



Myrtleholt
of The Kingdom An Tir

THE LEAFLETTE

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What Makes Normally Sane Adults Love the SCA So Much?

An editorial by Sandra Dodd (SCA Mistress Ælflæd of Duckford), former Steward of the Society for Creative Anachronism. (a reprint of an article printed in the Chivalry Sports Renaissance Catalog Magazine.)

I was asked a simple question—"Why do people join the Society for Creative Anachronism, and why do they stay?" I have the simple response and a glimpse of the larger answer. Most people join the SCA because their interest in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance hasn't been satiated by school, novels, movies, and history books. Some are lured in by friends, and some track us down alone. The excuse to wear clothing of the period hooks some; others want to be involved in the music or the dancing; many want the challenge of armored fighting. Some wish to experience the pageantry and the romance.

Friendship

The reasons for joining are rarely the same reasons given when people are asked why they've remained active after many years. I have asked hundreds of people why they've stayed in, and the overwhelming response is "friends." In creating our network of kingdoms, baronies and shires, with their routines of tournaments, feasts, workshops, wars, and so forth, we have attracted a large group of bright, artistic, enthusiastic people of all ages and backgrounds who have common goals and interests. Those who are the most active can maintain relations with a group of friends living hundreds of miles in several directions. Travel between states, between countries and even between continents is common.

Fun Activities

Aside from these many friendships, though, the SCA provides such a range of benefits and activities I could scarcely describe them all without using this entire publication. If I say that the SCA is different things to different people, it is only the ghost of the truth. The SCA is many things to each person. It is an interactive soap opera, in which we create our own characters and ad lib our lines. It is a boundless educational network, with classes and tutoring and voluntary research in joyful surroundings.

With the fighting and the dancing and the hiking around large campsites, we can exercise and socialize all at once. For those with the interest to observe such things, is a laboratory for human interactions, political science, and management. Our newsletters provide opportunities for people to have their art and writing published, most of them for the first time in their lives.

Educational Experiences

It has been suggested that the SCA and other such organizations are escapism, that their members hate the modern world and want to get away. I disagree: If I wanted a medieval escape, I would read historical novels. Fifty pages into a good book, I'm there, and I'm not coming out until I'm hungry. No, in the SCA people exist with all their senses at the fullest. We experience our surroundings in a tactile way. We can physically experience details that historians, novelists, museum curators and archaeologists know only intellectually, if at all.

It's a safe guess that a person reading a catalog such as this one wondered as a child what it would feel like to swing a real sword—not just one swing, but for a whole battle. Perhaps the clothes in fairy tales appealed to you—hoods, cloaks, hats with veils, helms with visors, big skirts, ruffs, stiff collars and big boots. When actors perform in Elizabethan costume, the play lasts three hours, and they've practiced all their moves in advance. They're unlikely to actually eat in those clothes, to build a fire, set up a pavilion, or dance for an hour. We learn things about clothing, armor, utensils, tools, etc. that can't be told in books.

Renaissance dances with 30 couples on the floor at once, battles with 500 on a side, cooking feasts for 300 and working out the logistics of presenting it on beautiful platters carried by well appointed servers--these are things that necessarily take human and physical resources not available in most people's homes.

Love the SCA So Much (continued)

As a group, we provide opportunities that individuals cannot create.

Learning is a thrill. We all are students and most are teachers, since an expert in one field is a beginner in another. If people grow tired of the aspects of the SCA they've been accustomed to, there are a lifetime's worth of other things to try. Someone who joined for the combat said he was glad to know that if he ever got tired of hitting people, there were hundreds of other interesting things to do.

Welcome for Everyone, Young and Old

There are few organizations that accept families, singles, couples and teens all in the same group. The SCA doesn't ask you how much money you have, how you live, where you work, what you believe about the afterlife, how you voted in the last election—all that business that divides people in everyday life is disregarded. People are valued for their willingness to participate, for their personal talents, skills, and dedication. Without spending a fortune, an individual can create comfortable surroundings, and make or gather accouterments and a wardrobe. I have seen people who were important and highly stressed during the week seek a quiet, restful position in the Society, and those whose own lives were drab and lowly seek out the greatest positions of responsibility, honor and activity.

