

Newsletter of the  
Incipient Riding of Ravensbridge



## Spring 2015 Newsletter of the Incipient Riding of Ravensbridge



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**Submissions for the Summer issue of The Corvus are due June 1st. Please send your officer letters, educational or entertaining articles, original color artwork, photos, class handouts and "How To" guides for subjects pertaining to our SCA lives.**

*Cover Art, Riding Device, Officer Badges, and other graphics and artwork by Duchesse Sabine de Rouen unless otherwise noted. Contact artist for permission to use.*

*Thank you to Syr Kyppyn Kirkcaldy for his assistance in proof reading this issue of The Corvus.*

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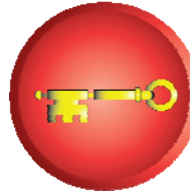
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## Officers of RavensBridge

### Seneschal

Baron Kyppyn Kirkcaldy, KSCA, OP  
(Kipp Martines)  
96 School Street Gardiner, ME 04345  
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### Chatelaine

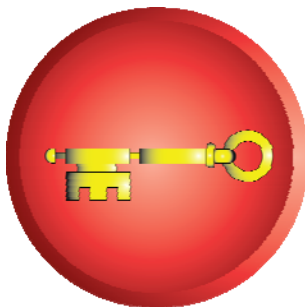
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(207) 344-9355



### Chronicler

Duchesse Sabine de Rouen, OP  
(Chele Martines)  
96 School Street Gardiner, ME 04345  
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## From Our Seneschal -

Greetings!

Spring is coming and I know it will be a welcomed sight to all of us. This was a difficult winter. First let me apologize, that I haven't been around much. February and March were difficult months for my family and I could not give the group the attention it deserved. As I write this letter, the April meeting has not happened. I am excited that we were able to secure a monthly business meeting space at the Bank of Maine Ice Vault. We should make it a priority to support this organization as much as we can to continue having a good relationship with the staff and business. I see a lot of potential in a strong SCA/Ice Vault association. April should be a busy month as we prepare to hold our first Ravensbridge event in May. This will not only be a historical first event occasion, but it will also be the first time everyone in Ravensbridge has come together to work as a group on a combined initiative. I have no doubt that there will be many positive things that come from this pool of resources, but I am also mindful that there will be challenges, too. It's best to remember that no matter who we work with, whether we agree or even like a person, that we must put personal differences aside and work together for the common good. For some of us this will be a big change. But I am confident that we will succeed. For those of you who have waited years to have SCA in this area, we are at the precipice of establishing our group into the annals of East Kingdom History. Holding a successful event is one of the key steps in getting out of incipient status. To everyone who will help make this event a success, I thank you. We are making history! Keep up the good work!

Kyppyn  
Seneschal of Ravensbridge



The Incipient Riding of Ravensbridge  
presents our first event  
**“Huginn and Muninn”**

**Saturday, May 16, 2015 9am-10pm**

**Monmouth Fish & Game site, 347 US Route 202,  
Monmouth, ME 04259**

**Activities**

**Rapier, Arts and Sciences Classes, Merchants, Youth Point,  
Heavy Weapons Fighting and more!**

**Event Fees: 10.00 per member**

**5.00 child 6-17 yrs old**

**Free Under 6 yrs old**

**Feast:\$5 per member limited to 75**

*Send all feast questions/dietary concerns to our Head Cook,  
Duchesse Sabine de Rouen at [Sabine@ParagonKeep.org](mailto:Sabine@ParagonKeep.org)*

*To merchant, teach a class, or volunteer to help out please contact  
our Event Steward, Lord Antony Martin of Sheffield at  
[davepoul@roadrunner.com](mailto:davepoul@roadrunner.com)*

Send Reservations to Dave Poulin, 320 Churchill Rd, Augusta, ME  
04330, 207-554-9791 no calls after 9pm EST

**Make Checks Payable to: SCA Maine, Inc. - Province of Malagentia**

**Event Website:**

<http://ravensbridge.weebly.com/huginn--muninn.html>





## The Corvus Compendium

### Autocrat 101

*Baron Kyppyn Kirkcaldy, KSCA, OP*

An Autocrat or Event Steward is a position in the SCA where a person coordinates and runs an event. This position takes organization, ability to multitask, and delegate responsibilities. A group of people can assume

the responsibility of running an event, but one or two people should be designated as “in-charge” for final decision making and SCA reporting duties. This would be a good time to mention that each SCA group has their own procedures for becoming an autocrat- event bids, etc. It is extremely important that before you put a bid in on an event that you have spoken with your group officers and possibly your group. A person or a household cannot hold an official SCA event on their own, without group sponsorship.

