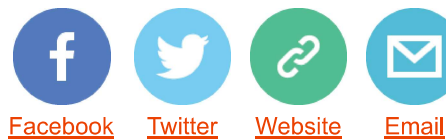


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



Your input is needed to make *The Voice* a publication filled with events, photos and news. Please feel free to submit any events, news or photos to thevoice@runestone.org.

Donate to the AFA



Words from the Alsherjargothi



Summer is here and as Sunna is in her full glory, AFA folk across the country prepare for Midsummer. Our California members have been generously donating their time and labor to get the Hof all fixed up and ready for the annual AFA Midsummer gathering. The ranks of proud AFA members continue to swell and this year's Midsummer event is on tract to be the biggest and best yet! If you can make it I would highly encourage you to come on out and join your AFA family as we celebrate our Gods and our Folk in the beautiful Sierra foothills. Midsummer is a time of abundance and energy, our Folk have always been empowered by the sun. This month, at the height of summer, celebrate with family and friends. Take the time to enjoy warm summer nights around a fire raising horns to our Gods and our Folk. Accomplish great deeds while Sunna smiles warmly down upon you. I look forward to seeing you all at Midsummer and, if you cant make it to California, I look forward to seeing pictures from the AFA Midsummer celebrations across the country and the world!

Hail the Gods!
Hail the Ancestors!
Hail the Folk!





Hail folks! Well spring is in full gear, and I'm packing to head down to Southern California to Walpurgisnacht! There's nothing that recharges my batteries like spending the weekend with like minded folks, seeing old friends, and ,making new ones!! If you haven't experienced it, I highly suggest it. Midsummer at Newgrange will also be here in June, then events will make their way East for the year.

We have also started quite a few Facebook pages that might be of interest to some of you. I'm not a huge fan of most Facebook chat rooms but I feel like we have some really useful pages starting lately that i wanted to share. Nothing replaces real life community's but here is some good tools for the tool chest.Although we are faith based in nature, we are also very much into helping each other become better in our lives, Physically, spiritually, and practically. These groups will hopefully give us a place to learn from each other and maybe even teach each other some skills that will make our lives, family's, And community's better.

AFA Physical Excellence (fitness)

Asatru Folk Exchange (a marketplace to buy and sell goods and services)

AFA Moots and Meetups (a page for posting local, regional, and national events)

AFA Spiritual Excellence (spiritual)

Asatru Folk Assembly Entrepreneurship & Financial Freedom

Asatru Folk Assembly Parenting Page

AFA Mead Makers

AFA-Women of the Asatru Folk Assembly (women only)

I've been very impressed with the real life information shared on these pages. Most of these pages are for AFA members only and some are private , so if you can't find them, contact your Folk Builder and they can help get you added.

There is a lot going on for the rest of the year all over the globe. Reach out to your Folk Builders, try to get to a event and meet folks from all over the country.

You won't regret it and remember, like anything in life, you get out of this what you put into it!!

New Apprentice Folkbuilder Announcement!

Marc Macleod

I'd like to introduce our newest apprentice Folkbuilders!

Nathan Hayden lives in Denver, Colorado and is taking over the Four Corners region.

Nathan has been doing meet-ups in the Denver area and has always been eager to help us out in that area. Cameron Mottus resides in New Zealand and will be going to work building our New Zealand / Australia region. Cameron works regularly in Australia so he has done meet-ups, not only in New Zealand but also in Sydney and Melbourne, Australia. I'm very much looking forward to new growth in these regions and in our new leadership.

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Hail the Doers!





Words from Bryan Wilton, Folkbuilder and Gothi

On any given day; we are inundated with an amazing amount of information. In most cases, such as the information overload from thousands of individuals on social media, we are actively working to find that niche in which we might think we fit in. From the

we do find it, we feed it and we celebrate the powerful feelings of finding that we are not alone. This works in two ways. Either we find and support those positively minded associations and move forward enjoying the positive motivational forces so crucial to enjoying life. Or we align ourselves with those negative energies we all too often find hurled against us. Either in opposition too or full accordance with them. In both cases regarding the latter, we are utilizing, creating and feeding far too much negative energy into an already crazy and transitioning world.

