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My GW2 Home: Sanctum of Rall

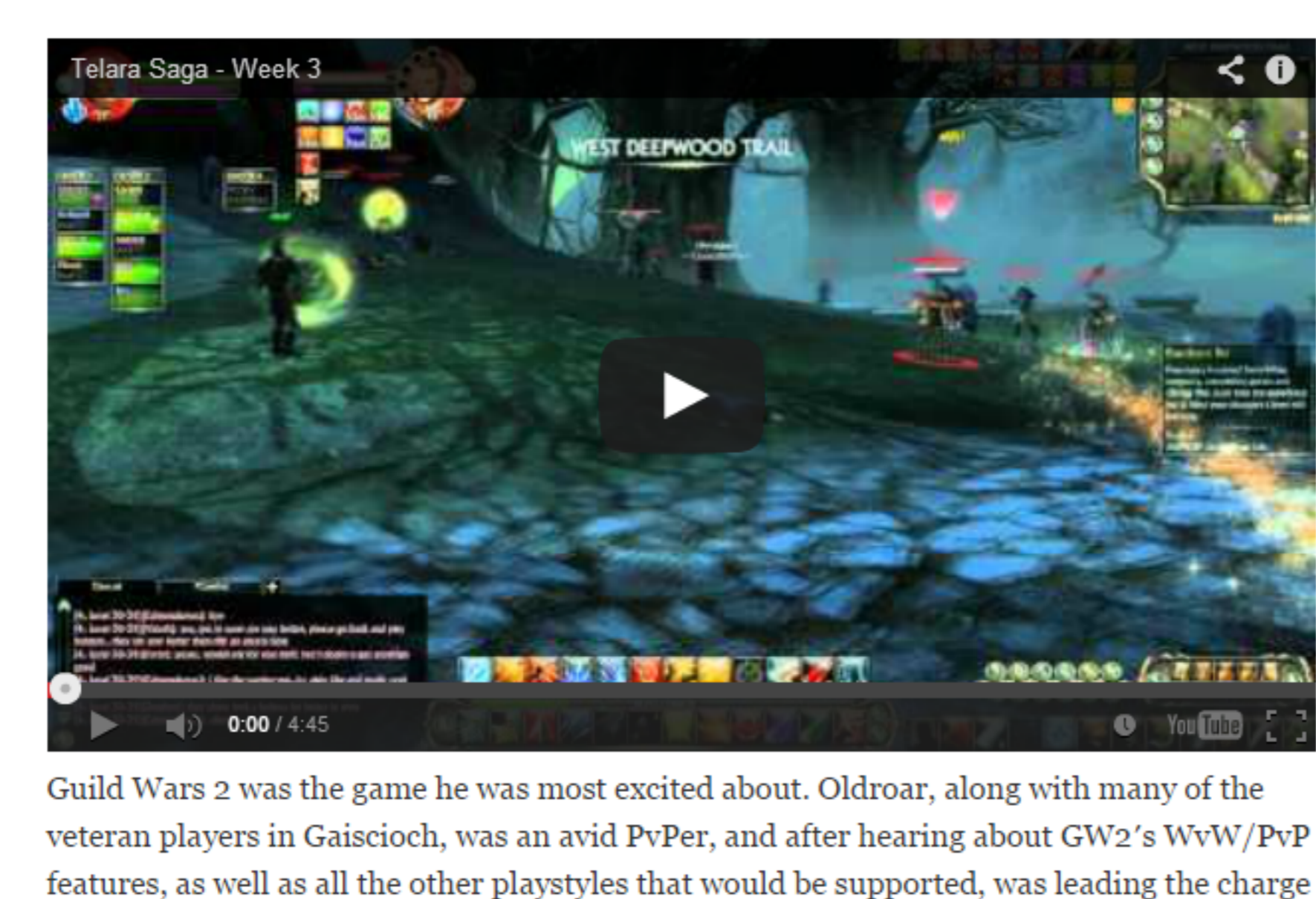
Posted on July 18, 2012

I've spoken on Twitter about how, on my return to Rift, I rejoined my old Rift guild, **Gaiscioch**. It's been a blast being back with them, and even though they are a freakishly huge guild, they feel more like a "family" guild than many of the other smaller guilds I've been a part of. We've been running lowbie Instant Adventures for the lower-level folks, raid rifts and expert rifts and crafting rifts for the 50s, and they have a ton of dungeon and raid runs going on every night. It really and truly is an amazing group of people and a great guild to call home.

