

# Merriment and Games

Due to an email burp, I didn't get the bio for this month's Mystery Member in time so we will try again in the September edition.

The Mystery Member of the Month for June was our very own naysayer, Jason Butt, who is currently trying out the name Jacques La Rouge.



## Стародедовские игры rus sian фольклорные (Ancient Belarusian Folk Games)

The rituals and games were taking place during traditional festivals and celebrations - "ihryshcha"- of ancient eastern slavs and baltic tribes that were inhabiting belarusian lands. In some places these party evenings were called also "bent" evenings ("kryvyia") because everything was humorously depicted in grotesque inside-out way. The participants would enact humorous weddings or wakes with a dead guy turning out to be alive ("Babior pamior, pashli haranic', azhno ion siadzie!"), or the bride turning out to be a goat, etc.

These theatricalized show would be accompanied with songs and dances. Some of these "ihryshcha" are still taking place. The tradition of these "ihryshcha" is undoubtedly absorbed by modern folk theatres.



"Karahod" - is a popular form of dancing and singing. The "karahod" songs are having slow tempo with changing rhythm. The topics of these songs are different and enclose most of the sides of everyday peasants life. The lyrics consists of monologues with several

developments of the story, rhythmic questions, exclamations etc. The participants are usually aligned in circles hand in hand. The motions of participants are simple - usual steps, side steps, changing pace steps. The alignment of the singers and dancers is usually a circle, circle in circle, "8" shaped two circles, straight chain, zig-zag ("snake"), "creek" (couples are passing in the alley of lifted hands of other couples standing on the sides). The mime theatrical action is important. Different situations could be played out with participants in the center of the circle, while the outside karahod comments and responds to the theatrical act inside of karahod. There are different "karahod" games - "Marriage match-maker", "A sold child", "Devils rib", "Bridge", "Important lady" etc.

**"Vishan'ka"** ("Cherry") - the girl stands on the stool having a straw in her lips. Two guys walk in karahod hand in hand around her, entrapping her in their circle. They are supposed to protect the girl from the third guy. This task of this guy is to jump and catch the straw with his lips. If he succeeds - the girl kisses him.

"Hula" - nope it's not a hula-dance. The name originates from "hul'nia" - "game" in Belarusian. Players are divided into two teams - "armies". Each "army" chooses a "big one" - the strongest person. This person throws a wooden wheel or a heavy round stone towards another "army". The other "army" is supposed to stop it as fast as possible and reverse its direction. The game is won when the line is crossed on one of the sides. Boy, does this sound like American football or what!

Source: <http://www.belarusguide.com/culture1/holidays/games.html>

## *The Volga River*

The Volga River is the largest river in Europe in terms of length, discharge, and watershed. It flows through the western part of Russia, and is widely viewed as the national river of Russia. In fact, eleven out of the twenty largest cities of Russia, including its capital Moscow, are situated in the Volga basin. Some of the largest reservoirs in the world can be found along the Volga.

The Volga belongs to the closed basin of the Caspian Sea. Rising in the Valdai Hills 225 meters (738 ft) above sea level north-west of Moscow and about 320 kilometers (199 mi) south-east of Saint Petersburg, the Volga heads east past Lake Sterzh, Tver, Dubna, Rybinsk, Yaroslavl, Nizhny Novgorod, and Kazan. From there it turns south, flows past Ulyanovsk, Tolyatti, Samara, Saratov and Volgograd, and discharges into the Caspian Sea below Astrakhan at 28 meters (92 ft) below sea level. At its most strategic point, it bends toward the Don ("the big bend"). Volgograd, formerly Stalingrad, is located there.

The Saratov Bridge, running across the Volga, used to be the longest in Europe.

The Volga has many tributaries, most importantly the Kama, the Oka, the Vetluga, and the Sura rivers. The Volga and its tributaries form the Volga river system, which drains an area of about 1.35 million square kilometres in the most heavily populated part of Russia. The Volga Delta has a length of about 160 kilometres and includes as many as 500 channels and smaller rivers. The largest estuary in Europe, it is the only place in Russia where pelicans, flamingoes, and lotuses may be found. The Volga freezes for most of its length during three months of each year.

# Pennsic Packing List Revisited

With Pennsic fast approaching, The Apple Press revisits the Pennsic Packing List. This is a general list of essential items. It is not a comprehensive list and should be adjusted to suit your individual needs, but it is a place to start. Remember that whatever you decide to pack, organization is the key! Storing items in plastic totes is highly recommended to protect them from rain and humidity.

