

# the BATTERING RAM

October, 2001

AS XXXVI

This is *The Battering Ram*, published by and for the members of the Shire of Ramsgaard of the *Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.* It is available from the publisher by email at the temporary address, [grasslands@ocis.net](mailto:grasslands@ocis.net). It is not a publication of the *Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.* and does not delineate SCA policies.

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Submissions: We are currently seeking articles and artwork for future editions of *the Ram*. Articles of a maximum of 500 words should be submitted by email to [grasslands@ocis.net](mailto:grasslands@ocis.net), or may be typed, double-spaced and submitted to the Editor at any Shire meeting. Artwork should be black and white and, if possible, scanned at 200dpi in jpg format. Submissions deadline for the January issue will be December 21, 2001.

#### Shire Officers:

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Exchequer: Fjall Ljotrsson (250) 554-2271  
Acting Hera Id: Frederik Von Zwickau (250) 314-1235  
Master of Stables: Sir Owain ap Einer (250) 554-1060  
Master of Blades: Duncan Darroch (250) 554-3986  
Arts & Sciences: Lady Maeghan MacLaren (250) 377-7433  
Chronicler: Samantha MacDonald (250) 377-8818  
Chatelaine: Lady Wren (250) 554-1060



WE ARE AN TIRIAN

# HUZZAH!



Lords and Ladies. They are: Alice du lac Griffon, Katrynka Chornovolokaya, Wren, Meaghen MacLaren, Allen of Rockfall. Congratulations one and all!

## The Chatelaine Speaks

Greetings!

Having just taken office for the first time I thought I'd take this opportunity to introduce myself and let you know what I would like to do as your Chatelaine. I've been in the S.C.A. for over four years now and have enjoyed going to many different events, from Crown to Clinton War, to Winter's End. I've seen a good amount of our fair kingdom and enjoy participating in a variety of activities. I have fought heavy and light, in tournaments and wars, tried sewing and embroidery and weaving; lately I've taken to merchanting and have just started trying my hand at calligraphy and illumination. (You can tell by my black finger tips.)

As your Chatelaine here are a few of the things I would like to work on, and strive to keep-up with. I see this position similar to the "Welcome Wagon" as well as sort of public relations position (with demos, press kits etc.) I know we've been trying to have coordinators for these areas, and I hope to help shape an overall plan so that

Many congratulations to the members of our shire who were recognized by Their Majesties, Aveloc and Mahliqa, at the Clinton War, 5 August, A.S. XXXVI (2001), and given an Award of Arms. It was a magical evening; Their Majesties were in fine form, eating, drinking and merry-making with their subjects. The stars were bright, the music fine and the festive spirit strong. Our Shire made a great showing that night, we should all be very proud; of our Shire, and our newest

we can all work together to let people know who we are, what we do, and that they are welcome to come check us out!

I'm excited about working on a newcomer's handbook (I know I've been talking about it for a while, but hopefully over the long winter months progress can be made.) I also look forward to helping organize some armoring and sewing workshops, so we can all get in tip-top shape.

Lady Meaghan and I have been talking about having a few A&S nights as "socials" where we can all come out in our finest garb to dance, and talk stick and stitch.

Hope to see you all the third Friday of the month at Parkview Center.

We have also been talking about new shire projects: Shire banners, regalia, etc. It would be great to really get the whole shire involved!

Anyway, forgive me if I've rambled...

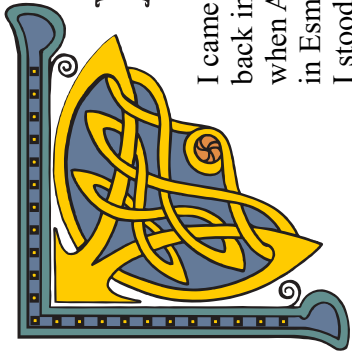
Lady Wren

[wrenshenna@hotmail.com](mailto:wrenshenna@hotmail.com)

THE SHIRE OF RAMSGAARD IS PLEASED TO INVITE ONE AND ALL TO OUR ANNUAL EVENT. AS ALWAYS WE WILL HAVE SILLY WEAPONS TOURNEYS FOR HEAVY AND RAPIER AND THIS YEAR WILL ADD "HOW FAR CAN YOU LAUNCH AN EGG?" (MINI CATAPULTS ANYONE??) A&S WILL ALSO OFFER SCROLL COMPETITIONS IN CALLIGRAPHY AND ILLUMINATION. WE WILL ALSO HAVE BARDIC COMPETITION AND VARIOUS PIPE PIPER ACTIVITIES. OUR FEAST WILL BE A FANTASTIC ASSORTMENT OF FOODS, SERVED IN A BEAUTIFUL HALL, WITH A CHOIR SINGING 12<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY TUNES. WITH AN ATMOSPHERE LIKE THIS YOU'LL WISH YOU COULD STAY FOREVER...

