



Echoes of the Hills

February 2001 edition

*Reign XXVI of the Peerless Kingdom of the Emerald Hills,
His Majesty Sir Ewen McFadden
and
Prince-Regent Martello Entropy*

“A New Dawn”

Acknowledgements and Notices

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The front page art is a reproduction of the original Emerald Hills heraldry by Dame Gwynne.

Staff and Contributors:

Editor: Darkangel bin R'al. Ecrú Swan, His Majesty Sir Ewen McFadden, His Highness Martello Entropy, Dame Kayrana, Rath, and William Shakespeare.

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The Parks of the Emerald Hills

Tanglewood Forest
 Duchy of the Midnight Sun (Garland, TX)
 Duchy of Eagleshire (Denton, TX)
 Duchy of Rising Winds (Indianapolis, IN)
 Barony of Ironcloud (Dallas, TX)
 Barony of Mourningwood Glen (Arlington, TX)
 Barony of Dragonstar (Pocatello, ID)
 Shire of Caer Sidhe (St. Paul, MN)
 Shire of Crimson Cascades (Wichita Falls, TX)
 Shire of Cuiviedor Amarth (Arlington, TX)
 Shire of Darkenwood (Mineral Wells, TX)
 Shire of Tir na Draiocht (Oklahoma City, OK)
 Shire of Myrros (Petitioning) (Cleburne, TX)
 Shire of the Emerald Woods (Waco, TX)

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*The air is still chilly. You catch your breath.
 The sunlight calls the dew from the grass and
 pours into your heart like the arisen sun
 overtaking the hills, spilling gold over the
 shadows. The whole world awakens. The world
 is green, the sun is on your face, and you are
 alive. You are content, and yet called to motion.
 What is it? It is a new dawn, and there is much
 to be done.*

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A Letter from the Monarch

Hello Emerald Hills. It's been a fun two months so far. Hard work, but fun. I hope you're as excited about the future of the Emerald Hills as I am.

You've heard the saying, "Our children are our future". Well in game terms that can be translated to "Our newbies are our future." If they are nurtured and taught, they soon become mature Amtgardians with whom we can kill, plunder and maim. And party. If we use them only as canon fodder, they don't last long.

I know you've all heard my ramblings on the nurturing of new players, so I'll move along. A bunch of EHers recently visited CK at their midreign celebration. I was both encouraged and discouraged. Encouraged because they seem to have gotten the mundane aspects under control. Great strides have been made. Kudos should be given to Queen Aylia Greenfire and her predecessors for the hard work and hard decisions needed to make this happen. I was discouraged because CK seems to be suffering greatly in population shrinkage. I wonder if this is a symptom of a Kingdom grown too old and complacent.

I can't help myself. I have to talk about growth. The real growth in Amtgard seems to be in the new parks. Look at Rising Winds. Growing like crazy, even in the cold of winter. The groups in Kentucky and Tennessee also are growing. New groups are sprouting like new trees in a forest all over that area.

Are there lessons to be learned from these groups? I think so. It's the lesson of enthusiasm. They have it. It seems new players, once integrated into Amtgard society, have a natural enthusiasm for the game. They show up as often as physically possible. They jump in and help

where-ever they are needed. Their thirst for improvements in their skills seems boundless. What are we? Tired old used-to-be's? I don't think so! Let's catch that virus of enthusiasm from our newer players, and channel the energies found there to do great things for our Kingdom!

-- King Ewen McFadden

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A Letter from the Regent

Hopefully, by the time you read this, I'll have enough judges for Dragonmaster, but experience tells me I probably won't. While having honors and awards in culturals is a bonus, but not necessary. All I really care about is having good judges, and to me the most important facet to that is being able to form an objective opinion fairly quickly. Being able to show up promptly on both days is also necessary.

Even more important than judges are entrants. Enter Dragonmaster! If you only do one thing well, enter one thing. I want at least 50 entries, and I want a mean score of at least 3.75. Considering the talent we have in the Emerald Hills, this should be easy.

Dragonmaster VIII will be February 24 & 25, at Midnight Sun in Garland and Eagleshire in Denton. Registration will be 11am to 12:30pm each day. If an entry is not at the park by 12:30pm, it won't be judged that day. Categories will include: Cooking: Main Course, Appetizer, Dessert, Other; Writing: Factual, Fictional, Poetry, Publications; Bardic: Singing, Instrumental, Oratory, Dance; Art: 2-D, 3-D; Garb: Fighting, Court, Monster, Accessory, Belt Favor; Construction: Passive, Active, Armor, Weapon, Shield; and Rose. Other categories, such as photography, or banner, may be added if there are 3 entries in the category.

