

Merriment and Games

Mystery Member of the Month

I have merchanted in Calaphia, and I got my Award of Arms in the Kingdom of Meridies for research and article writing. I have been involved in the SCA twice, this time for six years. My motto is “Walk softly and carry a big stick.”

Who am I?

Last month’s Mystery Member was Denise Wenner who is trying out the name Kalli..



Pennsic 37 Fee Schedule

For more info on Pennsic 37, see page 17.

Check-in for Pennsic 37 will open on Friday July 25th 2008 at noon, and it will remain open 24 hours/day until Friday August 8th 2008 at 11:59 PM. All attendees and their personal property must be off site by Sunday August 10 at 3:00 PM.

Pre-registered								
Category	July 25 to July 31				Aug 1 to Aug 8			
	gate fee	Less Pre-reg Discount	Less deposit	Due upon arrival	gate fee	Less Pre-reg discount	Less deposit	Due upon arrival
Adult (18 or older) Nonmember	\$155	-\$10	-\$100	\$45	\$135	-\$10	-\$100	\$25
Adult (18 or older) Member	\$130	-\$10	-\$100	\$20	\$110	-\$10	-\$100	\$0
Minor (6 to 17)	\$20	N/A	-\$20	\$0	\$20	N/A	-\$20	\$0
Infant (5 or younger)	\$5	N/A	-\$5	\$0	\$5	N/A	-\$5	\$0

Kids' Page

The Gibberish Language: Grammelot

Many jesters and fools spoke a gibberish language nobel prize winning playwright Dario Fo called *Grammelot*. It consisted of funny sounds along with a few real words from different languages. Although Grammelot could not say everything quite as clearly as a real language, it could express general ideas and it engaged people's imaginations. It also turned out to be very practical for the following reasons: Villages were very remote centuries ago. Many villages were very *remote* and separated by dark woods. The terrible roads made it hard to leave town, and without TV or radio, the peasants of one village may never hear the accent of people in the next town. As a result, even neighboring villages might not understand each other. Every town spoke a little differently, and so each town had their own *dialect*. Sometimes they spoke very differently, and had their very own language. Not surprisingly, there were far more languages than there are today.

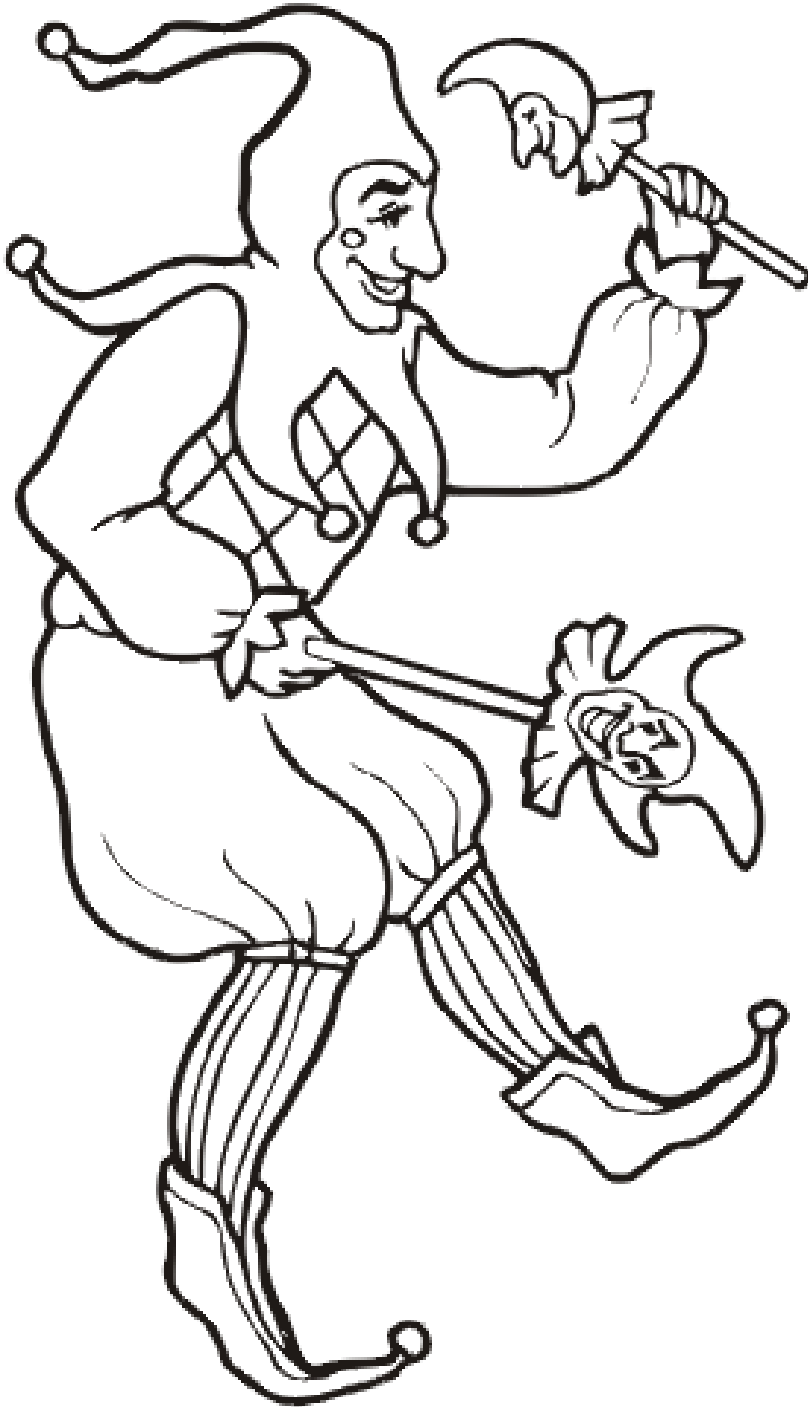
Free speech was not a right centuries ago. In the days before mass media, it was the traveling performers who gave peasants much of their news of the outside world. If anyone said something that angered the king or queen, he or she could easily be thrown in jail. Performers were watched very closely by the censors. The censors were the people hired by the king or queen to make sure that nothing was said that could upset them or the royal court. If the jesters spoke Grammelot, the censors were less likely to give them a hard time, since nobody knew exactly what they were saying.

