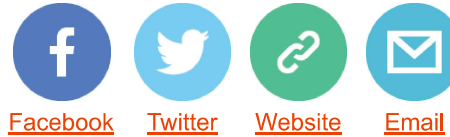


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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](mailto:thevoice@runestone.org).

Donate to the AFA



Words from the Alsherjargothi



Newgrange Hof has blossomed since the last issue of *The Voice*! We've been at the site in Brownsville every weekend since the papers were signed, and many weekdays as well - dozens of AFA members and friends painting walls, forging iron for the decorations that will adorn the front door, carving the horse-head barge boards and the gigantic hammer that will adorn the front of the building, whacking weeds, setting up an outdoor ritual area, hammering and hauling...and so much more. We have done blot, blessed meals, hailed the Gods, met the locals (and invited some of them to join us!) and generally carried on the business of practicing and promoting Asatru. It has been exhilarating, and at times exhausting. Check out all the action online - and drop by to help if you can!

Our formal consecration and opening of the hof will take place at our local Winter Nights celebration on October 10th. By the time you read these words we will have a Facebook event page describing it. But this is only the beginning; we are going to make this facility the core of a new Uppsala, a dynamo of Asatru energy and activism that will - forever! -

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But the hof is not all we're doing...

Take a look at the article on staff development elsewhere in this issue of *The Voice*. We are growing so rapidly that we have to add support staff to do the many tasks now at hand. These are unpaid positions, just right for idealistic and passionate people who are motivated by the future of our religion and by the preservation and furtherance of our Folk! If you want to help change the world in a positive way, there is no better way to do it than to step forward and say "I will!" This is an era for heroes and heroines.

And our gatherings continue! Though we will celebrate our local Winter Nights in northern California at the formal opening of Newgrange Hall, our bigger version - Winter Nights in the Poconos - is almost upon us! This is one of our four national-level AFA events and if you are anywhere in the Northeast (or even if you are not!) you really need to consider coming to this. We can confirm that we are flying David Omil, better known to some of us as David Wolfheart, in from Spain to attend! We'll be announcing more on this in the coming days, so keep following us online.

The Asatru Folk Assembly is at the cutting edge of the Awakening of our Folk and the renewal of our faith - not only in the United States, but around the world. Support us, lend a hand, and join in the victories to come!

Stephen A. McNallen,  
Alsherjargothi, AFA



## Wanted: AFA Support Staff!

The Asatru Folk Assembly is undergoing a period of rapid growth, both in numbers and in the scope of our work! We have need for Support Staff in many different areas to meet our new needs and to take administrative loads off of overburdened officers of the AFA - to include the Alsherjargothi, who is wearing way too many hats right now!

The AFA is getting away from the word "volunteer." Instead, we choose to think of AFA members who accept unpaid positions of trust in behalf of our cause as Support Staff - members of a tight team, important to our mission, responsible and dedicated to the accomplishment of defined tasks. It's all about commitment, and a desire to see the AFA succeed beyond our highest dreams!

What follows is a description of current jobs awaiting qualified Support Staff. We invite you to apply by indicating your interest to Linda McLeod at [staffdevelopment@runestone.org](mailto:staffdevelopment@runestone.org) and describe in detail your qualifications, and why you are the best person for the position.

### **Assistant to the Editor, *The Voice* -**

Collects content for *The Voice*. Ensures posts are made to AFA leaders and members regarding deadlines for submitting articles. Informs members when each issue of *The Voice* has been sent to their email addresses. Prepares a short article on entrepreneurship, money management, or financial issues for each issue. Performs other

**Assistant to the Editor, *The Runepebble* -**

Prepares original children's content for issues and solicits content from other members. Notifies AFA membership as each issue is released. Assists Becky Radcliff, *The Runepebble* editor, as requested.

**Media Manager -**

Ensures that three posts are made to Facebook and other social media sites per week. One post will be an excerpt from Steve's book. One post shall be written by Steve each week. The other posts will be from other leadership to include the Alsherjargothi. Manages the Alsherjargothi's personal Facebook account, to include friend requests and routine messages, while passing along important messages when needed. Develops other social media outlets. Works directly under Brad Taylor-Hicks, Chief of Staff. (Obviously this is a very sensitive position and you'll need to be someone we've known for a while.)

**Online Reputation Manager -**

Uses established procedures and techniques to defend the AFA and its leaders from attack online. Works under the guidance of designated advisors and reports to Brad Taylor-Hicks, Chief of Staff. (Like Media Manager, this is a sensitive position requiring special trust.)

