

Virginia



Viking

SONS OF NORWAY HAMPTON ROADS LODGE NO. 522

Volume 30 No. 3

March 2004

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The President's Corner



We had a very nice crowd at our February meeting. Robert Hitchings gave a great talk about European Royalty circa 1900 that included Norway's King Haakon and Queen Maud. I think that we all agreed that if we had a history teacher who was as interesting as Mr. Hitchings we would have all done better in History. We do have his talk on video if you would like to see it.

We have a lot of activities coming up next month that you will enjoy. We need 8 more volunteers for the WHRO fund raiser on 7 March. Please call me. It is a lot of fun, a community service and is good PR for the lodge. We have a Får i kål-Lapskaus dinner on 12 March (Martha Blau is in charge), the Admiral hockey game on 21 March (Mark Holmquist is coordinating) and the Norwegian Lady celebration on 27 March. More information on the web site. If you are attending the dinner and/or the hockey game please get your reservations in ASAP.

We added 7 new members to our lodge at the last meeting. That is great. With these new members we have now become eligible to win the \$1,000 prize for the largest percentage of new members added in a one year time span. We have some more months to add to our total. I still think that 15 more new members total should win for us so please keep looking for those people who would like to enjoy their Norwegian heritage with us. Remember that when you recruit a new member include your member number on the application. You will be recognized for your efforts and during the period 1 January 2004 and 1 June 2004 if you recruit anyone between the ages 30 and 55 your name will be entered into a drawing for a free trip to Norway.

We need a place to hold our summer picnic this year. If you have any suggestions please let me know. We would like a place where we are allowed to have a glass of wine if possible.

MARCH MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 18TH, 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

To be announced. Social time will follow the business & program meeting with refreshments provided.

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.

NORWEGIAN LADY CEREMONY

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2:00 P.M.

at the Norwegian Lady Statue (Atlantic & 24th St.) Reception to follow at the Old Coast Guard Museum. Please join us and other friends for this annual event. It is a touching ceremony to honor those involved in the Wreck of the Dictator.

SON members are requested to bring finger foods to share at the reception.

I hope that we can get a good turn out for the dinner. This will be our first dinner of this type since I have been here but I see by the past "Virginia Vikings" this was done frequently in past years. We hope to be able to show the movie "Cool and Crazy" after dinner.
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

Highlights from the February Meeting

We received and voted in **seven new members**. June Cooper, Joe Gulas, Carl & Flora Halvorsen, Ed McCarthy, Ernie Sutton, & Arne Svindland were unanimously welcomed to our lodge. See bios on following page. This brings our total for 2004 to 16.

Bazaar 2004 will be held on **November 13** at Bayside Presbyterian Church. Co-chairs Terri Hewitt and Sharon Holmquist are looking forward to help from the lodge members.

The **Azalea Festival parade** will take place on **Sat., April 24** at 10:00am and a Fashion Show will be held on Friday, April 23. Tickets for the Fashion Show available online at <http://www.azaleafestival.org/events.html>. The float is in need of refurbishing and some alteration. Pres. Ralph asked for a volunteer for the carpentry work.

The unmarked graves of 2 **Norwegian Seamen** buried in Norfolk have been investigated. The names and background of these men have been identified and it is the wish of the group to place markers on their graves. We may seek financial help from the Norwegian Government and be prepared to offer some ourselves.

WHRO Pledge Drive is March 7. More volunteers are needed.

Delegates for the District Convention have been chosen by the lodge and each of the 3 delegates will receive \$600 from the Lodge to defray expenses. The purchase of a 1/4 page ad at a cost of \$40 in the convention booklet was approved.

President **Ralph Peterson** will run for the office of **Counselor of District 3**.

Member **Bill Foss** has been nominated for the **3rd District Leif Erikson Citation Award**.

Rose Johansen Vallera won the 50/50 drawing.?



? **Mr. Robert Hitchings**, Librarian/Archivist at Norfolk's Kim Library gave a wonderfully entertaining program about European Royalty. He also passed out gift copies of a newly published book called Norfolk, the First Four Centuries.

The meeting was followed by **delicious refreshments**.
Takk to all who helped.



Happy March Birthdays!

Mark Holmquist 6; Craig Hutcheson 7;
Paul Engebrigtsen 13; Barbra Stehlik 17,
Joe Gulas 19, Wilma Foss 20, Harald Hansen 20,
Orville Gladen, 29, Mario Quaglietta 30

Congratarer Med Dagen!