## General Equipment

- tent
- ground cloth/tarp
- tent stakes
- rope
- mallet, hammer and/or hatchet
- small shovel
- sleeping bag
- blankets (bring lots of extras. Pennsic nights can get chilly!)
- sleeping pad or mattress
- pillows
- lanterns and/or flashlights
- spare batteries
- chairs
- pots and pans
- mixing bowl
- cutting board
- can opener
- colander or strainer
- cooking utensils (spatula, serving spoon, stirring spoon, cutting knife, ladle, whisk, tongs, meat fork)
- potholders
- eating utensils (cups, mugs, plates, bowls, knives, forks, spoons- disposables make for easy clean up)
- table or box to place your stove on
- bucket

## Kitchen Equipment

- camp table
- camp stove
- extra fuel
- matches
- cooler
- washbasin
- dishrags and dishtowels
- dish detergent
- paper towels
- garbage bags
- Ziploc bags
- aluminum foil
- sponges and scrubbies
- water container
- deodorant
- hairbrush and comb
- hairbands, barrettes, etc.
- toothbrush
- toothpaste
- washcloth
- soap
- antibacterial hand cleanser
- shampoo and conditioner
- shoes for the shower
- towels
- wash cloth
- nail clippers
- small scissors
- razor

- shaving cream
- feminine care items
- insect repellent
- lip balm
- hand lotion

- swimwear (a garb item or bathing suit if you plan to visit the swimming hole)
- couple of changes of modern clothing
- sewing kit

## Health & Safety

- SUNBLOCK!!!
- sunhat
- painkillers (aspirin, ibuprofen, etc.)
- Band-Aids
- Neosporin (or equivalent)
- isopropyl alcohol
- hydrogen peroxide
- adhesive tape
- gauze
- Q-Tips
- thermometer
- prescriptions or other personal medications
- personal fan (battery operated or hand held)
- first aid kit

## Clothing

- warm weather garb
- cold weather garb
- plenty of socks and underclothes
- heavy cloak
- shoes (think safe and more than period)

## Miscellaneous

- cash, traveler's checks, credit cards
- materials for on your latest SCA projects or hobby
- books
- playing cards
- radio (an emergency weather radio is a good choice)
- portable board games (period games preferred, of course)
- tiki torches
- lamp oil
- extra blankets, throws, or pieces of fabric to disguise modern chairs and coolers
- paper and pens
- items for anything you are personally interested in such as exchequer stuff, scribal activities, fighting (remember to bring your armor and authorization cards), etc.

## General Pennsic Tips

There is a Wal-Mart a variety of other stores, and a laundry mat not too far from Cooper's Lake Campground. Wal-Mart stocks up on camping supplies for our arrival. A trip to the laundry mat can help reduce the number of outfits you need for your stay.

Stays hydrated and protect yourself from the sun. Wear shoes that are safe and comfortable. The two biggest causes of injury in the SCA are from heat exhaustion/stroke and foot injuries from wearing period shoes or going barefooted.

# Kids' Page

## DLTK's Crafts for Kids Paper Crown

This simple project can be worn by the children after it's been created. Great for a multitude of themes and celebrations. Use different colors appropriate for the theme or the child's preferences.



### Materials:

- thin cardboard (poster board or old cereal boxes work well)
- foil gift wrap or construction paper
- Scissors
- Paint, crayons, or felt-tip pens
- glue
- Stapler
- Optional: stickers, markers, glitter, shapes cut from construction paper

### Directions:

- Cut a strip of cardboard long enough to go around your head and overlap slightly
  - you may need to staple two pieces together to make it long enough.
  - the strip should be 3 or 4 inches wide and long enough to go around the head
- Cut a piece of construction paper or foil gift wrap the same length but slightly wider (2 inches or so wider)
  - again you might need to staple two pieces together to make it long enough



- Glue the construction paper to the cardboard so the bottom edge lines up



- Cut a zigzag in the top edge of the construction paper
  - Note: the reason I make the construction paper wider is that I found it difficult for the children to cut the zigzag edge from the cardboard. With the wider construction paper, they can just cut the zig zag through the paper



- Decorate the paper side (not the cardboard side) using markers, glitter or stickers



- Make a ring with the cardboard facing in (toward the head) and the paper facing out and staple to make a crown - adult assistance required for this step.

