

La Sociedad de la Entrada

After Action Report for Oñate Event 9/17-18/11

Event

The event was the fourth Spanish Renaissance Fair at El Rancho de las Golondrinas Living History Museum (<http://www.golondrinas.org/>). As previously, our premise was to serve the weekend as guards for El Rey Ferdinand and La Reina Ysabel. A pavilion was set up in the main Plaza with colorful banners and two thrones. We set up our Encampamento Español (Spanish encampment) on the lawn behind the Plaza for our base of operations. That way we could easily coordinate with Their Majesties. We were able to share our corner of Baca Plaza with the resident goats. The weather was a little milder than usual, not so hot, with an occasional rain storm. There were less Pirates, no live steel, and mounted knights on horseback. Also, according to our tradition, we were not listed as a participant group.

Encampamento Español

Dave Poulin and myself arrived Friday night to set up tents with the help of my brother, Jevon, behind the Baca Placita next to the goat pen. I spent the night at the camp.



Saturday

I was joined by Mike Bilbo, Dave Poulin, and Bennett Poulin on Saturday. I got a chance to fire my Arcabuz for the first time Saturday morning.



Mike, Dave, and I began our official duties by escorting the royal couple to the fighting arena in the SCA camp to watch the games. We stood guard until noon.





Muskets and Pikes

We conducted pike drill at noon, picking up a couple of other fair goers (Colin O'Hara, and "Death" who never said a word). That afternoon Roberto Valdez made a brief appearance with his mosquete, and we attracted a rather large crowd to the Baca Placita firing our muskets. My Arcabuz worked well, and firing it would attract a crowd -- who would mostly disappear when I stopped firing and invited them to come closer and ask questions about the equipment.



Comida

Saturday I dined with the SCA, who have a very authentic field kitchen. I complimented the cook on her display, and discovered that she has based some of her field kitchen on a 1570s cookbook!



Sunday

Sunday morning Bilbo and I escorted the Royal Court again in the morning to open the fair, and explore the fair grounds. Dave Poulin, Dwight Thompson, and Blaine Bachman joined us on Sunday. We drilled again in the Baca Placita, then marched to the royal pavilion and drilled for the King and Queen. Later in the afternoon we returned and received Letters of Marque to protect royal lands and attack enemies. During the afternoon I spent a lot of time talking to people in the Baca Placita about Spanish weaponry and tactics in the late 16th century. The fair wound down on time Sunday, and we packed up and left by 7:30 pm.



Our group received very kind remarks about our clothing and equipment during the fair, especially from the Queen, who apparently is a professional wardrobe maker! I got to try out some of new tableware and a new Renaissance folding chair. :-) Sunday went better, and we generally had a good time.

Conclusion

The Renaissance Fair had a good start and the graciousness and appreciation of the King and Queen was more than enough recompense for our toils. We certainly look forward to serving them again in the future if they so desire. The Five of us who were there on Sunday were each made Captains and received a letter of Marque, “to sail and to pass to the seas with as many ships, barges, and balingers of war, men-at-arms and bowmen

properly equipped, as he may be able to provide himself with, to do all the hurt he can do to our open enemies...

For the museum the event went very well. They attracted a record setting crowd of 6,410 visitors for the weekend (about the same number each day). All photos by Mike Bilbo, Joe Maes, and John Campisi.



¡Adios amigos!

Tony

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