



Southern Shores'

THE GULL

Web Edition 1

January 2011

Greetings from the Chronicler!

After more than a decade, let us, one and all, celebrate the return of our province's newsletter, THE GULL!

In its former glory, THE GULL was an asset not unlike the broader TOURNAMENTS ILLUMINATED, but addressing the more immediate issues of events, local projects, a font of helpful articles and, at times, something of an irreverent soapbox... I plan for our phoenix-like GULL to be all that and, hopefully, more – whatever most answers the interests and needs of the members of the Southern Shores Province. So, if you have an article that you would like to write (or an idea for one), I encourage all submissions, which are due at or by each month's meeting.

Due to the technologies available in our times, THE GULL will be published electronically on the Southern Shores' web-site.

Consider the article topic list at the end of this issue. Is there something you could contribute? I look forward to hearing from you.

*~ Yours In Service,
Vashti Brianna of House Archer*

This is the January 2011, issue of THE GULL, a free electronic publication of the Province of Southern Shores of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). THE GULL is available at <http://www.southern-shores.net/gull/gull.shtml> or from ElizaBeth Gilligan at 35508 Cleremont Drive, Newark, CA 94560 <chronicler@southern-shores.net>. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright © 2011 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.

Important Dates

Please contact our Chatelaine at chatelaine@southern-shores.net for more information. Of course you can also see our website at www.southern-shores.net and connect with people via our Yahoo Group SCA-SouthernShores

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| 1/25/11 | Deadline for submissions to Chronicler for February issue of THE GULL. |
| 2/7/11, 2/21/11 | Project Nights at Fabian & Eliska's home. Begins at 7 p.m. |
| 2/16/11 | Business Meeting at the Stormos' home. Begins at 7:30 p.m. |

December Business Meeting:

Apologies for not being at the December Business meeting. My wife, Vashti, as many of you know has a history of poor health. Some weeks are better than others, but none are ever great. At Juvenalia, she was just on the upswing after a particularly bad week and paced herself so that she could act as Autocrat and play Master of Ceremonies. I personally think she did a great job encouraging people to participate in what I felt was a very successful event. The week of the December meeting was especially difficult and on Wednesday, from 4 p.m. until midnight, we were in the Emergency Room. We got her past the crisis, but it took a couple more weeks to bring her health back to a stable level.

I want to thank Myfanwy for stepping up and running the actual meeting. In preparation, I had drafted an agenda for the meeting before the medical crisis with my wife. The agenda was structured as an aid for me to manage the meeting, but it was the best I had to hand to Myfanwy at the last minute before bolting out of the house with my wife. Myfanwy had weeks earlier declared a willingness to be my Deputy, but I had not intended to throw her into the deep end on her first meeting (one shouldn't abuse people who are willing to volunteer, they are hard enough to come by). I dearly love and appreciate all of the people who volunteer their time, efforts and talents to Southern Shores, but to be real, managing a meeting of strong-willed, independent, creative souls can be a lot like herding cats (or engineers, which is the experience I bring to the position). Since I know you all to be good people, I am sure you were gentler on her than you usually are on me in terms of communicating your passion for the Province and your dedication to improving our events. I especially wanted the meeting to go forward, even without me, because I feel it is especially important to capture the energy following a good event and to reflect upon it, as well as taking a deep breath and start the process of looking at our future events.

I have reserved dates for three Southern Shores events in the year 2011:

May 7: Newcomers' Prize Tourney
August 6 & 7: Santa Clara County Fair
Demo
December 3: Juvenalia

I do not yet have a date on the Warlord's Tournament since I want to discuss a variety of issues that I have perceived at the January Business Meeting. (See article below.)

I sincerely want to thank everyone who did show up for the December Business meeting and I very much appreciate your advice and energy.