A list of Autocrat responsibilities can include: Find and reserve the site; Set date and reserve date on Kingdom calendar; Recruit the Staff; Set the budget; Plan the Activities; and Coordinate any other aspect of the event. Each event has its own unique attributes, but established events usually have traditional activities, where brand new events may need some extra work. If you are planning a new event, here are some issues you may need to address: Pick a theme; Find a date on the Kingdom Calendar; Find a site if an established site does not exist; and be aware that activities can provide direction for site requirements and time of year. If you are running an established event you will need to check on the following: Check on established site status- is it open on your chosen date, is the site in good working order; Check on Kingdom Calendar Date; Contact previous autocrat for budget information and activities; ask for any possible “post-mortem” that the previous autocrat may have created about the previous year’s event. Working with a co-autocrat is a great way to mentor future SCA autocrats. If you are a new autocrat, work with a seasoned autocrat as your co-autocrat to assist you in learning how to run your first event.

Staff positions that will need to be filled include: Head Troll (Gate), Marshal, A&S Coordinator, Youth Coordinator, Herald, Royal Liaison (if applicable), Site Clean up, Parking coordinator, and a Pottycrat. These positions will be described in more detail later in the article.

Once you decide on the theme of your event, your site attributes will become very important. If you are running an event with A&S activities you may need



to look for multiple rooms for classes. If there are martial activities, is there high ceilings and a big enough area for heavy and rapier. Other considerations will be : is there Populace area for day camps; a Place for feast, a Place for Court (if applicable).

Setting event prices can be challenging. Your budget should be reasonable for activities and accommodations. You can build in profit, but don't overdo it. Work with your Head cook to set feast price if applicable (take feast bids). Establish different types of fees based on your accommodations: Site fee/Camping fee/ Feast fee/Daytrip Fee. The next step is advertising your event. Most Kingdom's require to have ad ready for Kingdom newsletter two months before. In today's SCA environment, a good Website is crucial to promoting and informing populace about your event. Here are some tips: Be careful with embedded objects that are too complicated or fancy and unreadable fonts; Check to make sure directions are clear and concise; posted Site fees must correlate with Kingdom law for children's fees and non-member surcharge; Give description of activities and schedule as soon as possible.

Your Head Troll or Gate Steward is a very important person at the event and should be willing to take on the responsibility of pre-event duties and after event reporting. Your Head Troll will coordinates reservations feast spots and cabin spots if applicable; usually supplies site map/schedule at check in table; maintains all paperwork for check-in; have a cash box with change and all appropriate Kingdom forms; may coordinates site/feast tokens; responsible for submitting an end of event report to the autocrat. It's a big job and is easier with a seasoned person, but a new gate steward can do a great job with good mentoring.

Your Heavy and/or Rapier Marshal coordinates paperwork for authorizations and activity check-in. They will coordinates staff: extra marshals; minister of the lists; and waterbearers. They should be responsible for coordinating the list poles and sun shades if applicable; as well as be responsible for submitting an end of event report to the autocrat/Kingdom.

A&S coordinator runs all A&S activities: A&S competitions, A&S classes, and A&S displays. They will arrange for tables, rooms, sunshades, or areas needed for these activities. They are also responsible for submitting an end of event report to the autocrat.

The next staff position is required if you are having a feast. A Head Cook (Feastcrat) will also need to have a staff, consisting of: Hall Steward, Servers, and a Clean up crew. Communicate with your Head Cook about who is finding that staff, don't assume they know it should be their responsibility or you will have last minute headaches. Budget should be reasonable and be for the correct



number of populace that will fit in the dining hall. Head Cook will provide their own staff for cooking, serving, and clean up. Head Cook's are in charge of their kitchen and feast hall. One of the most difficult staff positions to fill is usually the Site Clean up crew. Usually best when a group volunteers for site clean up. They must be available to stay on site until site is clean. Autocrat is the site cleanup crew if the position is not filled by another person or group.

A parking coordinator is very important. Most of the time parking is an issue during an event.

A Royalty Liaison will be needed if you have a local Baron & Baroness or you expect the Crown or Heirs, this person coordinates and provides all their needs and serve as go between Autocrat and Royalty.

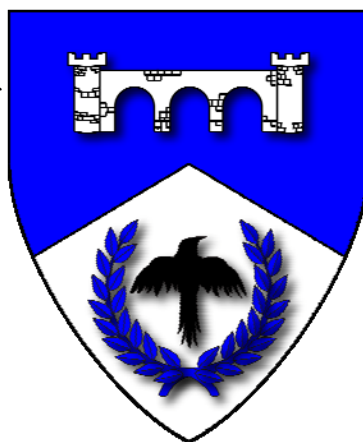
A Herald is essential if you have a large site, they will need to herald announcements, field herald tournaments, herald for court.

