The Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc.

War of the Lilies XXIV

For Immediate Release
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Upon the Field of Battle

This is a war after all, and what's a war without battles? For many people, thoughts of the Middle Ages always bring visions of knights in shining armor, colorful shields, and the clash of swords. The annual Lilies War definitely has all three, and more. The Society for Creative Anachronism has its own unique fighting system employing weapons made of rattan, and armor that is as close to authentic as possible.

Every year the Lilies War has a different theme. Combatants choose which side they fight on based on this theme. In the past, themes have had historical significance such as Saxons v Normans, or have been seemingly random such as Lions v Wolves—allowing combatants to choose which heraldic animal they liked best when choosing sides. This year, the theme is ***A Week of Henries***. The common line of demarcation is interstate highway 70. However, as at all Lilies War, the sides are fluid, and choices may be made by loyalty to a certain knight, who is having the most fun, or who is promising the best loot. Choosing sides is always a fun activity, and loyalties are even known to change during the week. The theme changes every year and no one worries too much about who wins or loses just as long as everyone has fun.

Battles will be held every day of the war starting on Sunday. Each battle will have a different scenario and different objectives. Various structures may be built for the combatants to fight in or around. Some battles will be timed, and some will be to the last combatant standing. Archery is allowed in a few of the battles, employing oversized blunt arrows launched from standard bows.

The battlefield is not the only location for archery. An archery range is to be set up not far from the battlefield where several competitions will be held every day. Traditional bows and arrows are commonly seen along side crossbows. Competitions using thrown weapons such as axes and knives will also be featured.

When the battles are over and the arrows are spent, there is still more to do for those with armor and a lust for swordplay. Combat tournaments will be held daily. These tournaments will involve single individuals in bouts with other single individuals. As the tournament progresses, combatants will be eliminated until one stands victorious. Frequently these tournament victors receive a prize of some sort, but the glory is usually reward enough.

For SCA combatants, nothing beats the camaraderie and excitement of meeting the foe upon the field of battle or at tournament. And for those who bear a bow, the archery range is place of keen proficiency laced with the true competitive spirit, but tempered by friendship and collaboration. No where else in the SCA is the esprit-de-corps more obvious than these venues.

For more information on this event, go to http://www.calontir.sca.org/lilieswar/lilies24/index.php
For further information, including where to find your local SCA chapter, how to join, and events happening in your area, please see www.sca.org.

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For general information about the SCA, please see sca.org