

La Sociedad de la Entrada

After Action Report for Renaissance Fair 9/21-22/13

Event

The event was the Renaissance Fair at Museo de Las Golondrinas. Many vendors and performers also attended - the most yet. The weather was very nice this year, not too hot and not too cold. We set up the Spanish camp on Friday, behind the hacienda, as usual. Visitor attendance to our camp was huge.

Friday

Austin came over to my house in the morning. We loaded up my truck and his car with all the gear and headed up to Las Golondrinas. When we arrived David and Vic Kubica were already there. They had already setup their tent and were working on the cooking and dining area. David had painted his tent poles red and yellow and placed two



Cross of Burgundy flags one on each side of his tent, making it very festive. Then he set up a cooking spit but did not dig a fire pit. He had brought a propane stove to use instead. Since he was only making breakfast it was not a problem to use modern equipment before the museum opened. Austin and I set up the pike rack first because that was fun, and easy. Then with the help of Victoria we setup the big square tent, my round tent, and finally, David and Vic setup Kathy Palmer's fly over David's large dining table (thanks Kathy!). We had

to make our own shade this year because the SCA was using the comal and horno area for cooking. We had lost our shady hangout. Some Vikings had set up to the east of our field. Later, Tony arrived with his gear and moved into a corner of the square tent. The evening was a little cold but manageable. Sitting at David's table by candlelight and eating bread, olives, and cheese that Tony had brought made it a very nice renaissance evening. Austin went home for the night, promising to return with reinforcements. Camping were Dave, Tony, Vic and David. Photo by Dave.



Our dining/shade area (*Dave*).

Saturday

Muster

On Saturday we mustered 13 people: Blaine Bachman, Samuel Ulibarri (and daughter Hannah), David and Victoria Kubica, Austin Dimick, Ed Lewis, John Cormier, Roy Jones, Anthony Campisi, Joseph Godfrey, Robin Cunningham, and David Poulin.



Reveille, played by Tony (*Dave*).

Morning



In the morning David cooked eggs and bacon on his camp stove and had tortillas and hot sauce available to make breakfast burritos. It was a very good start. Then David regaled us with the spectacle of his new musketeer outfit, complete with blond wig. It was something to behold! (*Photo at left.*) Austin returned with two of his new recruits, Roy Jones and John Cormier. Austin had been sewing outfits for them, shirts, breeches, caps, and leggings, and they looked pretty good. That was a lot of work. Tony had taken David and Vic to the fair entrance to greet early morning visitors with the King's entourage. When we were ready we tried to find the others but the greeting had already broken up. The newcomers and Austin wanted to look around so the group scattered. I tried to find a potter that I had purchased from before but no luck.

Back at camp, Austin ran the recruits through some pike drill. When Tony announced a pike drill we geared up for that, armor, helmets, swords, and pikes and proceeded to Baca Plaza. We could get into that area through the far corner. Tony decided to promote Austin to Cabo de



Picas (Corporal of Pikes). Since our leadership almost never makes an appearance I decided to promote Tony to Teniente (Lieutenant). Blaine arrived in his colorful Swiss outfit and picked up a pike (*Kein geld, kein Schweizer*) as he says, though we had no gold, nor promise of it. He posed for a picture (*at left*).

Then it was time to escort the Royal Couple, Fernando y Ysabel, to the jousting piste to watch the games. Since I had taken part in the drill I wasn't ready to drum. It wasn't tuned yet and my primitive glasses kept flopping around. I couldn't see to hit the drum properly and when I did it didn't sound right. I decided to return to the camp in order to watch our stuff. When the others returned we scattered for lunch. Sam Ulibarri came to the camp with his little daughter Hannah. That was a nice surprise (both Sam and Hannah). Photos by Dave.

Afternoon

After lunch Ed Lewis arrived and we got him geared up. He was immediately put through pike evolutions by Austin, who was quickly learning the commands. Then we had a sword drill under Sam's direction, with frequent interruptions to keep Hannah from running away. She's a mover. I scoured the vendors again for that potter, no luck.

David entered the costume contest and received second place. He had lost to a ridiculous time traveler in a dubious costume. It didn't seem right.