We have more children attending events than ever before. A youth Coordinator must be familiar with the current Kingdom/Society rules. Everyone usually has a better time when children's activities are provided at the event.

Last but not least, a good Pottycrat can make or break your event. The Autocrat is the default Pottycrat if someone is not designated---important to keep bathroom facilities functioning.

These last tips are specifically for the autocrat to remember: Autocrat *equals* crisis manager; make yourself available- always remain on site; keep in contact with activity coordinators during planning process to keep control of any possible issues prior to the event and also throughout the event to make sure event is running smoothly; if preplanning is implemented correctly- Autocrat should be "*bored*" the day of the event!; and never forget that The Autocrat/and or Seneschal should be the last person offsite! That way you can testify in a court of law that the site looked good and was undamaged when you left.

This is but a short bit of wisdom on how to Autocrat. I recommend co-autocrating a few events first. Any seasoned event steward will tell you that they dealt with something unexpected every time. Always be prepared! ~







## The Raven's Cellar - From Our Brewers

### **Pomegranate Mead**

*Moirá Browne of Ravensbridge*

In an attempt to coax Spring out of hiding I am making two batches of Pomegranate mead. It is my homage to Hades letting Persephone go back to her mum so spring can start. We have a long winter because she ate six pomegranate seeds. Demeter the Goddess of grain, agriculture, and fertility won't let anything grow till she gets her back.

I have mostly been making mead the same way now for a decade . Getting more comfortable and knowing Master brewers. Lord Anthony and I, his faithful wench, are going to experiment. Both will have the same ingredients.

1 gallon of water  
3 pounds of honey  
Yeast  
1 quart of pomegranate juice

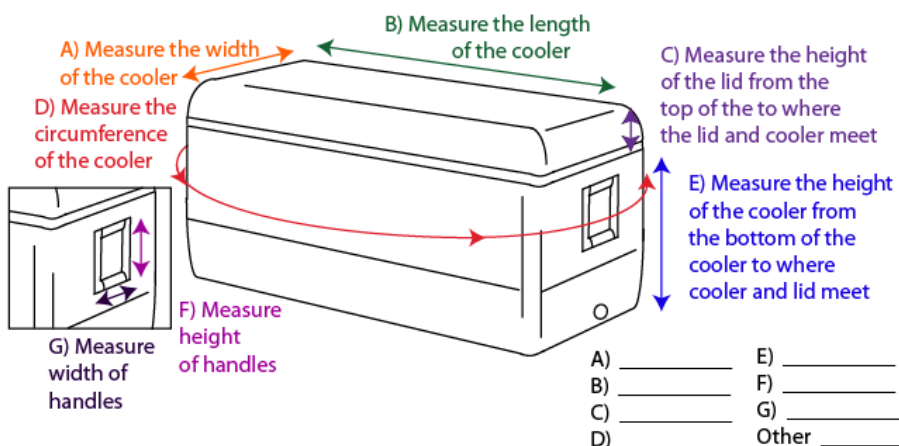
The first batch will be made the tried and true method of heating the water and honey on the stove till it reaches 180 for 15 minutes putting it in a carboy with the juice and waiting till cool and adding the yeast. The other method, the second batch, starts the same however, the juice is not added till your first racking in about a month. The goal is to see the difference in color and taste. In September or so I propose a tasting so I can get a number of unbiased opinions. I would ask the good people of Ravens Bridge to help me with that. ~



## De Ole Chest Cooler Cover

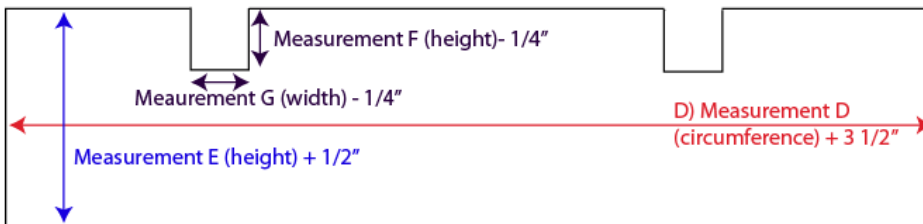
By Duchesse Sabine de Rouen, OP

No, Chest Cooler Covers are not period. BUT neither is a bright blue cooler filled with Gatorade or sodas. So here is a nice way to disguise your cooler which is a little more permanent than the blanket or cloak cover that will just not stay put. There are several ways to make these covers so please take the information I provide here and run with it. If you come up with more ways to create a cooler cover or improve this design please share your ideas. There is always room for improvement. I also have designs for a solid cooler cover and a cylinder drink cooler.

