

An Tir Crown List
&
Autumn War
Event Plan

November 26, 2006



Objectives

Blatha An Oir aims to host Crown then Autumn war as the premier event of the fall season, in order to achieve a number of goals. Firstly, it is our belief that the Barony can best serve the Kingdom by holding Crown, and by holding it at the new site in Randal. Hosting the best Crown event possible is our first goal, and the unspoiled wide open river valley in the mountains provides a very majestic backdrop for the event. The second goal, hosting the best Autumn War possible, is a familiar yearly ritual for the Barony and dovetails with the primary goal very well. Many logistical and operational details can be shared by the two events and event staffs, significantly reducing the total resources and manpower needed to host the combined 10 days of events. Properly managing resources and volunteers becomes our third goal. It is for this goal that most of the 'day of' teams will not be the same between the two events, allowing volunteers to have some time to enjoy the event.

Related to resource management, managing the site layout is becoming increasingly important. Improvements like the water grid and equestrian arena are already in place and permanent erics with viewing stands in the works. With some groups now beginning to think of their spots as traditional, managing the site layout and the overall developing tradition for the best use of the site is our fourth goal.

Fifth, is providing as many SCA activities to as many varied interests as possible. From the Kingdom's premier tournament, to the premier, in our humble opinion, war in the Kingdom, to a Rapier tavern brawl in an actual tavern, along with every range of archery and thrown weapon, two large arenas of equestrian courses, and everything else in between; it is the goal of the Barony to leave our guests having to make hard choices between what they most want to do on the event schedule.

To serve the Barony's long term goal of building Autumn War into an even larger event, the sixth goal is to introduce the new profit sharing system that the Barony is adopting for the war. Modeled on Estrella War, this system shares the profit of the event between all of the SCA groups that provide volunteers. This not only shares the wealth with our neighbors but lays the foundation for a scalable volunteer base allowing the event to grow. By allowing the event to become collaborative over time, the ideas, interest and energy of far more people will become the engine that drives its success.

These goals provide a set of combined objectives that provide a framework for the decision making of the event staff as well as a set of criteria by which performance to those standards can be evaluated. Having a set of reference points by which to navigate, once the inevitable detail complications of hosting the event arise, will allow the staff to keep efforts lined up and everyone working the same direction.



Staffing

With 10 days of activities, plus setup and breakdown, the plan for sufficient staff, and rotating the volunteers is key to the success of the event as a whole. Crown and Autumn War will each have an individual autocrat responsible for managing that event's staff. While individual volunteers may spend time working at both events, the aim is for the key event operations roles to be handed off to avoid exhaustion. These two autocrats will be working closely with the overall event coordinator, siteocrat, merchantcrat, and site staff during the planning phases and take over primary operational responsibility for the events as they happen.

Event Staff

Event Coordinator :	Kane Severus
Crown Autocrat :	Ambriel
Autumn War Autocrat :	TBD
Chiurgeon (Crown) :	Mir Plemmons
Chiurgeon (Autumn War) :	Baron Moonshadow
Constable (Crown) :	Master Ian MacDougal
Constable (Autumn War) :	Elisabeth of the Mists
Siteocrat :	Morgan Severus
Merchantcrat :	Snoopje of Ravenstead
Royal Coordinator :	Baroness Khalja
Profit Sharing Program Manager :	Alanus of Bunghea
Volunteer Coordinator :	Daniel Saer
Marshall In Charge (Crown) :	Sir Walter of Minstead
Marshall In Charge (Autumn War) :	Redbear of House Thistle and Rose
Rapier Marshall :	Baron Wolfgang
Arts and Sciences Minister :	Anneka Poznanska
Meetings Coordinator :	Mistress Karla Sansquestion



Gate & Parking

The gate and parking systems will be common to both events, though staffed individually. Parking will consist of both car and trailer temporary parking at Gate, as well as long term parking, including RV's, as designated on the site map. The additions of torches and signs at the entrance to Gate as well as the parking lot entrance may reduce the number of volunteers needed to direct traffic.

Current plans call for the completion of a permanent building for Gate, however conducting it underneath the same large tent space remains a completely viable option. An informational sign at the door will identify each of the different color marked stations, which will direct traffic and allow the Gate staff the flexibility of adding or removing individual stations to address bottlenecks in the system. The autocrat will maintain a duty whiteboard with the up to date team lead schedule, both to track who is on duty and for how long, and to give volunteers a visual prompt of specific immediate needs.

Chatalain's point will be inside at Gate, as well as the Chiurgeon and Constabulary command centers. This will provide a central point of contact in case of emergency, as well as allow for extra hands in a sudden influx at Gate, and shared coverage by minimal staff during off peak slow hours.

Chiurgeon & Constabulary

Both the Chiurgeons and Constabulary will have a command point tent near the main entrance, as well as additional tent space for first aid and patient rest area. The Emergency Plan document contains detailed plans for normal C&C operations as well as contingency plans for helicopter medivac of an injured individual through emergency evacuation of the complete site. While we have enjoyed ~20 minute response time from the local ambulance in the past, it is critical that we continue planning for 45 minute response time and keep in mind the nature and capabilities of the local emergency services in planning for medical evacuations. Though outside the SCA Chiurgeonate purview, there will be Lewis County licensed EMT's onsite willing and equipped to provide a range of emergency options.

