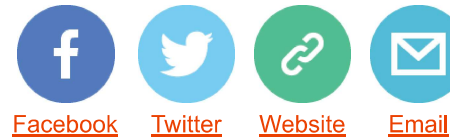


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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

A century from now, 2015 will be remembered as the year everything changed in regard to Asatru in America, and beyond. Here's why:

Whether you live in northern California, or Pennsylvania, or Germany, the existence of Newgrange Hof and Community Center changes everything.

fair, but it's reality. But with a large building on a couple of acres, you become "real." It is a momentous difference that will affect each one of us, no matter where we live.

Many of our own members, deep down inside, do not understand just how significant Newgrange Hof is. How do I know? Because most of the contributions for this project have come from people who are not AFA members. We have to understand - there has been nothing like this in Asatru since the burning of the temple at Uppsala in the 1200s! We have changed the paradigm. We have put Asatru on the map, not just figuratively, but literally! This is a fundamental shift in the situation.

Newgrange brings the day closer when you will have a comparable hof near you. Why? Because we've shown it can be done - and that in itself is a powerful incentive to make it happen over and over. On a more tangible level, the AFA will be successfully paying off a considerable bank loan - so we will have a great credit rating. We can, if we wish, start building one hof at a time, across the country!

Our new hof is a compelling reason this year will be remembered. But the publication a couple of months ago of *Asatru: A Native European Spirituality* is another big step, and it will work synergistically with Newgrange to add momentum to the revival of our faith.

Newgrange - for a new world!

Stephen A. McNallen
Alsherjargothi, AFA

We've Got It!



The Asatru Folk Assembly now owns the building we call Newgrange Hall. Paperwork was completed just in time for this issue of The Voice.

Now we have to pay for it! We'll pay down the loan and transform a venerable old Grange Hall into an Asatru Hof and Hall! In order to do that, we still need your donations as much as ever!

There is a lot to be done before Newgrange Hof will take a more or less completed form - with all the carved images of the Gods in place, runestones, outdoor ritual sites, and all the carvings and painting and tapestries just the way we want them. But we are not waiting for all that; the first of our holy rites will be held on this location a couple of weekends from now!

As you will see elsewhere in this issue, we are having a work party on September 12 and 13, and the building will serve as holy site from the very beginning: We will do a land-taking ritual and a memorial for our recently-deceased AFA member and friend, Jean Terry. We will give blot and sit in sumbel. We will begin using this building for the high purpose that was its ultimate destiny when it was erected in 1938.

Starting with this gathering and running until the Wolf breaks its chains we will write in the hof's log book the date, and the rites performed, and who was there. Down through the

Newgrange, and as a historical document.

A new phase of the Awakening has begun. And you are part of it.

Stephen A. McNallen

Alsherjargothi, AFA

**Despite the Announcement Above, the Next Few Days
are Crucial for the Hof - and Here's Why!**

This is a personal note from me, Steve McNallen.

It would be a mistake to think that, since we have taken possession of the hof, the battle is over. Far from it! We still have to pay for it.

When this issue of The Voice shows up in your inbox, there will be about **12 days left** in our Indiegogo campaign. We got off to a great start but right now we are running behind where we need to be. This is typically how it works with crowdfunding, but the fact remains - this is like a race, and it's time to start our sprint for the finish line!

If you have not made a donation, please do so. If you have made one, please consider making another. (We can consolidate your total to bump you up to a higher perk level!) In either case, please tell others about this important cause, urge them to help, and include a reminder that donations are tax deductible!

You might ask, "So what about you, Steve? Where's your donation?" Here's the answer: Sheila and I put in \$1,000 - and more than that, we personally guaranteed the loan. This latter factor put us at a considerable disadvantage, because it makes it impossible for us to refinance the adjustable rate mortgage on our home. I don't have to tell you what that means when interest rates go up...but we're taking the chance anyway, because we

Stand with us. Stand with the AFA. Stand with a future for our holy faith and the existence of our Folk!

Asatru: A Native European Spirituality - Have You Got Your Copy Yet?