It is easy to forget those fine times each of us have enjoyed while sitting with the good friends who value our presence in their lives at the various events the AFA had made a hallmark of our existence. It seems as if in each of these get-togethers there is a moment when two or more people will get the chance to sit down together, to talk of these things which seem to be so alien to the rest of the world, and to truly understand what it means to enjoy camaraderie from the folks who enjoy the same mindset as you do with regards to not only our spiritual foundation but with regards to the whole of the individual. Most recently, Melisa Mills in Springfield and Matt Sarver in Louisiana have begun to take that sentiment to a new level. Areas which have largely been vacant of any solid footing with regards to Asatru are now showing signs of new life. East and Southeast Texas are showing signs of life which embrace the AFA thought process for the good of the organization and not self-aggrandizement. We are seeing the types of friendships beginning to form which are vital to securing the types of values we hold dear. Values which directly influence the security of our children and their well-being, but also with regards to establishing ourselves as a legitimate and successful way to live in our communities. One such community, the Iron, Bone and Stone Kindred from Kansas City with Christopher Gower as one of its leaders has reached out to become a new AFA kindred. In short, that feeling we enjoy from our gatherings is becoming recognized as an activity worth emulating. This is where life is to be enjoyed.

Whenever we come across the persistent slings and arrows of lesser men, take a minute to consider; will this bullet comment on social media do a thing to change the associations I enjoy in person. If there is a threat to that, build a better local kindred. Not to be right or to relish the righteous indignation we see so many others bandy about as legitimate, but to ensure a safe and prosperous future for us all.

News from the AFA Military Program by Roland L'Heureux



Courage
Truth
Honor
Loyalty
Discipline
Hospitality
Industriousness
Self-reliance
Perseverance



News from the Military Outreach Program
Courage: Confidence Crystalized
Roland L'Heureux

“These are precise indications of a heroism and a system of values which develop into various more or less self-consciously spiritual paths, paths sanctified not only by the glorious material conquest which they mediate, but also by the fact that they represent a sort of ritual evocation involving conquest of the intangible.” [Julius Evola, *Metaphysics of War: Battle, Victory and Death in the World of Tradition* (United Kingdom: Arktos Media LTD., 2011), 31.]

In Navy recruit training a period is set aside to test the sailor’s ability to act under pressure. The recruit is safely placed in a state of sleep/food deprivation and then instructed to take

given to maneuver the circumstance and take control of the situation.

Many people are aware of the “obstacle” course layout in military and para-military training yards; but, few understand the concept and psychological impact that a “confidence” course has on an individual. In a nutshell, the intent is to build your confidence “in your ability” to do things that you may have never tried to attempt in your entire life. Instilling this high level of confidence in an individual affords them the opportunity to do extremely courageous things.

These past couple of weeks the AFA and our Military Outreach Program has undergone nothing less than a test of our ability to act under pressure, under slanderous and propagandized social media “fake news,” and under unnecessary and malicious attacks upon the careers and wellbeing of our military folk and members of our program’s committee members.

Remembering our training, and holding to the admonition to “treat every situation like a normal one,” committee members “made haste, slowly” to contact all the appropriate sources to either get confirmation or to discredit the rumors and their sources. When, and only when, an official from the appropriate department had concluded their research into the issue and had unequivocally discredited all rumors and their sources, and had laid to rest any present threat to our religious practice or the livelihood of our military was it truly appropriate for our program or the AFA to comment.

On behalf of our military everywhere, we want to thank the AFA as an organization for standing with us. Courage isn’t action based on an assurance of victory, it is the taking of action with the ever-present reality of failure. This type of courage is nothing more than the crystallization of one’s confidence that (s)he is doing the right thing, at the right time, for the right reason, whatever the outcome.