For Excellence and Glory

Idealism has become an embarrassment to many people in the modern world. A few people might think about integrity, but they probably wouldn't bring the subject up over beer or pizza. In the SCA people can discuss personal honor as they're building armor, or illuminating pages of gorgeous calligraphy, or making bread. There are few associations in which honor and courtesy are encouraged or recognized, let alone rewarded!

Benefits are not limited to SCA activities. Dabbling in the concepts of fealty and duty have made many people more responsible outside the SCA.

Some members report that the application of honor and chivalry to their decision making has a positive effect on their families, their jobs, and all other aspects of their lives.

Having moved now from the concrete attractions to the esoteric, I hope this has answered some of the questions of those who do not involve themselves in our organization, and that it will encourage those SCA members who might be considering whether they should just chuck it all and just start a stamp collection instead. What we are doing is unique and whole. The experiment isn't over, the soap opera hasn't ended, and there are still things to learn.

Article Courtesy of
Mistress Ælfled of Duckford
<http://sandradd.com>



Myrtle Holt Business Cards
 Now Available!
 Ask your Seneschal

"We won't drop the business cards anywhere in this wheat field, we promise!" you said....



Fencing in the SCA - What is there to do?

Article by Lord Gregorie Moroz, The Shire of Trinovantia Nova, The Kingdom of Ealdormere"

Editor's Note: In light of the recent Steel Symposium put on by our friends in Glyn Dwfn, here is an article written by Lord Gregorie Moroz of Trinovantia Nova. Pictures were taken at the Steel Symposium, courtesy of Lady Nim.

So. You've found a local SCA group and you're keen to start fencing... Undoubtedly you have lots of questions, and lots of excitement. One of the simplest questions you may have is:

What exactly is SCA fencing?

In our area of the SCA, the [Kingdom of Ealdormere](#), we practice both regular heavy rapier combat as well as cut and thrust rapier combat. Other kingdoms in the SCA also practice with the epee, which is the thinner style of blade familiar to those who have watched Olympic style fencing. We use safety equipment appropriate to the style of fencing being engaged in with a primary focus on a safe training environment.

As a historical reenactment group we try as much as possible to follow historical styles of fencing and armoring as reasonably possible within our means and resources. Participation in SCA rapier for adults begins at the age of 18, but youth fighters as young as 14 may participate with the permission of their parent or legal guardian. Whether you're male or female, old or young, able bodied or have a physical disability, fencing is a wonderfully fun sport that will challenge you both physically and intellectually.

What do I need to start?

Most SCA fencing groups have loaner gear available for new fencers to use. Depending on how much loaner gear is available, it may be limited and available on a first-come first-served basis with the option to switch-off with others that need it as well. If you are male, you will need to bring your own sports cup for groin protection. Bring a set of running shoes and socks, as well as a light set pants and t-shirt.

The two main things that you will be geared up with will be basic armour for safety, and a rapier. If you're interested in reading in more detail about fencing and

armouring in advance of showing up to a practice, you could certainly read the [SCA Fencing Handbook](#) as well as your local kingdom's rules for any additional rules and information specific to your local area [Editor: [An Tir Rapier Handbook](#)] can be found here.

What can I expect?

Depending on the nature of your local group, there's a very good chance that you'll be put into some basic armour, handed a rapier, and be given some basic instruction including getting some hands-on sparring with other fencers. Sound fun? It is! Our style of fencing is to-the-touch for contact between fencers. Contact between a fencing blade and a fencer should be sufficient in pressure to be felt only. However, that being said, fencing is a contact sport and accidental harder hits can happen. Hard hits are fairly rare given our focus on safety, but usually at worst they may leave behind a small bruise.



Rapier training in the SCA begins with single heavy rapier combat training. You'll learn how to hold the rapier, how to block with it, how to attack with it, as well as basic footwork in how to move around safely. Eventually, once

you've become comfortable, confident, and safe with single heavy rapier combat, you'll want to speak with your local rapier marshal about scheduling an authorization.

What is an authorization?

An authorization is a test of your knowledge and abilities in a given style of combat to determine that you have basic knowledge, competence, and safety. You will want to ensure that you have read and understand the contents of both the SCA and local kingdom fencing handbooks. You will be asked questions from those handbooks to ensure that you have an understanding of their contents and you will also participate in fencing against an opponent. At the end of the authorization, the marshals that have been supervising will either approve you as an authorized fencer for that style of combat, or will provide you feedback on the areas that you need improvement in before attempting your next authorization test.

