



North Carolina Vikings

April 2010

<http://www.northcarolinavikings.org>



Sons of Norway

Vol. 4, No. 2

NC Vikings Lodge 3-675

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President's Message

All attendees really enjoyed the March Madness Movie – Sweet Land. Many thanks to Kari Crenshaw for providing the movie and organizing the snacks. We tried to get the acclaimed Norwegian movie Max Manus but it is still not available in the US as a DVD. It is on our list and we will schedule the viewing once it becomes available.

Please plan to attend the April meeting to learn and experience Norwegian chip carving (*karveskurd*) – a form of woodcarving. Woodcarving has always been an important means of artistic expression in Norwegian folk art, and reached a high level of artistic proficiency early on.

The month of May will be **genealogy month** with a genealogy presentation at the lodge meeting by Ann Myhre (the Myhre Norwegian ancestors), followed by a Genealogy Workshop on Saturday, May 22nd. We will have Blaine Hedberg, Naeseth Chair for Research & Publication, Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library as the speaker and the leader of the workshop. Also, you should all plan to attend the Syttende Mai celebration on Saturday, May 15th starting at 11:00 AM at the Apex Community Park.

The Norwegian class, led by Signe Marwede, is making great progress. The use of the “Sett I Gang” material has been accepted well by the students. The audio practice material has been a great tool for comprehending the unique pronunciation of all vowels (“normal” and additional Norwegian). And, yes, the students are still enjoying the class even though it has become a

little more challenging.

Please share your commitment and presence at these meetings as you are what make the North Carolina Vikings Lodge! Never forget to promote the Sons of Norway membership to friends and associates. Involvement in the lodge will certainly be worthwhile for you and your families, but it is truly all about what “we make of it for us and each other”.

Takk!
Mike Tilder

President, North Carolina Vikings Lodge 3-675

Upcoming Vikings Lodge Programs and Events

Please join us as we celebrate the culture of Norway and meet with others who share an interest in all things Norwegian. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month. A coffee social follows each meeting, so please bring a small snack to share!

April 15th – Norwegian Chip Carving presentation and discussion. If you have examples of Norwegian chip carvings, please bring them to show.

May 15th – Syttende Mai celebration with Friends of Scandinavia.

May 20th – Genealogy presentation by member Ann Myhre.

May 22nd – Genealogy workshop with Blaine Hedberg, Naeseth Chair for Research & Publication, Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library.

June 17th – Lodge meeting “hosted” by our Norwegian language students.

June 19th - Friends of Scandinavia’s Midsommer celebration.

Syttende Mai Celebration



For our May meeting, we will be joining the Friends of Scandinavia to celebrate Syttende Mai at Apex Community Park on Saturday, May 15th, beginning at 11 a.m. Please bring a dish or dessert to share that serves six to eight people. Please bring your Norwegian flags, and ladies, if you own a bunad, please consider wearing it. The address of Apex Community Park is 2200 Laura Duncan Rd, Cary. To get there, take US 64 to Laura Duncan Road and turn right if coming from the east, left if coming from the west. The entrance to the park is about ½ mile from US 64 on the right.

Member News

Chris Christiansen’s email address is now jocmpc@att.net.

Please send any news you would like to share to cquammen@gmail.com.

Gratulerer Med Dagen!

April Birthdays

Mike Tilder	4/10	Sonia Striplin	4/17
Norm Miller	4/12	Jacqueline Sheffield	4/20



Looking for Assistance

Can you invite a professional or line up an expert or even fun person to help us with cultural programs at our monthly lodge meeting? Call Mike at 919-460-9214 to pick a month or activity you can line up for the lodge!

This is Norway

For a humorous look at life in Norway visit YouTube and watch this video:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebqdwQzmSHM>



The Hard and the Soft

The United States, a nation of 300 million, won nine gold medals this year in the Winter Olympics. Norway, a nation of 4.7 million, also won nine. This was no anomaly. Over the years, Norwegians have won more gold medals in Winter Games, and more Winter Olympics medals over all, than people from any other nation.

There must be many reasons for Norway's excellence, but some of them are probably embedded in the story of Jan Baalsrud.

In 1943, Baalsrud was a young instrument maker who was asked to sneak back into Norway to help the anti-Nazi resistance.

His mission, described in the book "We Die Alone" by David Howarth, was betrayed. His boat was shelled by German troops. Baalsrud dove into the ice-covered waters and

swam, with bullets flying around him, toward an island off the Norwegian coast. The rest of his party was killed on the spot, or captured and eventually executed, but Baalsrud made it to the beach and started climbing an icy mountain. He was chased by Nazis, and he killed one officer.

He was hunted by about 50 Germans and left a trail in the deep snow. He'd lost one boot and sock, and he was bleeding from where his big toe had been shot off. He scrambled across the island and swam successively across the icy sound to two other islands. On the second, he lay dying of cold and exhaustion on the beach.

Two girls found and led him to their home. And this is the core of the story. During the next months, dozens of Norwegians helped Baalsrud get across to Sweden. Flouting any sense of rational cost-benefit analysis, families and whole villages risked their lives to help one gravely ill man, who happened to drop into their midst.

Baalsrud was clothed and fed and rowed to another island. He showed up at other houses and was taken in. He began walking across the mountain ranges on that island in the general direction of the mainland, hikes of 24, 13 and 28 hours without break.

A 72-year-old man rowed him the final 10 miles to the mainland, past German positions, and gave him skis. Up in the mountains, he skied through severe winter storms. One night, he started an avalanche. He fell at least 300 feet, smashed his skis and suffered a severe concussion. His body was buried in snow, but his head was sticking out. He lost sense of time and self-possession. He was blind, the snow having scorched the retinas of his eyes.