Rest assured, the AFA Asatru Military Outreach Program is alive and well. We look forward to doing great things, in a great way, for truly great reasons. Hail the Holy Powers! Hail the Ancestors! Hail the Folk! Hail the AFA!

News from AFA Scandinavia by Anders Nilsson





Tyr blot AFA Sweden

We brought together new and old friends to honor and show our respect for one of the greatest, and perhaps the most ancient god, Honourable Tyr. As you probably know, there are theories that Tyr was the precursor to the King of the gods, Odin, because of the very name. In Norse, his name was Ti, and in Iceland Tyr, but in among the Germanic speaking tribes were his name Tiwaz. We can trace this name back to Sanskrit, where the name was Deus. The name has had more or less the same meaning God or Deity.

We highlighted Tyr's faithfulness and his ability to discipline himself before great challenges, asking the powers that we would create the same strength in our personal lives.

With this blot, AFA Sweden has concluded a year of blots with 8 seasonal markers blot and 12 Odin blots. We have had members of Ranrike Blotlag and many interested people have participated.

We have brought in a ritual around the lighting of the Holy fire which we want to share with you. This fire ritual is one of the recurring elements in our rituals.

Now we light the fire. The fire which not only brightens our environment but also is the symbol of our inner fire.

Our driving force and our will. This flame symbolizes our Mastery and taming of a chaos.

With our will we light and extinguishes this force.

So let this be our desire and our goal.

Eiwaz, you that conveys our offerings to the gods.
Ingwaz you how are the symbol of our will.
All 3 times Kenaz Eiwaz Ingwaz

Anders Nilsson, Scandinavia Folkbuilder

News from the Northern Plains by Blaine Qualls, Gothi and Folkbuilder





Here in the Northern Plains we have had a busy month. We held a meet and greet at a Norwegian Stav Kirk or traditional style Norwegian church. These "churches," it is rumored,

losing their traditional spirituality. It was a great afternoon with both AFA members and some very solid and supportive folkish, Asatruar.

Coming up on the 4th of June in North Dakota we will be celebrating an early Midsummer, local member Todd Bailey has graciously offered to host this event which should be a great celebration of Baldur and the coming summer. For anyone that will be traveling through please feel free to get in touch, we are constantly doing something and would love to have others attend.

Submitted by Blaine Qualls
Northern Plains Folkbuilder

**News from the AFA Alaksa
by Eric Whisman, Apprentice Folkbuilder**











Walpurgisnacht & Mayday 2017

In traditional Alaskan fashion, at the end of April AFA members gathered together from all over the state to celebrate Walpurgisnacht and Mayday with a weekend-long celebration.

The day began with setting up camp and preparing the ritual circle for the ritual that would follow that night. As the sun began to lose her potency that evening, the usual jovial sounds of the folk in good company died down and was replaced by the sacred silence of the Blót-fire as everyone entered the ritual circle. The drum sounded a steady, rhythmic beat as Gothi Steven Morrell began his Blót to Odin and Freya.

After Blót, the folk gathered for a hearty meal, followed by a night of fellowship amongst friends and family.

carved runes and symbols of power, fertility and prosperity into its shaft.

The bronze sun wheel was placed on the head of the pole, and colorful ribbons tied to it, and the great pile was raised high, the wheel of the sun touching the sky. And so we began our merry dance around the maypole.

With the maypole in its place, where it shall remain for the rest of the summer, and after a few more hours of time well spent together, the folk grudgingly tore down camp; said their farewells and headed home once more.



Bear-Lord
-Eric Whisman

"Need shall drive him, the Gothi's son.
Passion shall guide him, Valkyrie's son.

Born of sacred Union,

Might shall be his fate,
Glory gained through strength;
Medal-Winner and Thorn-Defeater's son.