**Event Planner-**

Develops and implements a systematic plan for organizing our four major AFA events in terms of tasks, timelines, resources, and personnel. This includes working with other staff to set up event pages, arranging guests and entertainment, and coordinating travel plans.

The following two positions relate to the Hof, and ideally should be filled locally - but I invite applicants from other regions of the country, as well:

**Hof Programming Director -**

Develops and solicits appropriate money-earning activities at the Hof. In coordination with other staff, suggests/develops program ideas, selects qualified instructors, and facilitates an active series of events and programs of a relevant nature to bring income into the Hof, and to make it a constant generator of Asatru-related events, without compromising our principles or the dignity of the Hof. Works under the supervision of the Alsherjargothi.

This is a monthly newsletter designed to highlight events and news from Newgrange Hof and Hall. The targets are: All donors to the Newgrange Hof Indiegogo campaign, all attendees and visitors who join the mailing list, and AFA members in general. It will be newsy, informal, user-friendly, and informative. The goal is to increase attendance at classes, seminars, and retreats at Newgrange and to solicit donations to fund our upgrading and improvement of the premier Asatru site in North America!

Thank you,  
Stephen McNallen, Alsherjargothi

## Horses for the Hof from Brad Taylor-Hicks



*Glad and Gyllir,  
Gler and Skeidbrimir,  
Sillfrintopp and Sinir,  
Gisl and Falhofnir,  
Gulltopp and Lettfeti;  
on these steeds the Æsir  
each day ride,*

GrÃmnismÃjl (30), Thorpe's translation

Rough and Ready, a great name for an old west town, and the cedar mill there (shown above right) was straight out of history. Not the machinery, but the old frame buildings, the cobwebbed rifles on the wall in the office and the manner of the men who worked there. I loved everything about this place, simple, traditional and straightforward. Thorgrun Odden and I had gone to pick out the boards for the fascia on the Hof. Local cedar, milled down to 10â€x2â€ and running around 16 feet long. We searched for good heartwood (Thorgrun also found a good-size scorpion), knot free for a few feet from one end. These will become our carved horse heads, crossed at the gables of the NewGrange Hof, in the old European style.

I had long been familiar with the construction of the â€Bauernhausâ€™ (farm house); my woodworking mentor and fellow AFA member, Clark Wullenweber, had a love for the style and I inherited many of his German books of traditional architecture. (Picture of museum above left.) The horse head gables seem to have been predominant in Northern Germany, but are found across Northern Europe from the Netherlands to Russia. On a trip to Saxony, I was able to see first-hand the simple beauty of those watchful horse heads, necks raised from thatched roofs, surveying the countryside. Simple in their beauty, they became the focus of the farm houses and halls, not a cross, but an older symbol of the country folk. It was natural, when I was asked by the Alsherjargothi to envision the old Grange Hall in Brownsville, California, as an Asatru Hof, that I thought immediately of those horse heads. AFA-Kin and woodworker Tommy Ferguson suggested the designs from the tent poles discovered in the Gokstad Ship burial. I readily agreed, the look was perfect, just like a horse, with a hint of dragon, and we could adapt them for the Hof with relative ease.

The noble steed holds a place in the heart of the Folk. We have the archaeology of our ancient horse sacrifices, the runes Ehwaz and Raidho, the chalk figures of England, the teams that pull the chariots of the sun and moon, and the first among the horses of the Ã†sir, Sleipnir, eight-legged bearer of the Allfather.

as late as 1875. This alignment with the fabled twins Hengist and Horsa (whose names mean "Stallion"™ and "Horse"™) is one that sits well with me. The ancient Saxon conquerors of Britain, descendants and worshippers of Woden, brought the continental Saxon, Justish and Frisian warriors to protect the Britons from Pictish assault, and from there conquered the land, ushering in the worship of Odin to England, and largely pushing out the Roman cult of Christianity.

In a way, we are like the armies of Hengist and Horsa reaching that nearby shore. We are needed, to bring our folk home to the ancient faith of our forefathers. Under the guidance of Odin, we sons and daughters of Europe have crossed the wide waters and are claiming a place for the Gods of our folk. Just as the Æsir gather at the world tree, we ride together and gather at the NewGrange Hof, for wisdom, for council and community. We gather under the watchful eyes of the Ancestors, and the wooden horse heads that remind us, that while we have a place to gather, we must always be ready to ride forth for our descendants. May the thundering hooves of the celestial horses gallop across the sacred lands of our people, and stir them to wonder and might.