I know that I am (literally!) speaking to the converted here, since most of you have probably got your copy of *Asatru: A Native European Spirituality* - but I want to remind you all of just how important this book is. It is nothing less than the distilled thought of my forty-five years fighting for our Gods and our Folk. In a world where any idiot can go online and sputter "Steve McNallen believes..." and then utter the most ridiculous lies as though they were the essence of truth, it is important to have access to what I actually did say and do. *Asatru: A Native European Spirituality* is the definitive source on Steve McNallen at this point in my life.

It's only been three months since this book hit Amazon! What with all the activity on Newgrange Hof, it seems so much longer! But the two things are intimately connected, both a part of the rapidly evolving role of Asatru in this country and around the world. Both are instruments of change...for ourselves as individuals, for Asatru, and for every man and woman of European descent on Earth. I am here to make a difference, and this book is part of the way that is going to happen!

If you haven't read it, please get a copy. If you HAVE read it, get a copy for a friend. Tell others about it. Help me, and the AFA, build a new world!

You can order *Asatru: A Native European Spirituality* from amazon or by going to <http://runestone.org> and clicking on the "Runestone Gifts" button.

A Life Well Lived, Now Over

Word came to me that Jean Terry died last Sunday.

Jean was one of the newer members of the AFA community in northern California. She came to us after hearing me on Red Ice Radio a year or more ago and, surprised to learn that we lived not more than half an hour from her, called us on the phone! We met her; she immediately joined the AFA, and instantly became a part of just about everything we did. If you attended the Freyfaxi event last year at her horse ranch, you'll remember her - making her horses and her facilities available for AFAers from all over northern California and beyond.

Jean fought cancer for fifteen years. She did it her way, with natural alternatives to the usual slash-and-burn medical procedures. When we last saw her, she had wasted away so badly that it seemed she had no muscle mass at all - much less any fat! But not once, not one single time, did she indulge in self-pity, or negativity, or complaints. Her demeanor remained optimistic, dignified, and determined. Her bright blue eyes were clear and calm and without fear. The only word for Jean was "heroic." She was a model for us all.

On September 12, as part of our "working weekend" on the hof, we will have a memorial service for Jean.

We'll miss you, Jean. May we live as well as you did!

AFA Entrepreneur: Steve Ingle of Ghostworks Crossbows

Thank you for the opportunity to share my story.

At Charming of the Plow I made a commitment to change my life for the



spend with my young son.

This of course would also give me the freedom to live anywhere I want. A giant plus!

Right after the event I set about researching ways to make money on the Internet. After sifting through zillions of scams and get rich quick nonsense, I settled on affiliate marketing.

Then the reality of the fact that I had no clue as to how to do this kicked in so I literally went back to school to teach myself Internet marketing. For many, many months I would spend one to three hours per day researching, reading, watching videos, etc.

I now have a fairly good knowledge about affiliate / Internet marketing (still learning). One of the first things you learn about this type of business is that it is like any other job – if you want to make money you have to go to work, and it is a lot of work, especially at first. But as knowledge and experience grows it gets easier. It’s still work but it goes faster because I know what I’m doing now.

On Friday the 28th of August I launched my first affiliate website: GhostWolf Crossbows. <http://ghostwolfcrossbows.com> .

Getting it up and running though is only the beginning. Now the real work starts - getting ranked on Google: not an easy thing to do but every business knows that if you’re not on the first page of Google then no one is ever going to find you.

People can help with this by going to the site and clicking on the LIKE and SHARE buttons for Facebook, Twitter, and Google +. The SHARE button for Facebook and the Google +1

Also more time spent on a site and more pages visited looks good to Google.

Iâ€™ve got two more websites in the works; one of them is an information site to help other people learn how to build an internet marketing website in a way that will allow them to skip over a great deal of the anguish I went through in learning how to do this.

If anyone has comments about the site or wants to learn about affiliate marketing please contact me at: Steve@GhostWolfCrossbows.com .