Blessed by Sun-Standard and Banner of Stars,
Spear-Lord and Spearwife's Son.

Hail Bear-Lord, Here he had come
Hail Bear-Lord, beat on the drum!
Hail Bear-Lord, Sound the Bell
Hail Bear-Lord, Bjorn Earl Morrell!"

News from the Four Corners Region by Nate Hayden, Apprentice Folkbuilder

When beginning the AFA in 2016 I did not know what to expect. Blaine Qualls Jr. was my immediate Folkbuilder and was very accommodating. I wasn't sure if there were going to be local meetings, or how many Folk were in my area. To my surprise there were few and not many in my immediate city of Denver. Blaine, who did a fantastic job coordinating the area, wasn't in the same Region. This turned out to be okay, it allowed me time to familiarize myself with Asatru and the AFA on a personal level, and recognize Blaine's great leadership qualities, and to see how Asatru can grow.

Roland Jos L'Heureux was able to begin guiding the Four Corners and was very knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and personable. Another great leader to learn from. I realized that due to the limited amount of people in the area, that this was in fact perhaps good at this time in the AFA, as we can work on leading ourselves, to study, to perform personal blot, eventually answer a question or two be it a friend, a family, a stranger. By this private and personal searching in Asatru I think we may be able to understand how to teach and learn from others. When able to meet other, learning together can become even

The work of the Folk in Utah has been exciting to see indeed. I see much growth in their future. We are also seeing growth in Arizona. Cecile Johnston, in New Mexico, has a consistent schedule for her Kindred, and, as inspiration to us all, she doesn't use Facebook. This is inspirational, as she is growing using her own unique skills. I made another article for New Mexico's Schedule. Colorado has also seen some growth but Folk are spread out a bit. It looks like Moots in different towns will be a best approach for now.

New Mexico

Cecile Johnston has a unique approach in New Mexico. She has had a strong Kindred without relying on Facebook. She is very protective of their practices. In a recent email she recommended platforms such as Gab.ai and minds.com to coordinate rather than Facebook.

New Mexico schedule for the month of June:

June 11 - Open Meeting

June 24 - Sumbel for Midsummer

July 15 - Open Meeting

July 30 - Blot

She has also recently finished a draft for a nutritional guide written with the goal of providing guidance for our Folk and our families, to improve our health and well being, and ability to make informed choices regarding food.

News from the AFA West by Heather Clinkenbeard, Folkbuilder

Our National events are to get folk together. They do not bring in any money for the AFA. In fact, the AFA comes out of pocket quite a bit to put one on. To help cover some of the costs we have an auction at these events and we raise money to go back in the pot to help make sure we have many more. We have been so lucky to have some of the craftiest and

the AFA as a whole. I wanted to list the people and their shops if they have one so you can help support the people that help make it all possible.

So from the AFA and the Tru-Folk kindred and I think it's safe to say the whole community

THANK YOU!

Mary Minshall, Janet Weidman, Matt Sarver, Susan Swiggers, Debra and Roland L'Heureuz, Daniel Steiner, Joanne Gross, Christine Archer, Jessica Rose, Kevin Long, Bonnie Jones, Carolann Nevitt Shawn, and myself.

and those with shops you can go to

Baldur Odinson & Les Lauer: Sleipnir doll orders can go to awinchell@midco.net

Mike Wilde [AllThingsPillaged](#)

Carrie Overton: [Carrie Overton Books](#)

Krystal Bailly: [New Wool Order](#)

Midgard Outpost: [MidgardOutpost](#)

Bryan Wilton: [Bryan Wilton Books](#)

Erin Harrison: [Wyrld Weaver](#)

