

# *The Salamander*

Newsletter of the Barony of Bhakail

May 2022 A.S. LVIII



<b>Welcome to the Salamander</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Calendar of Upcoming Events</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Current Schedule of Bhakail Practices, Socials, and Meetings</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Waking of the Salamander - Angela Mori</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Bhakail Tavern Returned on April 2nd - Brandr Stillingr</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Recipe for Sweet-Savory Pork over Frumenty</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Upcoming Virtual Arts &amp; Sciences Opportunities - Scolastica Caparellia</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>A&amp;S Spotlight - Dragmall Viðnir</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Thrown Weapons in the SCA - Mikael melrakki</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Officers of the Barony of Bhakail</b>	<b>8</b>

## Welcome to the Salamander

*H*ello the peoples and friends of the Barony of Bhakail! We are pleased that, with this issue, the newsletter of Bhakail (The Salamander) has once again been borne from the flame. We hope you will enjoy reading the goings-on around the Barony. If you would like to contribute to an upcoming issue, please contact us at [chronicler@bhakail.eastkingdom.org](mailto:chronicler@bhakail.eastkingdom.org). We welcome your artwork, stories, and news. Yours in service, Ellyn Grene (Chronicler) and Brandr Stillingr (Deputy Chronicler).

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

The following are events scheduled in the Southern Region of the East Kingdom and other selected events. For a complete list of upcoming East Kingdom events and further information, visit <https://www.eastkingdom.org/events/>

Friday, May 27 - Monday, May 30, 2022	Waking of the Salamander	Barony of Bhakail Ridley Creek State Park, Media PA
Friday, May 27 - Monday, May 30, 2022	Leonardo's Quest for Wit and Wisdom through Time	Barony of Settmour Swamp Pittstown, NJ
Friday, June 3 - Sunday, June 5, 2022	Southern Region War Camp	Barony of Carillion Manalapan, NJ
Saturday, June 4, 2022	The Earl Horic Memorial Sovereign and Consort's Championship of Arms	Shire of Eisental Nazareth, PA
Sunday, June 12, 2022	Hunter's Picnic	Shire of Caer Adamant Wilmington, DE
Saturday, June 18, 2022	Potted Arms and Fancy Faire	Canton of Hawke's Reache Huntington, NY
Saturday, June 25, 2022	Japanese Garden Social	Barony of Buckland Cross Churchville, PA

## Current Schedule of Bhakail Practices, Socials, and Meetings

For further details, visit: <https://bhakail.eastkingdom.org/wordpress/index.php/calendar/>

Event	Time and Day	Location	Contact
Thrown Weapons Practice	Sundays, 11am-1pm	320 North Ave, Secane, PA 19018	Mikael melrakki
Target Archery Practice	Sundays, 1:20-3:30pm	320 North Ave, Secane, PA 19018	Maryna Borowska
Business Meeting	2nd Tuesdays of the month	<a href="https://meet.google.com/gpf-gerd-ikj">https://meet.google.com/gpf-gerd-ikj</a>	Alesia de Maris of Ravenstar
Baronial Social	Other Tuesdays 7:00-9:00pm	Varies	Mael Eoin mac Echuidh
Fencing Practice	Wednesdays, 7:30-10:00pm	3323 Tudor Street, Philadelphia, PA 19136	Melchior Kriebel
Armored Combat Practice	Thursdays, 7:00-10:00pm	48 Reed St, Philadelphia, PA 19147	????
Zoom A&S Social	Thursdays, 5:00-9:00pm	Zoom	Angela Mori

## Waking of the Salamander - Angela Mori

Hi, I'm Angela Mori, a resident of the Barony of Bhakail. I am the Autocrat for the new Bhakail camping event, Waking of the Salamander. This is my first time running a camping event in the SCA.

A year or so ago, I had been talking with our Baron Muin and a few others about camping within the Baronial Lands. We have other larger events such as Yule, Commons and Gaming/Brewing event (which changes names). But for many years we have not had a camping event in Bhakail (at least as long as I have been involved with our Barony, I "think" 10 years ago?). And because of the Plague, our current Baron has been frustrated by not having been able to get out and enjoy



many of the events of our local society that would have been available to all of us. So, I wanted to see what I could do about finding a place for us to camp. There are many places and organizations that have camping locations. However, most of them are private and because of the plague hitting us over the last few years, many of them have chosen not to open back up

to the public or other groups quite yet. While I was looking, I found out that the State Park that we host Bhakail Commons at, also had a group camping site. I and Alesia de Maris brought it to the attention of the Officers of Bhakail and asked if we could host a camping event there. It was agreed upon and the event was born. We were able to book the Memorial Day weekend, so we ran with it.