FREEZE

FF  
OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup>



# I AM AN

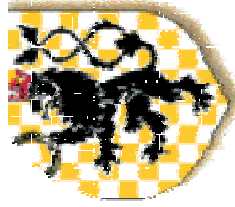
I came from the West kingdom,  
back in AS fifteen,  
when An Tir was made a kingdom,  
in Esmeralda and Radnor's reign.  
I stood at 12th night,  
sang the Brave and Bonny Host.  
for all the time that's passed since  
then,  
I've been An Tirian.

I've been a fighter on the field  
with sword and shield and bow.  
I've fought in wars and tourneys,  
and taken many blows.  
I'm a seneschale, I'm an autocrat,  
I'm a knight of the realm,  
A scribe, a chiurgeon,  
I am An Tirian.

I am the new person  
with wonder in my eyes.  
I'm the lady at the sidelines,  
In who your inspiration lies.  
I am a royal peer,  
the patron of a shire,  
I'm a marshal, a gatekeeper,  
I am An Tirian.

We are one, but we are many,  
And from all the lands on earth we  
come,  
We share a dream, and stand together  
I am, You are, We are An Tirian.

I'm a teller of stories,  
I'm a singer of songs.  
I am the local pelican who  
sees that jobs get done.  
I'm the herald calling out to you,  
the waterbearer in the sun,  
I'm the one who held our shield wall,  
I am An Tirian



# TIRIAN

I'm a merchant and an Innkeeper,  
the constable at night,  
I am a brand-new squire,  
being taught how to fight.  
I am a page, a Laurel too,  
on the royal retinue,  
I am a link in this chain,  
I am An Tirian

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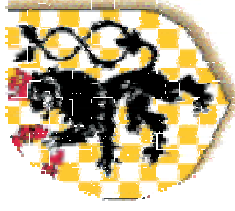
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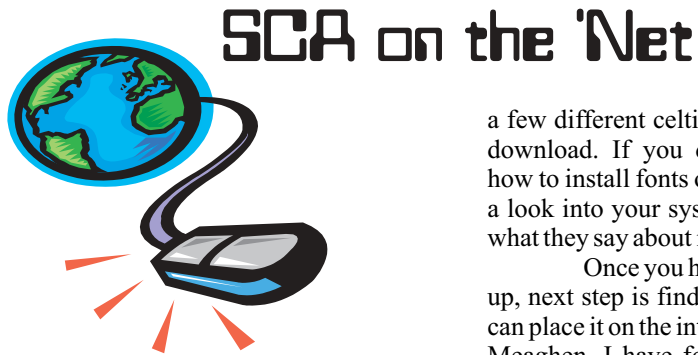
I am, You are, We are An Tirian.

- Lady Meaghen MacLaren



Editor's Note: At *Spring Tune Up* here in Ramsgaard, I was lucky enough to take a Bardic Ithra class with Meaghen MacLaren. In that class, she shared a song with us that has since become known throughout the kingdom, even enjoying a performance for their majesties at Clinton. Huzzah to Lady Meaghen and many thanks for allowing us to reprint this song which touches the hearts of us all.





# SCA on the 'Net

Searching the internet for some great sites for this newsletter, I have come across some really fantastic homemade sites. Many of them feature exquisite celtic fonts, excellent celtic clipart and information galore that they have collected from other SCA sites. I also know a number of people within the SCA who have expressed interest in creating their own SCA sites, myself included. So, I decided to find some of the sites from which you can download these clipart pictures and celtic fonts. Here are some of the ones that I found.

When looking for celtic clipart, there are hundreds of really good sites with a large assortment of crosses, buttons, borders and knotwork. Some of the sites that have a really good selection include Aon Celtic Art (<http://www.aon-celtic.com>) which has one of the best assortments that I have seen, Web Gallery Of Art (<http://www.kfki.hu/~arthp/index1.html>) where most of the artwork has been hand-done and also Celtic Site (<http://www.celtic-site.com>) which has a large assortment of stonework celtic art.

