

Virginia



Viking

SONS OF NORWAY HAMPTON ROADS LODGE NO. 522

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February 2004

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The President's Corner



If it has to storm I think that the now we received this week reminds me more of Norway than Isabel did. Although the snow we had this week was a passing breeze compared to the solid sheet of ice that I drove on during my 3 winters in Oslo. But I always had my "Pigger" to help keep me on the road over there.

If you are interested in being a delegate to the District Convention, which will be held 9 June to 13 June at the Pocono Manor in Pennsylvania, please advise the secretary. We will be electing delegates at the February meeting and will take nominations from the floor. The delegate price for a single will be \$665 and that includes everything including breakfast, lunch and golf for Sunday. Prices are somewhat less for more than one person. The lodge will provide some financial help. That amount will be decided at the February meeting. Also, the information regarding the entry of crafts will be out shortly so if your interested in entering something that you have made, that information will be shortly. For delegates there will be a Zone Meeting 17 April at Nordkap's Norse Park.

There are still some scholarships available from the SON Foundation. I believe that February is the last month to apply for the scholarships. Information is available on the Headquarters web site.

Another piece of help we need is for you to send in your member services sheet for 2003 to our secretary. We need this to compete for the lodge of the year award. I have been speaking those members on our email list about the \$1,000 cash award that will go to the lodges (one large and one small) in each SON District that recruits the largest number of "new" members between the time period 1 June 2003 and 31 June 2004. The number will be based on the percentage increase of members in the lodge. We are one of the smallest "large lodges" in the 3rd District" so we get a significant percentage for each new member. A lodge has to recruit at least 16 new members to qualify for the prize. We had 8 new members join since the contest started and we currently hold 3 applications that we will vote on at our February meeting. We are well on our way to at least qualify. I am

FEBRUARY MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH, AT 7:30 P.M.

at Bayside Presbyterian Church, Room 401 on Ewell Road in Virginia Beach. (Off Independence Blvd. Just north of McDonald's Nursery)

PROGRAM

Mr. Robert Hitchings, Librarian/Archivist at Norfolk's Kim Library headquartered in the Sergeant Room will speak to us about the Norwegian Royal family and it's connection to the other European thrones. There is an article about Mr. Hitchings in the 27 January edition of the Port Folio.

Mr. Hitchings is also the gentleman who provided us with the original information regarding the Norwegian Seaman who lay in the unmarked graves in Norfolk.

If you want to try your hand at the Royal Families family tree try this web site.

www.kongehuset.no

FOOD PANTRY

As part of our outreach program, bring a can(s) of food to our next meeting. The recipient will be announced at the meeting.

guessing that we will need somewhere between 20 and 30 new members to win the \$1,000. It would be nice to win but it would be nicer to have 30 new members to socialize with and share experiences together. If you need an application please contact one of the board members and talk to your children, spouses, relatives and those people who have thought about joining but haven't. Now is the time for them to join. Remember the Fårikål dinner and the Hockey game coming up in March We will need numbers of those attending well in advance.

Med Vennlig Hilsen Ralph

Newsletter submissions are always welcome. Deadline is the 3rd Friday of the month. Submissions may be mailed to Terri Hewitt, 4936 Farrington Dr., VA BCH, VA 23455 or emailed to ViElskerNorge@mindspring.com

Dagen!

Highlights from the January Meeting



? Rick Baer was the guest speaker. He gave a fascinating program on Vikings and his life as Viking reenactor portraying Eric the Bear.

Bob Rumney, Austin Sutton and Ralph Peterson were awarded their sports medals.?



? Carol McCarthy is the happy winner of the 50/50 drawing.

UPDATE FROM OUR FRIENDSHIP LODGE

Christiania ended the year 2003 with two busy months. The Nov. meeting had a real American Thanksgiving Dinner, which was such a hit that it will most likely become a tradition. Thanksgiving is not celebrated in Norway, although I was told that many years ago a similar celebration called "Hosttakkefest"- "Thanks to Fall Day" took place, but somehow became history over the years. However, LUTEFISK is now more popular than ever, and the Lodge had a dinner end of Nov. at a Seniorcenter now 6 yrs. in a row. Also a Thanksgiving church service was held at The American Lutheran Church where even "good old American Pie "and coffee was served afterwards.