Despite the joy, there's been some sadness in the guild since I last ran with them. One of the long-time members of the guild, Roger "Oldroar" Rall, passed away suddenly last fall. He just stopped appearing online abruptly, and after about two weeks, our GM and a couple of others started trying to track him down to check on him. They spoke to his wife, who said that he had quietly passed away one night. Of course, the news spread like wildfire in the guild, back to former members/alliance members that had played with him during Warhammer and D&OC, and everyone, even those who had never met him, felt a profound sense of loss.

Oldroar was the kind of guy that set the tone and example for the rest of the guild. In-game, he was a calm and collected PvP leader who led his teams to victory while always acting with honor towards the opposing teams. To the men, he was a mentor and an example of how to be a great husband & father, and how to balance those responsibilities with gaming. To the ladies, he was always a gentleman and treated us as equals, with respect and dignity. He was a grandfatherly figure to the kids in the guild, and he was someone that we all could go to for advice not just on game strategies and problems, but real life problems as well. He encouraged us to follow our dreams, to be better people, and to take the high road when others were not. He was our friend, in the truest sense of the word.

He was also the "Voice of Gaiscioch" ... you couldn't miss that radio voice on vent.



Guild Wars 2 was the game he was most excited about. Oldroar, along with many of the veteran players in Gaiscioch, was an avid PvPer, and after hearing about GW2's WvW/PvP features, as well as all the other playstyles that would be supported, was leading the charge to get a Gaiscioch chapter opened in GW2, posting news and information as it came out and eventually convincing our leadership to open a branch within Guild Wars 2. More than anything, he was looking forward to playing Guild Wars 2 and to seeing our super-diverse family grow and thrive there.

It was decided that we would hold an in-game/ventrilo memorial for him, not in Rift, but in Guild Wars 2 when it opened – it only seemed appropriate. The date & time had been set, the only remaining question was what server to roll on. Our guild decided to start one final **Call to Arms for Oldroar**: to try to get a GW2 server named for the man that had been so passionate about the game and had done so much for the guild over the years. We wrote letters and sent emails to ArenaNet, telling them about the person he was, the legacy he has left with us, and how much he adored GW2. We asked them to consider naming a server for Roger, a server that we could call home and continue living out his legacy.

This morning, I heard the news that they are indeed implementing "Sanctum of Rall" as a server. I admit that I cried tears of happiness over this. THANK YOU ArenaNet, for being so awesome. You just made a whole lot of people ecstatically happy. We will do our best to make Sanctum of Rall an amazing home for all playstyles and all players that roll there, just as Oldroar would have wanted.



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34 Responses to My GW2 Home: Sanctum of Rall

July 18, 2012 at 1:50 pm

This is amazing. Huge props to ArenaNet for doing this. Thank you for sharing.

Reply

July 18, 2012 at 2:03 pm

Wow, great post! And that's awesome of Arenanet!

Reply

Pingback: [ArenaNet Shows Us What Community Means + Nomadic Gamer](#)

July 18, 2012 at 3:53 pm

Damn you for making me cry while sitting on the toilet at work! Congratulations on a very fitting memorial for your friend...

Reply

July 18, 2012 at 4:09 pm

This is awesome! I love it when developers embrace the community. Good job, ArenaNet!

Reply

July 18, 2012 at 6:07 pm

Stay unironically Classy, ArenaNet.

Reply

July 18, 2012 at 6:45 pm

Excellent post and great read! This reminded me of the players we've lost IRL due to unforeseen circumstances, from young to old, and made me appreciate Oldroar. Wish I'd had the opportunity to know him as you all did. Props to you, ArenaNet. I'm proud to play one of your games.

Reply

July 18, 2012 at 6:56 pm

ANet is awesome, really glad they did this for you guys

My guild just this morning decided to move to sanctum of rall, as our previous server (and choice for a new server) both got cut. Really glad to have picked that server after reading this, and happy know that that there will be lots of good people around to enjoy a great game with for a long time.