Fencing in the SCA (continued)

Passing your primary authorization in single heavy rapier opens up two new exciting activities: tournaments, and other forms of rapier combat.

What is a tournament?

Tournaments are one of the most exciting and fun events that fencers in the SCA can participate in. Tournaments are large events where you will compete against fencers from both near and far. Tournaments can include one-on-one competitions between fencers, as well as melee competitions where multiple fencers will compete against each other at the same time. Specific competitions may either be open to any style of rapier combat at the choice of the participants, or they may test fencers in a specific style of combat.

Not only are tournaments a chance to win fame, glory, and prizes, but they are also an incredible learning opportunity. You will have the opportunity to match your knowledge, skill, and abilities against fencers from both near and far, both novice and experienced, and against different styles and schools of rapier combat that you may not have previously experienced. Every tournament match is a chance to learn, as well as a chance to meet and form friendships with other fencers. Have fun and compete with both honour and skill!

What are the other rapier combat styles?

Once you've completed your primary authorization, you can begin working towards authorizing in other styles of rapier combat. The other styles are:

Parry device – Use of a rapier or dagger along with a choice of a parrying device such as a buckler, baton, cloak, etc.

Two weapon – The use of a dagger or rapier in each hand at the same time.

Cut and thrust – A style of rapier combat that requires additional armouring.

Out of kingdom epee – If you are in an area of the SCA that does not use the epee, it is still possible to learn and authorize in this weapon style so that you can compete in out-of-kingdom tournaments that permit the use of this weapon.

Are there different historical schools and styles of fencing?

Yes. As a member of a historical reenactment organization, one of the goals that you may choose to pursue is to learn and practice the specific style of a historical fencing master or school. Throughout history there have been fencing masters from around the world that have sought out the best methods of attack and defense. Many of these fencing masters recorded their work in writing that can be used as source materials in learning their approach to fencing. In addition to written resources, you may also meet up with advanced SCA fencers that study these specific schools to train with and learn from.



Should I get my own gear eventually?

Yes. While loaner gear is generally available, eventually you will want to get your own personal gear to allow newer fencers the opportunity to use that gear. As you venture into specific styles of fencing, you may also desire gear that best suits your specific style (here is a handy article on how to choose a rapier). *[Editor's Note: Check the June issue of The Leaflette for this article!]*

You may also want armour or weapons that reflect the style that would have been used in a specific historical time and culture. As well, despite the best efforts of your local group rapier marshal to wash and keep loaner gear clean and smelling fresh...after so many years of use, loaner gear simply isn't as nice as having your own personal equipment.

Is there more that I can do in pursuing historical fencing?

Yes. The first thing you may wish is to consider developing a persona. Who are you? What is your persona's name? What era of history do you belong to?

Fencing in the SCA (continued)

From what culture and area of the world do you come from? Developing a historic persona can add a lot of colour and fun to your SCA experience.

Secondly, you may wish to develop your heraldry. Your personal heraldry can be incorporated into your clothing, armour, weapons, or even a banner to proudly display at events. If you're looking for ideas about how to develop your personal heraldry, you can be greatly helped out by speaking with one of our many heralds (members that specialize in this area of knowledge).



Can I become a rapier marshal as well?

Certainly. The first step in becoming a rapier marshal is to become a rapier marshal in training (RMiT). After completing your training requirements to become a full rapier marshal, you will be able to help support rapier combat in the SCA by running practices, gear inspections, tournaments, and authorizations.

Are there awards or recognitions that I can work towards?

Yes. Awards and recognitions may be presented for a multitude of reasons. Information on awards in Ealdormere can be found here.

[Editor's Note: [An Tir Awards Link](#)]

Sincerely,
 Gregorie Moroz
 Fencer, dancer, archer, leatherworker,
 metalworker, and brewer
 Shire Castellan and Group Rapier Marshal
 The Shire of Trinovantia Nova



Ye Olde Help Wanted

DEPUTY EXCHEQUER:

Exchequers are responsible for maintaining the financial records of their branch and for ensuring that all funds are spent to further the Society's non-profit, educational purpose. Branch Exchequers must maintain permanent, detailed books and records of all financial activity.



