



Tradewinds



THE NEWSLETTER FOR ORLOVA DOLINA
ISSUE V JANUARY-MARCH AS XLIII



The Herald's Call: Announcements

- We meet twice a month on Sundays. At the time of publication we have not picked a single meeting location, so in the meantime keep an eye on the mailing list or www.orlovadolina.org for locations and times. One meeting a month is a business meeting, all are welcome to attend but officers *must* make every effort. The other meeting each month is a Moot, involving activities and the participation of the

membership as a whole. Watch the website for more.

- Thanks to Gier we have found an indoor venue for our fighter practices, the National Guard Armory in Bemidji. To pay the rental fee (going towards the NCO who has to stay late for us) there is a fee of \$5 per fighter per practice, with a minimum of \$20. Practices will be from 6-8PM Thursdays, but may vary from week to week. Check the website before showing up or call Brynjolf at 218 854 7248.
- Presently our Herald is stepping down due to the necessity of mundane life. We wish to thank Ennion for his service, and put out the call for a new Herald. If you are interested please put your name in with the Seneschal.
- Effective April 1, 2009 I will be stepping down as Chronicler. While the position is not a required position, it is nice to have a branch newsletter. If you are interested please contact Brynjolf for more information.
- Lady Svana Valdýrsdóttir will be stepping down as Minister of Arts and Sciences effective April 1, tentatively to be replaced with Keranadl of Grabenau. Thank you for your service to Orlova Dolina!
- For those who might not yet know, Comgall Mac Doran replaced Adorabelle as our Exchequer effective December 1, 2008.
- Our Yule Moot will be January 25, 2009 at the Beltrami Electric Cooperative. This is an in garb moot and we will be having our gift/loot/booty theft/exchange! Bring a gift under \$10.



FRODO THE VILLAGE COUNCIL

The following are letters from the council of Orlova Dolina addressed to the populace. If you have any questions for these officers, please seek out their contact information at orlovadolina.com and you will find them quite eager to assist you.



To the populous I send greetings,

As most of you know, I took over the position of Seneschal at the end of November last year. Due to the weather we haven't done much so far, but we have lots of plans for the village with the new year.

I am very excited to take over this position, and with everyone's help, hope to continue growing our populous.

With the new year I would like to ask that everyone who has a membership please email the names of everyone in your family that has a membership along with the membership number.

I am looking forward to another great year with you all.

YIS,

Aerondel Longbow



Greetings to all!

As many of you know, this is my last letter as your MOAS. As of April 1st I will be giving up my post.

I want to thank you all for your hard work on Coronation in September. As a small forming land we pulled off a beautiful event. You should all be very proud.

I also want to thank all of our members who have taken it upon themselves to research and learn new skills and then be willing to pass them on to anyone who wants to learn. We have so many varied interests that it is hard sometimes to keep track of what everyone is doing.

Rest assured that while I will no longer be MOAS, I am always more than willing to help in any way I can. Also, Keranadl and I have been planning on small classes to be held at moots, so if there is something you want to learn that you think might be a fun class, please speak up and we will get things rolling.

YIS,
Svana Valdyrsdottir



Konnichiwa!

If you haven't noticed by now I've overhauled the website, it is both easier for me to manage and I hope easier to navigate. I've added several new features to the website, as of this moment. We have an integrated calendar which a mini version shows on the navigate bar, a new gallery with a slide show which also shows on the navigation bar, and I've begun the process of making the website auto update the front page whenever I

make changes to the site. Let me know if you notice any problems with the site or have ideas for improvements.

I've been getting great feedback thus far. As of this moment if you want to submit something to the website you'll have to email me as we were having problems with spammers trying to attack our site's uploading forms and I have to install a human detector for that to protect us from bots.

I also plan on overhauling the appearance of the forum to match that of the website. Also for those who don't know I'm going to be switching to a Japanese persona so if you see the webminister name change suddenly it has not been hijacked by ninjas.:D

Vincent le Lièvre
Webminister



ARGOREO MARSHAL

Warrior's Word,

Greetings unto the populace of Orlova Dolina, does the Knight Marshal THL Wulfgar Von-Ostrand send. With winter upon us, the times of training for war are few and far between. The snow and cold rusts our armour and chills our bones, but take heart for we have found shelter in these trying times. We now have use of the National Guard Armoury for Thursday nights. I am sure most of you are aware of this but hey it never hurts to post it.

Also as I mentioned last time at the business meeting we are planning on doing some weekday trips to the lands of Inner Sea (Duluth) and Korsvag (Fargo) in the next coming months for training. More to follow as it becomes reality.

For those of you interested there are several events in the next few weeks that will be a good place for the arts Martial. We have:

It's Only a Flesh Wound 2 Saturday January 31, 2009 at [Barony of Jararvellir](#) (Jefferson WI)

That Moot Thingy 9/Rumble in the Forest 3 Friday February 6-8, 2009 [Canton of Coille Stoirmeil](#) (Tomah WI)

Tournament of Chivalry/Windhaven Baronial Changeover Saturday February 14, 2009 [Barony of Windhaven](#) (Fond du Lac WI)

Even if you are not a fighter these events are all very good to go and meet new people and maybe pickup a new idea or two about that project you are working on.

Well that is it for now take care all and have fun,

Wulfgar Von-Ostrand



CHRONIELER

This will be the last copy of Tradewinds published under my watch as Chronieler, a position I have had a lot of fun doing. Hopefully someone will take up the mantle and replace me, but at the time of this writing no one has volunteered.