The idea of the Waking of the Salamander came from the idea that we, Bhakail's salamanders, are coming out of our hibernation and now it is time to warm ourselves in the sun and sit by the fire in the evening. Ready to commune with those around us.

I felt the event should be quiet and intimate. With other large events going on around the East Kingdom this weekend, there would be less people to go to this event. It would be mostly for local folk who do not wish to travel to distant locations and perhaps just want to check out their camping gear for Pennsic or even just try camping at a local SCA event without having to travel far. Locals would have time to just socialize with others who enjoy the Society and want to participate without all the stresses of a binding schedule. Taking some time to work on preparations for Pennsic and other events for the rest of the year, that maybe might take more time than just a few hours a week and would be nice to do so in the presence of others who may be able to help.

Because the camping part of the event is what we call Rustic and because it is close to so many locals' homes, I expect there will be many people who will come for the day to enjoy the event and then have the option to go home and have a shower and sleep in their own beds.

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### Waking of the Salamander: May 27th, 2022 - May 30th, 2022

Ridley Creek State Park

940-1142 Sycamore Mills Rd

Group Camping site 13 (A&B)

Media, PA 19063

Site Opens: Friday May 27, 3:00pm

Site Closes: Monday May 30, 3:00pm

All current East Kingdom COVID policies apply.

<https://www.eastkingdom.org/event-details/?eid=4018>

Registration:

Pre-registration is not required

Adult nonmember: \$15

Adult SCA member: \$10

Youth (10-17): \$5

Child: (9 and younger): Free

Attendance cap is 100

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## Bhakail Tavern Returned on April 2nd - Brandr Stillingr

*A*pril 2nd saw the somewhat belated return of Bhakail Tavern at the Sign of the Squirrel and Hound, held at the German Society of Philadelphia. Though usually scheduled for late January, the event was postponed due to COVID. Despite the unusual date, the event was a success, and a welcome return to fine entertainment, a familiar site, and the companionship of friends. The event was stewarded by Tighernán órdha, and Brandr Stillingr was the head cook.

We enjoyed watching the skill of our Gaming Championship competitors playing at all manner of historical games, from chess to nine man's morris. Baron Aurddeilen-ap-Robet shared a collection of period German playing cards. Retiring Gaming Champion Maistrisse Marie de Blois oversaw the championship, with Taighlach accepting the mantle for the coming year.

We partook in a wonderful Bardic championship as well, with participation by nearly everyone in attendance. Our bards led us in song, competitive guitar tuning, group frog croaking, and a deadly serious Shakespeare battle. Retiring Champion Baronne Sabine de Kerbriant was thanked for her service, and we welcomed new Bardic Champion Aiden.

In addition to the stellar competitions, His Excellency Baron Muin maqq Minain welcomed Lady Scholastica Capellaria into the Order of the Horse, a Baronial service Order, "given to those members of the populace whose efforts have furthered the aims and goals of the Barony in general."

Aiden Underhill and Mael Eoin mac Echuidh provided us with ample and excellent libations, a much-beloved feature of the event. Brandr served a board of hearty fare including a sweet-savory pork dish over frumenty and shortbread with jam.



Event Steward Tighernán órdha, and Head Cook Brandr Stillingr



The Bardic Championship Competition



Competitors in the Gaming Championship



His Excellency Baron Muin maqq Minain welcoming Lady Scholastica Capellaria into the Order of the Horse

All photos by Lady Chana Freidl the Maker, used by permission



## Recipe for Sweet-Savory Pork over Frumenty

Adapted from Vietnamese Caramelised Pork Bowls (<https://www.recipetineats.com/vietnamese-caramelised-pork-bowls/>)

Frumenty recipe adapted from <https://historydollop.com/2020/03/15/frumenty-a-medieval-wheat-porridge/>