*Douglas Archer,
Southern Shores' Seneschal*

On Being Seneschal of Southern Shores

I know there are many people with vastly more experience than I have in most every aspect of the SCA, including most especially being Seneschal. Since I am the current Seneschal of the Ancient and Honorable Province of Southern Shores, I am obligated to be the spokesperson and leader of this Province. I will not say how well I fulfill these obligations, but I do what I can. If others wish to speak up and create a dialogue on this or any other issue in *THE GULL*, I greatly welcome it. In the meantime, because I am Seneschal and I am the one starting this dialogue in *THE GULL* – with the efforts of the Chronicler and future contributors -- I get the first word.

Something that is rarely spoken of is how we are organized locally within the SCA. I became Seneschal of Southern Shores, because when Mistress Saeunn (my predecessor) called for volunteers, I approached her and said I would be willing. She apparently found me to be sufficiently suitable, and after some training in the responsibilities and an official approval by the Principality Seneschal, I inherited the office at Juvenalia, 2009 for a two year term. Notably I was not elected. There are responsibilities that I cannot delegate, including as the official interface for getting dates on the Kingdom Calendar and notices in

The Page. While I always respect the opinions of people who care enough to share them, I cannot avoid my responsibilities “because I got out-voted.” In fact, regardless of whether or not the populace or the Province Officers agree with me, it is still my responsibility to make the final decisions.

Part of my job description is to be a leader, even though this is not a role I typically view myself in. What this translates to for me (and I think for most leaders) is a delicate dance where I propose ideas, take the “temperature of the people” (those attending the business meeting), refining my choices in light of the feedback and declaring my decisions authoritatively, so that people are clear what the final decision is. Typically, on issues where I do not have a firm opinion of my own, I tend to go along with the general consensus, but on issues where I have strong feelings, it is my job to “sell” the idea to the populace and especially the Officers. If I seem to give more weight to the opinions of my Officers and others who show up at business meetings, remember that these are people who have gone to the trouble of being part of the decision-making process by showing up and participating and the Officers have specifically already obligated themselves to fulfill key responsibilities in the Province. I find it personally much easier to communicate in person, especially in gauging emotions and the degree of “buy in.” These are also, almost always, the people who will be doing the bulk of the work at the event(s) to make them the success we all want them to be.

Another part of my job (as I see it) is to be the one who fills in whenever somebody can't. No, I am not superman, and there are times when I fail and other times when I need someone to fill in for me, but if I cannot provide a given expertise, I can certainly show my appreciation by doing whatever I can to lighten their burden. Another aspect of this is to do whatever I can to “talk up” our events, especially on the various Yahoo Groups, but please note I have no problem with others doing so. I am still unenlightened concerning Facebook, but then I am pretty much a technophobe (despite being an R&D Engineer), so I am grateful to those who manage those

pathways. I am not very good at public speaking, but since that is part of my job, I try to improve myself. I am no great writer (as those who read this will no doubt attest), but I push myself to write for *THE GULL* because I think the potential good *THE GULL* can bring when others will eventually join in and contribute will be well worth my time, effort and whatever “Stage Fright” or other negative consequences I may receive.

I know I make this sound bigger than it probably is, but being Seneschal is a responsibility I accepted and as such I would be dishonoring all of those people throughout the years that have worked to build and maintain this most ancient Province if I did not do whatever I could to build on their efforts.

*Douglas Archer,
Southern Shores' Seneschal*

Southern Shores Plan for 2011

There are a few basic choices for every local group every year: Maintain, Grow or Diminish. Diminish is too easy, and would be an abrogation of the stewardship entrusted to me. Maintain is a fair option and certainly respectable, but call it a personal failing of mine that I am always compelled to pursue the dream, fix the problem, make “it” better. For me there is no option, I must try to Grow the Province. Strategically this is not as bad a risk as may be perceived. While no plan survives contact with reality and, generally, aiming high introduces risk, you cannot avoid risk when maintaining or even diminishing, but it is extremely rare to grow when aiming lower. On the whole, I believe the best strategy to avoid Diminishing is to attempt to Grow.