Fårkål/Lapskaus Dinner

Friday, March 12th, 6 pm

St. Nicholas Church
712 Little Neck Road
Virginia Beach, VA

\$15 per person

Send checks (SON) by March 5th to:

Martha Blau

2541 Centerville Turnpike
Chesapeake, VA 23322

Call for more info 421-2660

See You There!



Admirals vs. Houston Hockey Game

Sunday, March 21

4:00pm

Tickets \$10.

Send checks (SON) by March 12 to:

Mark Holmquist
3818 Pamlico Circle
Norfolk, VA 23513

For more info call 857-7847

Meet our New Members...



June Olson Cooper

Three of my Grandparents emigrated from Norway to New York around the beginning of the 1900's. My Dad's Dad was Swedish and also immigrated to New York. My brother and I were lucky to grow up with family gatherings at Christmas Eve celebrated in the Norwegian

traditions. In my college days, I was also lucky to travel in Norway to Oslo, Bergen and Stavanger with my Norwegian cousin, visiting with many relatives and enjoying the countryside.

I am a composer / musician having taught at ODU & The Governor's School for the Arts, having written music for local productions in dance and theatre –some with the Virginia Stage Company, and having served as a former choir director at NAS Chapel in the Woods, among other activities. I currently own Asgard Productions (www.asgardprod.com) where we sell CDs and original music for Ballet and Modern Dance, including original CDs by European/Scandinavian artists. I have a personal interest in the Sagas, Scandinavian History & Mythology, and traditional music and dance and look forward to participating with others in learning about and sharing things Norwegian.

~June Cooper



Ernie Sutton

I born and raised in North Carolina. Served and retired 20 years from U.S. Navy, 5 which I was stationed with NATO in Oslo Norway. Lovely country, anyone never been there it's a must in the summer time. There I met Grete my wife. We have 2 boys Austin(10) and Greger(3). I am

now the owner of a bail bonding company, hopefully nobody in the group will need my services.

I have been part of SON for a long time, and enjoy all the functions and parties I have been able to attend, usually I have to baby sit. I love Norwegian food, but hate Aquavit (will leave that to Ralph).

Upon Grete's request I apply for an official membership, as Norwegian traditions and language is part of our daily life.

~ Ernie Sutton



Joe Gulas

My connection to Norway is through my wife Astrid who I met shortly after my retirement from US NAVY in 1986. Marrying Astrid I also inherited two children and two grandchildren whom we are fortunate to have living in the Hampton Roads area.

Astrid and I were married in an old Stave Church in the mountains of GOL, Norway, both wearing BUNADS and as the tradition is in a mountain wedding we also had a horse and buggy ride to and from church.

The first time I visited Norway I was totally overwhelmed by the beauty of the country and also the friendliness of the people and therefore I go back as often as I can. Of all the countries I have seen in my Naval career Norway is by far my favorite.

I was born and raised in Hazleton Pa. to Slavic parents and raised in a very Ethnic environment with traditions we still are practicing.

In my Naval career I spent most of the years at sea, however I did have a few assignments to Cuba, Korea, Viet Nam and Spain. I did have a most interesting assignment as Engineer on The Presidential Yacht of the Eisenhower Admin., followed by transfer to Camp David at the beginning of the Kennedy Administration. After my Retirement I joined a group of Engineers who formed a company called American Engineering Corporation (AMSEC) where I am still employed now as part time.

Looking forward to a two month vacation in Norway this summer which includes a Cruise on the famous "HURTIGRUTEN" together with other members of the Lodge and then spending time at a cottage on the Fjord in Astrid's home county of Vestfold, Southeast Norway. I am also looking forward to be part of Hampton Roads Lodge.

~ Joe Gulas



Katia Peterson

I am a graduate of George Washington University and work for Children's Hospital in DC in Cancer Biology. I am very interested in maintaining my Norwegian traditions as my grandparents had wonderful stories about their relatives in Norway and my grandparents always had a

Norwegian Christmas. I enjoy the Norwegian food especially lefse. I learned about the SON through my Uncle Ralph. I am looking forward to take a trip to Norfolk and attend some of your outings.

~Katia Peterson



Hanni Peterson

I am graduating from the George Mason University in Fairfax VA. I am very interested in maintaining my ties with Norway as my grandparents are Norwegian and I enjoyed going up to North Dakota for Christmas and celebrate a Norwegian Christmas. I first learned about SON through my

Uncle Ralph's involvement in SON and he is a very good recruiter. I am very interested in my heritage and hope to come down to Norfolk to attend some events. It was nice to meet some of the members at Union Station in December at the Norwegian Event.