The Dec. meeting the Lodge had a LUCIA celebration followed by the traditional JULEGROT with of course "the almond" in it! JULEGROT is a rice porridge served with sugar, butter, and cinnamon on top...Then of course THE GLOGG and cookies were served afterwards,. Christiania like our Lodge is also working hard finding new members, hoping to win the big prize. One of their new members by the name of Kari Victoria Staksrud owns a Bed and Breakfast in central Oslo west and I was told it has KING SIZE BEDS....which is not the norm over there, so if anyone is interested in this, let me know. The Newsletters from Christiania are most interesting with members writing stories, jokes, and book reports. A new Book was mentioned "North in the World" written by ROLF JACOBSEN which is published by THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS and seems to be available over here at large Bookshops. The Book has Norwegian Poetry mostly, and got great reviews. If anyone is interested more info available at

www.chass.utoronto.ca/~roger/niw.html The Book can also be ordered over the Internet and costs \$35.00 Also GENEALOGY is very popular in the Lodge, and a member GEORG SVERDRUP has his own GEOLOGY REGISTRATION PROGRAM that he sells. Anyone would like to make contact with him, send an e-mail to the President Anne Tandberg and her email is standbe@online.no and she will follow up.

Note of interest is Christiania Lodge has 110 members and looks like maybe we will beat them soon?

The Lodge sends out 400 Newsletters a month which includes members of the District Board and several Norwegian-American organizations and others who will benefit from it.

**Happy New Years greetings
to everyone from Christiania!**

~Astrid

Happy February Birthdays!



Kari Pincus 11; Björn Barang 11;
Lise Pease 12; Walter Hoff 15;
Caren Hutcheson 23;
Wesley Quamme 28

Congratularer Med

Meet our New Member...



Axel Dahl

My name is Axel Dahl and I was born in Oslo during the second world war, with a Norwegian father and French mother. I lived in Norway until the age of 32 where I went to London for work reasons and have been living here since, except for two years in

Copenhagen and three years in Oslo.

The reason for settling down in London is that I meet my second wife here, she is French and with two different cultural backgrounds it is good to settle down in a "neutral" country, which England is to us. We both have to do the same effort to live here. We have easy access from here to both France and Norway.

So why did I end up to join Hampton Roads Lodge 3-522. In May last year my wife, Evelyne and I visited Virginia Beech. We had the great pleasure of attending your lodge meeting on the 16th May and the 17th May celebration at NATO.

We were both very impressed with what you did and the enthusiasms you all showed for Norway. During your lodge meeting I came aware of the "Gang merke" and on my return to England I challenged Ralph, your President to get the bronze "Gang merke" which he accepted and both of us got it.

This year I am going for the "Enamel merke" but I am not certain if Ralph will be joining me on this one. If some you would please feel, we are talking about an average of 3 miles per day. I have already done the bronze qualification and I have started on the silver one. So this is the reason for me joining the lodge and I am honoured that you have accepted my membership application. I will not be frequent at your lodge meeting but I will hold contact with you through the newsletter and Viking magazine.

I have two daughters, Tanja who is 34 and living in Oslo with an American from Texas and Karina who is 23 and is doing her last year at University in Southampton. I am looking forward to see which one of you will be joining me for the "Enamel"

~Axel Dahl

**Velkommen
Axel!**

*Look for more new member bios
next month!*

*Please make additions/changes to your
directory:*

Change

Katharina K. Brekke
2224 Trant Lake Drive
Virginia Beach, Va. 23454

Mona Denton

Email: mona.denton@telion.tv



Camp Norway Returns!

Camp Norway will again be offered in the summer of 2004. Students between the ages of 16 and 23 are invited to attend an exciting summer program, held from June 19 to July 16, 2004, at the Peder Morset Folkehøgskole in Selbu, Norway. This

exceptional opportunity will combine fastpaced study of Norwegian language and cultural with the experience of living abroad. The camp is for children and grandchildren of members. Priority will be given to students who are members

themselves. The cost of the program is \$2,700, which includes room and board, instruction, field trips and camp scheduled activities. Travel costs, the fee for optional university credit and insurance are not included in the program costs.

For information on Camp Norway scholarships available through the Sons of Norway Foundation please call 800-945-8851, or go to Sons of Norway's website at <http://www.sofn.com/norwegianculture/>

LanguageCamps.html . The application deadline for Sons of Norway Foundation Camp Norway scholarships is March 15, 2004. For information on Camp Norway scholarships available through your District and Lodge, contact your Lodge Foundation Director.



WW2 Norwegian Seaman Buried in Norfolk

Editors note: Below is a series of emails about an interesting story Ralph Peterson has been pursuing. Though some of the information repeats itself you can see the progression of information unfolding. Ralph has done a wonderful job in helping bring these Seaman into our awareness. Originally, it was thought that the D/S Pollux was the ship of question but quickly moved to the D/S Vest. Enjoy.