My strategy for Growth is to capture what works and keep it, but not be afraid to make changes to things that aren't particularly successful. I see our Newcomers' Tourney as a very successful event, even though we lose some money on it. Our Juvenalia event was very good, but as our only event that can bring in money, it needs to become bigger in order to pay for the other events in the year. I do not want to keep the demo and Warlord Tourney

together again this year, but neither do I want it to be a day tournament at the same park as Newcomers. I see the Warlord Tourney as an opportunity to try something significantly new while maintaining a very old tradition, but more on that later. I have no problem with supporting the demo at the Santa Clara County Fair, but I do not want to pour major effort into the event. I do want to put more effort into projects that I feel will help our Province grow, specifically reawakening *THE GULL* and finishing the Southern Shores sunshade.

*Douglas Archer,
Southern Shores' Seneschal*

Southern Shores' Role

I see service in local group(s) as “Paying Forward” for the help and warm greetings that I received when I started (both times). It is through our local groups that we greet people, especially those that find us without the aid of a local friend already in the SCA. With our local events, we give people a chance to join together with new friends when they find it painful to travel to the farther parts of the Kingdom.

Differentiating ourselves from the other events and groups in the area is not difficult. We do not need to be a niche player, we can be the local “Go To” group for our area and should be. Yes, compared to some parts of the Knowne World, we are practically bumper to bumper with our neighbors, that is because, historically speaking we are next to the center of the Knowne World with a very large population of members ranging from extremely experienced to new. I know that Southern Shores has seen some lean years, with balkanization to a level I would not have thought reasonable. I was not there in those troubled years and so I cannot speak of what should have happened, but I cannot help but feel that some of the confusion in the area as to our role stems from those times.

There are those who think we should let Southern Shores slip into oblivion, to die a graceful death. Perhaps I am prejudiced, I was active in Southern Shores 30 years ago and only a couple of years ago rejoined after more

than two decades away from the SCA. Into this new world my wife and I come, trying to understand the new model for our local groups. Vashti and I currently live in Westermark (which used to be Esfenn), but we participate in Southern Shores. Many other people similarly travel to find the group that best fits them, or where they have established their strongest personal relationships. Events and meetings are often held within neighboring groups’ “Geographical Boundaries” and groups feel constrained to differentiate themselves from their neighbors. What has resulted is a competition for active members in the Bay Area. This is not a bad thing, as every group wants to grow and contribute, but it is different from the standard model for local SCA groups, which is to effectively be the big umbrella for all of the local citizenry, especially those who have not already established a network of personal relationships through Households, Guilds and other such groups. I see the opportunity for Southern Shores to work at filling that role of being the umbrella.

My perspective is to let the other groups own the niches they have worked for, I have no interest in trying to take away from them the people that feel a special kinship with those groups. There are more than enough people remaining in our region that will hopefully respond to our more general approach.

*Douglas Archer,
Southern Shores' Seneschal*

Reawakening THE GULL

I intend to reawaken *THE GULL*, the newsletter of Southern Shores (see our web-site for articles from old issues of the previous version of this publication). My goal for *THE GULL* is to primarily have it act as a focus point for the community, in addition, to our Yahoo group and web-site; however, I do feel we can also fill a niche, at least locally, that I perceive *The Page*, *Tournaments Illuminated* and *The Complete Anachronist* do not quite fill. *THE GULL* can have a wider variety of articles from people at all the different levels of expertise. While *THE GULL* will always be the Southern Shores Newsletter, just like a local

newspaper, there is nothing in our charter that says we need to exclude news, art or articles from anywhere else.

I know the reawakening of *THE GULL* is resisted by many and even more feel it is redundant, unnecessary, not cost effective and cannot succeed, especially as a free newsletter posted and sent on the Internet (secure PDF format). Vashti and I have a lot of experience in startups and we bring this entrepreneurial perspective to the problem. When starting on a new venture, you will often find you are alone. If you have the passion, it is your job to communicate that passion to others. People will generally not clearly perceive your visualization or the feasibility of it until it is demonstrated. Most people do not want to expend effort on what they believe is a project doomed to failure for fear of wasting effort or worse, being associated with the failure. I do not fault people for these perceptions, strategies and normal human reactions, but neither am I persuaded by them. I know that for a new thing to come into existence, someone must imagine it into existence. To reawaken *THE GULL*, it must be written and published. For people to participate, they must be shown that it is a "safe" environment. In the case of *THE GULL* in its initial phases, Vashti and I will be writing the articles that go into it until other souls are brave enough to venture with us.