*Among the oaks stood a single thatched-roof house,  
From the mossy gable, horses stretched their necks;  
Beneath it, a heart-shaped opening was cut for the owls, in keeping with a friendly age-old  
custom.  
On the grey door, the sacred circle was displayed, carved and colored as in the days of  
old.  
And the good sun rune right beside,  
Just like the forefather's earnest, unyielding ways would have it.*

*On either side of the black wall of the hearth  
Wodan's battle horse boldly reared up;  
As if it wished to whinny to me with all of its strength:  
Even now I carry Wodan still, my friend, and you still trust Frigga.*

from "The Easter Fire"™ by Hermann Lons, translated by Markus Wolff





## AFA Winter Nights in the Poconos 2015



This is one of the AFA's four national events! The agenda includes a basic rune workshop, an update on all the action at Newgrange Hof, an herb walk, a presentation by Collin

---

Halloween Costume Competition and Haunted Forest Walk for the children, as well as a mead competition for the brewers.

Rituals will include the Opening Ritual, the Disir Blot, Wotan Blot by Steve McNallen, Sumbel, and the Wayfarer's Blot.

Changes, Witch Hunt, and The Lindbergh Baby will provide music!

AFA members and vouched-for friends are welcome.

This gathering is still evolving, so check in periodically at the Facebook event page for updates!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1421334418194545/>

The Eventzilla URL is <http://winternights2015.eventzilla.net>

A preliminary schedule is shown below.

- 12:00 pm Camp Registration and Socializing [Dining Hall]  
*Register, get settled into a cabin, and get to know the Folk.*
- 12:00 pm Auction Donations [Dining Hall]  
*If you have a donation for Saturday's auction, please see AFA Leadership in the small office on the first floor of the Dining Hall.*
- 12:00 pm Mead Competition Registration [Dining Hall]  
*If you have an entry for the mead competition, please provide one unlabeled and one labeled bottle for each mead you are entering. The unlabeled bottle is for judging, the labeled bottle will be entered into the AFA Benefit Auction.  
If this is your first event or if you are a guest from outside of the Northeast region, please ask about being a contest judge!*
- 1:00 pm Welcome, Intro, Greeting the Gods [Main Fire Pit] (Stephen McNallen)  
*The start of our weekend-long meta-ritual.*
- 2:00 pm Write Your Name in Runes! [Playhouse] (Clifford Erickson)  
*A mundane Elder Futhark rune introduction for kids or adults.*
- 4:30 pm Folkbuilder Oathing Ritual [Main Fire Pit] (Matt Flavel)  
*Select Apprenticed Folkbuilders take their Oaths to the Asatru Folk Assembly.*
- 5:30 pm Dinner [Dining Hall]  
*Eat a blessed meal with the Folk.*
- 7:00 pm Collin Cleary workshop [Playhouse] (Collin Cleary)  
*A workshop for adult Asatruar, featuring the author of 'What is a Rune?' and 'Summoning the Gods'.*
- 8:30 pm Sumbel [Playhouse] (Stephen McNallen)  
*One of our Folk's most ancient rituals, focused on building the bonds between the Folk, our Gods, our Ancestors, and our living Kin.*

