



North Carolina Vikings

June 2009

<http://www.northcarolnavikings.org>



Sons of Norway

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NC Vikings Lodge 3-675

Lodge Officers 2009-2010

President

Mike Tilder
mmtilder@bellsouth.net
(919) 460-9214

Vice President

Norman Miller
storminnrmiller@aol.com
(919) 554-0747

Secretary

Pat Tilder
pmtilder@bellsouth.net
(919) 460-9214

Treasurer

Mike Brown
mcbrown2@nc.rr.com
(919) 449-0600

Cultural Director

Signe Marwede
signema@nc.rr.com
(919) 453-2224

Social Director

Kari Crenshaw
karioren@yahoo.com
(919) 781-0302

Membership Secretary

Frank Bell
fbell@nc.rr.com
(919) 787-7063

Newsletter Editor

Sandra Valnes Quammen
slvq15@gmail.com
(919) 308-1294

President's Message

Our April meeting had a timely cultural discussion on the history of the Norwegian flag – timely because it provided a better understanding of the Norwegian ties to its flag and the significance it has with the Norwegian Constitution Day celebration. Although the “Norwegian flag” has certainly changed over the last 660+ years, it was apparent, from Don’s presentation and the following discussion, that the flag plays an important role in the Norwegian people’s culture. For those of you who have not participated in Syttende Mai celebration in Norway, it is wonderful to see children's parades with an abundance of Norwegian flags that form the central elements of the celebration. My thanks to Don for his thorough research of the Norwegian flag and his outstanding presentation.



For centuries, Norway shared Denmark's flag. It was called the “Dannebrog”, which literally translated means 'Danish cloth', but whose symbolic meaning can best be described as 'The spirit of Denmark'. The King Valdemar IV (1340-75). The splitflag type has been known since the early 17th century, and is reserved for official purposes, as the Norwegian splitflag is today.



Norway only got its very own flag after the constitution was written in 1814. But it was a long road yet to obtain autonomy, and to find the final solution to a national flag. In the first years of the union with Sweden, the Andreas cross flag was used.



In 1821, the Norwegian flag was designed, and in 1844, it was recognized for all purposes, but with a 'union canton' consisting of the combined crosses of Norway and Sweden. This device was unpopular in Norway, The Storting took unilateral action to remove the Union Canton in 1898, and the king assented on October 11, 1899.



In 1905, only when Norway renounced the political union with Sweden and became a separated independent kingdom on June 7, could the real, Norwegian flag fly freely - clean from other colors. The Union Canton did in fact remain in the ensign and certain other official flags up to the day of Independence.

For those of you who could not attend, the **Syttende Mai** celebration, that was hosted by our friends at Friends of Scandinavia on Saturday, May 16th, was, as usual, a grand event. The weather was agreeable and the music and dancing were enjoyed by all.

As I mentioned in previous newsletters, the SoN District 3 team has created a fantastic raffle for 2009. The raffle is for a voyage for 2 on the Hurtigruten from Bergen to Kirkenes. The tickets will be valid from October 1st 2009 through March 31st 2010 and

the drawing will be held on September 5th, 2009. The raffle tickets are available and the June meeting will be the last chance to buy tickets (\$5 per ticket or \$20 per book of 5 tickets) – unless you can arrange to buy them from me during July and August.

Our next meeting is Thursday, June 18th at 7:00 PM at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Kari Crenshaw, as usual, will be organizing our social event. If any of you can provide some delicious goodies, please let Kari know what you plan to bring.

Fraternally,
Mike Tilder

Upcoming Lodge Meeting

When: Thursday, June 18th, 2009, 7:00 pm (NOTE: This will be our last lodge meeting before a summer break during the months of July and August).

Where: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (7000 Creedmoor Road, Raleigh NC)

How about those sayings, like "To wrack one's brain" for instance? How do you think the Norwegians would express that? You might be surprised! Or maybe you might get a good laugh!