Try dressing like a jester!

Wear socks of different colors. Wear shoes that are too big, and maybe wear the right shoe on the left foot. Do you have a shirt that is asymmetrical? Does it have colors or patterns on the right side that are not found on the left side? If not, you could use your imagination and figure out a way to make it asymmetrical, such as wearing one sleeve long and wearing the other rolled up really high. Perhaps you can stuff something long and colorful in a pocket on one side. Wear a floppy hat with at least two ears or horns. One way to make a jester cap is to take an old pair of panty hose or long underwear, and tie a knot at each ankle. Put rolled up socks into each leg, and then turn it upside down and stretch the waistband onto your head. You will definitely feel as silly as a jester!

Try speaking like a jester! Speak in gibberish

The jesters who traveled around between villages had to speak a universal *gibberish* language called grammelot. They could express simple ideas with just a few basic sounds. Try this exercise: find a partner and imagine that you are having the following simple conversation:



“Hello! How are you?”
“Not bad. How are you doing?”
“Good. Hey, I like your shirt.”
“You mean this old thing?”
“Yeah! It looks way cool!”
“C’mon, You’re kidding me!”
“No, really! It’s awesome!”

But instead of using the actual English words, use just a couple words over and over again (box-car, napkin, bubble-gum) or use a nonsense sound (ex, ‘yabba dabba’ or ‘bugga-looga’) Also try using your hands more, make big faces, and change the tone of your voice. You may very well get people to understand what you’re saying even though you are not speaking a word of English. If you are really clever, see how long you and your partner can ‘talk’ without using any English words. Try acting like a salesperson trying to sell an object (knives, washing machine, car, snow board, or just about anything at all) using grammelot. Again, rely heavily on using your hands, tone of voice and facial expressions.

Source:

<http://www.alexthejester.com/html/moreInfo.html>

This is part of an educational unit designed for teachers to help their students study jesters.

April Fool's Day

Unlike most of the other nonfoolish holidays, the history of April Fool's Day, sometimes called All Fool's Day, is not totally clear. There really wasn't a "first April Fool's Day" that can be pinpointed on the calendar. Some believe it sort of evolved simultaneously in several cultures at the same time, from celebrations involving the first day of spring.

The closest point in time that can be identified as the beginning of this tradition was in 1582, in France. Prior to that year, the new year was celebrated for eight days, beginning on March 25. The celebration culminated on April 1. With the reform of the calendar under Charles IX, the Gregorian Calendar was introduced, and New Year's Day was moved to January 1.

However, communications being what they were in the days when news traveled by foot, many people did not receive the news for several years. Others, the more obstinate crowd, refused to accept the new calendar and continued to celebrate the new year on April 1. These backward folk were labeled as "fools" by the general populace. They were subject to some ridicule, and were often sent on "fools errands" or were made the butt of other practical jokes.