Here is the web address for GhostWolf Crossbows: <http://ghostwolfcrossbows.com>

Membership News

MANDY DALE - MEMBERSHIP ADMIN

It should be no surprise that Steve's book and interviews, the Newgrange Hall/Hof project, and the good exposure of the AFA are bringing more people to us. That's very exciting, but of course it adds to the time needed to keep things running smoothly. It takes more than one person to maintain our membership system these days.

We're very fortunate to now have Mandy Dale of St. Augustine, Florida, as our Membership Administrator. She partners with Matt Flavel, who coordinates our Folkbuilder Program, and Clifford Erickson, who provides technical support for our database. They're aware of every applicant and new member, as well as our renewing and canceled members. Mandy's efficiency and promptness, as well as the ability to produce membership reports for us, make her an invaluable member of our team. Welcome, Mandy!

COMMUNICATION WITH US

If you have questions regarding your dues or payments, Mandy can be reached at mandy@runestone.org. You should already have the contact information of your regional Folkbuilder. All of the Folkbuilders are listed on our webpage:

preferable to a Facebook message because we can "tag" emails for prompt or detailed response and easily share them with other staff members.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Why is membership important? It's the lifeblood that allows us to continue and grow our many projects, host events, improve our inventory, and make significant purchases - such as the new hof! Remember that all money goes either into the general fund, or a specialized fund that you designate such as Folk Services or our Land & Hof Fund.

One change that we've made is this: The lowest membership level, Supporting, is now being offered only as a payment of \$30 because the monthly Paypal fees at this lowest level were really excessive. Until a few years ago, the annual payment was the only option offered for membership dues. If you'd prefer to make monthly payments, the \$5/month Sustaining Level is available. Inflation? Yes, we experience it, too. Twenty years ago when the Asatru Folk Assembly was newly incorporated, the Supporting level dues were...\$30 per year. Your tax deductible donation of your membership, over and above the Supporting Level, allows us to continue to develop the vision of the AFA, and a future for our Folk, that began with Steve over forty years ago. Thank you for maintaining your membership!

Family Safety Program: Water

What could be more important than preparing in advance for a food shortage?

The answer is: preparing for a water shortage.

The average human can go days, sometimes even weeks, without food and survive, as long as they have water. Without water, you will die in a few days.

Seven gallons of water must be stored for each person in the family which is good for up to 2 weeks. Keep it away from sunlight to keep bacteria from developing. Replenish it after every 6 months to keep it fresh. The number of gallons that need to be stored per family member will also depend on the temperature where you live. Hotter climates call for more water consumption.

One gallon of water must also be stored for cooking and cleaning alone. You must maintain proper hygiene even if there is a water shortage to prevent certain diseases. Stocking up on food that can be easily cooked and requires little water for preparation can also help conserve water.

Cars should also have their own supply of water because the supply of water for the family alone cannot be used for other purposes. At least 2 gallons of water for the car is ideal.

Tablets for purifying water will become more important during a water shortage. You must buy them before a water shortage because stocks might run out.

You can also use water from the water heater tank or melt ice for small uses of water. Being resourceful is important when going through a water shortage because stored water may run out.

Water from a lake, rain, rivers, and streams can also be a source. Collect rain water by placing a basin outside to catch the water or use it to collect water from a nearby stream or river, but do not drink it right away. Levels of contamination are very high and you will get sick. Boil the water first before using or drinking. Adding tablets intended for water purification can also be an option.

If all you can get is salt water, you must distill it first. You can do this by boiling the water and suspending a concave surface (e.g., a large upside-down bowl) over it, with another container below the edges of the concave surface. Water condensation will occur and what runs out of the bowl will be safe for drinking.

Learn to take a shower more efficiently because you don't want to waste your stored

prepare for a water shortage. And if you have pets, their time for baths should be shortened, too.