All this information and more will be on the EH web site, at

<http://amtgard-eh.com/library/dmviii.html>

You'll be able to pre-register any or all of your entries through an online form, at

<http://amtgard-eh.com/library/DMpre-reg.html>

This will greatly cut down the time you spend

registering on site.

Again, enter Dragonmaster! The populace is what makes this kingdom great. Dragonmaster and Weaponmaster are great opportunities for the populace to shine.

-- Regent Martello Entropy

[Editor: At printing time, the amtgard-eh.com webmaster hadn't gotten Martello's web pages published. But they will be really cool when he does.]

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A Letter from the Champion

One of the things I would like to do as champion this reign is encourage all parks, including the Rising Winds, Dragonstar, and petitioning parks to report what they do every week. I'm interested in attendance and a description of the games and activities you've had. McFadden suggested it could be written in role play or, or just kind of a blurb...'this is what we did'. The main purpose is to post this to the newbie list to let them know what Amtgard does and keep them reminded we are out there and we have fun. I can see a lot of other potential benefits. If there is an accountability, parks might be more motivated to plan games and make sure people show up. Also, all of EH will know what's going on in the rest of EH. And I hope this promotes a sense of community. I really encourage the parks to try to subscribe their newbies or less active members to this list (with their permission of course). I'd like to ask the park champions to take on this responsibility of reporting what their park does every week if someone else at your park has not already. This is one of the things McFadden really wanted to work on this reign. I'd also like to contact all the park champions of EH and ask them what their plans are for this reign.

And as always, I am in charge of setting up gate duty and security for the Midreign and Coronation. If you would be willing to serve gate duty or security, email me with the time you are available.

In service,
Kayrana (Esther_Strohmeyer@baylor.edu)

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A Letter from the GM of Reeves,

Recently, the gaming environment in the Emerald Hills has become a bit more aggressive than in the past and I've noticed a bit more friction when it comes to rules arguments. While not necessarily a bad thing it does detract from the overall enjoyment of the game. In other words, there's a new batch of Frequently Asked Clarifications that needs addressing by the Reeves guild.

Unfortunately, the current round of Kingdom qualified reeves is a rather small list...the smallest I've seen in years. I'm not sure that a truly representative sample of Emerald Hills opinions can be collected from such a small group. In an effort to correct this imbalance, I challenge all companies of the Emerald Hills to make 100% of their active members Kingdom Level reeve qualified. I want to set a record of most reeve qualified players in a single kingdom at one time.

So get with me and let's take care of it. Shortly after we have 30 Kingdom reeves I'll begin the next round. Come-on folks, it's your game...take an active part in making it better.

Rath, EH GMR
Rath@MidnightSun.org
972-385-3109

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Althing

Adoption of the revised Corpora: passed unanimously. Outlay of no more than \$1200 to secure legal advice for our first year as a non-profit corporation: Passed unanimously.

The next Althing will be held March 4th at Mourningwood Glen.

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Weaponmaster Schedule

This comes from Sir Rath.

DAY ONE - FEB 24 at Midnight Sun
Weapons Scramble, Single Short,
Offhand Sword & Shield, Polearm (only),

Great Sword, Amtgard Florentine,
Thrown Dagger (Competitive)

DAY TWO - FEB 25 at Eagleshire
Single Long, Sword & Shield,
Polearm & Dagger, Classic Florentine,
Spellball (Competitive), Double Dagger,
Ironman (Open)

Target Archery (Both days)

Start times tentatively set at 2 p.m. (Tentative because there might be conflicts with the best of class tournaments. Assassin and Druid for those who don't know which ones.)

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Crown Schedule for Reign XXVI

FEBRUARY

Sat 24 Midnight Sun (Garland): Dragon
Master/Weapon Master. Best of class: Assassins
Sun 25 Eagleshire (Denton): Dragon
Master/Weapon Master. Best of class: Druids

MARCH

Sat 3 Ironcloud (Carrolton)
Sun 4 Mourningwood Glen (Arlington): Althing.
Best of Class: Barbarian and Healer. New Dawn
Battle Part 2
Sat 10 Emerald Woods (Waco)
Sun 11 Tanglewood Forest: Work Weekend
14-18 Spring War VIII (Celestial Kingdom)
16-18 Olympiad 2001 (hosted by Mystic Seas)
24-35 EH Midreign at Tanglewood Forest
31-April 1 Rising Winds: RW Coronation