My vision for *THE GULL* is that it will contain news, art, editorials, essays, works of very short SCA-related fiction and articles. The contributions can be on any SCA subject and are not expected to be doctoral thesis material. Articles are expected to be written by those people who wish to communicate an idea, process, fact or opinion to others in their community. I am specifically setting the bar low so that people will write for *THE GULL*, but even if we get a fantastic array of incredibly well-written articles by renowned experts, I will still want to articles publish articles by beginners, students and apprentices because I think it is important that there be a range of voices heard in our community.

Most everybody I have met in the SCA has multiple areas of knowledge that they willingly

share in casual conversation, but I believe most people feel that to put it into print opens them to being flamed for inaccuracies. I see the same mindset in textbooks, from Junior High through College. The reason most every text book is so mind-numbing is that the authors are not writing for the students, they are writing to protect themselves from criticism from their peers who often find it easier to critique others rather than contribute themselves. I do not believe there are any people in our Kingdom so small-minded as to flame anyone for trying to help others. If there are, I will be glad to point out the fallacy in their approach. This does not mean that people will refrain from pointing out what they understand to be inaccuracies, that is a service and encourages healthy debate and learning for all. With the courtesy I have consistently seen displayed on our local and Kingdom Yahoo groups, I have no doubt that anyone brave enough to contribute will find their efforts rewarded with respect and appreciation.

My wife, Vashti, is the Chronicler and she has, as qualifications, two published novels, several published short stories, a William Randolph Hearst award for Investigative Journalism while working on *The Daily Kent Stater* during her attendance at Kent State University and has served as Editor on multiple magazines. Please be aware that one of the responsibilities of the Editor is to make sure that any and all submissions, before they are published, are made sufficiently readable. So if you are concerned that your submission is not well enough written, you can always ask for assistance without fear of ridicule. Our own daughter has a significant learning disability that shows itself in spelling errors, to the point where even spell-check is insufficient to catch them all. Our understanding of her difficulties will certainly extend to yours as well.

We have become conditioned by the abundance of experts to assume that only experts should teach, but, in fact, we all have something worth sharing. If an expert reads your article and feels it is not sufficient, they may then be motivated to contribute themselves, but even though their article will be more informed, it is quite likely that there

are some that heard a perspective in your approach that resonated with them more than any other. I do not agree with those that say, "Someone else already wrote an article on that so there is no need for anyone else to do so," if that were true our libraries and bookstores would have far fewer books in them.

I understand that the Internet is a big thing in everybody's life, and that blogs, web-sites and Yahoo groups are commonly used to communicate a lot of things. If I were to start a blog, a few of my friends might read it as well as a few lucky or persistent others, if they could find it through a web search. On a web-site, any given contribution is likely to be lost in the crowd and a Yahoo group is great for announcements and occasional discussions, but it does not seem to be the best medium for news reports, artwork or articles. A newsletter is designed to be read as a whole, with articles, pictures, news-reporting and announcements. They are organized (typically) on a monthly basis and by their nature encourage people to be exposed to concepts and knowledge they were not already looking for.

Anyone can receive a copy of *THE GULL* emailed directly to them if requested, or simply have sent to them a notice of where to find it. We will also be posting notices of publication on the Southern Shores and the SCA-West Yahoo Groups. Royalty and appropriate Principality and Kingdom officers will also receive notices per tradition, rules and protocol.

I understand many people like to receive newsletters printed on paper. Unfortunately, printing on paper and mailing it costs money. As a result, it limits the mailing to those that commit money for a subscription. Money also raises all sorts of accounting complications and regulations. I am sure that for anyone that does not have Internet access or a printer -- if they ask -- someone can be found to voluntarily print a copy and deliver it to them, thereby still avoiding the massive quantity of rules and regulations necessary for such publications.

