

The Salamander

Newsletter of the Barony of Bhakail

July 2023 A.S. LVIII



Calendar of Upcoming Events.....	2
Current Schedule of Bhakail Practices, Socials, and Meetings.....	2
Bhakail Yule Revel, December 9, 2023.....	3
So This is Your First Pennsic? - Advice from Veteran Pennsic-goers.....	4
Arts & Sciences Opportunities - Scolastica Capellaria.....	6
Officers of the Barony of Bhakail.....	7

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/>

July 28-Aug 13, 2023	Pennsic War 50	Slippery Rock, PA
Aug 26, 2023	Arrows, Axes and Ales: I drink and I throw things	Barony of An Dubhaigainn Middle Island, NY
Sept 2, 2023	Barleycorn - Ostgardr Provincial Championships	Crown Province of Ostgardr Carmel Hamley, NY
Sept 3, 2023	Bhakail Champions and Commons	Barony of Bhakail Newtown Square, PA
Sept 16-17, 2023	Lakewood Ren-Faire XLII	Barony of Carillion Lakewood, NJ
Sept 22-23, 2023	River Wars VII	Barony of Iron Bog Mullica Hill, NJ
Oct 6-8, 2023	Ghosts, Ghouls, and Goblins: Journey to the East!	Barony of Carillion Manalapan, NJ

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, 1:30-3:30pm	320 North Ave, Secane, PA 19018	Maryna Borowska
Bhakail Scriptorium	2nd Sundays of the month, 1:30 - 3:00pm	Virtual or in person, contact Margarette la Gantiere for details	
Bailiwick of Iveyinrust Business Meeting	2nd Mondays of the month, 7:00pm	Virtual, contact Emery de Champagne for details	
Baronial Business Meeting	2nd Tuesdays of the month, 7:00pm	https://meet.google.com/gpf-gerd-ikj	Mael Eoin mac Echuidh
Baronial Social	Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00pm	Morton, PA. For address, email 166054@members.eastkingdom.org	Mael Eoin mac Echuidh
Fencing Practice	Fencing practice is currently on hiatus due to lack of a location. If you have a lead on a potential practice location, please contact Melchior.		Melchior Kriebel
Armored Combat Practice	Thursdays, 7:00-9:30pm	118 S Valley Rd, Paoli, PA 19301	Aaron the Swift

Cover photo by Harun al-Najm al-Shirazi, used by permission.

Bhakail Yule Revel, December 9, 2023

The Barony of Bhakail invites you to join us for the Yule Revel to be held on December 9, 2023 at the German Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. The event will feature a delicious rolling multicourse day board of food from the four corners of medieval China as we determine our Arts and Science and Brewing Champions.

Activities of the day include: guild meetings and panels, arts and science competition, brewing competition, dancing, socializing, music, and food. The detailed schedule to be announced closer to the event; check the East Kingdom Events Calendar for further details and updates!

The full day, rolling day board by Lady An Hua will begin early with breakfast offerings of rice and congee. Four rounds will follow with dishes from the East (Shanghai) at noon, South (Canton) at 1:30, West (Szechuan) at 3pm and North (Beijing) after court. This schedule is tentative and subject to change. Complete menu to be announced. Each round will offer gluten free and vegetarian options. There will be no feast.

Baronial Arts & Sciences Competition

Theme chosen by current Champion Katrein Topffer

Make and present an item specific to your persona, or a specific type of person in a time and place if you don't have a persona. The more unique or specific to that persona the better. If it is a new skill you are trying out, let us know, that is even better!

Scan or click below to visit the East Kingdom Event Calendar event page for details and the latest information:



Baronial Brewing Competition

Theme chosen by current Champion Lord Aiden Underhill

This year's theme will be to brew a dry beverage. An extra point will be given for beverages that are not sweet. Be creative and have fun. Documentation is helpful but an ingredient list is required.



So This is Your First Pennsic? - Advice from Veteran Pennsic-goers

If this is your first Pennsic, you may be feeling a bit intimidated by it all. Now that you are (hopefully) mostly packed and making plans for your travels to Pennsic, read the following for expert words of advice on how to get the most out of your first Pennsic!