Who is this Sir Budget and why does he keep taking my money?

SENESCHAL:

Branch Seneschals are responsible for the coordination of the Society activities in their branch. However they do not supervise the other officers, merely aid their cooperative efforts. Branch seneschals hold vacant offices on a temporary basis until they can be filled and are responsible for filling the reports for those vacant offices.



Hero Wanted: Apply Within

MINISTER OF ARTS

AND SCIENCES (MOAS):

Branch Arts and Sciences Officers facilitate S.C.A. members in their artistic and scientific endeavors. They do this by being a resource, arranging to have classes taught on diverse subjects, holding competitions and finding other ways to inspire people's interest in the arts and sciences.



I swear, if I hear one more joke about being an organ donor...

Basic Armouring Chapter 3: Tools (continued)

Basic Armouring—A Practical Introduction to Armour Making
Copyright 2002 By Paul Blackwell

The material provided in these articles are excerpts from Basic Armouring, a book by Paul Blackwell. The contents and images are used with permission and courtesy of Paul Thane-Clarke (Richard the Rampant) of Brighthelm.org

Chapter 3: Tools—Continued

Files

A hand file will remove rough edges, finish or shaping your piece or remove that awkward little bit that is jamming things — a small round file will correct that hole that isn't quite in the right place. Files come in a variety of shapes and degrees of coarseness — it's worth having a selection. Keep them clean with a file brush (to stop the teeth clogging) and always use them with a handle.

Polishing

A simple polishing and fine grinding machine can be made by mounting a foam sanding wheel on the front of an electric drill. If you mount the drill in a stand things work even better! 150 grit fine belts will remove sharp edges and do fine shaping; when they get worn they can be used to polish. DIY shops only sell 150 or less grit. The less the number the coarser the paper. Tool shops sell finer grades normally for belt sanders but they fit wheels, just check the diameter when you buy. I find 220 or 280 grit give a nice finish.

A fine polishing machine can be made from a cheap bench grinder. Take the grinding wheels off and replace them with mops. OK they don't run up to the same speed as a proper polishing machine but they cost a tenth of the price and don't need a three phase electric supply! If you put a Sisal mop on one side, a stitched cloth finishing mop on the other and use stainless steel polishing compound you can get a mirror finish with a bit of effort.

Other useful bits

Fine felt tip pen for marking things out, scissors, cardboard and sticky tape for templates, nuts and bolts to hold bits together before you rivet them, cold chisel for getting things apart when you rivet them in the wrong place, G-clamp to give you that extra hand (evolving without a tail was definitely a mistake), washers, trimming knife for cutting leather, pliers, even more hammers.

Chapter 4: Safety

If you are going to do something do it well and do it safely. Wear leather gloves whenever possible to stop you getting cuts; hey they even make ones with Kevlar in these days. Throw away sharp edged off cuts, swarf, etc. somewhere safe; not the floor or the bench you are about to put your hand. Remove sharp edges before holding bits with your hands and before wearing it! Wear eye protection especially when drilling, grinding, sanding or polishing. Wear a dust mask when polishing, sanding, grinding, etc. When drilling make sure the item is held firmly and remove any swarf caused by the drilling. Ear protectors are a good idea especially when dishing or using a noisy cutter. Wear toe protection footwear and wear sensible clothing.

Armouring is fun; injuring yourself isn't! DIY shops and industrial clothing/ safety shops will sell protective bits — they are a good inexpensive investment, *Honest* !

Last Call

A&S Meetings are being scheduled at Jerome Prairie School for the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. Combined A&S/Fighter Practice on the 3rd Sunday at 11am.

Want to offer a class at ARC? Contact MyrtleholtChatelaine@gmail.com

Our HL David de Rosier-Blanc will be set on vigil at Egil's on May 27 with his elevation into the rank of Pelican on Saturday, 28!

Next Business Meeting

Marie Hill Conference Room, Community Corrections, 510 NW 4th St, Grants Pass OR.
SUNDAY, June 5 at 1:00pm.

