

At Branches Reach

Newsletter for the Shire of
Sunderoak Feb. 2016, A.S.

L



Melissa Carpenter
103 Maharg Street
Butler, Pa 16001



Shire of Sunderoak

Royalty of Aethelmearc

His Majesty King Magnus
Tindal and Her Majesty Queen
Etain ingin Dalaig

•<http://www.aethelmearc.org/royalty/AE35/index.php>

Their Royal Highnesses

[Prince Thomas Byron of
Haverford](#) and [Princess Ariella of Thornbury](#)

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The Kingdom Of Aethelmearc



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Fenna Rioux (Megan List)
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Term ends October 2017

Deputy Seneschal

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Chatelaine

Lady Mollie O Donell (Mollie O'Donnel-Sipe)
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Term expires October 2017

Exchequer

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Term expires October 2017

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Term expires Oct.2017

Webpage: sunderoak.aethelmearc.org

Next Meeting: Tuesday feb.23, 2016

Butler Area Library 218 N McKean St, Butler, PA 16001
(724) 287-1715

7:00 pm downstairs

Happy February.

Hope all is well with you and yours in this strangely warm winter.

Looking to the future I see lots of growth in our future. We've started thinking about ways to help our shire grow strong. While we brainstormed some ideas at our last shire meeting, we are very interested in any ideas you might have for growing our numbers. If you have any ideas for activities, please let me know. In other news, it looks like our upcoming events will be stellar! We are hoping to host a kingdom event in the next year, and will be looking for volunteers if we win that bid. It won't be until October, so you have plenty of time to think and plan.



In service of the dream,

Fenna



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Greetings SunderOak,

January started with wonder as Lady Luchetta taught us about Epic Russian Tales. Master Remus brought several kinds of musical instruments for us to see, hear, and try. Lady Raven led Largess, and One class was canceled when my ship stayed at sea an extra day. Don't worry! We were able to reschedule.

February 1 Lady Luchetta will teach about Fairies, both Elizabethan Fairies and Foxes and Fairies.

February 8 Lady Raven will lead Largess.

February 15 Mistress Elsbeth will teach Heraldry Basics. We will have a submissions night in April, so this is a great time to learn what the guidelines are.

February 22 Baroness Betha will teach Sprang.

February 29 Beatrix will teach History of the Warp Weighted Loom.



Everyone is welcome to attend. Is there something you want to learn? Is there something you can teach? Contact me, we will find a way to make it happen. There are other classes brewing, some may be on different days, at times. I will keep you posted.

A&S is held at 110 Pine Street, Butler, PA 16001. Doors open at 6, we start at 630 and wind down about 830. Please park on Mercer St as Pine St is tiny.

I hope to see you soon,



Mahin



- **What is the SCA?** The SCA is the Society for Creative Anachronism. It was founded in 1966 in Berkely, California. It is a mulit-national non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and teaching about the cultures of Western Europe in the Middle and Renaissance ages. For more information, go to the website of the [SCA, Inc.](#)
- **What is the Kingdom of AEthelmearc?** In the SCA, a Kingdom is a large regional chapter of the parent organization, SCA, Inc. Each Kingdom is very different from the next and each have distinct borders and customs. Each Kingdom is ruled by a King and Queen and have a body of officers. There are 19 SCA Kingdoms worldwide. The Kingdom of AEthelmearc was founded in 1997. But before this, AEthelmearc was part of the East Kingdom. AEthelmearc encompasses all of West Virginia, most of Pennsylvania, and Central and Western New York.
- **What is a King/Queen?** The King and Queen are the figure heads of a Kingdom, who have the right to change policies, give awards, appoint Kingdom officers, and represent the Kingdom and it's interests. The right to be a King or Queen is gained by winning a "Crown Tournament" of SCA-styled heavy martial combat. In AEthelmearc, the winner of the Crown Tournament becomes the Prince and Princess for 6 months. They then step up at a "Coronation" event, as King and Queen for another term of 6 months. Thus, there are two crown tournaments and coronation events per year. A man or woman can win the crown. Women who win are called "queens by their own right". But every crown tournament contestant must be fighting on behalf of another's honor. This person is called a "consort" and will reign as King or Queen with their winning fighter. To read about our current reigning Royals,
- **What are local groups?** Local groups are smaller local groups withing a Kingdom, and are official chartered groups of the SCA, Inc. The group members elect what kind of structure they would like to have, if they want a figure head or not, and which local offices they will have. Each of these sub-groups is beholden to the Kingdom which allows them to officially form. These local groups have bank accounts, heraldry, and a voice in Kingdom (through their officers and/or figure heads). It is on the local level that most of the weekly and day-to-day activity takes place in the SCA. Local groups do not get financial compensation from our corporate head or Kingdom. Each local group must do their own fundraising. One of the most common ways groups raise funds, is through holding events. In our Kingdom, the local populace can chose to be a riding, canton, barony, shire, college, port, stronghold, province, or a dominion, depending on geography and population size. While it is possible to have a principality, we do not currently have any groups of this structure.