The nature of a secure PDF file (as we are configuring it) is that it effectively can only be copied as a whole (the entire file) or printed. You cannot copy and paste sections from it to

any other file. This is to help enforce the protection of our contributors' copyrights. The SCA takes copyright protection very seriously and requires us to do so as well, both for newsletters and web-sites. In this, and every issue of *THE GULL*, you will find the Copyright Permission Form for *THE GULL*. I specifically had this approved by the appropriate SCA corporate officers in order to clarify and simplify the process for our contributors.

My goal is to store all of the reawakened *GULL* issues on the Southern Shores web-site and also have links to individual articles (sorted into categories, along with the articles from the old issues of *THE GULL*) with the exception that the links will take the readers to the article inside the still complete issue of *THE GULL*, where readers will find the other articles adjacent to the one they were originally interested in. This simplifies and preserves the copyright protection and permissions as well as encouraging the viewing of articles other than just the one searched for.

I know that reawakening *THE GULL* will require a lot of effort, and even if/when momentum is achieved, it will still take a lot of effort to maintain, but we are not starting from absolute scratch. With *THE GULL*, there is a fine history already archived on our web-site to guide us by example, and further, there is the fine example of the effort and participation by all those contributors of the many articles from *THE GULL*.

Permission Form for THE GULL

Elsewhere in this (and every) issue of the Gull you will find the Permission form. This is to protect our very valued contributors from theft of their intellectual property. While they give us permission to use their submission in one context, this does not imply that they allow anyone to make use of it in other ways without their permission. The permission form also protects us from accusations of copyright infringement. The SCA takes both of these issues very seriously and requires us to do so as well.

Upon reviewing the standard Permission form used by the SCA, I determined that it

would not protect our contributors, in the situation of the Gull as it is (Free, Secure PDF, Emailed and Posted on our website) as well as I would want. Nor would it be as easy to use. I modified the original and sent it 'up the ladder' to get permission for the new version.

Below is the paraphrased response from the West Kingdom Chronicler. If somebody wants to see the exact phrasing they can come talk to me and I will show them, or they can contact the West Kingdom Chronicler for independent reassurance.

The West Kingdom Chronicler related that the Society Seneschal did not have a problem with our form and accepted the validity of our reasoning. As long as we maintained the wording with regards to protecting the respective rights, there was no problem.

*Douglas Archer,
Southern Shores' Seneschal*

Southern Shores Sunshade

Another major project I want to undertake is the Southern Shores' sunshade. I am sure there are many that will feel it is redundant, that there are already many fine people who willingly share their sunshades for anyone in need, and they are right, however, the purpose of the sunshade is give those who are shy, but align themselves with the Province a place to belong. Many people, especially those who are new, feel very awkward approaching someone to ask if they can share some shade. I know that most everyone in the Kingdom are generous folk, but it takes time for most to get comfortable asking for a favor. In the Province Sunshade (which will be notable for the large display of the Southern Shores' arms upon it), they would know they were always welcome. Hopefully it would also become a catalyst (along with *THE GULL*) for a greater sense of community in the Province, where people could meet and connect. Myfanwy has agreed to be point person for this project, to ensure it does not get dropped and that regular progress is made. My time-line goal is for it to be completed in 2011 before Juvenalia (the end of my term in office), this is so that I can exercise

all the leverage that I have (however small that may be) to ensure its completion. I personally want to be involved in the hands-on doing of it, just so I can learn what is involved in the making of a sunshade, but I am sure there is always room for one more on the team and people are invited to join the Sunshade Team.

This is not a small project, but we already have the fabric itself and a significant amount of sewing is already done. There are a lot of weeks before my arbitrary deadline and all that is needed are some materials, the use of a strong sewing machine and the expertise in making sunshades or pavilions. We will also be making two large applique representations of the Southern Shores arms that will show to one and all, this is the Southern Shores Sunshade! If you want to volunteer time, expertise or anything else, please contact Myfanwy (karynroberts@gmail.com).