Tommy Romero: Odins Chosen, mead and horns

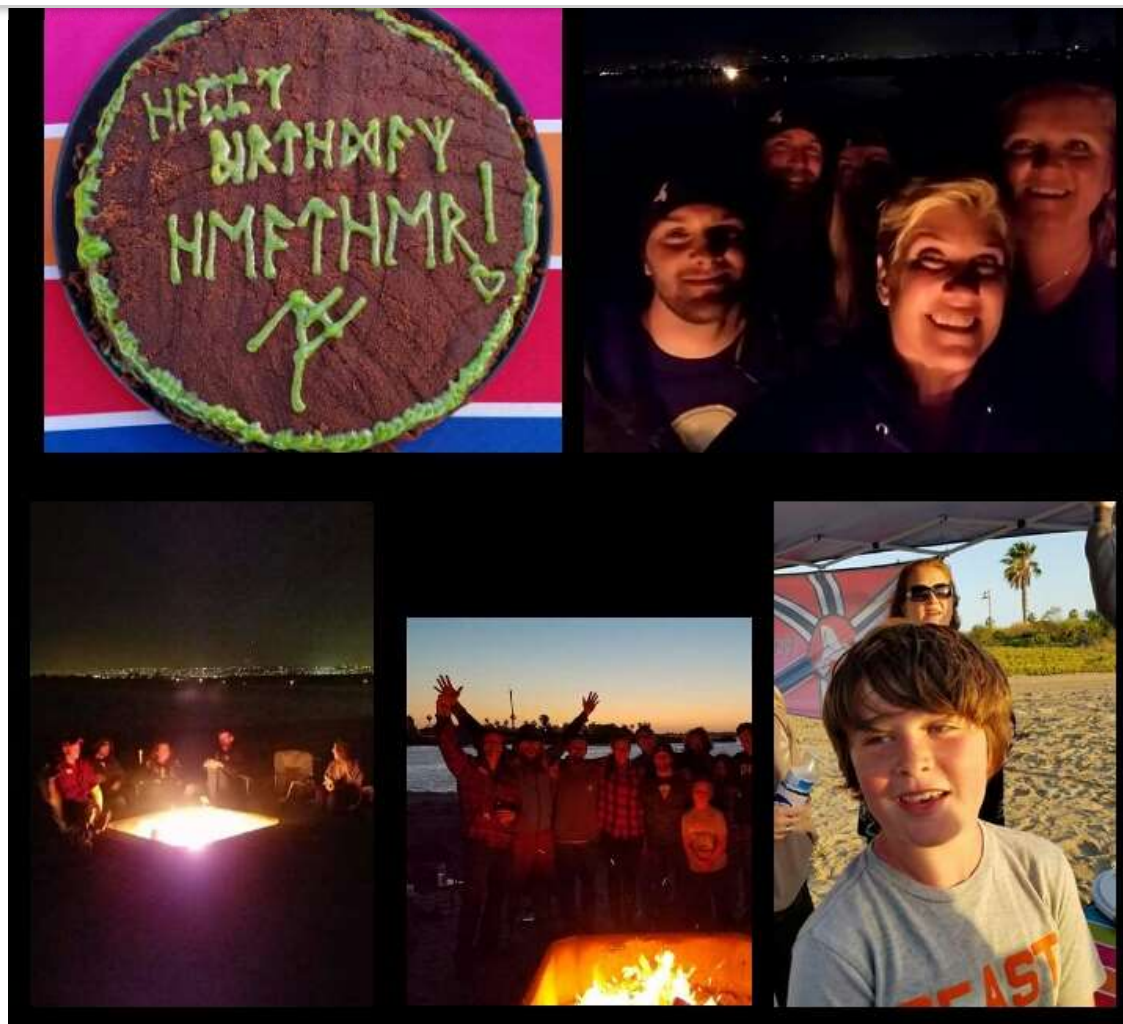
Rob Smith: Beserker Designs

Please support our folk and please remember to use the amazon smile program to support the AFA when buying books!