When looking for fonts, I discovered that many sites don't carry celtic fonts but I managed to find one site which did. 1001Free Fonts (<http://www.1001freefonts.com>) carries

a few different celtic fonts that you can download. If you don't already know how to install fonts on your system, take a look into your system's help files and what they say about installing fonts.

Once you have your website set up, next step is finding a place that you can place it on the internet. And thanks to Meaghen, I have found that Antir.com (<http://www.antir.com>) is a great place to find free website space. They also have a free e-mail account that you can sign up for at the same time as registering your website space. Some other really good places for website space include Yahoo! (<http://www.yahoo.ca>), Fortunecity (<http://www.fortunecity.com>) and Excite (<http://www.excite.com>). For setting up free e-mail accounts online, if you don't already have one, check out Yahoo Mail (<http://www.mail.yahoo.com>), Mail.com (<http://www.mail.com>) or MSN Hotmail (<http://www.hotmail.com>). Lastly, one of the best internet sites I have come across has been Bravenet Services (<http://www.bravenet.com>) where you can find a ton of free services such as guestbook, chatrooms, stats for your site's usage, and lots more.

Well, I hope for those of you who are interested in setting up your own SCA websites, these links will help you obtain excellent results. I'm going to be setting up my own SCA site and once I have it done and online, I'll let you know in my article. Until then.... ta ta!

- Rose of Ramsgaard,  
Clan Member of the Red Tigers,  
Marine Commander of The Ivory Queene

## Customs, Etiquette, and Playing the Game

### A Study of Courty Manners

Based on ban-Iarla Daedin MacAoidh a'Mhonadh's Protocol in the SCA class notes. For use at events where any form of royalty are also attending.

**Royal Presence:** An unseen 'area' which extends around the persons of the Royalty, their thrones (and possessions). A sphere in which they can conduct business. Generally speaking, the royal presence extends from the royal person to about six feet in all directions at all times. When the thrones are occupied, the royal presence also includes the area in front of the thrones to a distance of 30-40 feet (or to the far end of court, or the far side of the lists field). Acknowledge (bow, curtesy, etc.) the royal person if you must pass within the royal presence. Bowing or curtsying to unoccupied thrones (acknowledging the royal presence) is also common. Don't block Their Majesties' view - especially of the combat field. Royal presence also applies to Landed Barons and Baronesses and Royal Peers.

**Recognition:** Stand at the edge of the Royal Presence until the Royalty acknowledges you, then enter, state your business, and exit.

**Standing in the Presence:** As circumstances and abilities permit, try to stand when entering or being brought into the Royal Presence. This also applies if the Royalty approach you.

**Bowing:** As the circumstances, your clothing, and your personal tastes and abilities allow.

**Facing the Royalty:** Try to keep your face to them, circumstances allowing. When departing the Royal Presence, back away several steps (or as far as safety will allow) before turning your back.

**Blades in the Presence:** Generally speaking this is a no-no, especially in Court. Take blades off before you come

into Court. (It is considered rude to take up Court time by making a show of removing your blades as you come into the Presence. Leave them behind if you're going to attend Court.) Some Royalty, as is Their right, choose not to enforce this politeness.

**Announcements:** Speak up, position yourself so both populace and royalty can hear you. Good positions are to the left or right of the thrones, or at the far end of Court (forcing you to speak loudly so everyone, including the Royalty, can hear you). Never make your announcement with your back to the Royalty! Keep your announcement pertinent and as brief as possible. Avoid in-jokes and personal or household business in Court, that's what Audiences are for. Heralds will make announcements for you if notified in advance - use them!

**High Table:** At a feast, the Royal Presence exists as if the Royalty were seated on their thrones, albeit condensed a bit. Servers bearing hot or ungainly food dishes are generally excused from bowing/curtsying in the Royal Presence if doing so will put them or the guests in danger.

**Formal Toasts:** Some time during the course of the meal, a number of the highest-ranking individuals in the hall will call for toasts to each of: the local landed Baron and Baroness, the Prince and Princess of a principality, the Crown Prince and Princess, visiting royalty (if any), and the King & Queen. The King and Queen will then toast the Kingdom. Traditions vary from area to area as to the order of the toasts, but generally speaking, the toast to the Kingdom is last and done by the highest-ranking individual. Toasts to the autocrat, servers, and other event workers can be left to another point in the banquet.