*Douglas Archer,
Southern Shores' Seneschal*

General Participation

Participation is a way to engage with others. Some people do it by volunteering or just helping out at events. Others do it by fighting or competing in A&S activities, both of these add to the success of an event, for what would be the point of holding a competition if no one entered? Others participate by creating costumes or period encampments, for these add up to create the ambiance of the "modern middle ages." Others help out by "serving on Court" or volunteering for other long-term commitments such as Autocrat or even an Officer position in a group (at local, Principality or Kingdom level). Different people get different things out of their participation. For most, I think, the payoff is recognition and respect, for others it may simply be a way to engage with others in a semi structured environment (not all of us are natural "social animals") or even as a way of giving so that others can be happy or to help create something they perceive to be of value in this world.

A lot of people seem to believe that they need to be specially connected before they can

contribute and I want to point out that even when it comes to hosting events or teaching classes, the reality is often much looser than you would think. I have seen Viscount Richard d'Camville and his lady hold Combative Arts Skills Day and an Arts & Sciences workshop at their own home where he only announces it on the SCA-West Yahoo Group. Duke Cariadoc and his lady hold period cooking classes in their own home. Anybody can host an evening event, once upon a long time ago, I regularly hosted an armoring workshop, I barely had enough skill to help others, but I provided material, (with the help of Ronald Wilmot) confidence, advice, some simple tools and a place to work on armor. This last year, I decided to organize a Heraldic gathering. With the help of my wife Vashti in finding volunteers, His Grace, Duke Cariadoc provided his house as the site, and His Grace, Duke Frederick and Master Owen as well as several others provided Heraldic expertise, along with Robin of Silverwood for artistic support and Vashti and myself for general Internet and printing support. It was very successful. None of these were listed in *The Page*, none of these had official sanction of any sort or required the organizing individual(s) to be "connected."

At events where classes are requested (such as Newcomers' Tourney), I have taught the making of chain-mail. I know that most anybody that has done chain-mail knows more than I do, but since they aren't teaching the class, I figure I can teach the class from the perspective of focusing on the basics. If you are not an expert, that does not mean you cannot teach what you do know and if an expert does come along, and wants to help, as His Grace, Duke Frederick did when I was teaching SCA Vocabulary, you can provide the structure and basic lessons, allowing the expert to contribute just by being there without having to prepare the class themselves.

The point is to realize that there are any number of ways to participate and contribute, ranging from volunteering on-site to help at an event, such as in the kitchen or as a server at a feast, at the gate or helping others set up pavilions and sunshades, to hosting a regular evening meeting or even a special event, with

or without the blessing of an official group such as our Province.

*Douglas Archer,
Southern Shores' Seneschal*

Juvenalia (December 3, 2011)

Regarding Juvenalia, I see the path as one of creating a new brand, different from Jingles, building on the path that my predecessor (Mistress Saeunn) set us on. I have a few ideas I feel strongly about for Juvenalia this next year. I want to use the same site, I want to use essentially the same menu with some alterations, and, in general, I want to keep the same basic format including games and a bardic focus.

The concept is that this is our equivalent of a family/community holiday party. It is not intended to be a grand experiment every year, or a show, it is intended to be a party where everyone participates and enjoys the gathering. Certainly we (the Autocrat, Feastocrat, volunteers and Officers of Southern Shores) will host the party, but my goal is the same as for a family party where wallflowers are encouraged to be a part of the activities and no one should feel isolated or "alone in a crowd." We are such an inclusive, accepting, non-judgmental group that I feel this is a perfect type of gathering for us to have.