Mael Eoin mac Echuidh

I'd suggest doing a Watch shift to see the entire site, both to familiarize oneself with roads, landmarks and the like but also to see everything.

If you see something in a camp that you'd like to see more closely or ask how it was done, call out from the camp gate, asking to come in. People love talking about their projects and sharing their interests.

Chana Freidl the Maker

Don't try to plan every minute of the day/night. Some of my best memories and experiences have occurred when I just let Pennsic happen.

Mikael melrakki

Drink lots of water.

Carry a mug with you everywhere. (People will always be willing to give you water, but may not have a disposable cup to give you).

Go watch the field battle. Seeing that many fighters at once is rather intense.

Look through the class list before you go. Make a list of ones you would like to attend.

Remember, you are on vacation. It's okay to just sit around camp and relax.

No one ever does everything on their "want to do" list.

Take a walk around the lake at night. There are several spots that you can look across the lake and all of the modern world disappears.

Plan to go to Midnight Madness (shopping on the Wednesday night of War Week). It is a great time to socialize, see some great entertainment, and find a few good deals.

Ride a loop on the bus. It will allow you to see a large amount of Pennsic in air conditioned comfort.

Ask for help. Did you forget something? Ask around if someone has one. Feel uncomfortable going somewhere? Ask someone to go with you. Not feeling well? Definitely ask for help!!! We all had a first time and remember what it was like, so people are usually willing to help.

Ciaran Ua Meic Thire

The biggest advice I can give with Pennsic is don't overload your schedule. Pick one thing each day that is your priority and everything on top of that is gravy. Nothing is set in stone at Pennsic so things could get rained out or the heat can be brutal or anything else so trying to do too much makes it hard to actually have fun.

Start water loading before you get to Pennsic and while at Pennsic make sure you are drinking not just water but electrolytes too. Gatorade, pickles and pickle juice, sekanjabin, whatever is your preference. If you don't have to pee, you need to drink water.

Lastly, don't forget this is a vacation. We play up the war and everything but really we are all on vacation. Those people across from you on the battlefield are on vacation too. Yeah, we all want to win the war but losing it does not mean we are losing anything except maybe some pride. Go out, have fun, take lots of pictures when you can, meet new people, learn new things, stay safe and have fun.

Ellynor Redpath

Even if you're not a fighter, you're caloric needs are different than usual. Pay attention to your body and remember- protein, sugar, fat, salt. If you feel like garbage, you probably need one of those, sleep or water.

The weather can go from 60 to 105 in one day. Bring garb for lots of weather.

Sabine de Kerbriant

My Pennsic advice for newcomers is TRY ALL THE THINGS! Pennsic is an amazing opportunity to check out just about everything SCAdians do, so take advantage of as much as possible. It's worth looking through the online Pennsic Thing calendar ahead of time to see what might be fun; personally, I find it helpful to keep a dayplanner of some sort (paper, electronic, whatever) so I don't miss out on something cool I wanted to do.

There's always so much happening at War that even if you just wander around, you're bound to find cool stuff going on all over the place. Watch a commedia dell'arte production, go to a demo for a craft you've never even heard of before, dance at a masked ball -- whatever sounds even remotely interesting to you, go for it!

Dragmall Viðnir

My number one tip for Pennsic first timers is don't be intimidated!

The SCA is an enthusiast group and Pennsic is our biggest event. Naturally we're going to hype it up and share all of our biggest and best stories. We get bombarded with so much information it can be totally overwhelming before we ever leave the house. Some



people might be tempted to crawl under a blanket and skip the whole thing.

Forget that! While a lot of people come to Pennsic, it's not really a lot by nerdy standards. If you've ever been to a comic con, you were probably there with three times as many people and all crammed into one convention center with no place to sit down and rest your feet. At Pennsic we're all spread out over acres of land. We have our own camps to retreat to. We even have our own tents where we can hide and find solitude if we want.

One of the things I love about Pennsic is how much open space there is. There might be 15,000 people there, but it never feels crowded. Even walking the merchants area with other eager shoppers, there's plenty of room to breathe. We aren't packed in like sardines.

And everyone is very kind. No one is furiously jostling to get in front of you in line so they can get the last William Shatner autograph. It's not a mob. It's a peaceful, spread-out assemblage of dorks who like their personal space.