APRIL

31-April 1 Rising Winds: RW Coronation
7-8 Liberty County Fairgrounds: Wetlands
Coronation
Sat 14 Mourningwood Glen/ Cuiviedor Amarth
(Arlington): Easter Monster Quest
Sun 15 Open Easter
Sat 21 Midnight Sun (Garland): Althing. Best of
Class: Monk and Wizard. New Dawn Battle Part
3
Sun 22 Tanglewood Forest: Work Weekend
28-29 Apr SCA at Tanglewood Forest

MAY

Sat 5 Finder's Keep (Wichita Falls)

Sun 6 Eagleshire (Denton)
 Sat 12 Ironcloud (Carrolton)
 Sun 13 Eagleshire (Denton): Althing. Best of
 Class: Scout and Warrior. New Dawn Battle 4.
 Sat 19 Ironcloud (Carrolton): Crown
 Qualifications
 Sun 20 Mourningwood Glen (Arlington): Crown
 Qualifications
 26-27 May Tanglewood Forest: Memorial Day
 Quest

JUNE

Sat 2 Midnight Sun (Garland): Elections
 Sun 3 Eagleshire (Denton): Elections (continued)
 Sat 9 Cuiviedor Amarth (Arlington)
 Sun 10 Mourningwood Glen (Arlington)
 Sat 16 Tanglewood Forest Coronation
 Sun 17 Tanglewood Forest Coronation

JULY

19-21 Gathering of the Clans XIX

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Kitchen Lore

The editor presents the following recipe selection.

Chicken for Fat Cats

by Maestro Darkangel

Requires one chicken, one large white onion, four bulbs garlic, salt, black pepper, and a baking pan.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Slice the onion into large pieces. Separate the garlic into cloves, clean, and cut each clove in half. Place the chicken in the baking pan and remove giblets, discard. With a knife, separate the legs slightly from the body. Take half of the garlic and stuff it into the chicken. Stuff as much of the onion in there as will fit. With a knife, make small cuts into the skin of the chicken; tuck the remaining garlic under the skin. Sprinkle lightly with salt and pepper, then cover the top of the chicken with the remaining onion slices. Stick the chicken in the oven, and bake approximately one hour to an hour and a half. The chicken should be white to the bone; the internal temperature should be 180 degrees. Remove from oven, let cool slightly, carve, and serve. Optional: Splash a little Merlot onto the chicken after the first 50

minutes, then finish cooking.

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Celestial Kingdom Winter Midreign 2001 (or, We'll come back to your event, but we still won't like you)

by Ecu Swan

Summary:

Friday froze, ditching in the gerbil cage, ditching in the morning, ditching before the battlegame, ditching after the battlegame, meteorite fu, us vs. them vs. the Justicars trying to be funny, impulse buying of tent heaters, court was shorter than the auction, slave auction lasted for an hour, highest bid - \$100, Where's Waldo-not just a game...a security issue, outbreaks of mob mentality, Emerald Hills gets kicked out of Annihalus camp, Annihalus gets kicked out of Annihalus camp, no bardic before court-just the auction that blew, Theo the alpha drummer, Spice the flutist, EH dancers, the power of music for peace, `What are you doing?' fu, guest appearance by Cthol, DOA discovers EH women, Weaponmaster Sparhawk serves guard duty to Wetlands, and only one knighting.

Quote of the Event:

'Yeah, well, it's the way that I make love to that banana with my toes that really counts.' -Skippy

Runner up:

'He has monkey toes. He could peel a banana through a chain link fence.' - Clalubus

Other notable quotes:

'We're really glad to see you all back at our vents. I mean, we understand your boycott. Sometimes we boycott our own events.' -Bob Acolyte

'No, not here. Somewhere else. Go away... Thank you.' -Rath (to an innocent looking harpist)

Amtgard Definition: Rules Rape

1) Exploiting loopholes or grey areas. 2) Grabbing the Reeve from behind.

Awards:

The Cuban Day Parade Award for Mob Mentality: Sparhawk

For using the wonderland ball to pummel She-who-talks-much-and-says-nothing, then

spraying her with beer. It's okay, Sparhawk, we know you would never do that kind of thing unless you were pressured into it by your peers...right?

Runner up: Stormie

For drunkenly leading most of Emerald Hills to pick on Annihalus in their own camp. During this incident the Emerald Hills gets kicked out of the Annihalus camp as well as at least one Annihalus member.

Ties for Third: Logan and Darkangel

Logan for aiding Sparhawk with the ball and Darkangel for dumping his drink on 'the girl' after Sparhawk.