### Ingredients for the Pork:

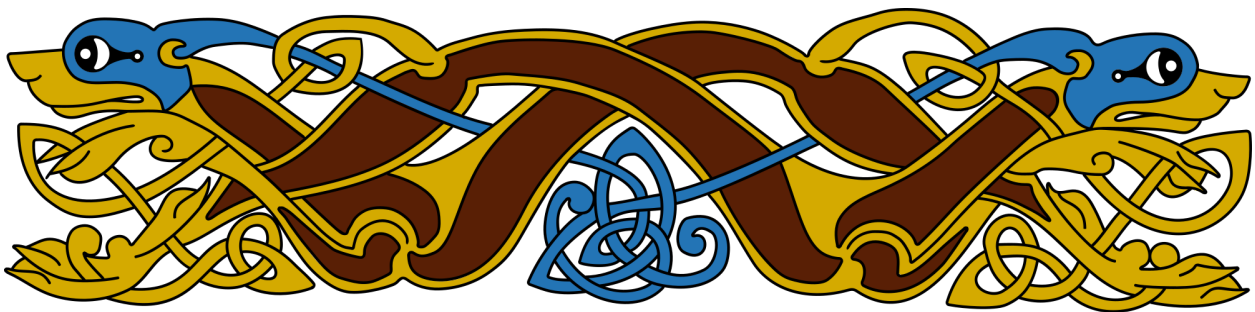
- 1 pound Ground Pork (may be substituted with any ground meat or meat substitute)
- ½ cup diced onion (red or white)
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- ½ tablespoon grated or ground ginger
- 2 tablespoon fish sauce
- 5 tablespoon brown sugar
- Salt and pepper to taste

### Ingredients for the Frumenty:

- 1 cup Bulgar Wheat
- 1 cup milk (plant-based or dairy) plus 1 - 2 additional cups milk
- 1 cup water
- Salt to taste

### Instructions:

1. For the Frumenty, combine 1 cup milk, 1 cup water, and the wheat, and bring to a boil. Simmer gently for 5-10 minutes until the mixture has thickened. Salt to taste. Add 1-2 cups additional milk to bring to the desired consistency. The wheat can be soaked overnight in the water/milk mixture to give a more homogenous end product.
2. For the pork, first saute the onions in oil in a large skillet until translucent, then add the garlic and cook for another 30 seconds or until fragrant. Remove onions and garlic from the pan.
3. Add pork, ginger, salt, and pepper to the pan, add more oil if necessary, and saute until the pork is just cooked through.
4. Add back in onions and garlic, then add the fish sauce and brown sugar. Stir to combine. Cook on low heat until the sauce has significantly reduced and the pork has become sticky and slightly crispy. To get more crispiness on the bottom, let the pork cook for 3-5min undisturbed between stirring.
5. Serve pork over the frumenty. The pork can also be served over rice or other grains.



## Upcoming Virtual Arts & Sciences Opportunities - Scolastica Caparellia

Local and regional groups continue to host virtual arts and sciences activities available and open to all.

**Local A&S Night** is hosted by Lady Angela Mori on Thursdays from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Please check the Bhakail Calendar, email list or the Bhakail Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2404769342>) for login information.

### University of Atlantia Virtual Session June 12, 2022

Hosted by the Kingdom of Atlantia, includes a wide range of classes on diverse topics. Information on registering for classes can be found at: <https://university.atlantia.sca.org/>

### Known World Heraldic and Scribal Symposium July 22-24, 2022

Hosted by the Kingdom of Ansterorra but held virtually this year. Information on this event, classes, and teaching can be accessed at: <https://sites.google.com/view/kwhss/home>

### Virtual Arts and Science Display - Call for items due Tuesday May 31, 2022

The East Kingdom MOAS calls for items for their fourth online display. Show off your inspiring work!

More information can be found at:

<https://moas.eastkingdom.org/fourth-online-kingdom-as-display-call-for-items-due-tuesday-may-31/>

## A&S Spotlight - Dragmall Viðnir

While I'm not new to the hobby of costuming, I've been a member of the SCA for less than a year. I've been dabbling in leatherwork for about 10 years, but I never imagined myself a cobbler! My wife and I decided on Viking personas, so naturally we needed some shoes. Never one to shy away from a challenge, I binged YouTube videos and took a crack at making my own shoes. The shoes pictured in the photo are my third pair, made especially for Dame Ysmay de Lynn. They are simple Viking turn shoes based on the Oseberg, Norway find. The sole is a fairly thick veg-tanned leather and the upper is thin, supple chrome-tanned leather. I don't know if I learned anything new on this project, but I'm definitely gaining confidence in my turn-shoe-making ability. I'm already at work on my first pair of boots.