Reply

July 18, 2012 at 7:25 pm

Quite a story. I know what server I'm going to be rolling now.

Reply

July 18, 2012 at 7:37 pm

Wow. That was really nice of them to do that.

Reply

July 18, 2012 at 9:04 pm

That is quite a tale. He sounds like one great man. We should all aspire to be that kind of person.

Reply

July 18, 2012 at 9:25 pm

This is just amazing.

Reply

Pingback: [\[Guild Wars 2\] BW2g Server Choice by Oxyminoan - Page 2 - TribalWar Forums](#)

July 18, 2012 at 10:09 pm

That was a really heartwarming read. That makes this server a very special thing indeed. I may have to take up my adventure on Oldroar's server just to /salute the Gaiscioch community.

Reply

July 18, 2012 at 10:45 pm

For those Canadians out there, as someone who new him and called him friend and comrade, he was the Jack Layton of Gaiscioch. I am so happy that ArenaNet has decided to give us this as a home, and a memorial.

Reply

July 19, 2012 at 2:18 am

A great post! :-)) It never ceases to amaze me the great respect ANET has for the community. Makes you proud to be part of this great endeavour!

Reply

Pingback: [The Searing - Guild Wars 2 Podcast](#)

July 19, 2012 at 3:20 am

It's stuff like this that makes me feel that I for once bought the right game.

Reply

July 19, 2012 at 3:54 am

Awesome! Can you feel the love?

Reply

July 19, 2012 at 5:04 am

As a GW1 player who is in a wonderful alliance that is about to switch to GW2 i wanted that the new GW2 guild world will have meaning and sanctum of rall sound like a great home server for guild that care about each guild member. i will do my best to convince the alliance leaders to shift to this home server because our previous home server was deleted. Thank you for this wonderful read and thank you Anet for being such a wonderful company, in my opinion one of the last great gaming companies.

Reply

July 19, 2012 at 6:04 am

One can never know what can bring tears to our eyes... Well done Arenanet

Reply

July 19, 2012 at 6:23 am

Thank you again, ArenaNet, for being part of our community, rather than above it.

Reply

July 19, 2012 at 12:31 pm

Thank you for telling this story. His legend lives on inside all of us and it's this passion that will make Sanctum of Rall thrive. Other servers may have a name. Sanctum of Rall has a Legend.

Reply

July 19, 2012 at 1:28 pm

What impresses me most about this man is the effect his passing had on those who knew him. Rarely do people respond so passionately about a "virtual" friend. Props to Arenanet who just gained several levels of class in my book for honoring not just the man but the community who plays their games.

Reply

Pingback: [ArenaNet renames server Guild Wars 2 dengan nama gamer | GameXeon.com](#)

July 19, 2012 at 3:15 pm

Pure awesome. /Salute

Reply

July 19, 2012 at 6:06 pm

Thank you for sharing this story. It's a testament to ArenaNet and the Guild Wars community is like, and what ANet is like to the community. All in this together.

Reply

July 19, 2012 at 6:23 pm

I have to say, wow. This is an amazing post. ArenaNet is such an awesome developer and they really cater to their fans. First the girl who walked cross-country to their studio gets immortalized in-game and now an entire server is being named after a loving and dear friend, raised by his guildies. This is great. You know, it makes me want to pick up Guild Wars 2 and play on that server, and be the best player I can be to honor Rall's memory.

Reply

July 19, 2012 at 6:42 pm

Chills

Reply

July 19, 2012 at 11:08 pm

What an amazing story, thank you for sharing!

Reply

July 20, 2012 at 4:25 am

indeed an incredibly touching story, this is a loving community at its best, i wish you all luck with not only the Sanctum of Rall server, but also a game without Roger "Oldroar" Rall.

Reply

July 20, 2012 at 4:39 am

/salute We will translate this post for the Hungarian community.

Reply

Pingback: [Sanctum of Rall -- egy szerzemény története @ The Wild Boar Inn + Variance Guild Wars 2 info blog](#)

Pingback: [This week in Guild Wars 2 | GuildMap - Guild Wars 2 FanSite: Magazine, Podcast, Editorials and more](#)

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