And unlike most camping trips you might have been on, don't worry about packing every last thing you might need. There's a surprisingly well-stocked store in the center of the grounds and Wal-mart isn't that far away. You're also surrounded by a bunch of very generous, friendly people who are happy to help you with whatever you might need.

So take a deep breath. At the end of the day, Pennsic isn't really overwhelming at all. It might seem like it when you listen to everyone stretching their bardic muscles and telling tales larger than life, but at the end of the day, it's actually a very relaxing event filled with lots of sitting, talking, crafting, and merriment.

Looking forward to welcoming you to your first Pennsic!

Arts & Sciences Opportunities - Scolastica Capellaria

There are A&S opportunities at the following local events:

- July 28 to August 13th, Pennsic War hosts a variety of A&S opportunities and classes.
- September 22-24, River War Barony of Iron Bog, (Mullica Hill, NJ), A&S classes and competition.

We now have the themes for both Brewing and the A&S championships for Yule! Its never too early to start working on your projects!

- Brewing Championship: This year's theme will be to brew a dry beverage. An extra point will be given for beverages that are not sweet. Be creative and have fun. Documentation is helpful but an ingredient list is required.
- Arts and Science Championship: Make and present an item specific to your persona or a specific type of person in a time and place if you don't have a persona. The more unique or specific to that persona the better. If it is a new skill you are trying out, let us know, that is even better!

Largess! We continue to collect Largess for various gift giving opportunities. Please inquire if you are interested donating your time to make things for the Barony to give as Largess in the near future. If you have any questions, please send them my way!

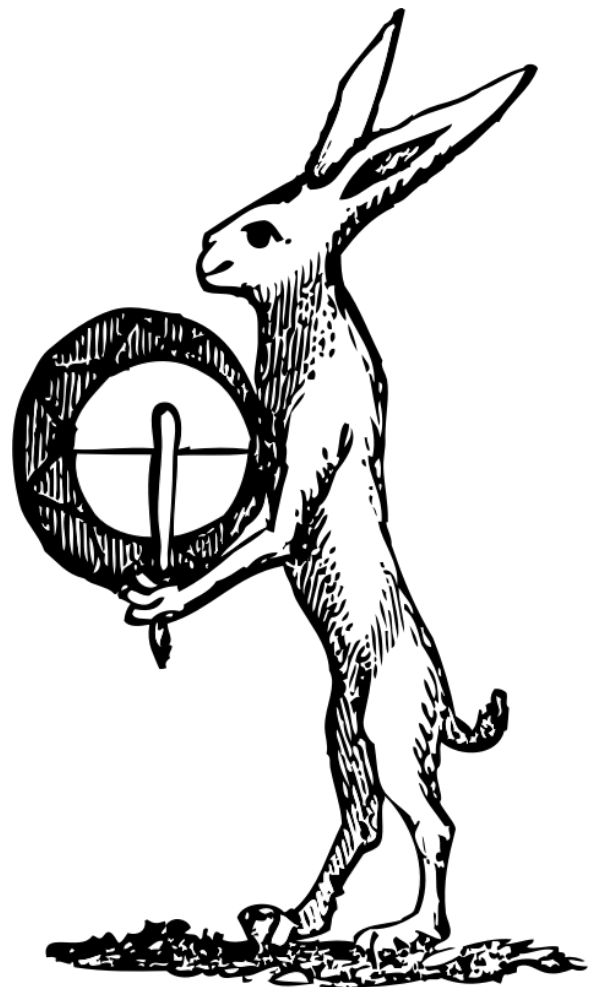
The Bhakail Scriptorium is holding monthly meetings. Check out the website calendar for details.

If you are interested in teaching or hosting arts and science classes locally, please let me know! I would like to schedule additional classes for the barony and friends.

The Kingdom MOAs office now has a calendar for arts and science events across the kingdom!

<https://moas.eastkingdom.org/event-calendar/>

If you have any A&S interests that you would like to explore, need help researching something, or are looking for resources feel free to email me at MOAS@bhakail.eastkingdom.org. I also would love to see what you are working on! Please send me pictures of your projects!



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