice, the Marshal and other fighters will talk to you about the sport in some detail. You'll get to watch fights up close, and people will be happy to explain what they're doing – just ask! Your Marshal or other teacher will let you handle some weapons and armour, and teach you the basics of movement in the sport. Especially if the Marshal knows you're coming ahead of time, and your approximate size, they may be able to provide you with some loaner armour so you can see what that feels like, take a few swings, and get an even better idea of what the sport will be like for you to participate. Most people in either sport are able to piece together a starter kit from loaner items, and you'll accumulate your own as you learn.



Photo by Joshua March, fencer in red holding sword and buckler at group practice

Practice Makes Better



Photos by Lassarfina inghean Uilleag. Fencers and Armoured Fighters together at Trinovantia Nova's indoor winter practice and outdoor summer practice in London Ontario.



First Indoor Event by Matilda of Swynford

SCA events are in medieval dress and feature tournaments and other activities. All events are slightly different but the following tips apply to most.

What do I need to bring to my first event?

- Directions to the site, paper money for the entrance fee (we don't take credit or debit, sorry) and a sense of whimsy.
- Garb or costume. If you don't have anything to wear, you can message the autocrat/event steward (the person who is in charge of the event) to ask about borrowing some clothing. You don't need to have garb (another word for costume) on, but it'll make it more fun!
- If you're under 18, you will need an adult. If your adult is not your guardian, they will need to bring some signed forms available at <https://ealdormere.ca/attending-events-with-children-the-kingdom-of-ealdormere/>

What might you like to have at an event? This is more of a general list of things I've found useful to have, and by no means necessary. Bring what you want, what you can afford and what you'd prefer to have with you

- A fun mug or cup. Try looking at a used/surplus goods store for a pottery cup or metal mug that you can put your drinks in. It'll need to be big enough to hold a full can of your favourite beverage, and it should feel comfortable to carry. Do yourself a favour and write your name on the bottom in Sharpie, mugs tend to get left on random tables when we get busy.
- A blanket of some kind. Blankets are the multipurpose item you'll treasure! They can be used as cloaks in cool or wet weather, can cover all sorts of mundane items like chairs, tables and such, can be sat upon for comfort and are excellent to snuggle into around a campfire. Also, blanket forts. Who doesn't love a blanket fort? Make sure it's washable so you don't have to worry about it getting a bit mucky.
- Eating gear. This usually consists of a plate and bowl, as well as a knife, fork and spoon. If you can find pottery plates, they're nice to have but wood, metal or anything not super modern will work too. Cutlery can be found with faux bone handles in the dollar store, or you could grab some utensils while you're discount hunting for other stuff. It's also ok to bring stuff from home, nobody's going to mind. We just want you to be able to enjoy a yummy lunch or supper
- Some type of container for all your stuff. Baskets, boxes or even tote bags will all work. I would suggest you base this on your method of transport to the event. Baskets look fun, but aren't that easy to bring on the bus, for example.
- Snacks. There may or may not be food available to buy at the event, but it's always good to be prepared. You don't need to get fancy unless you like that kind of thing- I sometimes bring Lunchables and a few cans of soda or bottles of water just in case, but the event may have a lunch or refreshments for sale. The event website should have details on what will be provided.
- Your latest project if you have one. We always love to geek out at what other people are working on, so if it's portable bring it along! The SCA is one big show and tell, so please let us share your excitement in making cool stuff

Guilds Continued

There are so many other things that you can bring to events, like chairs, tables, awnings, musical instruments, banners, lanterns, boxes- the list is almost endless. Great as that stuff is, you certainly don't have to have any of it! Later on, once you've decided this hobby is for you, you can start making plans on what you'd like your 'presence' to look like. For now, just join us at events and enjoy your day!

As a side note- the biggest thing you need to worry about to wear is comfortable shoes. We'd rather you wore safe, comfortable shoes that fit properly and let you participate fully than worry about historical footwear. You'll notice that many people do opt for more subtle colours, like brown or black, but again, safety and comfort first.

