

Equestrian Activities at Arts and Sciences Tournament

The West Kingdom Equestrians* invite you to join us from 10:30 to 3:30 at the arena at Ed Levin Park for an opportunity to learn a bit more about horses in period and today. There will be a number of stations where you can get hands on experience with horses and horse equipment. There will also be demonstrations repeated throughout the day geared at explaining how horses can move and how we use that movement in our SCA activities. Whether your goal is to become a rider, gain an understanding of what would have been common place for many of our medieval counterparts, or just become a more informed spectator, we would love to have you join us for awhile.

Hand's on Stations (open the whole time):

“Clothes Horses” – Soft kit for the horse and rider - barding, helmet covers, riding attire, armor – Come handle the items you usually see **from** thirty feet away and five feet in the air.

“What Not to Wear” – The very trust-worthy “Steely Dan” the barrel horse will be join us so that you can try sitting in a wide array of saddles built to modern as well as reproduction standards. Ever wonder how important stirrups really were but didn't want to climb unto a horse that might move? Here's your chance to find out

“Oh Stable-boy” – It's soooo hard to get good help these days. Whether you view yourself as SCA equestrian ground crew, someone who would like to be able to barter helping for saddle time, or merely the Lord of the Manor with unruly servants, come learn and try the skills that get used every day when working with horses. From brushing and tacking to leading, bandaging, braiding, and loading in the trailer – we've got skills to teach and horses for you to practice on.

Demos (to be repeated throughout the day):

“I like the way you move” – Ever wonder what writers in period mean when they talk about walk, trot and canter or Gallop? What about pace and amble? How many ways can a horse move and exactly what are their legs doing? Come by for this demo and find out what the horse are doing, complete with color coded legs!

“Hoof-work for mounted combat” - If fighters use footwork, then riders must use hoof work. Come see how the basic gaits explained in the prior demo can be modified and combined to move a horse in and out of range of targets and combatants. See how riders vary pace, length, and direction of gaits to reach their objectives. See how modern dressage evolved from period war play. See why period riders used activities such as the hunt to maintain battle readiness and see why SCA riders use period children's games like Tag to train our horses and ourselves.

“A little lunch music” – Come see the works in progress from riders that are exploring the documentable practice of riding to music for royalty as well as learning more about formation riding activities applicable to both the battle field and the courtyard.

From 4:00 – 5:00 pm we have a special treat. King Alfar and Queen Ketiley have opened the Royal Forests at Ed Levin for a Stag Hunt**. While we are chatting and demoing during the day, the lymner will identify the Stags in the Area. When the hunt is to commence, the huntsman will station the hounds (unmounted people. Leashed dogs are welcome) along the route that the Hart is expected to take. When the Hounds sight the Hart and give cry, the Field (mounted*** – armed or unarmed) will give chase until the stag drops a drag indicating that he is bayed. Any armed members of the field may then spear the drag and kill the Stag. Preliminary missives from the gamekeeper indicate that there are multiple stags in the area and there may be some walk-trot only stags if interest warrants.

* I will have the supplies to do Health Certificates and draw blood for Coggins tests for any horse and rider pair with a California address that helps with the demo. I am asking for \$11 to cover lab fees. Come teach the populace and prepare to take your horse to Oregon for West-AnTir.

** For an overview on Stag Hunting nomenclature and practices visit:

<http://metmuseum.org/publications/bulletins/1/pdf/3258066.pdf.banned.pdf>

***I have a call in to the local wrangler to see if we will be able to get rental horses. If anyone has an interest in renting a horse to ride that day, please email me at nancyreimers @ gmail.com

Else Hunrvogt

Equestrian Autocrat – A&S Tournament