- 7:15 am "Sound of Spirit" Galdr, with Brad Taylor-Hicks [Playhouse]  
*Prepare for the day using runes from the Elder Futhark*
- 8:00 am Breakfast  
*Eat a blessed meal with the Folk.*
- 9:00 am Introductions [Dining Hall]  
*A time where everyone gets to share who they are, where they are from, and what they are all about.*
- 10:30 am Children's Story Time by the Fire [Fire Pit] (Suzanne Conkling)  
*Anyone who wants to read a story is welcome to do so as long as it's from our culture, the Grimm tales would be especially welcome!*
- 10:30 am NewGrange Hof Presentation [Playhouse] (Brad Taylor-Hicks)  
*Exciting updates on the new Asatru Hof for the worship of our Gods and Ancestors.*
- 12:00 pm Lunch  
*Eat a blessed meal with the Folk.*
- 1:30 pm Disir Blot [Main Fire Pit] (David Wolfheart)  
*A ritual gifting, honoring, and remembering our ancestral mothers, the Disir.*
- 2:30 pm Kid's Activities [Pavilion] (Suzanne Conkling)  
*Seasonal activities for the kids.*
- 3:00 pm Address by our Alsherjargothi [Playhouse] (Stephen McNallen)  
*A presentation from Stephen McNallen*
- 4:00 pm Last Entries taken for Mead Competition [Dining Hall]  
*Mead entries must be unlabeled.*
- 4:00 pm Kid's Costume Contest [Pavilion] (Suzanne Conkling)  
*The best boys and girls costume will get a prize. Wear your costume for the rest of the day!*
- 5:30 pm Dinner and Competition Winners [Dining Hall]  
*Eat a blessed meal with the Folk. The winners of the Mead Competition and Kid's Costume Competition will be announced!*
- 6:30 pm AFA Benefit Auction [Dining Hall] (Brad-Taylor Hicks)  
*Expand your hoard! Donations from event vendors, the AFA, Mead Competitors, and the Folk go up for auction with all proceeds benefiting the AFA.*
- 7:00 pm Haunted Forest [begins at Main Fire Pit] (Suzanne Conkling)  
*A children's adventure through a haunted forest. Hopefully you are still in costume!*
- 7:45 pm Group Photo for AFA Winter Nights in the Poconos 2015 [Pavilion]  
*A group photo so we can remember this wonderful gathering.*
- 8:00 pm Wotan Blot [Main Fire Pit] (Stephen McNallen)  
*The Alsherjargothi leads the Folk in renewing our gift cycle bonds to the Alfather.*
- 9:00 pm Music and Merriment [Pavilion, Main Fire Pit]  
*Live music including Witch Hunt, The Lindbergh Baby, and Changes!*

- 8:30 am Breakfast  
*Eat one last blessed meal with the Folk, until next time! Don't forget to get folk's contact information.*
- 9:30 am Herb Walk [Pavilion]  
*An herb workshop for any age Asatruar.*
- 11:00 am Wayfarers' Blot [Main Fire Pit] (Blaine Qualls, Jr.)  
*A closing to the meta-ritual reflecting on the friends made, the wisdom gained, and our safe travels.*
- 12:00 pm Cleanup and departure  
*The staff at Camp Netimus have always been great to us. Let's ensure that we leave camp better than we found it. Please clean your cabins, removing trash and sweeping. If you see any messes or trash in a common area, please clean them up.*

## Winter Nights at Newgrange

We will be celebrating Winter Nights in our new hof on October 10! Join us as we ritually dedicate the world's first major Asatru hof in 800 years! We will celebrate the festival of Winter Nights and give blot to the female ancestors, to the Disir, and to the high God Odin. Come see how we turned a wonderful old Grange Hall into a Germanic temple, complete with carved horse-head barge boards, a huge Thor's hammer on the front, representations of the Gods and Goddesses, and much more! Music and excellent food will add to the experience of this history-making event. The URL for the event page is <https://www.facebook.com/events/144042749279300/>; the Eventzilla page should be up soon.

## Correction

In last month's entrepreneur piece, the name of Steve Ingle's company was misspelled in the heading. It appeared as Ghostworks Crossbows; the correct spelling is GhostWolf Crossbows. My apologies to Steve. - Karen, editor

## Family Safety Program: Weather Season

with it. Power outages give you a lot to think about.



What are you going to do with the food in your fridge? How will you stay warm? How do you plan to cook warm meals if you don't have access to a gas stove? And importantly, how will you light your way? Candles and flashlights are handy but when the power is out for an extended period of time, it is a hassle to rely on so many different sources. Start planning now!

Jim and Sara the Corgi  
"Learn a new skill every week."

### Common Sense Fire Starter from Steve Ingle

I enjoy watching all those survival shows on TV. Maybe you do, too. It is always interesting for me to see all the ways that they come up with to start a fire. There is always a bit of drama "oh no, we've got to build a fire, what am I going to do" but nonetheless they almost always get a fire going using some primitive technique.

I also like to read survival and prepper blogs, but there is one thing that I see over and over again and that is the recommendation that people pack a "flint & steel" type fire starter. I won't say that this is bad advice; rather I'll say that it is neither complete nor common sense advice.

Perhaps the writers watch those same shows and think that they don't want you (the reader) to get caught out like that with no way to start a fire, so they suggest that you pack

So you go and buy yourself one and put it in your backpack or bug out bag with the confidence that you're all prepared and will be able to make a fire for survival. After all, you did follow the advice of the "experts." Right?