~Hanni Peterson

Arne Svinland



I was born in Bærum, just outside of Oslo and emigrated to the USA at the age of 12. My father who had spent much time in the US working brought my mother, two sisters and I to the States in 1950. We settled in New Jersey where my father worked, I was graduated Ocean City High School and continued my

education at Georgia Tech, majoring in Chemical Engineering. From there I got married and went to work for DuPont, retiring after some 32 years of service with global responsibilities fro DuPont facilities. This enabled me to travel to most parts of the world that also included living in Switzerland with my wife and three children.

My children are married and I have three grandchildren. My two sons live in Delaware and Kentucky, respectively. My daughter lives in Wisconsin. Most of my family still lives in Norway. Some in Oslo and others in southern Norway near Mandal and Flekkefjord. I do visit Norway about every three or four years.

My wife, Connie, and I moved from Wilmington, Delaware to Williamsburg some four years ago and live in Governor's Land, a community just west of Williamsburg. We really enjoy life here and are very busy in many activities – Arne: boating, fishing, RC models and golf; Connie beading, Colonial Williamsburg volunteering, and book clubs. We are also members of the Norse Federation, Williamsburg Chapter and enjoy our association with them.

~Arne Svinland

Heroism consists in hanging on one minute longer.

- Norwegian proverb



Carl & Flora Halvorsen

I was born in Portsmouth, Virginia and with the exception of a tour of duty in the United States Army have

lived here in the Tidewater area all of my life. Forty of those years were spent working with the Norfolk and Western Railway Company and what is now Norfolk Southern Corporation. My wife Flora and I have been married for about fifty years and we have two daughters. Vanessa Richmond and her husband Jim who live here in Virginia Beach, our other daughter Martha Hough and her husband Stan are living now out in Waco, Texas. Flora was born in a little place called Prosperity, West Virginia and moved with her family to Portsmouth in the mid 1940's where the two of us met when I was a young twelve year old. My grandfather arrived in this country from Oslo probably in the very early 1900's and died when my father was still quite young. My dad was extremely proud of his name and his Norwegian ancestry. He and my mom corresponded with relatives in Norway up until 1940. Just about everyone in our family has an interest in learning more about Norway, its people and their customs and we look forward to becoming members of The Sons of Norway.

~Carl Halvorsen

Velkommen All!

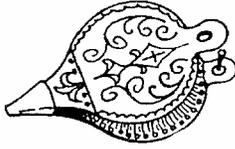
More new member bios next month!

Please make additions/changes to your directory:

June Olson Cooper
1548 Beechwood Cove
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
757/467-4395
email: junecooper@mindspring.com

Carl & Flora Halvorson
128 Ojibwa Lane
Virginia Beach, VA 23462
757/499-2814
email: carloflo@mailstation.com

Arne Svinland
1736 Founders Hill South
Williamsburg, VA 23185
757/564-8014
asvind0@aol.com



FYI...

*** The Sy Klub** (Sewing Club) will be held at the home of AnneGrete Peterson on Thursday, March 25 at 10 AM. This will be a permanent change of date from the 2nd Thursday of the month to the 4th. AnneGrete lives at 4121 Roenker Lane, VB; phone-318-9414. We are continuing with Hardanger lessons.

However, since we're in the very beginning stages, it's not too late to join us. Give me a ring if you plan to be there and take the lessons. 857-8560.

~Mary Friesen

*** Check it Out**

Keep up to date on 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

***Geneology Meeting**

March 24, 7pm at Ralph Peterson's, 4121 Roenker Lane, Virginia Beach. We will discuss any "insolvable problems" encountered.

~Ralph

***Geneology Website of the Month**

As in the USA you can search county forums in Norway. This web site gets you to Buskerud County. To search other counties in Norway just substitute your County's name for Buskerud. These web sites are only forums where you ask questions and follow what other people are talking about. They are narrow in scope but then if you know what county you are looking for you have narrowed things down as well. There is also a lot of local knowledge available on the sites. These sites have been some of my best sources of information.

<http://boards.ancestry.com/mbexec?htx=board&rw&p=localities.scan-balt.norway.counties.buskerud>

*** WWI Norwegian Sailor Update**

Thanks to efforts Commodore Sakseide and the Bergan Tidene we have located the son and daughter of Second Engineer Gjerstad. The daughter had been in Norfolk looking for her father's grave but couldn't find him. His son is very keen to come over. We are still looking for AB Siring. We hope to have more in a couple of days.