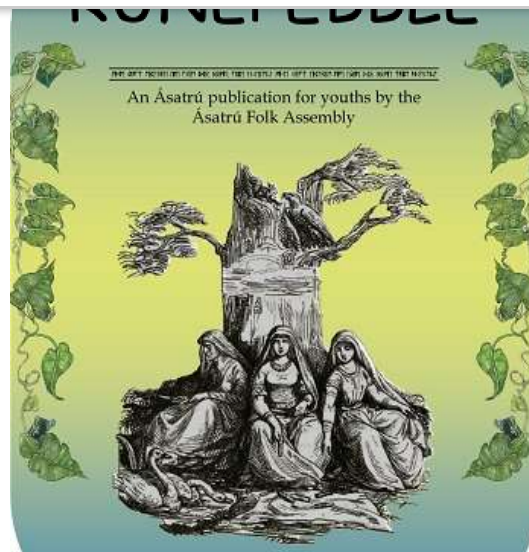
There are a lot of things that people can do to prepare for a water shortage or to survive it. Proper awareness and conservation are the most important things to remember.

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

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. The next healing ritual, which is jointly done by AFA members from both the States and Europe, will be performed on Thursday, September 3, at midnight EDT/USA.

Runepobble



Runepebble: An AFA e-publication for Asatru families!

The current issue of the Runepebble, on bees and honey, comes out September 1st. The next issue, for November-December, will focus on the World Tree. If you or a child you know is interested in contributing to the next issue, we are happy to accept submissions of all kinds, including artwork, stories, poetry, folktales, songs/sheet music, crafts, activities, recipes, educational articles, and more. If you would like to submit some work, or have questions relating to the Runepebble, please contact our editor, Rebecca, at Runepebble@Runestone.org.

Clergy Reminder

The AFA Clergy Program is now accepting applications for 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.



This was the second Great Northwest Freyfaxi, fulfilling our promise to make this a recurring gathering of the Folk in the Northwest and beyond. We did, however, draw people from far outside the area - from Montana, Texas, and Pennsylvania! Attendance was good, and we made many new friends.

The rituals were memorable. We filled our lungs with sea-air at the Njord blot on the beach, as Mac flung a silver coin into the ocean as an offering to repay the God who gives us the "second harvest" from the depths. We splashed in or through the tidal puddles afterwards, playing and leaping like children. The Frey blot on Sunday was central to the purpose of the weekend, as we honored the Lord of the Vanir with mead and might. Steve McNallen's™ Odin bot was well received, and the sumbel that followed was exceptionally good.



Great Northwest Freyfaxi - an event to remember! Good work by Mac and Elizabeth and Jane and all the folk who made it such a great success!



The fourth annual *Freyfaxi* in the Berkeley hills was held on Saturday, August 29th. By the time we gathered for our Frey Blot beneath the gnarly old bay tree which protects our grove, we had about 26 people in attendance. Michael Hunter spoke about commitments made at *Charming of the Plow* last February, where we consciously replaced a negative factor in our lives with a positive goal. This was reexamined yesterday, along with the nature of polarities and the complementary roles of women and men. A sheaf of wheat was passed around, and each of us took a stalk for a personal offering that was placed within what we've come to think of as "the mother-of-bay trees." That simple act brought forth a sense that we had done this many times before, over thousands of years: a

being, kinship, laughter, and a sense of awe and purpose as we all share ownership of the first large, community-owned hof in a thousand years!

Next gathering, *Work Week-end and Land-taking* at Newgrange Hall, Brownsville, CA, September 12/13.

NEWGRANGE HALL â€“ Hof and Community Center of the AFA

Launching September 12 â€“ 13

8408 La Porte Road, Brownsville, CA

Facebook event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/874642939283727/>

It all begins September 12th when dozens of AFA members and supporters will arrive at the hof, with tools, supplies, and skills â€“ but more importantly, with a passion to see us transform this beautiful old grange building into our place of worship and kinship as Newgrange Hall.

Bring a sleeping bag or tent, or stay at the local Brownsville Motel just down the road. RSVPs are required, though, because we'll be providing our own meals. Some of us will be cooking or packaging up gifts for our Indiegogo donors and making gift bags that we'll hand-deliver to our Brownsville neighbors, while others do maintenance, landscaping, and minor repairs. Everyone will have the opportunity to help us with planning and discuss future events. A land-taking ritual, memorial for Jean Terry, and sumbel around the campfire will be the first formal ceremonies to be shared with the Folk. Sunday morning, we welcome a cycling team from Chico that will be using Newgrange as a pit-stop during a cycling event. This will be an interesting and productive weekend, to say the least! Expect lots of pictures and videos.