Using a primitive fire starter is fun if you're a Boy Scout sitting around in warm dry conditions. It's also fun to learn how to make a fire by all of the primitive methods and "yes" it might save your life to have this knowledge, but!

On the other hand, if you're out in the cold, wet wilderness, hypothermic or borderline hypothermic, you won't be thinking it's so much fun when your hands are numb, you're shaking all over, and you're whacking away at a piece of metal for hours trying to light up a clump of wet grass stems or trying to rub two wet sticks together.

If you are lost or stranded out somewhere in the forest and have to build a fire for warmth or perhaps just for the comfort of having a fire going when you have to sleep out in the open at night, then you want something you can depend on. And you want it quick.

If your life depends on getting a fire going quickly then you certainly do not want to depend on a primitive fire starter of any kind. It is almost impossible to start a fire in wet or very damp conditions using "flint & steel." Your tinder needs to be dry. Even slightly damp tinder is difficult to get a flame out of with just a spark.

So unless you just want to go full Neanderthal and take your chances with Mother Nature, here is what I always recommend to everyone. Take a giant leap into modern times and pack a modern fire starter.. a Bic lighter (or any brand of cigarette lighter on the market; I'm not endorsing any particular brand, but Bic is my choice).

A lighter such as this creates a flame, not just a spark; therefore, you can actually use it to dry out a bit of tinder to use in getting a fire started. Even in good conditions it is going to be a lot faster than any primitive fire starter method.

Now if you've had the good sense to pack a flint and steel fire striker in your bug out

I buy them buy the three pack and then double bag them in zip-lock bags. Keep some in all of your outdoor gear bags. It is also wise to carry one in your pants pocket as well so that you will have a backup in the event that you get separated from your rucksack.

As always, use good common sense when packing up your gear. Take only what you are going to really use. Don't try to pack up *everything* you *think* you're going to need.

Next week see my article on finding the Best Fire Starter Tinder on my blog at:

<http://GhostWolfCrossbows.com>

Thank you all for your support from last month's The Voice article!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Steve Ingle

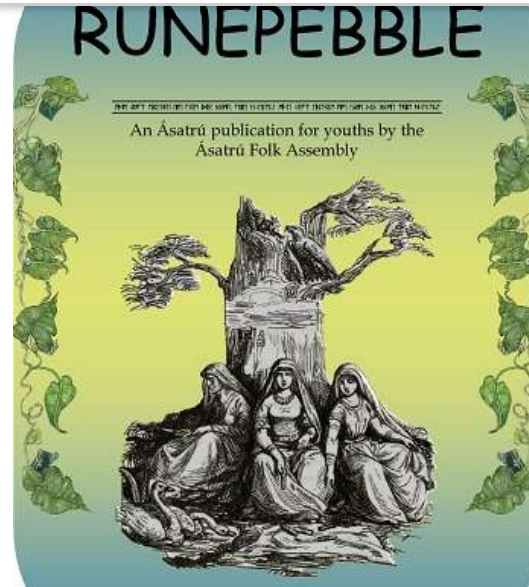


## Circle of Eir - A Call to Healing

The AFA Circle of Eir is up and working. A core group performs a monthly healing ritual calling on Eir and naming those AFA members and families in need of healing. If you would like to be in the AFA Circle of Eir Facebook group or if you would just like to submit the name of someone who needs healing, please let me know at [patriciahall@runestone.org](mailto:patriciahall@runestone.org). The next healing ritual, which is jointly done by AFA members from both the States and Europe, will be performed on Thursday, October 8, at midnight EDT/USA.

## Runepobble





Runepebble: An AFA e-publication for Asatru families!

One month has passed since the release of our latest issue of The Runepebble, and we are now busy bees as we work on the next issue, which is to be published on November 1st. The November-December issue will focus on the World Tree ... and we are still looking for submissions! If you or a child you know is interested in contributing, we are happy to accept submissions of all kinds, including artwork, stories, poetry, folktales, songs/sheet music, crafts, activities, recipes, educational articles, and more.

Line-up of Future Runepebble Issues:

- January-February 2016: Birds & Asatru, a look at birds of our lands, sacred birds, mythological birds, birds in history, and birds in folklore.
- March-April: Waterways & the Ocean: Why were the oceans important to our ancestors? To us today? Enjoy a look at the waterways of the world, their magical and everyday species, folklore, and more.

If you would like to submit some work, or have questions relating to the Runepebble submissions or subscription, please contact the editor, Rebecca, at [Runepebble@Runestone.org](mailto:Runepebble@Runestone.org).