## The Plague I Bear...

I know many people get a laugh out of even considering a plague at Clinton but when you really look at it, it can be both humorous and serious. Believe me, I know first hand.

It all started when Chris (Kieran) and I travelled with Grunnar (the head of our household, the Red Tigers), and his wife and daughter to Clinton. All was well on our way up. When we got there, we set up our encampment, the Red Tiger's Den, and Grunnar's merchant pavilion.

The next morning, my lord and I found we were drenched in sweat from our tent getting too hot in the morning sun. I thought nothing of it and got up and out of bed. However, that afternoon, I noticed some small red spots on my stomach, chest, back and sides. "Oh my God, what in the hell?" I thought nervously. I showed Kieran, Grunnar and the rest of the Red Tigers. One person felt my forehead, "Nope, not chicken pox," she said. Another took a closer look at the spots and shook their head, "Could be a heat rash." "Nah. Maybe it's an allergic reaction to something," someone else replied. I felt like a guinea pig under surveillance by a team of scientists. But everything they said started to frighten me. How could it be allergies when I'm not allergic to anything except smoke? As the weekend progressed, it got worse. More spots began to show, and my worries became more serious. "It's not allergies, It's not allergies..." I kept repeating, but I knew it couldn't be just a heat rash. "Don't worry, Rose," said Grunnar, "if it still hasn't cleared up by Monday, we'll run you to the clinic in town."

On Monday, I knew Grunnar was right and that going to the clinic in town was the best thing. So, down we headed into town, only to find out that the clinic was not open for another three hours. So there

I sat, with Gina, my household sister, Grunnar and his lady, and a few others, worrying that the doctor or nurse would confirm my worst nightmare. Two minutes after the clinic opened, Gina and I walked through the door. I walked hesitantly up to the nurse. She got me in fairly quickly and I entered a room to wait for the doctor. I felt like my heart was in my throat as I looked around. I tried to look at a magazine but my hands were shaking so much that the words were almost unreadable. A young lady walked in and couldn't help but laugh, which hurt a lot. She explained that she was the doctor and asked what was going on. I told my story and then I heard the words I will never forget... "I hate to tell you this, but it's not heat rash. It's Chicken Pox." 'Argh!!!!!! How can this be?!!' I thought as my tears began to flow. "You're only contagious until Thursday, though, so you can still enjoy your event." I don't know if that was a good thing or a bad thing.

No matter how much Gina tried to assure me that no one would exclude me or cast me away, I knew in my heart what was probably to come. Each step I took, my heart sank heavier and heavier. When we reached the café where the others were waiting, Gina turned to me and asked quietly, "Are you ready?" I thought for a minute, 'Do I really want to tell them?' I finally shook my head, "As ready as I'll ever be," even though my heart said 'not a chance in hell.'

I walked up to the table my friends were at, my friends who always stood by me, took care of me, and who understood every feeling I had. "So, what's going on?" Grunnar asked. I knew that this was the moment that would really show what was to come. I whispered into his ear the dreaded answer, "Chicken Pox". Grunnar looked me in the eyes and he

knew by what he saw, it was true. He turned to the group and repeated the verdict. I'll never forget how Ingrid flew back, afraid. "Stay away from me. I can't get that," she said. Everyone just turned heavy and stared at me. I stared out the window, knowing that if this is what happened with my friends, I was sure what was to happen when we got back to camp.

Grunnar sat down beside me. With tears in my eyes, I asked him, "What happens now?" His heart sank as he told me that I would probably be quarantined or sent home. I asked about Ingrid and her reaction to me. "She can't get it because it would be fatal for her if she did," he explained. I finally understood.

When we returned to the site, I knew just by looking around that everyone had their suspicions. I cried, looking into their eyes, knowing that I could possibly be sent back to Kamloops. I didn't want to go. I had a chance to finally teach the water-bearing course again and perhaps get my masters. I didn't want to give all of this up. But most of all, I was afraid of what Chris might do. If I had to leave, would he come with me or would he stay?