He wandered aimlessly for four days, plagued by hallucinations. At one point he thought he had found a trail, but he was only following his own footsteps in a small circle.

Finally, he stumbled upon a cottage. A man named Marius Gronvold took him in. He treated Baalsrud's frostbite and hid him in a remote shed across a lake to recover.

He was alone for a week (a storm made it impossible for anyone to reach him). Gangrene invaded his legs. He stabbed them to drain the pus and blood. His eyesight recovered, but the pain was excruciating and he was starving.

Baalsrud could no longer walk, so Gronvold and friends built a sled. They carried the sled and him up a 3,000-foot mountain in the middle of a winter storm and across a frozen plateau to where another party was supposed to meet them. The other men weren't there, and Gronvold was compelled to leave Baalsrud in a hole in the ice under a boulder.

The other party missed the rendezvous because of a blizzard, and by the time they got there, days later, the tracks were covered and they could find no sign of him. A week later, Gronvold went up to retrieve Baalsrud's body and was astonished to find him barely alive. Baalsrud spent the next 20 days in a sleeping bag immobilized in the snow, sporadically supplied by Gronvold and others.

Over the next weeks, groups of men tried to drag him to Sweden but were driven back, and they had to shelter him again in holes in the ice. Baalsrud cut off his remaining toes with a penknife to save his feet. Tired of risking more Norwegian lives, he also attempted suicide.

Finally, he was awoken by the sound of snorting reindeer. A group of Laps had arrived, and under German fire, they dragged him to Sweden.

This astonishing story could only take place in a country where people are skilled on skis and in winter conditions. But there also is an interesting form of social capital on display. It's a mixture of softness and hardness. Baalsrud was kept alive thanks to a serial outpouring of love and nurturing. At the same time, he and his rescuers displayed an unbelievable level of hardheaded toughness and resilience. That's a cultural cocktail bound to produce achievement in many spheres.

David Brooks
Op-Ed Columnist
New York Times

Reprinted from <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/02/opinion/02brooks.html>

Blueberry Coffee Cake

From the kitchen of Martha Arnum:

Blueberry Coffee Cake

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar	2 cups flour (I use King Arthur)
$\frac{1}{4}$ cup shortening (I use margarine)	2 tsp. baking powder
1 large egg	1 tsp. salt, opt. (I use $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp.)
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk (I use 2%)	2 cups blueberries, fresh or frozen

Mix sugar, shortening or margarine, stir in milk. Sift dry ingredients together and add to mix. Fold in blueberries and spread in greased, large tube pan.

Topping

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar	2 tsp. cinnamon
$\frac{1}{3}$ cup flour	$\frac{1}{4}$ butter or margarine

Mix together and put on top of cake. Bake at 350 degrees for about 45 minutes.

Message From the District 3 President



Morn morn alle sammen, it's a bit chilly in Florida but probably warmer than where most of you are today.

March was a big month for Zone 5. There is always a lot of SON activity in the sunshine state but in March we had two big events, the Spring Viking regatta in Saint Augustine and the Institution of 3-693 Gulfcoast Vikings in Estero, FL.

The regatta is one of three that are held annually in Zone 5. There will be a May regatta in Clearwater as well as a regatta at Jensen Beach in October. Check the events page on the web site <http://www.3dsofn.org/eventscalendar> for more information on those events as it becomes available. We would like to see more boats in on the action and we are looking into the possibility of building additional boats. We will have more information on that later.

The Estero lodge is the first new lodge in Florida since Norsemen Harbour was instituted in 1996. The lodge will be the 5th new lodge in D3 since April 2007. During the same time only 6 lodges were instituted in the other 7 Districts. About 300 new members have joined the SON because of our new lodges and many members, including 999 and 000 members, found a new home.

Ms. Terry Francis deserves a bigatta girl for her efforts in establishing the Estero lodge. She signed up more than enough members by herself to meet the minimum number of 40. As I write this note they have 75 members. I would say that she is in the running for the 2010 Recruiter of the Year.

Districts are reimbursed up to \$3,000 for each new lodge they start. Each of our new lodges had at least one organizational meeting plus the Institution. Atlanta, Raleigh and Charlotte had one additional visit as the District had a Representative at the local Scan Fest where we found enough Norwegians to start a lodge. The organizational meetings included presentations from District Officers, Zone Directors, International Officers and Financial Benefits Counselors. Many of these Officers also participated in the Institution ceremonies which were very moving and helped set the tone for the new lodge to follow.

The District Board also helped two lodges get back on their feet. The Oslo lodge had been removed from SON web site when Zone Director Arnold Johnson went to work on reestablishing the lodge. Today they have close to 50 members, sending delegates to the convention and having a good time. Vice President Gail Ekloff and Zone Director Judy Mack recently visited the Dovre lodge to offer their help. At that time Dovre was down to 7 members. Today they are up to 24 members and were a \$500 winner, along with the Gateway to Florida lodge, in the recent fall membership contest.

These are nice stories but we have lost some lodges. It is sad to see these lodges fold after great runs. Our new lodges are bringing a breath of fresh air and enthusiasm that helps

cushion the loss of these lodges. We need to continue to seek out new members and new leaders and present good programs. Some of our lodges have folded because of the lack of leaders. We can and will do better.

Our convention is drawing near. Not all the delegate names are in yet but we are seeing some lodges reporting in that have been missing for some time. If your lodge has any questions about the convention please contact one of the District Officers or the Convention Chair, Kathy Dollymore. We are looking for a big crowd. Check the web site for the latest info. See you there.

Fraternally,

Ralph Peterson
President
District Three
Sons of Norway