



Chicago Sons of Norway  
**Torske Klub**  
 Organized 1960



## Torske Klub Meeting Notice January 11, 2003

Dear Torske Klub Member,

**H**appy New Year! The ground is snowy and the water in the North Atlantic and in the fjords of Norway are getting colder. The fish we catch now has a firm and flaky texture and it is especially flavorful. It is a perfect time for a Torske Dinner!

Our January Torske Klub meeting will be held on January 11, 2003 at the Des Plaines Elks Club, 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL (847.824.1556). Cocktail hour begins at Noon; Dinner starts promptly at 1:00 P.M. when, according to tradition, the bell is rung by our BOSS, Robert Alsaker.

Our Torskemaster will be Robert Cornwell. Remember to bring a "clean" story or joke.

Our speaker is our own David Hardy. He is an attorney, now retired, who will share his experiences with litigation issues in the Lutheran church, many which reflect the problems and news in our world today. This is a timely and serious topic in today's world. The events that David has witnessed for years have now become common knowledge, noting the sexual indiscretions in the Catholic Church.



Fishing in a fjord of Norway.

### **Reservation Phone Number**

Call 630-443-6839 at any time day or night to leave a reservation. As usual, please leave your MEMBERSHIP NUMBER, NAME, and the TOTAL number of people in your party. The same information is required when you reserve for other members. Note that this new reservation phone is unattended since it is an answering system only. In the event of a failure of technology or the need to talk to a human, please call my office at 847-781-6820 during weekday business hours. If I am not there, leave a message at either phone and I'll get back to you.

For those with email, feel free to send me a note to [larsonk@hp.com](mailto:larsonk@hp.com) with the same information and the message title "Torske Klub Reservation". I will reply to that with a confirmation of receipt.

Currently, we have reservations from member numbers 3, 6, 7B, 13E(2), 22, 43, 43A, 47, 51, 55, 64A, 73C, 78, 85, 98, 103, 126, 149(2), 179A. **Reservations must be in by Wednesday Noon, January 8, 2003.** Call 847-781-6820 if we need to discuss this further.

Please remember to bring a guest. A friend, relative or neighbor will enjoy the camaraderie, the atmosphere and the meal. He need not be Norwegian to dine with us, but he will be by the time he leaves.

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**For Reservations Please Call (630) 443-6839**

Ken Larson, Secretary • 3710 King George Lane St. Charles, IL 60174 • Email: [larsonk@hp.com](mailto:larsonk@hp.com)



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### ***News from the "Boss", Rob Alsaker***

During his trip to Norway last month our Boss caught up with Svein Ludwigsen, the Minister of Fisheries for Norway. Rob and his wife, Evy, met with Svein in his office just a few blocks from the Storting in Oslo.

Svein had been the honored guest and featured speaker at the 17<sup>th</sup> of May celebrations several years ago in Park Ridge and had fond memories of his visit to Chicago. Then, Svein was Vice-President of the Lagting, the Upper Chamber of the Norwegian Parliament. Among all the Norwegian activities that weekend that included a visit to our Assistant Boss, Don Hoganson's farm, the Alsakers took Svein to the Parthenon Restaurant in Greektown!

Svein hails from Tromso in Northern Norway and hopes to return there one day as Governor. He explained to Rob how the Norwegian northern coast is being over-fished and that he has called for a fishing moratorium in these areas. This has created quite a controversy in Norway because the fishing industries are concerned about their livelihood. Most of the Torske caught off the Norwegian coast goes to Scandinavia, Central Europe and Japan.



Rob Alsaker gives Svein Ludwigsen a Torske Klub pin in November 2002.

Svein will be in North America and traveling throughout Canada during the first two weeks of February. Our Boss extended an invitation to him to be our Torske Klub speaker in February. Stay tuned.

### ***Other Klub News***

If you were not at the meeting last month, you missed an excellent whole smoked salmon and herring. We remembered and eulogized Alfred Newgard at the beginning of the meeting. We will be dedicating a portion of the letter in the future to Alfred's contribution to the Norwegian community and to our Klub.

Julian Ronning took the helm of the Klub as Torkemaster and steered an interesting and entertaining course with a small roast of the Boss and some Klub members. Julian suggested that Rob had too much aquavit for selecting him as Torskemaster; he wasn't a member. Julian remedied this by becoming a member of our klub! This led to the singing of Christmas Carols, led by our member, Pastor David Langseth.

Our usual raffle was well stocked with prizes. We did the raffle a little different this time and sold one ticket for \$5 instead of the usual 6. The odds of winning were 1 chance in 50 as opposed to the previous 6 chances in 300 (same odds). By this means, more individuals won something, plus it is easier for the secretary to set up the raffle. Thanks to all. Thanks also for those great raffle gifts, which add some special fun and contribution to our klub.

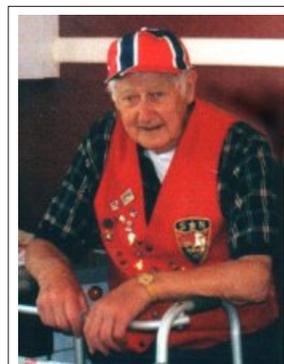
A special thanks to Don Hogansen for his donation of a rare bottle of Kristiana Vodka, which he imported on his recent visit to Norway. It was auctioned off by Don in a dynamic and competitive manner, bringing in a sum of \$65 to our war chest. We vikings love our vodka second only to aquavit apparently.

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### ***Greetings from Barney Jacobsen***

Rob read a Christmas Greeting from our good member and friend, Barney Jacobsen (who cooked our meal for many years; still the best we ever had). From his daughter's house in North Carolina, he writes: "Greeting to the Torske Klub from your old friend and member. I spent 3 months on the hospital and home to get well. I have a new hip and have to use a walker to get around. Sorry to hear of my friend Alfred [Newgard]. God Jul og Godt år i 2003. Kjælig Hilsen ders frend! "...Barney



Barney Jacobsen at home, Syttende Mai 2002.

### ***Future Event: Madison Torske Klub***

Rob Alsaker announced at the last meeting that the Chicago Torske Klub has made arrangements to be the dinner guests of the Madison Wisconsin Torske Klub on October 4th, 2003. The Klub intends to provide transportation to the dinner from the Elk's Club in Des Plaines (we promise that it will not be a school bus). Mark your calendars for this.

### ***In Case You Need Further Justification to Join Us for Dinner...***

The Journal of the American Medical Association announced in their December 25th issue that eating fish once per month or more can reduce the risk of ischemic stroke in men. This was based on the study of 43,671 men aged 40 to 75 years who completed a detailed and validated semi quantitative food frequency questionnaire and who were free of cardiovascular disease in 1986 and before. Women are suspected to benefit too, but not proven.

We already knew the benefits of the fiber in the flatbrød. Now, if we can also get aquavit and drawn butter AMA certified...

### ***Membership Cards***

Enclosed in this mailing is a membership card for the year 2003. Thanks to most for your prompt payment of the dues. As mentioned previously, our budget is simple. The meal cost is paid for at the door. The dues pay primarily for the mailing and for the aquavit. The raffle pays for extras: speakers, specials for the dinner. If you have not paid your dues, please send them to me or pay at the dinner. I will send your card at that time.

We look forward to seeing you on the 11th of January!

Beste Hilsen,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ken".

Ken