Grunnar and Ingrid went to talk to Malcolm and the Chirurgeon staff about my "condition". I wanted to stay, but I knew with each moment that was passing, my chances were growing slimmer. Grunnar came back and explained to me that I was being sent home, since I was too much of a health risk on site. There were people who, if they caught the pox from me, could die, and there were at least two pregnant women on site, who, if they contracted it, could lose their babies. I begged to speak to Malcolm myself to explain about Thursday, but they wouldn't let me. So I got taken to the Tiger's Den and placed in the corner. Within seconds, it seemed, all the Tigers knew what was happening. Lady Vichary told Keiran what was

going on, and asked him if he would return to Kamloops with me, and he agreed. Meanwhile, Malcolm came to explain that it was for the best, and that they had a ride back to Kamloops for me with a gentleman who had had Chicken Pox twice so he was not at risk from me. "Gee, like that doesn't make me feel worse, 'at risk' from me." I sighed. Malcolm just shook his head. "Well you are a risk if you stay on site. There's no telling how many people have already caught it just by being near you." I explained that I would only be contagious until Thursday and he told me that he would organize a ride to come pick us up and bring us back. Well, that was at least a little gleam of hope. "I promise." Malcolm said.

Soon, Chris was brought into the den and told everything. He agreed to come back with me and went to pack what we would need. Malcolm left to make all the last minute arrangements, while Lady Vichary came in and tried to comfort me. "You'll be back, Rose, I guarantee it." She gave me a big hug and then Malcolm came back into the den. "It's time, your ride is waiting." That was the lowest moment of that whole situation. The moment of being cast away from my friends, my household... everyone. I'll never forget the feeling I had watching almost everyone I cared about keeping their distance from me. As we got into the car, I knew it wasn't a dream, that it was reality. And believe me, it sucked. As I waved goodbye, I really wasn't sure if I would be seeing them again. I knew quarantine was going to suck. Being shut away from everyone. "Don't worry," they said, "we'll find you a way to get back, we have to... your stuff is here." That was the only hope that I could keep in my heart. "I will be back..."

- Rose of Ramsgaard,  
Clan Member of the Red Tigers,  
Marine Commander of The Ivory Queene

# CLOSE TO HOME

October 20, 2001  
**Freeze Off**  
Shire of Ramsgaard

The Shire of Ramsgaard is pleased to invite one and all to their annual event. As always we will have Silly Weapons Tourneys for Heavy and Rapier, and this year will add *How Far Can You Launch An Egg* (mini catapults anyone?) Use period technology on an egg scale to launch the better part of an egg, prizes for farthest and most accurate. A&S will also offer a Best Scroll contest for Calligraphy & Illumination (A scroll, new or old, prizes will be given for best calligraphy, best illumination, and overall scroll) As well, we will have a Bardic Competition (prizes for best period piece, contemporary SCA piece, and overall performance) and various Pied Piper activities. Our feast will be a fantastic assortment of foods served in a beautiful hall, with a professional choir singing 12th century tunes. With an atmosphere like this you'll wish you could stay forever...

Site info: The site is the Pavilion Theatre in downtown Kamloops (1025 Lorne St. (250) 372-3216). Site opens at 9:30am and closes 2am. Site Fee: \$6 Adults, \$3 Children under 15; \$15 modern family cap (max. 2 Adults). Feast: \$12 adults (\$10 SCA members) \$6 children 12 and under (\$15 for both if paid by Oct. 15th, cheques payable to SCA Inc., Shire of Ramsgaard) Any food allergy concerns please contact the autocrat before hand. Wet Site - all alcohol must be purchased on-site, all BC liquor laws strictly enforced. Autocrat: Lady Wren (Jenna Dittrich 525 Huxley Pl. Kamloops, B.C. V2B 5E6 (250)554-1060) [wrenshenna@hotmail.com](mailto:wrenshenna@hotmail.com)



November 30 - December 2, 2001  
**Celtic New Year Celebration**  
Incipient Shire of Dun an Caladh

On the misty shores of An Tir, the Incipient Shire of Dun an Caladh, welcomes her neighbors and friends to join with us in celebrating the Celtic New Year with song, food, tourneys, and fun. We will be holding a weekend of celebrations at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds, in Newport, Oregon. There will be feasting in the main hall on Saturday, with the Shire providing the main courses of fish, fowl, and beasts. We ask that you bring a dish to support the dinner.