Third District Today

From the District President

From the March 2004 newsletter.

The newsletter can be read in entirety online at

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

I went down to Florida last month at least expecting to get out of the deep freeze that people in the northeast suffered from, and although we were almost in Florida before we started feeling comfortable, we did at least experience what I call "shirt sleeves" temperatures a good part of the time we were down there. So knowing what people went through up here, we cannot complain, even with a minor inconvenience like a frozen pipe waiting for us when we returned. Needless to say we got back into the swing of things quickly enough, and just to make sure that we were getting used to our northern lifestyle, we set off for the annual winter weekend at Land of the Vikings last week looking forward to what is always an enjoyable weekend with an emphasis on family fun. And this year was no different than previous ones. Although the weather threw us a curve on Friday, sleet, freezing rain and sleet on the way up, the rest of the weekend turned out great.

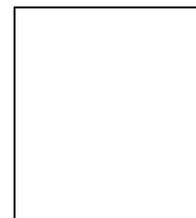
Every time I go up to LOV I think about how I remember the place the first time I was there more than 20 years ago, and I marvel about all the wonderful changes that have been made over the years. The Viking Ship bar of course, stands out, and is probably what most people will single out as the most important and attractive feature of the place. The new color scheme certainly made it the "koselig" place where many of us enjoy spending our time in the evenings. But I am also thinking of practical things like the new kitchen addition. Not only do we have a more than adequate modern kitchen, but we also got a beautiful meeting room and library. Thinking back to the old days it is hard to understand they made do with the tiny little kitchen they had then. And of course, the Board met in the game room. True the meetings got done, but without a doubt, what we have today is eminently more conducive to conducting efficient meetings. And as the kitchen and meeting room facilities have been up-graded, so has the dining room. The new table and chairs made a great difference, and with the new floor and fresh paint, I feel very comfortable and enjoy the customary enjoyable food we get served at Land of the Vikings.

I have mentioned but a few of the more visible things that have been done at LOV over the years. But we don't always remember that with an old place like LOV, maintenance is important and time consuming. In the old days we used to have work weekends. These last few years there have been workweeks, and even so it is difficult to get everything done. I for one have always been impressed with the leadership in the District and its members for the way they have been able to maintain and improve Land of the Vikings. An incredible number of good, hardworking people have been involved since day one. Credit goes to our Three Musketeers for getting us the place 25 years ago, but much credit should also go to dedicated people like Joe Zarnitz and his Board, and all his predecessors and their Boards. If it had not been for them and all the good people that have helped out up there, we would not have had Land of the Vikings. And that the place is popular is quite obvious when you look at the attendance. Sure, we have room for more people, but people are coming, and they are coming back. And during two weeks in the summer the place is busy catering to the youth of the organization, and if you ask them they all love the place. Love the place indeed! Land of the Vikings is a great name, but I don't know if when they chose the name, they realized that the abbreviation, LOV, was most appropriate. At least today I realize that. In less than a year there will have been two weddings at LOV, weddings of people who actually met at Land of the Vikings! Must be the air and the atmosphere and the good people you meet at LOV! And the District President can throw in his own five cents worth as Margaret and I were told by our son and his wife when we were all there a week ago that we are to be grandparents again come September. True, it did not happen there, but the news of the happy event will always be linked to Land of the Vikings. And that is lovely!

Fraternally,

Audun Gythfeldt, President

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Happy Spring!

Who is
this
Mystery
Member?



If you guessed
AnnGrete
Peterson, then
you are correct!

An Heir is Born



After months of waiting, Norway celebrated in January the arrival of an heir to the throne, Princess Ingrid Alexandra. Born on January 21 to Crown Prince Haakon and Crown Princess Mette-Marit, Ingrid Alexandra is the first firstborn Norwegian princess to become an heir. Norway changed their laws regarding throne inheritance, following its Scandinavian neighbors. Denmark's

Queen Margrethe and Sweden's Crown Princess Victoria have both benefited from this change in Scandinavian laws.

Princess Ingrid's ascendancy to the throne, while it won't be for quite some time, will be the first time a queen has sat on the head throne of Norway in 650 years. In the late 14th century, the brilliant Queen Margrete I maneuvered her way onto the throne of Denmark-Norway, and through further maneuvers became to only monarch to rule over Denmark, Sweden and Norway, under the short-lived Union of Kalmar. If you would like to see pictures of the new baby, who for now is said to look like her father, check www.kongehuset.no and click on "Pages in English."

-From Aftenposten

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.