Officer Excerpts

Marshal: Fighter practices will be moving to the parks with nicer weather.
Check online for updates

Seneschal: Position replacements needed: Seneschal, Deputy Exchequer, MoAS
Elk Mountain Highland Games Demo considered a success!

MoAS: Jerome Prairie School, 2nd & 4th Tuesday evening, 3rd Sunday morning.
May's 4th Tuesday will be Gold Key repair and creation day

Chatelaine: New business cards are now available
More detailed Officer Reports are posted in the Meeting Minutes on Facebook

Looking Forward

Demo **Rogue Community College, May 25, 2016**
A&S Display, Fighter Pell Interactive Session
Starts at 10am with Pell at 11:30am

ARC **September 30/Oct 2, 2016**
Event Steward: Lord Uilliam Mag Dhuibhfhinn & Family,
Mentor: David de Rosier-Blanc

Hogmanay **December 31, 2016**
Event Steward: Andreana Sionnach, Mentor: David de Rosier-Blanc
Game Master: Robert O'Neill & Youth Activities: Tristan Munroe
Feast Steward: HL Keara Rylyn Buchanan
Feast Steward Assistant: Bowen Doyle



Calendar

Find These Events at: <http://antir.sca.org/Upcoming/index.php>

May-2016

Dates	Event	Branch Locations
13-15	Faire In The Grove	Barony of Dragon's Mist
13-15	Hocktide Emprise	Shire of Glyn Dwfn
13-15	Mayfaire	Barony of Glymm Mere
14	Champions Tournament	Barony of Lions Gate
14	Saturday in the Park with Sven	Canton of Porte de l'Eau
20-22	   May Crown (Event's Web Site)	Barony of Vulcanfeldt
27-30	Celtic Revolt	Barony of Wealdsmere
27-30	  Egil Skallagrimson Memorial Tournament XLII(Event's Web Site)	Barony of Adiantum
27-30	  Grand Thing	Barony of Stromgard
27-29	Sealion War	Barony of Lions Gate
28	Cold Keep Spring Defenders	Shire of Cold Keep

June-2016

Dates	Event	Branch Locations
03-05	  June Faire	Barony of Dragon's Laire
03-05	 Summits June Investiture	Barony of Terra Pomaria
10-12	Boar's Hunt	Barony of Aquaterra
10-12	Springfest	Barony of Wastekeep
10-12	The Dragon's Cup! War of the Wards!	Barony of Dragon's Mist
10-12	 Tir Righ June Coronet	Shire of Coill Mhor
10-12	War In The Trees	Shire of Tymberhavene
10	Warren War	Shire of Shittimwoode
17-27	  SCA 50th Year Anniversary Celebration (Event's Web Site)	SCA Inc of SCA Inc.
17-19	The Long and Short of It (Event's Web Site)	Barony of Terra Pomaria
18	Defender of the Hart XVI	Canton of Silverhart
18	Lionsdale Champs	Shire of Lionsdale
24-26	College of War	Shire of Hartwood
24	Ducal War North	Shire of Coill Mhor
24-26	Pendale Champion's Tourney	Shire of Pendale
29-03	   An Tir/West War	Kingdom of West

Myrtle Holt Officers



SENESCHAL

Lady Brynhildr Smidsdottir
(Megan Blattel)



ARTS & SCIENCES

HL David de Rosier-Blanc
(David Bianco)



GOLD KEY

Constance Campbell
(Christina Hager)



SCRIBE

HL Keara Rylyn Buchanan
(Loree Day)



HERALD

Lord Bjolan Bjornson
(Rev. James A. Otto Sr.)



HEAVY MARSHAL

Bowen Doyle
(Albert Wessels)



WEBMINISTER

Lord Thorlof Anarson
(Josh Plater)



EXCHEQUER

HL Caterine Mitchell
(Kattie Cole)



CHRONICLER

Lady Nim
(Sarah Givens)



DEPUTY GOLD KEY

Alina MacMurrich
(Amanda C. Cowin)



CHATELAINE

Lord Uilliam (Liam) Mag Duibhfhinn
(Morris Givens)



HERALD IN TRAINING

Eric Liefson
(Glenn Allen)



TARGET ARCHERY MARSHAL

Lord Uilliam (Liam) Mag Duibhfhinn
(Morris Givens)



EQUESTRIAN MARSHAL

(Vacant)

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