A newsletter is, at its core, simply a letter for news; a letter to tell what goes on in the community it represents. But they can also be much more. As the community grows, so grows the newsletter. Already we have had wonderful articles discussing everything from Medieval philosophy and map making, to the history of Medieval Croatia. These well written articles are the hard work of the members of Orlova Dolina, and you are what makes this newsletter as good as it is. I simply assemble it, so for that service, I thank all of you who helped me fill its pages.

It is my hope that someone else takes the role of

Orlova Dolina's Chronicler and sees to it that *Tradewinds* continues. If you are interested but unsure about this position, please call me any time at (218) 854 7248.

Thank you for letting me serve, and I hope to be a contributor to the future *Tradewinds* issues as a writer.

In Service,

Brynjolf Hrafnsson, Chronicler



Garb on the Cheap

By Brynjolf Hrafnsson

As the new year marches on, one thing is beyond doubt: times are tough. Prices are up, income is down, and jobs are getting cut left and right. It seems like it's all we can do to afford paying our bills, let alone having any money left over for our hobby. But don't switch your persona to a peasant yet, there is hope. This short article will throw out some ideas on how you can cheaply improve your persona's look and still afford this hobby.

There are many frugal ways to garb, and armor yourself, many ways to bring that persona to life without breaking the bank or even putting too much strain on our already very tight budgets.

The first, but least reliable source of cheap cloth and goods for projects are second hand stores and good will outlets. Often times there is good wool cloth and linen tablecloths, old wool

blankets, cheap leather jackets and old leather belts. The hard part is predicting what they have in comparison to what you need. It can be difficult to get five yards of material for a new dress or tunic unless you just get lucky. The positive aspect of this route, is that the prices are very affordable. I have used many one dollar leather belts for shield and armor strapping. The best course of action with these outlets, is to check them routinely from time to time. These tough times make the stores particularly popular because people have turned to them simply to get by as well, but because they are so often used, they are also frequently well stocked.

Deals, deals, deals! Often time, as major retailers struggle with the current economy, they have incredible bargains and sales. Local fabric stores often have coupons they mail out or are available at the counter for the asking. Joann's Fabrics, for instance, has frequent coupons for forty percent off a single ticket item. That brings linen prices almost to the realm of the affordable. This requires a little vigilance, but the retailers are eager for your business.

That said, even with the discounts, local retailers can be very expensive. Linen from Joann's seems to average about \$14 a yard, so even discounted you are still going to spend at least \$7 a yard for the material. There is a cheaper source yet: the internet. Sites like fabricstore.com and many others have real linens and wools, and in a wide variety of colors for \$5 or less per yard. You have to be aware of shipping costs, but ask around the land, and maybe someone else wants to pool an order. Sharing shipping costs can make this the cheapest avenue when purchasing new materials or products.

My dear wife, who has given me the inspiration for the better part of this article, gave me another suggestion that would be prudent to mention at this point. If you are going to spend a lot of money on new material, you don't want to make mistakes. The best way to learn to sew a new pattern is to just do it, but at \$5, \$7, or \$14 a yard, few of us can afford to have too many reject projects. Her solution has been Walmart. They have cheap cotton sheets on sale for \$3-\$4 a pack, and serve very well as test cloth, or cheaper cloth for other projects where period correctness is not

so vital.

Another solution that can be the cheapest of all, is bartering with your fellow SCAdian. Perhaps you make an excellent longbow like Aerondel, or are a skilled seamstress like Dorothea. Ask around and show what skills you have and perhaps you can arrange for a bartering of goods or services with your fellow talented villager. Our land has a widely diverse set of talents from spinning and weaving to blacksmithing and all stops in between.

I am going to close this article with something near and dear to me, personally. Among the most expensive aspects of the SCA is the equipment for the martial aspects, be it heavy fighting, rapier or archery. I cannot speak from experience with regard to light fighting or archery, but I can tell you that armor does not have to be as expensive as you might think. (Seek out Aerondel for ideas about cost regarding light fighting and archery in the SCA).

To get you in the door, check second hand sporting equipment stores like Play-It-Again. You can find pads and guards which can be used (hidden) as armor. Locally we can make a helmet for you with tools we have on hand plus materials, which is approximately \$40, your hammer arm and time. That is a good deal cheaper than you could get them anywhere else. In addition, much of the rest of your armor can be made cheaply with materials you glean from scrap metal, leather, found materials, salvaged materials, and as long as it is hidden, plastic from barrels. While not ideal armor, it is cheap and can get you up and fighting, and improvements can come later.

Times will surely improve, and hopefully this downturn will soon be an upturn, and we will all be garbed in anything we wish. Until then, our hobby need not suffer overmuch; garb and armor can be had cheaper than one might expect.

Lord Brynjolfr Hrafnsson is a well travelled 9th century Norseman, a sometimes merchant, sometimes farmer, sometimes viking—season dependent. In mundane life he is a sculptor living in Northern Minnesota. He can be reached for comment or question at brynjolfr@orlovadolina.org.

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As you can see, we are in need of more articles, of any interest or bearing on the land or the Kingdom, or the SCA as a whole. The next publication will tentatively be April 2009. In the event that no replacement for the Chronicler position steps forward, the publication will be delayed until the office is filled.

In Service,
Brynjolfr Hrafnsson
Chronicler, Orlova Dolina