For more information, write to afa@runestone.org

WINTER NIGHTS AT NEWGRANGE

October 10th ; 2 â€“ 10 p.m.

Fall leaves, pumpkins, candles and the murmuring voices of Our Mothers...

our connection with the Disir and the Holy Powers. We'll be using the stage for a live musical performance that blends with the theme of Winter Nights. Please wear your dressier clothes as we want to establish a sense of purpose that comes with anticipating such a major event. Donation requested: \$25 per adult, \$10 children 7 â€“ 16, children 6 and under free. More information will be posted soon.

News from Southern Europe from David Wolfheart



Asatru Folk Asembly Southern Europe - Alfrothul Kindred Freyfaxi In Barcelona

Kindred Alfrothul members organized a Freyfaxi blot for the Asatru Folk Assembly Southern Europe. Besides the blot, a meal and a workshop on runic meditation (Stadhagaldr) were held.



Odin's Blot in Zaragoza - Kindreds of AFA in Spain, United in Friendship

Kindred Alfrothul members joined members of the Los Vientos del Norte Kindred (based in Zaragoza) for a blot to Odin, to unite these two kindreds of the Asatru Folk Assembly of Southern Europe in Spain.

David Wolfheart and others of Alfrothul



There was good hospitality and cordiality, and the Odin blot strengthened the ties of brotherhood between these two kindreds of the AFA in Spain.



**News from the Southwest
from Roland L'Heureux**



Runekenhof celebrated its first Freyfaxi and Hof Moot on August 15th with about a dozen people in attendance. We had a great little gathering as people met for the first time while others were able to get reacquainted with old friends still true to the ways of our ancestors. Within the short few hours that we gathered we shared food and drink, news of growing kindreds in the local areas, plans for future growth and activities for Asatruar in the East Phoenix valley, and blot in celebration of our ancient traditions with hospitality and mutual respect toward all. Notwithstanding its humble appearance, our time together was made both sacred and memorable by those who attended, and it was once again our sincere pleasure to host an event in which our ancestors were honored, our folk were edified and encouraged, and our Gods were remembered and revered.

For those in the Southwest/East Phoenix Valley area, Runekenhof is planning three events for the coming month. On Wednesday, September 9th, we will be having our first pubmoot in remembrance of Hermann of the Cherusci at The Handlebar Bar & Grill here in Apache Junction (which is known locally for its 20+ selection of on-tap craft beers) from 4 - 6 p.m. For the weekend of Sept. 12th and 13 we will be taking a road trip to California for the AFA/NewGrange Hall Work Weekend (anyone needing a ride or wishing to put together a caravan let us know). And on Saturday, September 19th, we will be having a short Harvest/Winter Finding blot at our customary location in Prospector Park. Check our

As always, Debra and I are grateful for the continued encouragement and direction from our local Folkbuilder, Blaine Qualls Jr., as well as others within the AFA leadership, as we strive to broaden and deepen our AFA footprint here in the Southwest region. Hail the Holy Powers! Hail the Ancestors! Hail the AFA!

News from the Midwest from Patricia Hall, Folkbuilder

REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALL

Hope you all had great August and summer! Our next **Midwest** conference call will be at 7:30 p.m. Central/8:30 p.m. EDT on Thursday, September 17. We are mid-month because I am having a full knee replacement surgery on the 8th and have much to do before and after. 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>

News from the Northeast from Patricia Hall, Folkbuilder and Clifford Erickson, Apprentice Folkbuilder

REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALL

look forward to hearing you there! Toll free number is: 866-730-7514 Participant Code is: 757055 Call is optional.

