

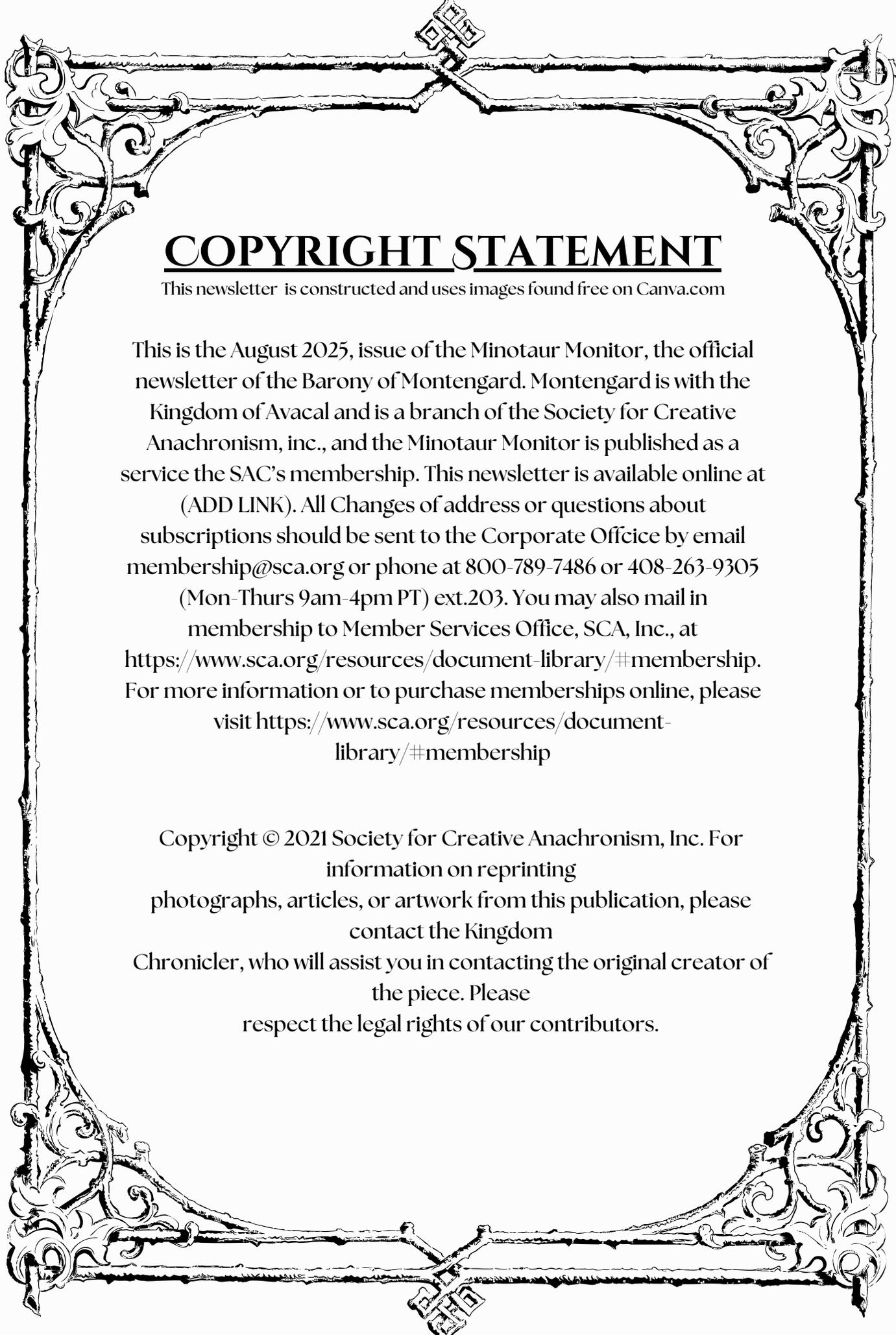
THE MINOTAUR MONITOR

AUGUST 2025 | MMXXV EDITION



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
BARONY OF MONTENGARDE

VOLUME I, ISSUE IV



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This is the August 2025, issue of the Minotaur Monitor, the official newsletter of the Barony of Montengard. Montengard is with the Kingdom of Avacal and is a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, inc., and the Minotaur Monitor is published as a service the SAC's membership. This newsletter is available online at (ADD LINK). All Changes of address or questions about subscriptions should be sent to the Corporate Office by email membership@sca.org or phone at 800-789-7486 or 408-263-9305 (Mon-Thurs 9am-4pm PT) ext.203. You may also mail in membership to Member Services Office, SCA, Inc., at <https://www.sca.org/resources/document-library/#membership>. For more information or to purchase memberships online, please visit <https://www.sca.org/resources/document-library/#membership>