The Lasagna Chick Award for Low Self-esteem:

She-who-talks-much-and-says-nothing
For laughing during the above incident. She kind of was the lasagna chick.

Ehud Barak Award for Senselessly Promoting Peace: D'Okynn

For joining the drum circle with Annihalus and being cool after the Stormie incident. But to preserve his pristine reputation, he didn't actually smile. Cthol wasn't bad either. Not bad for the almost-oldest-squire in Amtgard.

The Lumberjack Award for Secure Masculinity: Kaz

For belly dancing in his Corsair tunic. And he was good. I was deeply impressed.

The Classic Mental Women Award: Leif

Oh, wait, he wasn't at this event. DOA, though failing miserably to create mental women, was really making a play for this award. And an honorable mention goes to Diego for his shameless flirtation.

And finally, the ever famous Genghis Khan Award for Senseless Brutality: Goes un-awarded

What? A CK event where no one is brutalized? Can it be so?

Martha Stewart's Tips on Amtgard Court Etiquette:

Always seat the drunken slaves at the end of the high table. This way they aren't required to lean over anyone when they yell, "Douche-bag" at the populace.

Keep the guards of visiting monarchies well fed and entertained. These are the most likely and least predictable court assassins.

When one of the guards of another monarchy approaches you and requests your sword in order to kill your monarch, don't freak out and toss him off the dais. That might cause an international incident. Just politely decline and understand feast just should have been more entertaining.

Champions Falling Down on the Job:

'No, Waldo, you can't have my sword to assassinate the Queen of CK. If you kill her, they might retaliate and then I'll have to do work. And I don't feel like doing work. I just want to stand around and look pretty.' -Champion of Emerald Hills

'Go ahead and kill the Queen. I don't care. Want me to help you?' -Champion of Celestial Kingdom

'No, I don't need to go over there and stand next to the King. He doesn't really need my help. He's okay.' -Champion of Wetlands

Top Five Most Interesting Auction Items:

5. Candles
4. Beads -is this some kind of indication about how interesting the auction was?
3. An old sewing machine
2. A baby -starting price: \$10,000. Parent approved.
1. A CK flame belt -starting price: \$35 or 10 roses. Auctioned off by Belgarin himself.

Top 5 people Sacrificed to She-who-talks-much-but-says-nothing:

5. Wickett -who gracefully evaded the girl by saying, 'That's alright, we already shook hands.'
4. Darkangel -Luckily she spent the whole night confused about which one was Darkangel.
3. Belgarin -Using the classic lasagna chick evasion technique, puts his arm around Kayrana and engages her in a very emotional and deep conversation about how they have been such buds these last 10 years.
2. Kayrana -You'd think she would know better from her extensive lasagna chick experience.
1. McFadden -I think maybe he was a participant in his own sacrifice.

Battlegames

Juggling in Wonderland (or the meteorite game)

Imagine a juggling game; then imagine it from the warped perspective of Lewis Carol. That was this game. The object was to roll the huge red ball through the goal held by three people. Full class, teams of about 30. Basically, it was a typical battlegame, but instead of stealing flags, we rolled a ball through a goal. Objective: Kill the other team, then roll the ball through the goal. It was essentially Emerald Hills allied with some of Wetlands and CK disloyals vs. Celestial Kingdom. The first two points were scored by CK. Annihalus pushed the flank with heavy armor and enchantments. A noteworthy effort to keeping the goal from happening goes to Sparhawk for attempting a legend at the opening of the goal. The reeves ruled the goal at base and it was unfortunately thwarted. Deciding that the teams were clearly uneven, the reeves put the Brotherhood on the EH team. The next 3 points were scored by EH. The Justicars pushed the flank and the Corsairs pushed the middle until they met at the goal.

Mother May I? (or Night and Day)

This is a flag battle where you can only move and fight during the 'day.' Perhaps it would be more like red-light/green-light where the real objective is to advance when the reeves aren't looking. -It was thankfully canceled.

The Justicars Are Silly (or Goblin Battles)

Most people having already left the battlefield, one more game was held. A flag battle with neural goblins. The Justicars were the goblins. They mostly wandered around on the field acting cute and not attacking people. Some of the highlights of their antics were hiding behind twigs and lumbering. There was some serious apathy at this point. By the time game point was announced, one player said, 'Oh, I guess we're losing.' A teammate replied, 'No, we're winning.' I believe the up field side won, but I can't say for sure.

Not bad for an event that size. It didn't blow...