Don Kloe has gathered a list of many of these sayings, and we hope we can have some fun with them at our next meeting! Don and I will present it together----maybe we will have a little guessing game too! If you have some sayings with funny translations into Norwegian, please take part in the program! Looking forward to seeing you there!

- Signe Marwede

Sons of Norway Prizes!

Recruit new members – and enter to win the trip of a lifetime!



Do you have friends, neighbors or relatives who are interested in Norwegian heritage and culture?

Would you like to have the chance to win a **10-day, Norwegian cruise for two?**

Sons of Norway and Borton Overseas are teaming up to present the Sons of Norway Norwegian Experience Membership Recruitment contest! Simply recruit a dues-paying new member and have the new member provide your name and membership number on their application form. **New member applications must be received by December 31st, 2009 to be eligible.**

**Have you ordered your
Norwegian specialties
yet?**

Hungry for some tasty Norwegian treats? Interested in adding your requests a wholesale order of Norwegian food products?

Chicago Importing Company sells a great variety of Norwegian products. Visit their website

[<http://www.chicagoimporting.com/index.html>] for a catalog; Signe will also have copies of the catalog available at the June Lodge meeting.

Contact Signe (signema@nc.rr.com or (919) 453-2224) with the items that you would like to order. Once a large enough order can be put together (\$100 combined minimum), we can order products as a Lodge.

Norway wins Eurovision 2009



23-year singer, violinist, composer, and actor Alexander Rybak from outside Oslo won this year's Eurovision contest in Moscow on May 25th, with a record 387 votes.

Broadcast across Europe since 1956, Eurovision is one of the longest-running television programs in the world. This year, Rybak beat out singers from 41 other countries with "Fairytale", a song he composed himself and performed both vocally and on violin.

For more information about Eurovision 2009, including a video of Rybak's winning song, visit <http://www.eurovision.tv>

Upcoming events

Celebrate Midsommar with Friends of Scandinavia

When: Saturday, June 20th, 5:00 pm

Where: Montague Lake/Farm
10301 Penny Road, Raleigh, NC



Fun is always had by all at Friends of Scandinavia's annual Midsommar celebration. This year, there will be decoration of and then singing and dancing around the Maypole, a potluck picnic, and singing around the bonfire as the afternoon draws to a close.

See the Friends of Scandinavia website (www.ncnordic.org) for more information. Please bring a potluck dish to share and a lawnchair.

Events outside North Carolina

Planning a trip to Tennessee or Pennsylvania? Check out these Sons of Norway-sponsored events!

Rosemaling Workshop sponsored by Vikings of the Smokies Lodge (Knoxville, TN)

September 12-13, 2009



Vesterheim rosemaling gold medalist Lois Mueller will be in Knoxville, TN to lead a rosemaling workshop sponsored by the Vikings of the Smokies Sons of Norway lodge. All levels of experience are welcome, and workshop participants will be working in the transparent Telemark style.

For more information, contact lodge president Emilie Collins at (865) 670-3773.

Image courtesy of www.rosemaling.org

Scrapbooking Workshop at Land of the Vikings (Susquehanna, PA)

September 25-27, 2009

<http://www.llund.com/lov/lov.htm> or <http://lov.3dsofn.org/>

This is a wonderful opportunity to get together and to have fun for the novice as well as the experienced scrapper.



Pull out those boxes and prepare to have a blast! There is no cost for the scrapbooking lessons or help; all that is needed is that you reserve your room at the Land of the Vikings.

Call LOV at 570-461-3500 to make your reservations. For questions about the workshop, or advice for the novice scrapper on what supplies to bring, contact Doris Beck at dlb1716@verizon.net or (215) 542-7374.

Save the date!

Make sure to mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

June 18th – North Carolina Vikings Lodge meeting at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

June 20th – Friends of Scandinavia Midsommar celebration at Montague Farm/Lake

Interesting Links

Norway-related blogs

A blog – short for weblog – is a type of online journal in which writer(s) – called blogger(s) – can share their thoughts and ideas with others via the internet. Here's a small collection of blogs related to Norway.