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IMPORTANT FIGURES IN THE BARONY

King. & Queen of Avacal
Vik Vikingsson and A'isha Rayhana al-Karim

Their Excellencies of Montengarde:
HE Refr Bjarnarson and HE Ádís Ulfsdóttir
excellencies@montengarde.org

Knight Marshal:
Lordship Allert Pierson
branchmarshall@montengarde.org

Captain of Armored Combat:
Vladimir of Montengarde

Captain of Archers:
Lordship Arnolt Brekeswerd
archery@montengarde.org

Chatelaine:
Master Bjar the Blue
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Herald
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Minister of Arts and Sciences:
HL Custance Frideswide Featherstonehaugh
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Seneschal:
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Events Deputy:
Mistress Kathryn inghean Ui Mhaonaigh
deputy_events@montengarde.org

Webminister:
Master Mordecai Salzer
webmaster@montengarde.org

FROM THE CHRONICLERS DESK

The sun doth blaze high in the heavens, the ale grows warm faster than we can sip it, and tis the season of summer! With every turn of the moon, a new tourney doth arise, springing forth like weeds in a poorly tended herb garden.

Knights are dusting off their greaves, archers are stretching their bowstrings (and their backs), and somewhere, a bard is already composing a mildly insulting ballad.

This month's edition features a new section titled 'What the HECK is...?'. This new feature will highlight certain awards and orders within our barony and kingdom! We have also added in a brand new shiny suggestion box! Want to suggest a fancy recip? Got a funny joke? Want to give the dashing chronicler a complimen? Submit it to the suggestion box!

As per kingdom requirements, this news letter comes out on the tenth the month prior. Thus, please make sure any information you wish to include in this humble chronicle is submitted prior to this date.

With Love,
Aurora di Mare



MONTHLY FESTIVITIES

MONTHLY TAVERN NIGHT

Aug. 12th, 2025 | 7 pm - 10pm

The Rehabilitation Society of Calgary, 711 St NE, Calgary, AB T2E 4Z2, Canada

Cost: by donation to cover hall rental fees

A social evening with friends featuring a mix of dancing, medieval gaming, and arts & sciences and a great place to get to know your local group! Beverages and sometimes food are provided for a nominal cost. Dishware is not provided, please remember to bring your own.

Tavern is a "in garb" event but if you are without garb then have no fear! There is often loaner clothes courtesy of the Gold Key!

ARTS AND SCIENCE ROUNDTABLE AND SOCIAL

Aug. 5th, 2025 | 7pm - 10pm

MARTIAL PRACTICE

Every Thursday from 6:30pm - 9pm

ARCHERY PRACTICE

Every Friday from 6:30pm-9:30

MONTENGARDE COUNCIL

Every third Wednesday of the month

Aug. 20th 2025 | 7pm - 9pm (often shorter) Via Discord

<https://discord.gg/tVxBZmnvE5>



THE UP AND COMING

DEMO - SUMMER SKIRMISH August 16-17 2025

The Military Museums, 4520 Crowchild Trl SW,
Calgary AB T2T 6E8, Canada

Join us in the sunny month of August at the Summer Skirmish! Almost 2000 years of warfare comes to life in a weekend of scripted battles re-enactments and demonstrations.

One Day Pass (Sat or Sun)

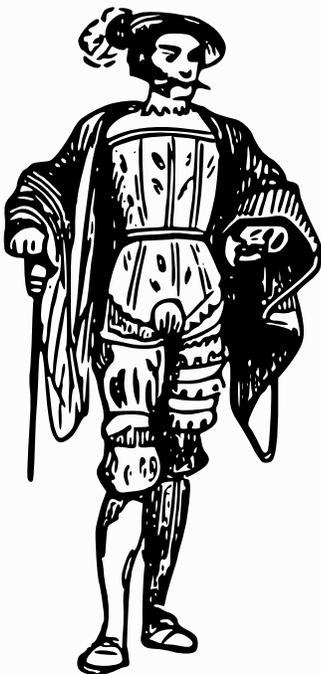
- Adult: \$17
- Seniors and Youth (4-17): \$7
- Families (up to 2 Adults & 5 Youth): \$40
- Children (4 and under): Free

Weekend Pass

- Adults: \$25
- Seniors and Youth (4-17): \$10
- Families (up to 2 Adults & 5 youth): \$60
- Children (4 and under): Free

Re-Enactors at this event:

- First Special Service Force Living History Association
- 10th Battalion CEF Commemorative Association
- Alberta World War Living History Association
- Society for Creative Anachronisms, Calgary
- The Yankee Valley Historical Society
- Society for Tilt and Lance Cavalry
- The Old 78th Fraser Highlanders
- Strathcona's Mounted Troop
- Alberta 18th century group
- Dragon's Own
- Ulfraedi



WORD SEARCH

RANGED COMBAT

CURTESY OF MASTER BJAR THE BLUE



N X M H Q N I M G K P T T F D
K B T A R C U A R I U S A P G
E K L A L W N R K Q K T R A Q
Q H H A B A O K W U N H G V M
G V O E C A B T V I I R E I C
R P R K O K L A S V F O T S A
E C N T J N A L R E E W R E T
Y R A Z H A A R I R T I E J A
G O N R A O V G R S C N B B P
O S D E Y B R E E O T G U R U
O S B D A O M V L R W A C A L
S B O B M L V E A I T X H C T
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T W N W A A R R O W D J T R E
F N D S J E I A R C H O S B F



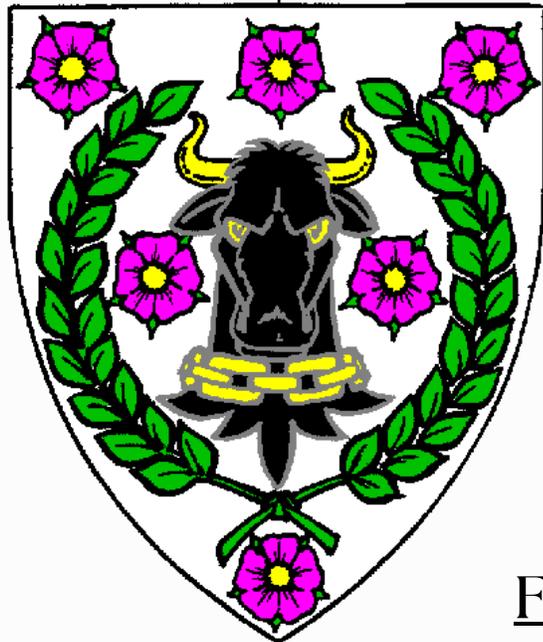
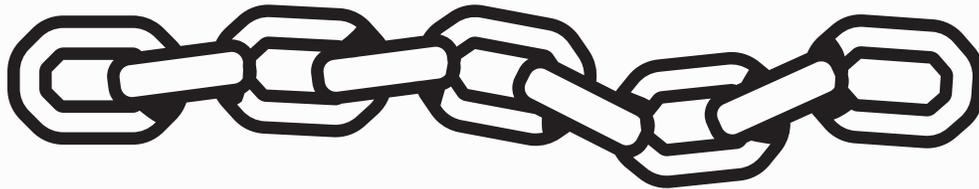
WORDS TO FIND!

ARCHOS	ARCUARIUS	ARROW
AYAME	BALLISTA	BLACK ARROW
BOLT	BRACER	CATAPULT
CROSSBOW	GREY GOOSE	HORN AND BOW
JAVELIN	KNIFE	MALABAR
MARK	ONAGER	PAVISE
QUIVER	RED BOW	TARGET
THORVALD	THROWING AXE	TREBUCHET



WHAT THE HECK IS..... THE ORDER OF THE GOLDEN LINK OF MONTENGARDE

This award was created by Thorwulf and Sapphira, and is bestowed upon those who have given outstanding service to the Barony of Montengarde. This service can take many forms, such as being part of an event team, serving as an officer or just being very helpful in easing the labor of others.



This award reflects the chain that can be found around the neck of the Baronial Charge and the long tradition of service attached to the Minotaur's chain.

Hence the name Golden Link



Fun Fact!!

The first Recipient of this award was Tegan of Montengarde, also known as Tegan Thorbergdottir, back in June 1996.

Recently, this award has been given to Alexander Blackadder by Adis Ulfsdottir and Refr Bjarnarson in July 2024, and Duncan Evergreen from Ayresgarde in November 2023

MONTHLY SPECIAL! A CRAFT!

Feeling like you don't want to use electricity anymore? Want to walk your halls while feeling slightly mysterious? Well we at the chroniclers' desk have a solution for you!

Presenting.....

How to make a Medieval-Style Beeswax Candle!