Larger will be better in most every aspect, but to achieve this we will need to advertise creatively, vigorously and relentlessly. I want this to become an event people plan their holidays around rather than waiting to see "if anything else comes up and if it doesn't, well they might as well go to Juvenalia." When you do something radically different every year (changing the feast's cook and/or menu), you are rolling the dice as to whether or not it will work at all and people have no idea what the event will be like when they get there. I think the fear of becoming boring is not one to worry about, after all this is not a movie, the experience is much more like a combination of a Party and Event and a Restaurant. Most people go to the same restaurant more often than once in several years, and often they will

even order the same meal. The reason they go there is because it was a good experience and they want that good experience again. When you focus on a specific date/location in history to focus your feast on, it increases the likelihood of a significant portion of people not being able to enjoy it. Just as not everyone enjoys Mexican food (I do, but Vashti usually doesn't), any overly specific Cuisine will end up with the same exclusionary effect. I would rather focus on a menu of Period foods, fine tuning for the dishes that get the best responses from the people enjoying the feast and work better together.

The same concept should be used for the activities at the event, with fine tuning done each year for those activities that get people off their seats to participate and get people enjoying themselves.

Side Note: The Giant Jenga block set used this year was the result of wood and materials and workshop space donated by His Grace Duke Fabian and labor provided by His Grace, my son Pdraig Archer and myself. My plans for the blocks (to remove any concerns as to who they belong to) is to develop a stamp with the Southern Shores' arms and stamp every one of them. I will also be doing some follow-up work on them so hopefully they will be even better next year.

*Douglas Archer,
Southern Shores' Seneschal*

Warlord Tourney

The Warlord tournament has a history going back decades and if there is anything I can do about it, it is not going to die on my watch. That doesn't mean I am going to aim just to maintain, I would like to explore doing something more unique with Warlord this year.

Recently, I saw a thread on the SCA-West Yahoo group that discussed the feasibility/popularity of a Weapon Smith challenge wherein people with forges would come to an event and over a specific period of time (for instance 24 hours) compete for how many weapons they could produce. Many people seemed to think this was a good idea,

including non-weapon smiths who wanted to apprentice or help by cooking for the laborers etc. ...

While the major problem seemed to be finding an event that would host it (due to noise), or where it would not be lost in the excitement over other activities, I saw in it the germ of an idea.

The idea I would like to propose is a Makers' Tourney. In some ways it would be a variant of Collegium except that it is more hands-on and focused on the making of items. Picture this: Starting at a pre-determined time (such as Saturday morning or even Friday evening) each contestant, at the invocation, specifies what they will be making and who will be assisting and what opportunities there will be for participation by others. They will be handed a placard with a Roman Number and will be entered into the Tourney at the Lists table. They will then go to their craft location where they will set their placard at their station. The A&S representatives will chronicle the various stages of each of the contestants' projects, photographically showing starting materials, tools and pictures of the process. Through the day, the A&S representatives will ask questions of the competitors and record this information as well, resulting, hopefully, in a reasonable documentation of each of the competitors' efforts.

Parallel with this is another activity, the cooks are going to have their own challenge. As people come to the event, part of the site fee is for a feast. The cooks will -- at a predetermined time (say Saturday noon) -- have a final number for the feast and hence a budget for said feast. They will then go to a local store and purchase ingredients (or the money will be taken to them if they are already at the store) and then cook the feast to be ready to serve shortly after the Makers' Tourney competition time is completed (assume Saturday evening). The feast will be prepared on-site and people will be encouraged to assist.

The Warlord Tourney itself will either take place in the middle of the day on Saturday or Sunday morning. Winners will be announced on Sunday and perhaps (based upon the wishes of the entrants) a silent auction of the Makers'

competition items with proceeds to be distributed per the entrants wishes. The various entrants, their projects, process and completed documentation (by the A&S representatives) will be published in *THE GULL* as will the Cooks and pictures of their feast (before its consumption by the ravening horde) and the Warlord Tourney combatants and winner.

The basic concept is to show what you can do, and if you don't have the skills, you can help those that do and thereby learn from them. Entrants can bring documentation with them, but the chronicling of the process is done on-site for them.

An alternative concept for Warlords is modeled after a unique tournament for the Principality of the Mists that Viscountess Maythen won. Briefly, as I recall it, it was a six part Tournament with the various parts to include, of course, Fighting, Dancing, Heraldry, Chess, Singing and I can't remember the sixth. Every competitor must participate in each of the categories and the winner is the one with the highest cumulative score.