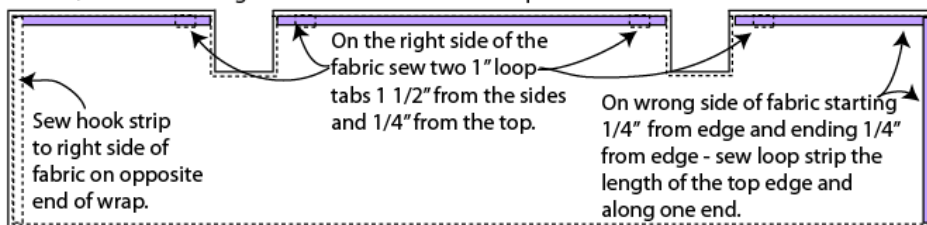


### Cooler Wrap

Cut 1 - Measure and cut the cooler wrap fabric then wrap the fabric around the cooler. Mark and cut the handle locations.



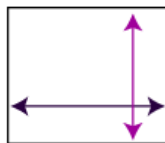
Sew 1/8" hem on all edges and then add hook and loop.



Instructions and Illustrations property of Chele Martines



## Handle Covers



Measurement F  
(height) + 2 1/2"

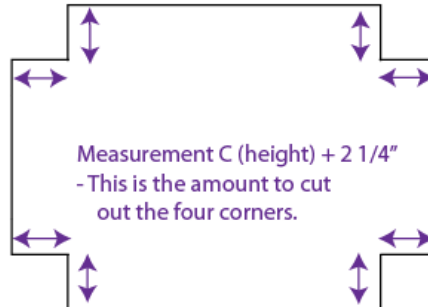
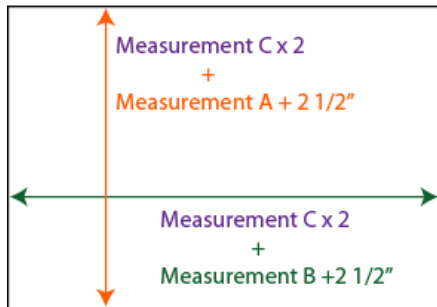
Measurement G  
(width) + 4 1/2"

Cut 2 - Cut and sew 1/8" hem on all four edges. On the wrong side of fabric sew hook strip 1/4" from each side and 1/8" from top.

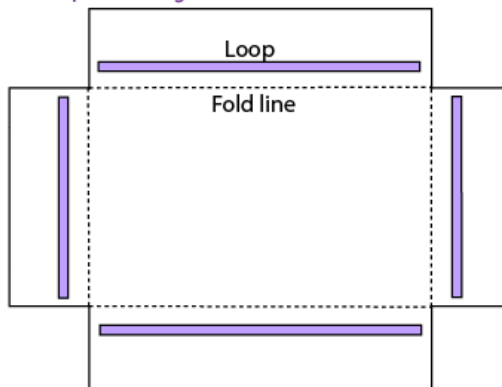


## Lid Cover

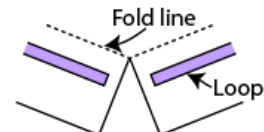
Cut 1 - Measure and cut the outside dimensions of the lid cover fabric first. Then cut out the four corners.



Measurement C (height) ÷ 2 = loop location below fold line.  
Sew loop on wrong side of fabric.

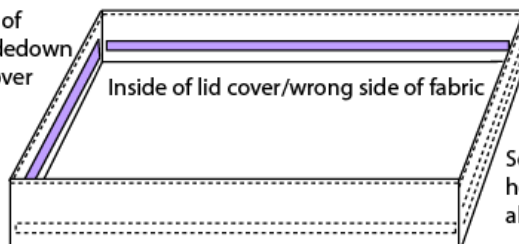


Join corners to create a box lid



With right sides together sew 1/4" seam creating corners

View of  
upside down  
lid cover

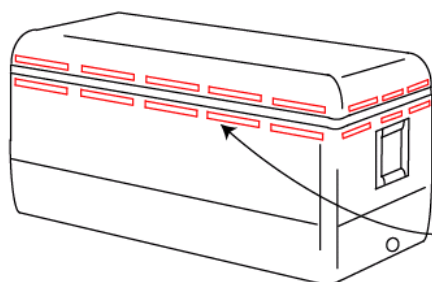


Sew 1/8"  
hem on  
all edges.