- Dragmall



Viking turn shoes made by Dragmall Viðnir. Photo by Dragmall Viðnir, used with permission.

## Thrown Weapons in the SCA - Mikael melrakki

Thrown Weapons is an activity open to anyone over 5 years of age (minors need parental supervision/permission). We throw a variety of weapons: axes, knives, spears, plumbata (a Roman throwing dart); basically anything that can be thrown safely. Safety is our primary concern. We are working with sharp edged and pointed weapons that if they are mishandled could cause some severe injuries. However, we have set up a number of rules to keep people safe and we inspect the weapons to make sure they aren't going to cause injuries.

Compared to the other SCA marshaled activities, Thrown Weapons is the easiest to get started. Unlike heavy fighting or fencing, you don't need special armor or clothing. And unlike archery where you need a bow and arrows that match your size and strength, most throwing weapons are "one size fits most". Most marshals will have extra weapons they are willing to let people borrow. Basically, someone who wants to try thrown weapons can just show up at a range and we can get them throwing in just a few minutes. We can teach the basics quickly and can almost always get someone to stick an axe in the target in less than 10 minutes. Most people start with axes as they are generally a bit more forgiving. When throwing knives, you have to be a bit more precise to get them to stick. Spears tend to feel a bit unwieldy at first and plumbata were often thrown en masse so accuracy wasn't necessary.

Most people think you need to be super strong to throw axes, but that isn't the case. I will admit that throwing a spear from a far distance like 40 or 50 feet does require some significant arm and shoulder strength, but that is a rather advanced skill. As I said at the beginning, we allow 5 year olds to throw and they can be taught to stick axes in the target from 10 feet.

The game Othello used to have the tagline "a minute to learn, a lifetime to master". This applies to thrown weapons as well. There are many skills that can be tested: precision, accuracy, consistency, distance, endurance, adaptability, etc. Sure, you can get an axe to stick... but, in a Continuous Throw tournament, we count how many times in a row you get an axe to stick. 10? 20? 100? In a Kinetic Throw tournament, you have to walk across the range without stopping throwing axes as you reach each target. Or you could suddenly be asked to throw with your off hand or underhanded.

We do have a system for keeping track of your progress, called Royal Rounds. A Royal Round consists of 10 throws of a weapon; 5 from a short distance and 5 from a longer distance; thrown at circular targets. These are basic skills that we practice most frequently. Royal Round scores get submitted

to the Kingdom Scorekeeper (which just happens to be me) who compiles the scores and posts averages on a monthly basis.

After safety, the next focuses are Fun and Community. In the East, we talk about "Team Not Zero". It started at a tournament that was a bit more difficult than the organizers had anticipated. A few throwers would leave the range feeling a bit discouraged, but then someone would point out that "Hey, you scored points, you didn't get a zero and in this tournament, that is an accomplishment". Hence the cheer "Not Zero" came into being. We try to support each other and want everyone to feel included. We have also been known to get silly at times. We will hold tournaments after dark using glow sticks. Or create goofy weapons like "Throwing Chickens" (a rubber chicken outfitted with a bayonet blade). I recently held a tournament where we played Tic-Tac-Toe with knives and axes.

Locally, practices are held in my backyard (320 North Avenue, Secane PA 19018) on Sundays from 11am-1pm. I have a large supply of loaner equipment of different sizes and styles which you can try and see if you can find some that you like before you buy some. I have 8 targets which allows us to have a number of people throwing at once.

Costwise, Thrown Weapons is reasonably inexpensive. Although some styles of axes may run \$50 each, there are also perfectly usable axes that run about \$20 each, and for most competitions 2 are sufficient. Good throwing knives run about \$10 - \$20 each (Yes, you can find some cheap throwing knives in sets of 6 for \$20, but I don't recommend those. There's a reason why they are so cheap). If you come to my practices, I won't mind if you borrow weapons for months before you go out and buy your own.



## Officers of the Barony of Bhakail

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