-- Ecrú Swan

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Upcoming Elections

As for February 17th, these are the declared candidates for the upcoming elections.

RGK Candidates

Kaz DeKinky <kaz@corsairs.org>
Thoron <thoronunderhill@hotmail.com>

Prime Minister Candidates

Whispr <whispr69@hotmail.com>
Goodwyn Clu Da'Bard <drclu@swbell.net>
Bacchus <Bacchus@MidnightSun.net>

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Literary Selection

*That he which hath no stomach to this fight,
Let him depart; his passport shall be made,
And crowns for convoy put into his purse;
We would not die that man's company
That fears his fellowship to die with us.
This day is call'd the feast of Crispian:
He that outlives this day, and comes safe home,
Will stand a tip-toe when this day is named,
And rouse him at the name of Crispian.
He that shall live this day, and see old age,
Will yearly on the vigil feast his neighbors,
And say, 'To-morrow is Saint Crispian.'
Then will he strip his sleeve and show his scars,
And say, 'These wounds I had on Crispin's day,'
Old men forget; yet all shall be forgot,
But he'll remember with advantages
What feats he did that day: then shall our names,
Familiar in their mouths as household words,--
Harry the king, Bedford and Exeter,
Warwick and Talbot, Salisbury and Gloster,--
Be in their flowing cups freshly remember'd.
This story shall the good man teach his son;
And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by,
From this day to the ending of the world,
But we in it shall be remembered.*

-- William Shakespeare, 'Henry V'

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Have Ye What It Takes?**World Banner Wars II**

October 12th-14th

Where: Tanglewood Forest, Silver City
Contact: Eclipse Blackfire
(eclipse@midnightsun.org)

Info: The actual War will take place on Saturday, October 13th at 2 p.m. Have your Kingdom, Company, Household soldiers ready to defend your banner. The Banner War will be an elimination game, so the final winner takes all! Last years Champion was the Rogues! Come take the title!! Winner shall hold the World Title, all banners and bragging rights! Event cost will be \$10.00 at the gate and will include feast and all activities.

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Officers of the Emerald Hills

The Crown:

Monarch: Sir Ewen McFadden
(mcfadden@midnightsun.org)
Regent: Martello Entropy
(martello@ductape.net)
Champion: Dame Kayrana Lissa
(esther_strohmeyer@baylor.edu)
Prime Minister: Morgana Rose Macallaistaire
(resigning)

The BOD: (bod@flail.com)

Ewen McFadden (Monarch)
Morgana (Prime Minister)
Rayel (expires June '01)
Bacchus (expires June '01)
Darkangel (expires June '01)
Shaylen (expires Dec '01)
Martello (expires Dec '01)

Guildmasters:

Anti-Paladins: Nevron
Archers: Everlast
Assassins: Shadow
Barbarians: Rayel
Bards: Larin
Druids: Xugx
Healers: Forest
Monks: Gabriel
Paladins: Logan
Scouts: Terarin
Warriors: Everlast
Wizards: Martello
Monsters: Bacchus
Reeves: Rath
Knights: Logan

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Poetry

'The Lady of the Lake,' by Darkangel bin R'al

*I remember the lady of the lake
her skin lit by moonlight
or perhaps something else, a light from within
her hair blowing in phantom winds
though the memory does no justice to that
moment,
I find myself returning again and again to what I
saw and felt then,
in the presence of beauty and eternity
something seen by the soul
and the soul has no words, so I struggle to paint
the picture now,
in the night, the light of her lamp can be seen
from the horizon and through the deepest fog
bringing wonder, more mysteries than answers,
and yet satisfaction just in the perception
her white and dew-dropped gown is of some
strange cloth,
something more of beauty and eternity than silk
or gauze,
and yet it is real, I can see it
her movements are the slowness of millennia,
and then she is gone so quickly I cannot be sure
for a moment if I saw her
but I know that I must have
for I could not otherwise feel as I do*

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Sorcery of Cyberspace

The Emerald Hills on the web:

<http://www.amtgard-eh.com>

The Amtgard home page:

<http://www.amtgard.com>

Amtgard Combat, the place for fighters on the Web:

<http://www.amtgardcombat.com>

To subscribe to the EH email mailing list, send an email to majordomo@amtgard-eh.com saying "subscribe kingdom" in the body, or "subscribe info" for the announcements only list.

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Prepare to Submit

Echoes of the Hills welcomes submissions and volunteers. Artists and writers are particularly needed. If you're interested, email:

echoes@amtgard-eh.com

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