\* Don't forget to add trim, tassels, embroidery, paint, beads, etc. to decorate your cover.

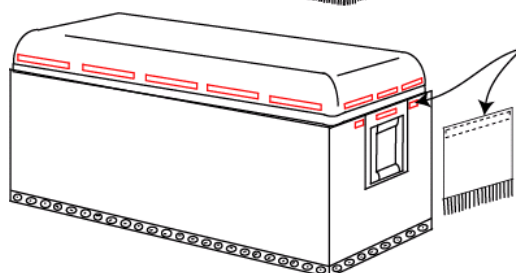
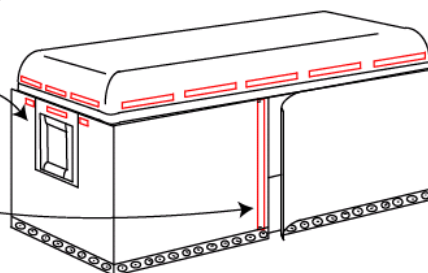
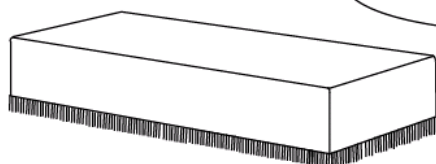


## Dressing the Chest Cooler



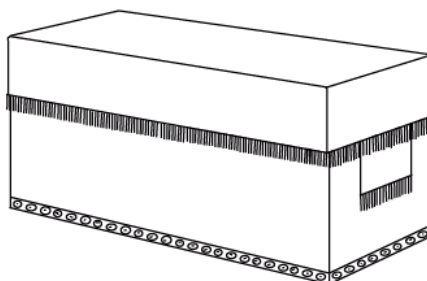
Place adhesive hook along cooler and lid. You can have a continuous strip of hook or several short strips.

Wrap cooler matching up hook and loop. Make sure you line up the openings for the handles. Overlap the hook and loop along the back opening to close the cooler wrap.



Match loop sewn to wrong side of handle covers with hook tabs sewn to the right side of the cooler wrap and the adhesive hook attached to cooler.

Place lid cover over lid and secure hook and loop.



Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Velcro is a brand name for hook and loop and is not used because I did not obtain permission.

For more of Sabine's "How To" guides look here: <http://www.paragonkeep.org/library>



## SCAley Tales by Kyppyn Kirkcaldy



Don't forget to send your submissions for the Summer issue of The Corvus by June 1st. We need your officer letters, educational or entertaining articles, original color artwork, photos, class handouts and "How To" guides for subjects pertaining to our SCA lives.





## The Raven's Song - From Our Bards

### Faerie Queen

*Baron Kyppyn Kircaldy KSCA, OP*

Across the stream of faerie I did spy a lass.  
Her green eyes were dreamy, I had but to ask  
The good King of Faerie for her hand to give to me  
Lo behold it was the Faerie Queen, who I want to see  
Bonnie Bonnie Lady your beauty has struck me down  
I'll have to tuck my heart away, bury it under ground  
If you ever want a girl, ye' better think to ask  
Is she free to follow her heart or she a taken lass.

My heart fell that day from heaven straight to hell  
My eyes would forever see the beauty behind her silk veil  
But then she started to look my way, her eyes all confused  
What would I do if she made me an offer I could not refuse?

A knock and note came my way one fateful stormy night  
A midnight walk in the woods by the moon's fair light  
Would I venture out right now, my chest drawn up tight?  
My breath was short, my heart so quick, I laughed with delight

The wind whispered in the woods, the grass wet with dew  
I hoped to see my hearts desire as the thunder sounded through  
Many times I dreamed this day and wished it would come true  
Will my life stay the same, or could it start anew?

She appeared in my view, as the rain began to fall  
I crossed the meadow, feet so swift, ready to give my all  
She let me take her in my arms, her body light and small  
I tasted of her berry lips, no sweeter could I recall

In that one full embrace my life was made amend  
Choose a lasting mortal love, my advice to you my friend  
For though I tasted of her lips, their poison soon set in  
I stand now as a willow tree, weeping at the ends



## The Raven's Nest - From Youth Point

### Seek n' Find Word Puzzle

ANACHRONISM  
ARTS  
CHIVALRY  
EDUCATION  
FRIENDSHIP  
HISTORY  
HONOR  
MARTIAL  
SCIENCES  
SOCIETY

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



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The Corvus will be published quarterly. It is free and available online via the RavensBridge Facebook page or by contacting the Chronicler to receive a copy via email. Printed copies available by request only.