The AFA has many Facebook groups of all kinds. Some of them are very new. We keep the group settings to private so if you are interested in any of them please contact your folkbuilder or myself , Heather Clinkenbeard. The groups are a great way to share experiences, ask questions, and talk freely online with like-minded folk. It is a great way to communicate and get to know people not in your area. There is so much we can do with them. The format is there but it is up to us, each one of you to help to keep it going and active. Please help out by posting in these groups and keeping them alive. You will be surprised by what you can learn from each other. We have a parenting group, a women's group, a seidr group, military group, local groups, meet-ups and special interest groups. Now we even have an AFA Teens group. This is also new and was started by Michelle Graves. Michelle and I are both admins on the group and will be keeping a close eye on it. We have so many teens that get to meet at gatherings and want to keep in touch and continue what they learned. Please share this with your teen if you think they would want to join They need to find the group and ask to be added.

Calling all teenagers, ages 13 - 18! A special group page just for you is being created. We need your participation! This group is open to teens ages 13-18, who are children of Asatru Folk Assembly members. Our purpose is to provide a secret and confidential place to meet other teenagers with similar beliefs, to share ideas, to chat about life events and to learn the traditions and culture of Asatru. Please look for "AFA Teens " on Facebook or contact Michelle Graves at: mag41267@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/339546329798301/>

**News from Southern California
by Jamie Souigny, Apprentice Folkbuilder at Large**



So Cal Happenings

Hails from So Cal's Tru Folk Kindred

This month we celebrated the birth of an amazing woman and a great leader. She is an excellent Folk Builder for our organization and her love for the Folk shows in the efforts that she puts in on a daily basis. We celebrated Heathor Clinkenbeard's day of birth with a great bonfire at the San Diego bay . A joyful family bbq and celebration with our TruFolk

We also had a bit of a "pit raising" for our kinsman Kevin Long. We all pitched in to surprise him with a nice little firepit to gather around in his yard (we kinda have a thing for fire). The efforts and hard work he puts in are inspiring to us all.

We broke in the new pit with a nice Sumbel honoring the fallen.

We do moots once a month.

We have set up a facebook group to announce locations and details of such meetings

The name of the page is Southern California AFA members

We also have folk in the Orange county and Riverside county areas.

If you are not a "facebooker"

You can reach myself Jamie @

jsouligny@runestone.org

Or Heather (sd folkbuilder) @

HeaTHOR@runestone.org

See ya at Midsummer!!!

Hail the Gods and Goddesses!!!

Hail the AFA !!!

Hail the Folk!!!



News from Minnesota
by Jason Gallagher, Apprentice Folkbuilder







Here in Minnesota we are getting ready to celebrate Midsummer early with a weekend camp out event in Zimmerman, MN. We continue to grow and we now have multiple events planned for each month. If you plan to be in the area and want to attend a event, message me or send a email. Several Minnesota members and myself will be attending Midsummer at the Hof.

And mark your calendars Fallfest is coming up in September and you don't want to miss this one. I couldn't be more proud of our members and how we pull together in times of need. I stand with the AFA!

Hail the the doers!

Hail the AFA!

June 2-4 Midsummer campout Noon Zimmerman, MN

August 19 pizza feast and greet in Little Falls, MN 2
September 8-10 Fallfest 2 in Northern MN

News from the Midwest by Cole Distel, Apprentice Folkbuilder

As the month has passed, the AFA Midwest has grown and came together. With a greatly successful advancement campout down and Midsummer on the way, the Midwest is turning up the activity. Two Kindreds have been officially recognized by the AFA in the Midwest this month and we would like to congratulate the Kvasir's Scholars from Ohio and the Heimdallrs Midgardr from Indiana.

The very first AFA Midwest and Upper South Midsummer will be on June 30- July 2 any questions please contact Cole Distel via
Facebook [facebook.com/cole.distel.3](https://www.facebook.com/cole.distel.3) or cdistel@runestone.org

News from the South Central by AFA member Matt Sarver

South central and central corador has seen a sudden boom when it comes to local community building and monthly conference calls.