## 2016 AFA Clergy Program Reminder

The AFA Clergy Program is now accepting applications for the 2016 Clergy Program! Please visit our website at <http://asatrufolkassembly.org/about-the-afa/afa-clergy-program/> for more information and to find out if you qualify.

If you have any questions, you can contact our Program Director at [Clergy@Runestone.org](mailto:Clergy@Runestone.org).

## Northern Plains Update from Blaine Qualls, Apprentice Folkbuilder



just a little too late to make the last issue of The Voice. It was a great weekend, attended by about 20 good, tru folk. With several blotar, a feast, an auction, and a sumbel there was plenty for everyone.

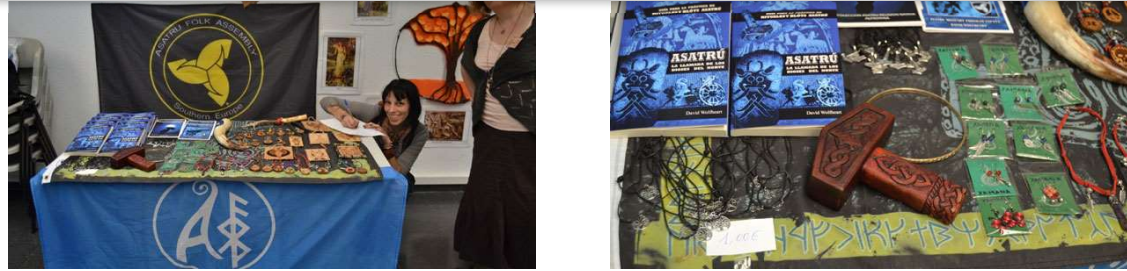


The most positive thing, in my opinion, was being able to donate nearly \$500 from our auction to the AFA Hof fund. A great time was had by all and some new friendships were made â€¦ doesn't get much better.

We've also begun a monthly conference call that is really helping to get people in the region more connected. Out of these calls we have possibly begun a regular meet and greet for membership in Minnesota, which is a huge step forward there. All in all, here in the Plains things are looking very positive.

## Days of Paganism Event in Barcelona from David Wolfheart





The Asatru Folk Assembly and Afrothul collaborated in a days of paganism event in Barcelona, doing a workshop on Stáðhagaldr - Runic Posture Magic/Meditation on Saturday and participating in a conference on Sunday.

David Wolfheart led the Stáðhagaldr workshop, for those who wanted to participate. It was well received by the people, which was very gratifying.

The conference on Sunday was on Asatru, A European Native Spirituality. David Wolfheart explained to the attendees some basic points of the folkish Asatru vision of the AFA. The talk was well received by the people, who had various questions about Asatru. Our supply of the Asatru book *Calling the Gods of the North* was exhausted



21/taller-de-stadhagaldr-meditacion-postural-runica-en-las-jornadas-del-dia-del-paganismo/dsc\_0065



## REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALL

On our September conference call we had some great discussion about planning events for the Midwest. The small group on the call came up with two possibilities: an AFA Yule pubmoot in the Chicago area and a late spring AFA gathering for ritual (and free camp over) in the Michigan area. I need someone from the Chicago area, and surrounding towns, to work with me in identifying venues for the moot and to work with organizing it since I am not familiar with the area, but would happily show up for a pubmoot! If interested in helping, please let me know either on the AFA Midwest Facebook site or by emailing me directly at [patriciahall@runestone.org](mailto:patriciahall@runestone.org)

Our next Midwest conference call will be at 7:30 p.m. Central/8:30 p.m. EDT on Thursday, October 8. I look forward to hearing you there! Toll free number is: 866-730-7514  
Participant Code is: 757055 Call is optional.

AFA Midwest has its own FaceBook group! The FaceBook link is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/871639299583668/members/> Please request an add! This is for AFA members only. It will be a place to post conference call info, gatherings, and other goings on in the AFA as well as for discussion. Also, if you have not friended me on Facebook, please feel free to do so. My Facebook link is <https://www.facebook.com/patricia.l.hall.92>

## Upcoming Events

### MAKING VACATIONS PLANS FOR 2015?

There is one remaining large gathering scheduled for this year, with the camp already reserved:

Facebook and Eventzilla URLs

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1421334418194545/>

<http://winternights2015.eventzilla.net>

We urge all members to come experience at least one major gathering this year. You'll find it's life-changing!

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