Mundane last name begins with:

A--J Side dish

K--S Dessert or Beverage \*\*\*

T--Z Bread or Snack tray

Bring your feast gear and goblets.

\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE -- This is an ABSOLUTELY DRY SITE \*\*\*\* NO exceptions are allowed or permitted, County law and rules.

We plan several tournament for the heavy and light fighters. (Come find out what plans we have in store for you !!) There shall be dancing, stories told of glory and valor, singing, and classes to entertain and enlighten the mind and body. We shall have merchants selling their wares just off the main hall. We have scoured much of the known world and even ventured into the lands beyond the borders, to bring you many wondrous items which we will be raffling off throughout the event.

Autocrat : Bridgid MacKeen (Cindy B r o y l e s ) e m a i l : [bunnz69@hotmail.com](mailto:bunnz69@hotmail.com)

Merchantcrat: Murgheal Silverarrow (Melodyn Smith) (541)994 - 0173

There is a very limited amount of merchant space left.

# CLOSE TO HOME

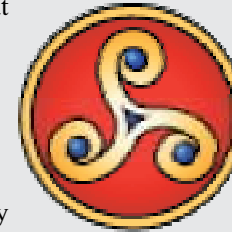
Site fees: Age 13+ - \$ 15 (US), Age 6 - 12 - \$7, Under 6 FREE, Day trippers - \$10

There is a fair (ha ha ha) amount of space available inside the main building for everyone to have crash space. You will need to bring your own bedding. As we have lots of wall to cover, PLEASE bring your banners, flags, pennons, etc. and we'll display them in their glory. There is a limited amount of outdoor camping space around the building, The Fairground charges \$4.00 per tent per night. Repeat - The Fairground charges this rate, NOT the shire. We have no control over this amount. Gate will open at 10am Friday and the event closes Sunday at 5pm. ALL other buildings on the fairgrounds are OFF LIMITS to everyone.

Lady Alida, ( of the Golde Lemon fame,) will be the feast - o - crat. And ,YES !! the Golde Lemon will be on site to provide snacks and meals throughout the event.

December 1, 2001

**Feast Of Frozen Hearts**  
Shire of Cold Keep



Jack Frost and the Holly King are knocking at our door. Come join us for Frostbite and Kisses if you dare!

The Hall opens at noon.... Site Fee: Adults \$10, 12-16 \$5, 11 and under Free. 2\$ overnight fee...yes...we have the hall overnight so bring along your jammies, pillow, blankets and carouse with us into the wee hours..and let your dragon hibernate under a soft blanket of snow. Bring along something to contribute for breakfast and we'll do the traditional Cold Keep Mass Breakie! Please bring a potluck dish to feed eight to ten people Dishes to be in the time frame of 1400-1600. Mundane last initial A-M=Main

dishes and bread N-Z=Vegetables or snack trays Visiting guests=desserts Please bring your own feast gear and table settings. Site discreetly wet...period containers only!

ARRRRGHHHH me maties....Rapier scenarios to take place this good frosty day.....and if ye did not guess it...it will be a Pirate theme...so do what thou whilst with thine costume....be merry, be bold....but be ready for a good time. Bring along a handmade medieval item (foodstuffs acceptable) for the auction...don't forget your doubloons. All proceeds to go to the cold keep treasure..arrghhh! A gift exchange will go on for the little pirates...so if you are bringing a small along....send along their name so we can let you know who your child gets to give a gift to.....gifts to be under 10\$ or thereabouts. Magwen will be holding a bday party for her son that day..all littles welcome. Activities to keep them busy. Medieval Hat or Mask competition.....The theme be winter.....no..not pirate.. WINTER.... ;) Entries must not have been in any other competition and must be handmade by the entrant. Prize to the best of the lot Court will be

held sometimes after dinner. Later in the eve...we shall be having some crafting going on... so try your hand at: Oragami, Celtic Knotwork and cardhouse building. The gaming box will be lurking about as well. Autocrats for further information Lady Iseabau MacDonald phone 962-6575 or 612-5333 (Kaedin's Celtichouse) 1-877-523-3467 Lady Brynn MacDonald phone 561-2830 email [dnd18@home.com](mailto:dnd18@home.com) HL Cerridwen Maelwedd phone 963-9648 email [valkyrie@direct.ca](mailto:valkyrie@direct.ca) The site is located at Malcolm Memorial Park. Just outside of Prince George, B.C.