Louisiana has started to come together much more with local meet ups and there is even talk about an AFA kindred in the mix.

Texas members are reaching out to one another and holding more local meet ups within their communities as well.

Bryan Wilton will also be doing some traveling soon to a few different events and give some great presentations. If you can't catch him there check him out on ABNCOM.com or get to know him through his great books.



**News from the Northeast
by Clifford Erickson, Folkbuilder**



NEWS FROM THE NORTHEAST

LANSDALE TRU FOLK

The Lansdale Tru Folk celebrated Sigrblot and the beginning of Summer with a blot dedicated to victory, a feast of pork, chili, home-brewed mead and beer, and a movie on Siegfried the Dragon-slayer.

<https://www.facebook.com/LansdaleTruFolk/>

JUNE CONFERENCE CALL

Open to all members to discuss news and updates for the Northeast Region. Our next

AFA NORTHEAST HIKEMOOT

Sunday, June 25 at 10 AM

AFA members and their like-minded guests are invited to join Folkbuilder Clifford Erickson for a hiking trip at Nockamixon State Park in Bucks County, PA. Trail details will be posted soon. Afterward we will head to the Country Place for the Pubmoot! Please contact cerickson@runestone.org for details.

AFA NORTHEAST PUBMOOT

Sunday, June 25 at 1 PM

A get together in the Delaware Valley! Especially enjoyable if you have worked up an appetite from hiking. If you have like-minded friends bring them along. This place is super cheap, but cash only. There is an ATM in the lobby. Please contact cerickson@runestone.org for details.

BOSTON MOOT

The AFA Folkbuilders would like to have a moot in the New England area, but we need help from local members to make this happen. We need someone who can check out venues and help organize this. If you are interested in being our local contact please reach out to Clifford Erickson at cerickson@runestone.org.

PITTSBURGH MOOT

The AFA Folkbuilders would like to have a moot in the Allegheny River area, but we need help from local members to make this happen. We need someone who can check out venues and help organize this. If you are interested in being our local contact please reach out to Clifford Erickson at cerickson@runestone.org.

ROCHESTER MOOT

The AFA Folkbuilders would like to have a moot in the Lake Ontario area, but we need help from local members to make this happen. We need someone who can check out venues and help organize this. If you are interested in being our local contact please reach out to Clifford Erickson at cerickson@runestone.org.

Deep South, FL is hosting a hike meet at 9am in Juniper Flaine wilderness, Silver Springs, Florida. Start time is flexible if you want to contact apprentice folkbuilder JasPlourderde @ jplourde@runeston.org and make arrangements ahead of time. Please bring your own lunch and remember to hydrate. This is a casual event so dress for the weather and have fun! look foward to seeing everyone there!

Item of the Month - Military Shirt

AFA Military T-shirt \$20. [Get it HERE!](#)



New full zip-up hoodies black or blue only. You can buy it here: <http://www.runestonegifts.com/shirts>

AFA Mead Makers Group

the AFA Mead Maker's group on Facebook, and learn all about this wonderful nectar. If you can boil water – you can brew mead! You must be a current member of the AFA to participate.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AFAMeadMakers>

Shop and Help the AFA

RUNESTONE GIFTS: AFA Member Discount

AFA members save 5% on any order at checkout. Use promo code PXLKVV8 at <http://www.runestonegifts.com/>.

SHOP AMAZON and SUPPORT THE AFA

Support the AFA by shopping Amazon through our Amazon affiliate link! The AFA gets a small percentage of every Amazon sale made by starting your search from [this link](#). Bookmark the link for future shopping!

Volunteer for the AFA

Want to volunteer for the AFA? Fill out this survey: <http://runestone.org/volunteer/>

Save the Date!

Midsummer at NewGrange Hall - Asatru Hof (Northern California), June 16 - 18

[Register here!](#)

Winter Nights in the Poconos (Pennsylvania), October 12 - 15

Registration information coming soon!

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