Pike Drill – L-R: Blaine, Tony, Austin Vic, Ed, John, Roy, and David (*Dave*).

About 4pm Joseph Godfrey and his friend Robin Cunningham arrived. Joseph had had car trouble the day before and couldn't make it Friday. He suited up and joined the pikemen. When the fair was over he brought his tent in and set up for the night. The Encampamento Espagnol was complete. The SCA invited us to have dinner with them which we thought was a wonderful idea. They had cooked duck, with a plum sauce to spread on it, and vegetables. Austin had brought a frozen beef stew and was heating it up on David's stove but I was already too full to sample any. It smelled good. We spent the evening nibbling more of Tony's bread and cheese and drank some of his wine. We sure didn't go hungry. I played some Renaissance tunes on my folk fife. The evening was warmer than the night before and people were in a good mood. I don't know about everybody else but I slept like a rock.



Joseph, Austin, Roy, Vic, Tony, David, Ed, John, and Dave (*Robin*).



Sam and Hannah (*Sam's Facebook page*).



Joseph assisting Tony with firing his arcabuce (*Robin*).

Sunday

After

On Sunday we had 14 people: David and Victoria Kubica, Austin Dimick, Ed Lewis, John Cormier, Roy Jones, Anthony Campisi, Joseph Godfrey, Robin Cunningham, David Poulin, and Dwight Thompson and his family, Mirtha, Indiana, and Libertad.

Morning

The next morning David made breakfast burritos again. Another very good start! Robin appeared in very nice period clothing. By now the Vikings had moved their camp over a little ways from ours but they still used the shade near us, which was fine as we didn't need it (thanks again, Kathy!). They were friendly and appeared to be very authentic. I heard their intent was to be as reenactors like us. We greeted the early visitors at the gate with the Royal Couple, Fernando y Ysabel.



¡A las armas! (*Robin*)

Then we drilled a little and made ready to escort the Royal Couple to the Jousting Piste. Dwight Thompson arrived with Mirthe, Indiana, and Libertad. He joined the pikemen who moved out while his family scattered to enjoy the fair.



Early morning, greeting visitors at the front gate (*Dave*).

When the Royal Pikemen returned it was lunchtime and everyone made use of the vendors. I begged a corner of the SCA fireplace to heat up my soup. As I was eating it in Baca Plaza Angelina arrived with Bennett, Stephanie, and Stephanie's Dad, Frank, and his best friend also named Frank. That's not confusing. They said they had a real good time. Bennett had wrenched his knee and was using a cane to walk (more like hobble). Hence he and Stevie could not participate in the event.

Afternoon

That afternoon Tony's parents, John and Gerry, brother Jarrod and his girlfriend arrived and they all went sightseeing together. We had down time for a while for people to have a chance to continue to look over the fair. We assembled and escorted the Royal Couple to the piste again. The museum loaned us a Bandera de la Cruz de Burgogne (flag of the Cross of Burgundy) which I carried, but I had to furl it because the wind was picking up. After the joust the crew went on patrol. They traveled to the far corners of the realm, to the big mill, and rested on the porch of the house back there by the pond. I returned to the camp. I was fairly hobbling around on my sore legs by then. From the shade I could watch the Clan Tinker – for the first time. They're very good.

When the patrol returned we started to roll up the camp, leaving the tents for last. We were supposed to wait until 6pm but a huge thunderstorm was rolling in, making it urgent to pack the tents while they were still dry so we completed the camp breakdown. We also brought the vehicles in early, which was a good thing because the howling wind was bashing us as we finished packing up. I want to thank all the members who helped us pack the gear. Your assistance was invaluable. Those of us returning to Albuquerque

drove in hail and rain and dark winds. There appeared to be snow on the ground (!). I hope those driving to other points fared better.



The Royal Couple and the Royal Pikemen at the jousting piste (*Dave*).

Conclusion

All in all, it was our best event yet. Everyone was enthusiastic and centered on the group. We were appreciated by the museum and the SCA and we were referred to as “The Royal Pikemen” by announcers. It was a great weekend for the museum too, which had received almost 8500 visitors and had over 600 participants, including reenactors, entertainers, and vendors. Wow. Photos by Dave and Robin and one from Sam’s Facebook page.

Dave

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