



The Newcastle Current



February 2004

Report On Folsom Faire & More

By Liz Martin – President

Well, the faire circuit of 2003 is a warm, fuzzy memory and the new season has yet to begin. But one thing is for sure. **Folsom Fair 2003 was a GREAT success!** The gate was up approximately 10% and we saw an increase in revenue from last year. We had very happy vendors, enjoyable entertainment, gleeful guilds, enlightening education, and plentiful patrons. **As usual, St. Matthew's Guild went above and beyond all expectations to come together and create the magic that is Folsom Faire.**

During a recent guild meeting it was decided that what we do best is to produce the best faire on the circuit. While this doesn't mean we will stop doing away fairs, it does mean that we will be focusing more on how we can improve Folsom from year to year. (And that is going to be difficult!)

2003 was also a growth year for the guild. We had quite an influx of new members, 20 in all! We welcome back Linda Savage from her 2-year sojourn in Africa and are just thrilled to have her around again. This past year we continued to improve how well we work and play together. And we will continue to draw new energy and enthusiasm from the influx of our new members.

We are continuing to streamline our load-up, set-up and tear down process for away fairs. And with the impending purchase of a new trailer, this should become even easier. Patti's coordination of the food and the kitchen areas has also been so helpful.

We also juggled and reassigned a few jobs this year. Pam has retired as newsletter editor and has passed the torch into Eric's valiant hands. Scot Stefun made the mistake of napping during a guild meeting and was awoken by a round of applause to discover that he was now construction manager! Notwithstanding, he went on to design and over-see the building and painting (with Linda's help) of our new, improved, lighter towers! Way to go Scot! Don Ramage, being a new member and not realizing his mistake, mentioned he was a graphic artist. Two stage signs, a beautiful,

appealing, saleable Folsom Faire t-shirt and a new ticket booth later, he (and his family) are still around and bursting with great ideas. And for the upcoming year, Dennis has agreed to chair the wagon-master committee and oversee load up and all that it entails. Thank you, Dennis!

As you can see, it was a great year and I believe we can all look forward to an even better one this year. There is a new fair on the schedule (Golden Gate) and a returning one (Tahoe). **The Weekend Workshop is just ahead and it is sure to give each of us a boost of pre-fair enthusiasm.**

Once again, I am proud to say that I am the President of St. Matthew's Guild and the Fair director of Folsom Faire. ***I cannot think of a group of people that I would rather spend my weekends playing with.***

Personal Profiles – coming soon!

The "Court" of St. Matthew's

Directors

Dan Lewis 447-3423

Nathan Schmidt 419-1395

Rebecca Bocchicchio 624-7790

Officers

President - Liz Martin 419-1395

Vice-President - Melinda Coy 635-8232

Treasurer - Cathy Rowe (530) 432-7835

Secretary - Kathy Stefun 483-2642

Committee Heads

New Members – Kathy Stefun 483-2642

Education – Nathan Schmidt 419-1395

Costume – Sandy Cook 624-2215

Construction – Scott Stefun 483-2642

Plague Rat Dancers - Lola Pudinski 836-0837

Perish the Thought Singers – Deborah Doyle & Eric Osborn

Newsletter - Eric & Amy Osborn 530-663-7912

Web Mistress - Lola Pudinski 836-0837

E-mail administrator - Nathan Schmidt 419-1395

2004 Guild Calendar

DATE & Time	Event	Location	Critical Info:
10 a.m. Every 3 rd Saturday	Guild Meeting	5160 Gorham Way, Natomas	Liz & Nathan's Home
12 noon, Every 3 rd Saturday	Perish th' Thot Singers Rehearsal (following Guild mtg)	Following Monthly Guild Meetings	Same location as monthly guild meeting
7 p.m. every other Thursday	Plague Rat Dancers Practice	6105 Marwick Way Carmichael	Lola's home
9am-9pm, March 20th	St. Matt's Mandatory Weekend Workshops	Natomas	Children may attend
May 15 & 16 th	Placerville Faire	Placerville, CA	Cool temps, camping available
June 5, 6, 12 & 13	HOTF – Tahoe Ren. Faire	Lake Tahoe, CA	Cool temps, camping available (small fee), HOTF
June 26 & 26	Fair Oaks Renaissance Faire	Fair Oaks Park, CA	Warmer temps, camping available
Aug. 28 & 29	Golden Gate Park Renaissance Faire	Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA	Cool temps, camping to be available
Oct. 16 & 17	Folsom Renaissance Faire	Folsom, CA	The greatest Faire on earth! Camping available

Words of special thanks from our guild president!

- Nathan - for forbearance and patience!
- Mimi - for all your set-up help & support
- Heidi - for pitching in and for a wonderful snack tray.
- Leslie - for making me laugh when all I wanted to do was sit and cry.
- Pam- for being a rock & fabulous sounding board for me.
- Ken - for all his patience during tear-down,
- Lola - for our great website & for teaching dance.
- Dan - for doing a wonderful job as entertainment director and making it look so easy.
- Rhonda - for being always on the side of the underdog.
- Rebecca - for being a storehouse of guild history & policy and for saying, "Now. Liz ..."
- Margo - for all your help with our vendors.
- Greg- for being a great wine garden manager.
- Michelle Emery - for working the bottom gate so well!
- Patti - for agreeing to coordinate food again this year!
- Linda - who now holds the title of "Ice Queen."
- Deborah - for continuing to be the best QEI on the circuit.
- Eric - for his volunteering to be schoolmaster and to supervise the kids.
- Jorge Bettancour - for making a staircase under supremely difficult circumstances!
- Don's daughters - for all the help serving meals.
- Cathy & Steve Rowe - for all the behind the scenes stuff that needs to be done.
- Kathy Stefun - for being such a wonderful secretary and great vendor coordinator.
- Melinda - for becoming such a good court coordinator - I am very proud of you!
- Dave Stefun - for all your time on the scholarship committee.
- Scot - for putting up with the teenagers and finding things for them to do.
- Sandy and Charlie Cook - for feeding us at Folsom and keeping us going.
- Jillian- for putting up with having way too many mothers!

For all of you I may have missed - I thank you all for all the time and effort that you put into making our guild such a great organization.

Historical Bits or Ren Faire Advice Section

Rules for fairs

1. Make sure you have a clearly established role in the household.
2. Dress in a costume appropriate for your role.
3. When in public view, do only work that is appropriate to your station. However, in the green room, everyone is expected to pitch in.
4. Although class and costume may limit the work some people can do during fair hours, all do need to do their share. Those who cannot do the hard, messy jobs during the day must make up for it before and after the fair has begun.
5. Likewise, though those playing lower classes must give deference to their "betters" in public view, all such distinctions disappear backstage. Your character is just that – a fictional character.
6. Every participant needs to take a duty to serve the guild. Some typical duties:
 - Arrange or cook food for a day
 - Assist in food preparation both days
 - Serve and set out food both days
 - Wash dishes one day
 - Secure props and clean up at end of the day