Well, here it is, halfway through the year already! It’s been a strange year, so far too, with crazy weather, the COVID crisis, my hospital stay, rioting and protests over the border in the US and more! But already we have done interesting things here in Molossia, including the re-launch of the Great Panjandrum, broomball, opening the Time Capsule, launching a rocket from an island and an expedition to distant volcanoes - which you can read about on the next page. We pride ourselves on being active here in Molossia, always doing things to keep our nation interesting and busy. After all, a nation isn’t a static thing, it’s people living their lives together under a common flag. These activities aren’t always amazing to the world but they are to each person. And taken together they create the fabric of the country as a whole, vibrant and exciting. So, too, is life here in Molossia, a fabric of lives, events and happening, all woven together, making up our amazing nation!

Molossia featured in the Wall Street Journal!

Molossia’s flag flying at the Legend Brewing Company in Richmond Virginia!

Molossia’s Beautiful roses!
On Sunday, 14 June 2020 XLIII the Molossian Institute of Volcanology set out on a survey of the volcanic region in the vicinity of Mammoth Lakes, California. Located about 160 Imperial Nortons (160 km / 100 mi) southwest of Molossia, the area is home to two volcanic fields and several geological formations related to volcanology. Mammoth Lakes lies in an area known as the Long Valley Caldera, the ancient crater of a supervolcano that first erupted 760,000 years ago. Since that massive eruption, which covered much of what is now the western United States with as much as 840 Nortons (150 meters / 490 ft) of volcanic ash, subsequent eruptions and related activity have occurred, as recently as 300 years ago.

The Institute team set out early and arrived in the region around 11:00 AM MST, choosing to first explore the Inyo Craters, phreatic volcanoes that erupted about 600 years ago. After exploring the craters, the team moved to the nearby Earthquake Fault, a misnamed volcanic fissure that opened around the same time as the Inyo Craters erupted. Subsequent to that, the team then visited Hot Creek, an area of geothermal activity that includes fumaroles, boiling pools and springs. Within the creek itself superheated water wells up from multiple subsurface vents. The next stop for the team was Obsidian Dome, a mountain made from brittle, glass-like obsidian lava. Following the stop at Obsidian Dome, the group moved to nearby Devil’s Punchbowl, another phreatic crater with a large resurgent dome in the middle. From there the team traveled to Panum Crater, yet another phreatic crater on the shore of Mono Lake. Nearby the group visited the shore of Mono Lake itself, a salt water lake with no outlet. Numerous limestone towers known as tufa are found there, formed when the calcium carbonate in the lake formed around underwater springs. This final exploration complete, the science team returned to Molossia, having gained new insight into the amazing, powerful and sometimes violent forces that mold and shape our world.
Molossia’s National Myth - The Questing Beast

The Questing Beast, or the Beast Glatisant (Barking Beast), is a monster from Arthurian legend, the subject of quests by famous knights like King Pellinore, Sir Palamedes, and Sir Percival. The strange creature has the head and neck of a serpent, the body of a leopard, the haunches of a lion and the feet of a hart. Its name comes from the great noise it emits from its belly, a barking like "thirty couple hounds questing". As King Pellinore describes it, the hunt of the beast has always been the burden of the Pellinores, and all Pellinores are in fact trained for the hunt from birth (a training which does not seem to extend much beyond finding the beast's droppings). Having searched fruitlessly all his life for the beast, Pellinore is convinced by his friend Sir Grummore Grummrursum to drop his quest. However, when it turns out later that the beast had been pining away for lack of attention, King Pellinore nurses it back to health and resumes his Sisyphean hunt.

It is the belief in Molossia that the endless hunt of King Pellinore for the beast passed through our nation at some point, lost in the mists of time. As King Pellinore was able to draw near the beast in Molossia, it leaped away mightily, leaving its print in the surface of Helicopter Rock, where the mark can be seen to this day. The quest then doubtless continued and today only the mysterious mark in the rock is evidence of Molossia's brush with Arthurian legend.

Did Ancient Chinese Discover Molossia?

The discovery a few years ago of a Ming Dynasty coin in modern Molossia raised the possibility that medieval Chinese mariners and explorers traveled to this remote location 584 years ago, during the year 1421. Is it possible that one the fleets of the great Chinese Admiral Zheng He visited California that year? There is a story of a medieval Chinese junk buried in the silt of the Sacramento River, and a Chinese breastplate was dug up in nearby Susanville. Perhaps ancient Chinese explorers entered San Francisco Bay and sailed up the Sacramento River, later marching inland, eventually to the area of present-day Molossia. Beyond the discovery of the coin there is no real evidence to support this theory, but it is nevertheless one of our national myths!

Upcoming Tours Of Molossia

Tours of our nation are currently planned on the following dates only:

- Saturday, 18 July 2020 XLIII at 10:00 AM PST
- Saturday, 15 August 2020 XLIII at 10:00 AM PST
- Saturday, 19 September 2020 XLIII at 10:00 AM PST (Last Tour of the Year)

The Molossian Navy

BE A PART!

www.molossia.org/navy.index.html
www.molossia.org/milacademy./index.html

Another View Of The Questing Beast's Hoofprint On Helicopter Rock
Hello all! July is here and the year is half over. Is that a good thing? 2020 has been quite a tumultuous year. It will be interesting to see what we have learned from this time. Will the world unite in kindness or divide with conflict? Some find a mask inconvenient while others are struggling financially or have lost a loved one.

Then there people that are able to bring joy to others by expressing themselves with art or dance and pull people together to show that we are all in this together. So, how about you? What can you do to help even one person or how have you been holding together through all of this? Here in Molossia we have been making due by having small celebrations, just little things to give us something to look forward to. Like a road trip to the great outdoors, phone call to the grandparents, a movie or a great dinner. Little things become big things. We can all agree, that family and friends are of the upmost importance at this time and always. Who will you reach out to check in and say hello?

Thank you all and until next time,

Stay safe and use those smiles, it may be all it takes to perk you or a friend right up.

~Adrianne