CLOSED FOLKISH PUBMOOT â€“ LANSDALE, PA, AREA

Our own Clifford Erickson hosts a monthly closed pubmoot near Lansdale, PA. The next is:

Saturday, September 12 at 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Iron Abbey Gastro Pub
680 Easton Rd, Horsham, Pennsylvania 19044

RSVP on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1622537404661853/1622542704661323/>

or to cerickson@runetone.org

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY EVENTS

The Skylands Asatru Fellowship is pleased to sponsor the following events for the month of September:

Wednesday, September 9, 6:30 p.m., Mount Olive Public Library: Lore Study. Topic: "Scandinavian Magic."

Sunday, September 13, 7:00 p.m., Byram, NJ, ve: New Moon offering to the land-wights.

Saturday, September 19, 2:00 p.m., Byram, NJ, ve: Haustblot - harvest celebration.

Interested folk can find details and RSVP either at our website

(<http://www.skylandsasatru.org>) or on our Meetup page (<http://www.meetup.com/NJ-Asatru/>)

Also, be sure to check out the Scanfest, held at Vasa Park on Sunday, September 6. We'll be doing a day trip, and Asatruar from all over the region will be visiting to enjoy the



REPORT ON IRMINFOLK™S FOLKISH SUMMER HALLOWING 2015

Tucked away in the Pennsylvania mountains lies the beautiful Camp Netimus. The camp has been a hot spot of Asatruar activity for some time, and this year it hosted the Irminfolk™s fifth consecutive Folkish Summer Hallowing event. It began Thursday, August 20th, with a good handful of people arriving for the opening ceremony, after which

morning.

Day number two saw more people arrive, and although the rest of the people would not arrive until Saturday, that didn't slow anything down. That Friday we awoke to the first class of day, which was sandcasting, one of two classes put on by Michael Sagginario; it drew a pretty good sized crowd as kids and adults alike watched him make pewter replicas of Viking Age coins. The day also held numerous workshops including how to make Fire Cider, a multi-purpose remedy for the approaching cold weather, and a very informative lecture on the importance of rites and ritual provided by Svinfylkin's Gothi Xander (see it at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLaeASVosnRuXxHabFnoLiNcAwc0QJ5SZz>). There was also axe throwing, archery, community building, and time by the wonderfully refreshing lake at the base of the camp.

Saturday was the by far the biggest of the four days, with an insightful land navigation course, natural living crash course that centered around making your own sauerkraut and pre-probiotics, and a stirring speech by Balder Rising. The band Changes also played an amazing set for the good folk in the pavilion, while mead tasters sat in the hall judging this year's entries. As the day moved on, the main ritual took place as the sun went down, a blot to Freyr.



It's impossible to describe what happened during and after that ritual; the pictures have been posted and even then you can't grasp the intensity of the spirit of the people. It was intense and it was beautiful; as the fire consumed the offerings and spit flames high into the sky you could feel the connections stretching thousands of years back. Sumbel was wonderful, with laughs and tears; Will DeVito graced us with some moving songs; Patrick McAleer was announced as this year's Mead Champion and

The final day of FSH was spent as most days are spent when something wonderful has come to a close. Everyone knowing it was time to part ways held on as long as they could. It's not easy saying goodbye to people, especially when you only see those people less than a handful of times a year. What is satisfying as we laughed and joked, cleaned up and said our goodbyes, is that you knew the Folkish spirit of our people was alive and well. Every year we grow and maybe by the time our children are adults, they won't have to go so far out of the way to be surrounded by such wonderful people. Rather, as the saying goes, "To a sure friend there is a short cut, even though he lives a long way off." Until that day we will keep traveling the long road and we do it with pride in our hearts and the power of folk behind us.

<http://folkishsummerhallowing.com/>

<http://irminfolk.com/>

Lansdale, PA, Freyfaxi





Local AFA members and trusted friends gathered to celebrate Freyfaxi at Clifford Erickson's home near Lansdale, PA.

Upcoming Events

MAKING VACATIONS PLANS FOR 2015?

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

WINTER NIGHTS IN THE POCONOS, Camp Netimus, Milford, PA, October 16 – 18

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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