This harassment evolved, over time, into a tradition of prank-playing on the first day of April. The tradition eventually spread to England and Scotland in the eighteenth century. It was later introduced to the American colonies of both the English and French. April Fool's Day thus developed into an international fun fest, so to speak, with different nationalities specializing in their own brand of humor at the expense of their friends and families.

In Scotland, for example, April Fool's Day is actually celebrated for two days. The second day is devoted to pranks involving the posterior region of the body. It is called Taily Day. The origin of the "kick me" sign can be traced to this observance.

Mexico's counterpart of April Fool's Day is actually observed on December 28. Originally, the day was a sad remembrance of the slaughter of the innocent children by King Herod. It eventually evolved into a lighter commemoration involving pranks and trickery.

Pranks performed on April Fool's Day range from the simple, (such as saying, "Your shoe's untied!"), to the elaborate. Setting a roommate's alarm clock back an hour is a common gag. Whatever the prank, the trickster usually ends it by yelling to his victim, "April Fool!"

Practical jokes are a common practice on April Fool's Day. Sometimes, elaborate practical jokes are played on friends or relatives that last the entire day. The news media even gets involved. For instance, a British short film once shown on April Fool's Day was a fairly detailed documentary about "spaghetti farmers" and how they harvest their crop from the spaghetti trees.

April Fool's Day is a "for-fun-only" observance. Nobody is expected to buy gifts or to take their "significant other" out to eat in a fancy restaurant. Nobody gets off work or school. It's simply a fun little holiday, but a holiday on which one must remain forever vigilant, for he may be the next April Fool!

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In Fond Memory of Clarence "Bear" Lawton, Jr.

COLUMBIA: A memorial service for Clarence "Bear" Lawton, Jr., 52, of Columbia will be held 11 o'clock Monday, March 24, 2008 at Resurrection Lutheran Church with The Reverend Scott Holland officiating. The family will receive friends following the service. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Pastors Discretionary Fund of Resurrection Lutheran Church, 3707 Moss Ave, Columbia, SC 29205. Mr. Lawton died Monday, March 17, 2008. Born in Memphis, TN, he was a son of the late Clarence Edward Lawton, Sr. and Thelma Hopkins Lawton. Mr. Lawton worked as a dispatcher for A-1 Towing and was member of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA). He loved his church family at Resurrection Lutheran where he was a member. Mr. Lawton was a courageous man with a loving heart who lived by his motto: "Loyalty above all, save honor." Survivors include his wife Jackie Lawton of Columbia; son, Charles Lawton of Calhoun, GA; daughters, Crystal Lawton of Hampton and Megan Lawton of Early Branch; grandchildren, Breanna Wade and Paul Lawton; brothers Landis Lawton of Garden City, MI and Johnnie Lawton of Spartanburg; beloved friend Ellen Couch and her son Hunter of Columbia.

"My too long lost brothers and sisters,

I've been too long gone from these halls and for that I am truly regretful. Bear was nothing but an amazing man and mentor to me when I needed one most. Jackie, you were like a second mother to me and my deepest sympathies reach out to you. While trying to think up the words to express my sorrow and sympathies I passed this tragic news on to the Sylvan Glen community that welcomed Bear and I with open arms what seems like a lifetime ago. Within minutes I received replies of sympathy and fond memories of a man they will also truly miss. Bear's passion for life, hospitality and generosity was far reaching and the entire world is lessened by his passing. Laird Wulfvic Grimbeald the High Chief of Clan Wulfgard and personal friend and brother in arms of Bear's from Sylvan Glen passed along these words, which capture so well the influence Bear had on everyone around him.

"God saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be. So He put His arms around you and whispered come to me. With tearful eyes we watched you, and saw you pass away. Although we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay. A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands at rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us He only takes the best." My thoughts and prayers are with all of my too long lost brothers and sisters in Atlantia."

Joshua "Ninja Monkey" Ahlbrecht (Printed with Mr. Ahlbrecht's permission)



Loyalty above all, save honor.