<http://www.sonsofnorwayblog.blogspot.com/>

Sons of Norway Blog – the official blog of the Sons of Norway. Written by members and updated frequently with articles of general interest and summaries of lodge activities around the world.

<http://www.transparent.com/norwegian/>

Norwegian Blog – a blog written by an American teacher of Norwegian language and culture, this blog contains short articles on Norwegian current events and culture, as well as short vocabulary lists accompanying each post.

<http://blog.thomaslaupstad.com/>

Photos from Northern Norway – a Norwegian photographer posts and blogs about (primarily) nature photos taken in northern Norway. Includes descriptions of the landscapes and details about photography equipment used. Available in both English and Norwegian.



Sons of Norway Links

<http://www.sofn.com>

Sons of Norway Homepage – links to cultural information, language lessons, financial services, etc.

<http://www.3dsofn.org/home.html>

Sons of Norway District 3 Homepage – information relating to the happenings in the third district.

<http://www.northcarolinavikings.org/>

North Carolina Vikings Lodge – our lodge's homepage; lots of information related to lodge events, area happenings, genealogy, etc.

Online News

<http://www.norwaypost.no>

Norway Post – English-language Norwegian newspaper.

<http://www.norway.com>

Norway.com – Norwegian current events, culture, live webcams, etc.

Do you have an article you'd like to have published in the newsletter? Or ideas for the kinds of information you'd like to see here? Please send your articles, announcements, links, or ideas to Sandra (slvq15@gmail.com). The deadline is the end of the month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter. Thanks!

From the District 3 President

Hei alle sammen,

I hope that you had a great Syttende Mai where ever you where. I was in Brooklyn for that parade. I know that we had a lot of great events throughout the District. Please post your lodge event pictures on our web site.

The Grand Marshall of the Brooklyn parade was International President Dan Rude. This was his second visit to District Three in a very short time and he is welcome back whenever he wants.

Our membership status is entering a tough part of the year. So far we have lost some members but we are very close to holding our own. The summer months have historically been months where we have lost a lot of members. Please do your best to keep in contact with all your members and continue to sign up new members. In other words you don't have the summer off when it comes to membership.

The Founders awards for 2008 have been released. The Founders awards are given to lodges who have had at least a 3% increase in membership growth over the past year. I am happy to say that we had several lodges who earned the award which comes with at least a \$50 check and more if you have more that a 20% increase. Sister Gail has more on this subject and the winners will be posted on our web site. Congratulations to those Lodges on this list. Hopefully we will see your lodge's name there next year.

We have had a flurry of Anniversaries in the District in the past days. Sarasota celebrated their 35th, Henrik Ibsen their 75th, Oslo their 60th, Southern Star their 15th, Hartford their 45th and Gateway to Florida their 35th.

I wanted to get to all the anniversaries as they are truly special events. I did get to 3 of them and they were all great. Congratulations to all.

Our Hurtigruten project is going well. If you haven't seen any tickets yet, check with your President. I hope to hear from the winner(s) as they cruise the Northern coast of Norway. This is our major fund raiser for the year so help yourself and the District by purchasing a ticket.

Most of our lodges as well as the District do not publish a news letter during the summer. Our District web site will be up and running all summer so you can continue to post your events and the District Board will continue to post information as well. I hope to send you a short note as well over the summer months. The bottom line is to continue to check the web site on a routine basis as there is a lot of pertinent information available there.

Our web site has been doing well since we had it reworked. We have been averaging about 5,000 hits a week and two weeks we were in the 10,000 hit range. The posting of the District Newsletter (TDT) may have had an impact on the 2 high numbers. Hopefully we have some future members looking at the site trying to check on *your* lodge. We have asked for a history of each lodge to post on the site; so far we have only received about 10 histories, we can do better. Please send your histories in so we can get them posted. We also want you to post your pictures and events. Let's keep the site full, current and interesting for our own members, our prospective members and potential visitors from lodges across the country. It can only help our membership goals.

Have a great summer and don't leave home without a couple of membership applications in your pocket!!!!!!!!!!!!

Fraternally,

Ralph Peterson