One more approach is to make the Tournament the focus, but make it unique in some other way. I am open to suggestions, but I want to try something significantly different in an effort to improve the event.

*Douglas Archer,
Southern Shores' Seneschal*

Newcomers' Tourney (May 7)

This is a prize tourney that has as a major focus encouraging new fighters (one-year, two-year and Open) combined with classes focused to newcomers and beginners at a public neighborhood park so there is no required site fee. It is a very good event. For the most part, aside from the advertising and recruiting teachers for the classes, this event "practically runs itself," which means the various Province Officers and other active volunteers show up and do what they need to do (including recruiting additional volunteers on-site) and we have a wonderful event. This is an example where we have a very effective "formula" that I see no reason to disturb. There are people that

come from far away to help, which tells me we are doing a good service for the broader community, which the broader community supports.

The one change from last year that I want to implement is the acquisition of the prizes before the event, so that the winners can be handed their prize at the event. Due to unforeseen complications (my fault), there was an unnecessary delay in the winners receiving their well-deserved prizes. I also feel bad that the winners did not receive the public appreciation that they deserved. For the record:

- Offa of DeGrendelus won the under one year Prize Tourney.
- Cormac of Canale won the under two year Prize Tourney.
- Duke Radnor won the Open Prize tourney with Miles Fitz-Rolf coming in Second. His Grace, Duke Radnor, made a gracious speech in which he bequeathed his prize to Miles.

They each won a pair of medieval boots from the Revival Clothing Company.

*Douglas Archer,
Southern Shores' Seneschal*

A List of Ideas for Submission to THE GULL

This is not intended to be a complete list, but rather a starting point for ideas.

- Reporting on a given event.
- War Story
- 'A funny thing happened on the way to the Tourney'
- Awards given to local members
- Artwork of a medieval flavor
- A period piece of Art
- Cartoons that would appeal to SCA folk
- Article on: (Note: Most any of these can be done in a monthly manner.)
- Needlework - Embroidery
- A specific person, group, location, event etc. in history
- A period name (perhaps your SCA name) and the documentation to prove its legitimacy.
- Blazon of the month – Detail a person or group’s device, its heraldic description with discussion.
- Knitting yarn
- Knitting Chainmail
- Specific lessons, approaches, concepts in SCA Fighting (Heavy Weapon, Rapier or War)
- General Wood-working
- General Metal-working
- General Leather-working
- Pottery
- How to make a specific something
- How you made a specific something (with pictures if available)
- How to make a pattern
- How to make a mold
- Performing Arts:
- Dance – History and steps
- Music – Instruments.
- Music – Melodies
- Music – Songs
- Poems, Sagas
- Fanciful story
- Advice from a specific perspective.
- A perspective on how things are, or “should be.”
- A listing of resources found on a specific topic
- Heraldry, how to: Book, Court, field...
- Period Names – Rules, History, Pronunciation
- How to run the Lists
- Armoring
- Making of weapons (SCA legal/others)
- Costuming for the SCA:
- Costume – Patterns
- Costume – Sewing (how-to)
- Costume – Accessorizing
- Spinning Yarn
- Making Hats
- Making Shoes
- Making Chairs
- Making Cloth
- Making Beer or mead or ...
- Period Cooking:
- Cooking – Recipes
- Cooking – Mideval procedures , ingredients
- Cooking at Camping events
- Cooking – Iron Chef style.
- Cooking – Feastocrating
- Period Pavilions / Sunshades: How to make, Historical issues, Maintenance ...
- Protocol in the Modern Middle Ages
- Vocabulary specific to the SCA
- A&S : Documentation, Standards
- Your entry in an A&S competition (preferably with pictures, if available)
- How to pack for an event
- Basic health advice for events
- How to autocrat an event
- How to run a competition
- Jewelry:
- Jewelry: Period Styles
- Jewelry: Finding/buying
- Jewelry: Making

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