Jan. 23, 2004

The lodge has been advised that there are two Norwegian Seaman from WW2 that are buried in unmarked graves in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Norfolk. We are trying to get information about the two men so a marker can be placed on the graves. The two merchant sailors were killed when a Naval Base Street car on Hampton Boulevard hit them late in the evening on 29 January 1943. Second Engineer Ingvald Gjerstad and AB Seaman Arnfinn Siring were killed along with two British sailors and 4 more Norwegian sailors were hurt but recovered. We have also posted listings on various web sites dealing with the Norwegian Merchant fleet, asked Norfolk's First Lutheran Church to check their records for information, as their Pastor conducted the funeral, and sent off for death certificates. The First Lutheran had no information on the funeral. Any help is appreciated. We are posting updates on the search via email so if you haven't received information we don't have your address. To get on the list send your address to nodakralph@aol.com.

Jan. 28, 2004

The following was received today from the Norwegian Archives. We have had a bit of a breakthrough in our search for information. Toril Eller talked to a person at the Norwegian Archives and they reported that 2nd Engineer Gjerstad left behind a family and was from Bruvik near Bergen. Siring was from Oslo and unmarried. They were assigned to the Norwegian

Litt på norsk

Katt pågrepet for kinosniking

En katt som gjentatte ganger forøkte å snike seg inn på film på Molde Kino er tatt hånd om av politiet. Identiteten til den billettløse kinogjesten er fortsatt en gåte for politiet. Etter flere ganger å ha blitt tatt på fersken av kinoansatte ble den rødhårete kinosnikeren pågrepet under en politiaksjon.

Katten motsatte seg ikke arrestasjon - snarere tvert i mot. Han er meget folkekjær og er allerede blitt svært så husvarm, sier politibetjent Ingar Solberg ved Molde politistasjon. Politiet håper noen gjenkjenner kinosnikeren. Dersom ingen melder seg går katten en uviss skjebne i møte.

Fra Aftenposten

A Little in English

ship "Vest" The British Sailors that were killed were Navy Gunners also assigned to the "Vest." We will be getting more information from Norway shortly.
~Ralph

Feb. 02, 2004

Ingvald August Andersen Gjerstad and Jakob Arnfinn Siring died in Norfolk VA on January 29, 1943 as a result of an accident. They were hit by a tramcar on their leave and they were buried in Norfolk on February 01, 1943.

They belonged to the crew of the Norwegian vessel VEST. The owner was Lundegaard & S? in Farsund, Norway, but during the war, the ship was managed by the Norwegian Shipping and Trade Mission in London. John Lewis and James Trudge, the two marine gunners that were killed in the same accident, were also on the same ship D/S VEST. British gunners however, were not engaged and signed on Norwegian ships as they belonged to the personnel in the British Armed Forces.

Ingvald August Andersen Gjerstad was born on September 02, 1899 in Bruvik per Bergen. He sailed as Engineer on several Norwegian ships during the war. He left behind wife Inga Gjerstad, address Bruvik. She was born in 1899, so it is not likely that she is alive today. We do not know if they had any children.

Jakob Arnfinn Siring was born on November 23, 1913 in Nordstrand per Oslo. He sailed as A.B. on several Norwegian ships and for one thing, he was saved after GYDA's war loss on July 18, 1940. He was not married. His father's name was Lars Siring from Arendal and his mother's name was Antonette Amalie Totland from Oslo. They were born respectively in 1892 and 1891.

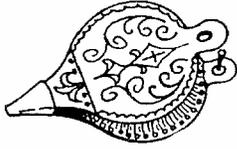
Yours sincerely,
Anne B. Hagstr

Cat Nab in Norway

A cat that repeatedly tried to sneak into a movie at Molde Cinema has been taken in by the police. The identity of the ticket-less theater guest is still a mystery to police. After having been caught red-handed multiple times by theater staff, the redhaired movie sneak was nabbed in a police sting.

The cat didn't resist arrest - just the opposite. "He's very friendly and has already made himself right at home," says Lieutenant Ingar Solberg with the Molde Police Department. The police hope that someone claims the movie sneak, otherwise, the cat faces an uncertain fate.

From Aftenposten



FYI...

* **The Sy Klub** (Sewing Club) will meet at the home of Connie Hoff on Thurs., Feb. 12 at 10 AM. Connie lives at 417 Prince of Wales Dr., VB. Phone-486-0609. Please call her if you will be attending and want to take part in Beginning Hardanger. All materials for the beginning class will be provided by the club. Many of the basics will be described in the first lesson so if you wish to participate, it will be important for you to attend this class. I'll look forward to seeing you there. Call me if you have any questions--857-8560.