(yes, this isn't necessary specific to the medieval times, don't ruin my fun, go make a candle)

Materials

- 100% Beeswax (pellets or block)
- Cotton wick (can be found at any craft store)
- A small heat safe container (like a tin or glass jar)
- A saucepan or double boiler
- Wooden stick (or pencil/skewer) to hold the wick
- Parchment or wax paper (for drying)

Step-by-Step

Prepare Thy Wick

- Cut a piece of wick about 6-8 inches long (size matters a little here). Tie one end to a wooden stick and rest it across the top of a cup or jar, so the wick hangs straight down

Melt the Beeswax

- Place beeswax pellets (or chopped chunks) into a tin can or glass jar. Set this on a saucepan filled with a few inches of simmering water (DO NOT BOIL). Stir gently until fully melted

Step-by-Step cont.

Dip and Dry, Like a True Chandler

- Dip your wick straight down into the hot beeswax, then pull it out and let it cool for about 30 seconds on parchment paper. Repeat dipping and cooling until your candle reaches your desired thickness

Shape It Up!

- Roll the warm candle gently on a flat surface to smooth it out

Trim and Display

- Snip the wick to about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Your candle is ready to light a feast, guide a wandering knight or simply to set the mood for a cozy evening in thy keep

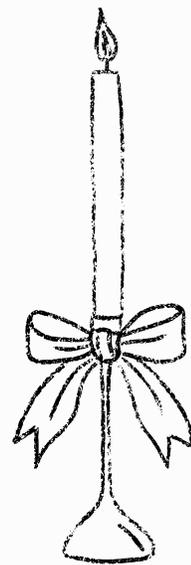
Bonus Ideas!

Try giving it a Scent!

- Add herbs or oils to the wax for a subtle scent!
Note that if you try adding in oils it may change the consistencies of your candle wax

Give it a bit of Colour!

- Check your local craft store for some dyes and give your candle a fresh look!



DANCE OF THE MONTH

This month we have the pleasure of checking out a dance from the amazing Thorvald. You can find him teaching these historical dances at the monthly tavern nights and other festivities.



Terms:

DL - Double Left: Take 2 steps to your left (while facing forward) most often ending with both feet together

DR - Double Right: Same as above but the other direction

SL - Single Left: Take one step to your right while facing forward

SR - Single Right: Take one step to your right while facing forward

Siding: Walking 3 steps towards your shoulder's line up. Maintain eye contact throughout. Siding L means you walk to your left and almost touch right shoulders, and vice versa.

Arming: Cupping the elbow of your partner and walking around them. This can be fast or slow. Arming R means cupping right Arms and Arming L means left.



The Horse's Bransle

Also known as the Branle de Chevaux, is a popular and lively French Renaissance dance that was published in Orchesographie in 1589 in a dance manual by Thoinot Arbeau. As with many dances we will see in this newsletter, the origin of this dance is likely much older than 1589, this is just when someone decided it was worthy of putting into higher society. The charm of this dance is how it mimics the prancing and cantering of horses and often encourages dancers to add in their own playful movements!

<https://ildhafn.lochac.sca.org/2025/05/20/horses-bransle/>



What is a Bransle?

A bransle (also spelled branle sometimes) is a type of French social dance that was popular in the 16th and 17th centuries. It was characterized by its simple steps and rhythmic movements and was often performed in a line or a circle by couples. It's a lively, mimetic dance (meaning that it may mimic movements or actions) and it was frequently accompanied by singing!

The dance's popularity extended beyond France, with variations appearing in Italy (brando), England (brawl) and Scotland (brail)

DANCE OF THE MONTH

Grab a few of your friends and embrace your inner equestrian spirit
Here is a link to a YouTube video of what the dance should look like, in case of confusion
(courtesy of Darius the Dancer on YouTube)

<https://youtu.be/xu00Q3MXzsg>

It should be noted that there are many variations of this dance, the video provided uses “aussie rules” but the general idea of the dance is the same



Horses' Bransle

he SCA



Before Beginning ensure that everyone is
“paired up” and has selected to be either
Dancer 1 or Dancer 2

Start in a circle holding hands

Steps

1. Double left, Double right x4 (holding hands)
2. Drop your hands and Paw at the ground (much like a charging horse) twice and do a single right
3. Dancer 1 will randomly trade places with another Dancer 1
4. Dancer 2 will then also randomly trade places with another Dancer 2

Repeat from step 1!

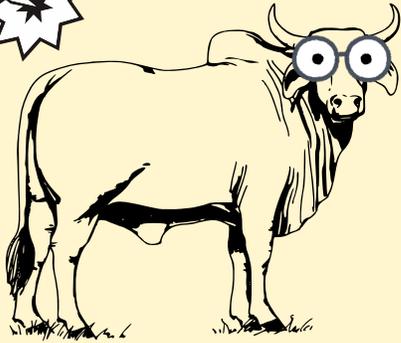


Here is a link to the music for this month's dance:

<https://youtu.be/1a749MxlRtA>

(Hint, it actually starts around the 38-second mark! They just really want to make sure you are prepared before your prancing!)