Site

The site layout will be an incremental change from the last Autumn War at the site, trying to better use the wide open space and create more feeling of community by encouraging a central camping area. The site map shows the overall concept of placing the castle and war field directly north of the entrance. The main road will then run directly between gate and the war field, with the erics and viewing stands on the west side of the road slightly south of the middle. By placing merchants row and Royal camping also centered on the water grid, the aim is to create a town center. The war field will be expanded into what had been previously the northernmost camping area, so that we can establish protected viewing and waterbearing stations around the water faucet sites. Compressing the northern border of the camping area will also have the effect of squeezing the north south spread of camps, while the central road will pull in the east to west spread. It may be necessary in the future to further encourage central camping, as this configuration still easily leaves room for 5000+ campers. The roads will continue to be lain out wide enough to allow for equestrian traffic per the Society rules, with the goal of developing horseback site Heralding.



Noisy camping will be designated between the center and gate, with quiet camping from west of center all the way to the river. While the site imposes no quiet time rules, we certainly have the ability to accede to Their Majesties wishes concerning noise levels the night before Crown List. Generally speaking, the sheer size of the site has led to there simply being no noise issues, either internal or external.

There will be a work party on site the weekend before Crown, which is a private party held by the site owner. Last year's work party was very successful in preparing the site and cutting trails for the woods battle and the Barony looks forward to taking up HRM Almaric's challenge of topping the famous Pennsic woods battle site. Volunteers coming to work on the various site projects on that weekend may be able, with site owner and siteocrat permission, to put up personal camps at that time.

Combat

Crown List

Crown List will be conducted according to His Majesty's wishes. If those wishes happen to be for one of the usual style of lists, then the currently planned permanent fighting erics will be ideal. A grid of 9 30'x30' fighting areas will be roped off with wooden stakes with the central square usable as a gathering point for fighters surrounded by 8 fighting fields. Adjacent to the fighting area will be a raised viewing area with canvas awnings for sun or rain shade. For the Squire's Tournament, it will be possible to remove the inner posts and rope off the whole area into one approximately 150'x150' arena.

Autumn War

Autumn War will be conducted according to His Excellency's wishes, as well as His opponent's wishes, and of course His Majesty's wishes. In previous years the Barony of Stromguard has been a most excellent opponent and negotiations are underway with possible new principles to the war. Regardless of who ends up fighting on which side, the event will be able to offer the opportunity for the full range of war scenarios from open field, broken field, castle and woods battles. The wide open space allows for combat archery and siege engines in as many battles as would be liked and having designated, and protected, viewing areas centered around the waterbearing stations at the water faucets.

The Barony plans to host the 3rd Annual 5 Man tournament again this year. HE Baron Emeil will be hosting a party in his tavern on Friday night to honor last year's winners and hang the unit insignia on the tavern wall. With 13 teams entering last year and the precedent set for a significant prize as well as permanent bragging rights decorating the tavern wall on the line, we look forward to some fierce competition.

HE Baron Wolfgang of Glymm Mere has graciously agreed to coordinate the rapier fighting from the normally scheduled Cadet's tournament at Crown to a tavern brawl as part of the war. The site has permanent facilities setup for equestrian, archery as well as thrown weapons and is planning to add a fenced in 'canine park' for lure coursing by next year. Horse, archery and dog specific activities, including the Baroness's traditional War Wiener Races will be organized and scheduled as plans progress.



Profit Sharing Program

It is the intent of the Barony to grow Autumn War even bigger over the coming years. With space no longer a limiting factor at the site in Randal, volunteer staff will quickly become the bottleneck to growth. By creating a profit sharing program based on volunteer hours, the Barony links the amount of volunteers to the overall attendance and establishes the foundation for the event to expand from simply the largest event in the Kingdom into a major regional event.

Key Points –

- The program only applies to Autumn War.
- Only SCA branches are eligible to receive funds under this program.
- Short and Simple : Your group provides X% of the volunteer hours, then your group gets X% of the net event profit.

Team leaders will be the key to recording the volunteer hours. Each team lead will have a planned number of total man-hours on each shift and be responsible for recording who worked them, as well as what SCA group they want their hours to go towards. The gate lead and the autocrat, working with the volunteer coordinator and individual team lead, will schedule specific volunteers for specific shifts ahead of time and give the team lead a printed form with the scheduled workers already recorded. After the shift, the team lead simply signs and turn in the form, or reports any changes to the schedule or any additional volunteer hours that were donated. These signed timecards will then be turned in to the Program Manager, who will be responsible for compiling the total and overseeing the distribution of the net event profit to SCA branches based on the ratio of volunteer hours assigned to that group. To insure impartiality, this Program Manager will come from outside the Barony.

Crown Financials

The system negotiated last year by the SCA Corporate office for doing business at the Randal site is essentially the same system that is used for 12th Night or other hotel based events. Attendees pay one “event fee” at the SCA gate, and another at the hotel front desk, or in this case the “camping fee” at the site owner’s desk. The event budget runs completely from the SCA gate, and the other fees never enter the SCA accounting at all. The total cost to an adult attendee for Crown will be \$15, as stipulated by Kingdom policy, plus NMS if applicable. With an estimated attendance of 1500, the SCA event fee of \$5 is projected to gross \$7500 with estimated event expenses of \$1600, resulting in anticipated net profit of \$5900.

Historical data shows that Crown level events have tended to generate around \$7500 net profit previously, which results in a bottom line that at the projected attendance, hosting the event at the Randal site is approximately \$1500 more expensive than in other areas. It is Blatha An Oir’s belief that the quality of the event at that site will be so much better that it is worth the difference, so much so that the Barony is willing to pick up the tab. Blatha An Oir will pay for all of the event expenses itself, without reimbursement, to back up that belief. All gate proceeds, besides NMS, will be net profit for the event and treated accordingly.