~Mary Friesen

* The A class or the B class, we forget the name has just started using a new book. We are still on lesson 1. This is a book used by some other SON lodges as well some Universities. It is a beginning book but moves right along depending on the class. The class meets most Mondays (no classes during the summer) at 7pm for about 2 hours. No cost to SON members. If you are interested in joining the class you can call the Professor (AnneGrete) or the student gopher (Ralph) at 318-9414.

~Ralph

* Info Needed

To update lodge happenings on our **lodge website** at <http://sonhamptonroads.cjb.net> Send suggestions, submissions and updates to Larry Atkinson. Just click on my name on the Web Site.

~Larry

FOUNDATION NEWS

The deadline for Local Lodge Partnership Grants is April 1st. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity for your lodge in the form of a matching funds grant from the Sons of Norway Foundation. You may qualify for up to \$1,000 for projects your lodge may be planning. Eligible projects include: cultural fairs, hosting of visiting groups, cultural skills classes, books for your library, lodge renovations, etc. To learn more visit our website at www.sonofnorway.com/foundation/grants and scholarships. You may download the application.

Third District Today

From the District President

From the February 2004 newsletter.

The newsletter can be read in entirety online at

<http://sofnd3.home.att.net> or ask our lodge president for a copy.

When I write my message at this time of the year we usually have winter weather, either snow or cold or both, and I wish I were in a warmer place, like Florida. So this year I decided to go down to Florida to do some installations down there, hoping to find the sun and temperatures one would expect down south. But wouldn't you believe it, just as we expect to set off, we are getting a blast from the north with extreme cold weather, and what I saw on the forecast is that we will have frost as far south as Richmond and that Savannah won't make it into the 50ies the day we are going by there.

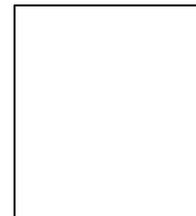
This being an even year, is special to us in Sons of Norway, with District and International conventions coming up later in the year, making this the time for the local lodges to elect their delegates to the District Convention to be held in the Poconos in June. I know there are costs involved in participating in conventions, but don't forget that this is your chance of having a say in how we govern our organization. If you read my message in the January issue of 3DToday, you will have seen that there has been some discussion about elevating decision making from the International Convention to the International Board. You will also have noticed that I am against this, always having favored the traditional grassroots participation in the decision making process. I have argued that this is the way we want it in our district and the Board agreed. Now is your opportunity to show that you, the members, agree by sending full complements of delegates to the Poconos.

Participating in the governance of Sons of Norway is of course, the main reason for coming to a convention, at least that is always the way I have felt. However, we should not loose sight of other good reasons for coming, such as enjoying what is to be offered about our heritage and culture, meet and make friends with people from all over the district, or simply to meet old friends. As I started to climb the chairs in Sons of Norway I quickly realized the value of traveling around and making friends. By doing what I, and many before me have done, you will realize that we are a big family with the links to, or interest in Norway, serving as the bonding between us. If you haven't done this before, why not try it, and start with the convention in the Poconos. You will be enjoying a fabulous resort in a beautiful part of the country where you can do anything from golfing, hiking, sightseeing, shopping (there is a huge outlet mall only minutes from the hotel), or just plain enjoy the facility itself with its pools and spa and delicious food. And you can enjoy the activities of the Convention from business meetings to vendors, arts and crafts and evening entertainment. Our International Convention in Washington DC in August hosted by District 3. We chose Washington as the venue to give our members an opportunity to see and enjoy the nation's capital and all the marvelous things they have to offer. We have listened to comments from the past and have tried not to overload the program to give the participants some free time to enjoy Washington. One evening participants will be taken to see the United States Marine Band, the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, and the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon. Believe me, this alone is worth coming to Washington for. I did my military service in Norway in the King's Guard and I thought we were good, but the Marines are tops! I look forward to seeing you there.

Fraternally,

Audun Gythfeldt, President

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**Happy
Valentines**

Who is
this
Mystery
Member?



**Mystery Solved:
*Why the Lemmings Die***

The lemming, a long-time resident of northern Norway, Sweden and Finland, has long been a rodent shrouded in mystery, that according to legend commit mass suicide when their numbers become too great. After having studied the lemming phenomenon for many years, Finnish researchers have found the reason for the wild swings in lemming numbers. In one year, their numbers can multiply by 100 or even 1,000, before their numbers fall just as drastically the following year. The predatory weasel was found to be the key to the mystery, forming a back-and-forth fluctuation with the lemmings. Such has apparently been the cycle for ages in the northern reaches of Scandinavia.

~From Nettavisen

The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote, preserve, and cherish a lasting appreciation of the heritage and culture of Norway and other Nordic countries while growing soundly as a fraternal benefit society and offering maximum benefits to its members.