NOTICE BOARD



The Official Monitoring of the Minotaur

We humbly beseech thee for thine thoughts and musings.

Hast thou enjoyed this humble chronicle? What say thee of its tales, tidings, and tomfoolery? Send word via raven, parchment, or the magical conduit known as Google Forms.

See link below to make suggestions for upcoming editions!
<https://forms.gle/oRhzmDYsWTvHEXwF8>

Fight Passes!

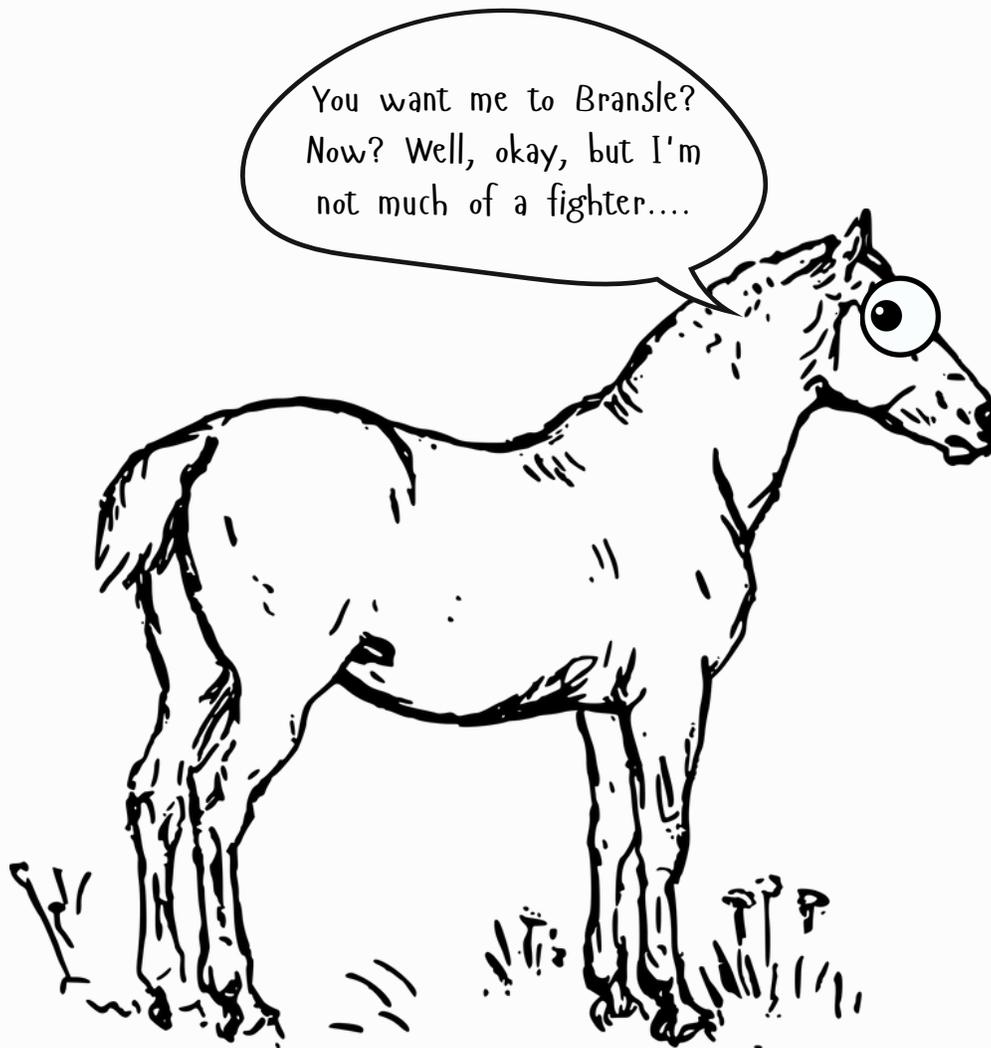
Tired of bringing cash to practice every Thursday? Want to support our barony's use of the hall all year round? Buy a fight pass! Just \$90 cash gets you six months worth of Thursday practices! Passes are sold twice a year and cover July-December and January-June.

July-December passes are on sale now until the end of July!
Interested? Simply hand Allert Pierson, Montengarde Knight Marshal, \$90 in cash at the next fight practice!



As always, you can also contact the chroniclers' desk directly for anything regarding this newsletter!

THANKS AGAIN FOR READING!



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BARONY OF MONTENGARDE

The joke is funny cause bransle sounds like brawl