- **Why do some people have titles, “crowns”, or colored belts?** Titles are awards of merit and/or skill bestowed by the King and Queen unto an individual for their active participation in the SCA. Baronies and Principalities can also give awards to individuals, but they cannot bestow award titles (unless specifically requested to by the reigning Royals).
- The first level of award, on a Kingdom level, is the Award of Arms (the AoA, for general participation), the Keystone (for service and autocrating), the Sycamore (for Arts and Sciences and teaching), and the Alce (for fighting). With any of these awards you are a Lord or Lady of the Realm, and you are allowed to display your personal SCA heraldry.
- The second level of awards, the Grant of Arms, include, the White Scarf (for fencing), the Scarlet Guard (for archery), the Gage (for heavy fighting), the Millrind (for Service), the Fleur (for Arts, Science, and teaching), the White Horn (for other martial activities), and all court Baronies. Baronies are afforded the titles of “Excellency”, “Baron” or “Baroness”. The Grant of Arms, generally, allows you to have the title of “The Honorable Lord/Lady” or “THL” for short. These awards, generally speaking, are given for showing leadership within your field and for being well-known outside of your local chapter for knowledge of one or more aspects of SCA life.
- The Patent of Arms is the final level of award, this includes: the Pelican for service, the Knight for combat training, the Laurel for Arts, Science, and teaching, usually all Kings and Queens who are stepping down, and the order of the Rose for Royal consorts. Pelicans and Laurels take the title of Master or Mistress and are allowed to display the colors and symbols of their order. Knights do not take the title of Master/Mistress. They take the title of Sir. They wear a white belt, a metal chainmaille chain around their neck, and sometimes spurs. A Count and Countess is a couple who have won Crown once and stepped down. A Duke and Duchess is a couple who have been King and Queen more than once. Generally, the patent level of award recipients are known as Peers of the Realm, or simply, Peers. Royal Peers (people who are King or Queen or a representative there of) are also allowed to wear crowns or coronets (this includes Landed Barons and Baronesses, and Principality Princes or Princesses, but the style of crown/coronet is different than that of a former or current King or Queen or their Royal Heirs).
- Generally speaking, most award recipients will be called before the King and/or Queen during a court (or a representative of the Crown) and will be presented before the assembled populace and spoken of by the Crown. The Royals will speak of the person’s deeds, and why the recipient has caught their attention. The recipient is usually presented a scroll. A scroll is a hand-painted and calligraphed work of art, with words of the King and Queen scruven on it. Sometimes a token of the award order is also given, most commonly a medallion.
- For the Patent level awards of the Knight, Pelican, and Laurel, each Peer is charged to take on the training of another person(s) in their particular field. Knights will take “men at arms” and “squires” and present them with red belts. The Apprentice of the Laurel will get a green belt. Proteges of a Pelican will receive a yellow belt. These are highly personal and sometimes intense training periods and relationships. If the relationship and training are satisfactory, in time, the Master or Mistress should present their apprentice/squire/protege to their respective order for elevation to Peer status. These award levels are given, mostly, by election of the order populace (a polling order), and not, usually, by any one person (there are stories of Kings and Queens, spontaneously asking people to think about becoming a member of an order, but this is unusual). When there is consensus among the order and the reigning Royals agree, that person is asked to “sit vigil” for a certain amount of time, usually at an event. At vigil, the person receives visitors with words of wisdom, advice, and is generally asked to consider the responsibilities of becoming a Peer.

We are pleased to let you know that the 2015 Kingdom Newsletters are now available to all current Sustaining and International members for your review.

Are you a New Member?

No Registration is Required - to visit the newsletter site, please go to <http://enewsletter.sca.org> to access.

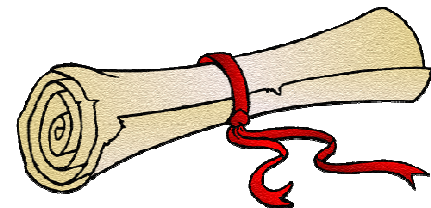
Please use your Membership Number as your User ID and the beginning password is the word start. We would advise you to change your password to one of your choosing upon entry.

If you have any questions or difficulties, please contact Member Services.

Kind Regards,
The Membership Staff
SCA, Inc.

(800) 789-7486

email: membership@sca.org



- **check our Facebook page, yahoo page, and **Our Website** (www.sunderoak.aethelmearc.org)**
- **for updates on **Fight practice**, **Fencing practice**, **Thrown weapons practice**, **Future events**, and **A&S meetings**..**

Business Cards for General use...



Shire Of Sunderoak

www.sunderoak.aethelmearc.org

www.sca.org

Butler, Armstrong, and
Northern Indiana Counties