Baron Artúr "Bear" MacLochlainn was the Chieftain (Taoiseach) of the Irish group Clann MacLochlainn. He was a gracious, courteous, and honorable gentle, a shining example to us all. We in Sylvan Glen were honored to have met him. The Society is much diminished by his loss, and he will be missed by many. "Our clan is a group of people within the Society who share similar interests and ideals and choose to join together in an extended family. We call ourselves a Clann instead of a Household because our little group has an Irish nature and is composed of small independent groups working toward a common goal. Clann Lochlan is dedicated to the high Celtic ideals of honorable warfare, while attempting to develop and maintain the ancient Celtic artistic and cultural heritage. We are also very interested in bringing new blood into both our group and the SCA in general. Clann Lochlan is dedicated to three major virtues: Honor, Loyalty, and Service. These ideals hold special meaning in the structure and operation of the clan. Through these ideals, Clann Lochlan strives to promote excellence in SCA combat, development of the Arts and Sciences, and growth of the Society."

Source: <http://clannlochlan.org/index.html>

Pennsic Pre-registraion Questions and Answers

What is pre-registration? Pre-registration is a deposit on the gate fees for entry into Pennsic. It is used by the land office to allocate land

Why should I pre-register? Pre-registering saves you time, money and allocates land for your group.

I am not with any land group. Do I have to pre-register? No, but you will save time and money.

How do I pre-register? There are two ways to pre-register.

- On-line using Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express. If you have an account with PayPal you can also use E-check.
- Mail-in the pre-registration form using check/money order
- The Cooper's Lake store/office will only accept drop-off pre-registrations during Aethelmearc war practice.

How do I get a copy of the mail-in form?

- Download the PDF file from the pre-registration menu, from Kingdom newsletters, Cooper's Lake will fax it to you if you send a [request via e-mail](#) or Cooper's Lake will mail it to you if you send a request with a self-addressed stamped envelope

How much does it cost to pre-register? The pre-registration deposit amount is \$100 for an adult, \$20 for a minor and \$5 for an Infant

Can I bring an RV to Pennsic? There is a camping area at north gate for RV's and trailers It is for individuals and not for group camping. Please contact the registration office at (724) 368- 9309 or email prereg@cooperslake.com for information.

When is cut-off? Cut-off for mail-in pre-registration is May 15th. The only time you can 'drop-off' a pre-registration is during Aethelmearc War Practice (which is held in May). Cutoff for on-line pre-registrations is June 15th no exceptions.

Can I transfer my pre-registration to another person?

No, once you have pre-registered you can attend, choose not to attend or request a refund

How can I get through check-in quicker?

- Have your driver's license, passport, military ID or other positive ID in hand
- Make sure you have enough money to cover any gate fees. They **do not** take personal checks.
- Pre-register and have paperwork in hand
- If responsible for a vehicle have your auto and trailer tag number in hand
- Arrive on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday

Can I bring a minor/infant who is not my child?

No, Minors (under 18)/Infants (under 6) can only attend if their parents or full legal guardians accompany them for the entire time the minor/infant is on site. That also rules out blood relatives. We want the parent of the child present at all times. There are two exceptions. An emancipated minor and married minors, however they will not be allowed admittance unless they bring court documents. In these cases adult gate fees will be applied.

Where's the bathroom?

This is one of the first questions we get after a long trip. At check-in there are several porta-johns.

For more information on Pennsic Check-in, visit this link:

<http://www.cooperslake.com/prereg37.php>. The information printed here is from this website. Also see the Pennsic Fee Schedule on Page 12.



What to Expect at Pennsic Troll

When you arrive at Cooper's Lake Campground, you will need to check-in at Troll. Check-in for Pennsic 37 will open on Friday July 25th 2008 at noon, and it will remain open 24 hours a day until Friday August 8th 2008 at 11:59 PM. No one will be admitted into Pennsic after Troll closes.

Parking is provided on the Main Battlefield. If you arrive during one of the busy times, there will be corridors roped off to help control the flow of traffic. To avoid waiting in these lines, plan to arrive on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Be sure to have all of your paperwork in order when you get to Troll as this will make checking in much faster.

Once you have checked in at Troll, you will receive a site medallion and a string for from which to hang it. You must have this medallion with you at all times, especially if you leave site. You cannot regain entry into the campground without this medallion. If you lose the medallion, go to Troll immediately. They will issue you a hospital wristband (and tease you about being a kid). This wristband can be issued for small children for whom keeping track of a medallion could be problematic. They can be placed around the wrist or ankle.

At troll, you will also receive your Pennsic Site Booklet. This booklet is filled with lots of important stuff that will help make your Pennsic experience much more enjoyable. This booklet contains things like the site rules, the map of the site, a list of classes at Pennsic University, and important messages from the Pennsic staff. You will also get a Merchants Guide. This booklet contains a listing of all the merchants and their locations at Pennsic.