Royals

Ealdormere, what our Kingdom is called (which is most of Ontario), has the ceremonial figurehead of a King (or Queen) and a Consort. These figurehead change about every 6 months. They preside over recognizing people who have made our club better, and rule changes for Ontario. They hold court at events, which have them sitting in thrones, calling people up, and having things read out to the audience.

- Our royalty looks fancy and wear big gold crowns, but they are just people in our club too. One thing we all try to do is treat our royalty with respect, to make the ambience of the game better. If one or both of them approach you at an event:
- **Don't Panic!**
- Stand up, put down whatever you're doing.
- You can bow/curtsy/genuflect as you wish.
- You can greet them with something like 'Good Afternoon Your Majesty', or wait until they speak if you're nervous.

The job of the Crown is a busy one, especially at events! Try to keep your conversations short and polite. Let them decide the topic and keep alert for signs they need to depart. There's a schedule they need to keep.

- Bow/curtsy when they leave. Doesn't have to be as fancy as when you approached.

What to do if you get called into the Royal Court:

- **Don't Panic!**
- Stand up when your name is called and walk towards the thrones. Use the Center aisle if possible, it's there for that reason.
- When you get close, bow/curtsy/genuflect.
- If you're able, kneel in front of the Crown on the pillow. If you can't kneel, that's ok. Just bow and quietly mention something like 'bad knees' with a smile..
- The Crown is going to give you something nice. Enjoy your moment, talk to the Crown, hug, cry, do what feels right.
- Stand up, and take about 3 steps backwards if you're able.
- Bow/curtsy and head back to your seat.

You may also run into the royalty at a local meeting or practice. If they are in modern clothes, you don't have to be formal, you are all just friends hanging out.

Camping Event Etiquette Basics by Matilda of Swynford



Photo by Kurushima Yoshiatsu (Yoshi). Picture of a private camp gate for the Greater Freehold of the Rozakii, at Pennsic War

Camping with a group feels more in keeping with medieval times than indoor events. Here are some tips to make your camping experience more agreeable to yourself and to others at the event.

- When you arrive at your camping area always check in with those organizing the camp before you set up your tent. Often, groups will pre-register for specific areas and you don't want to have to move your gear.
- Try to make your camp look as nice and 'medieval' as you can, by using things like cooler or chair covers, lanterns, fun drapes or other decorations. Even the most modern camp equipment can look nicer with a bit of decoration.
- Pick up trash, yours or others. keep your food waste and garbage in a proper container of some kind. If you forgot to bring a bag or can, ask at the gate, they probably have a bag to spare.
- We all like a good party, but make sure you're not keeping up the neighbours. Larger events have a 'quiet camping area' or designated party zones, which should be marked on a map at the gate for you to see.
- When people are camping, they will consider their tent and surrounding area as their personal home. It's important that you respect this and do not enter these areas without permission. Don't wander into tents or under sunshades without permission.

Royal Encampment Etiquette by Matilda of Swynford

Royal Encampments

If a Royal is camping at an event, their space is called a Royal Encampment. Different rules apply here, and it's important to make sure you don't bother members of the Royal Family if they're busy or doing something private.

- At larger events many Royal Encampments will have a guard at the gate, banners with the Kingdom Arms on them or other signs of the type of camp. Check to make sure before you enter, and if you don't know, ask someone.
- Unless it's an emergency, or you've been specifically invited, there's probably no need to enter a Royal camp. It's not that they don't want to talk to you, it's that their job is hectic, and they need some space to relax. Confidential meetings, and things that aren't so fun happen here too, so it's just better to not wander in.
- If you do need to speak to a member of the Royal Family, but it's not an emergency, remember that they have staff. You can pass a message via these folks and rest assured they will get your information.



Photo by Lassarfhina
inghean Uilleag.
Campers at

Pretty Candle Photo





Cover Art

The photo of the borealis by his excellency Sir Shahid. Photos of Their Royal Majesties with the Kingdom's children was by Noble Fisher of Ben Dunfirth.

THE TIDINGS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE KINGDOM OF

A few things we're required to say...

This is the November 2023 AS 58 issue of The Tidings, the official newsletter of the Kingdom of Ealdormere.

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