



Oktoberfest traditions in Germany and the U.S.

Lederhosen, Beer & Gemütlichkeit



Munich mayor Christian Ude broaches the first barrel of beer at the 2005 Oktoberfest

As the days get shorter and the autumn celebrations have already started, we will tie into that theme with a presentation of what is most likely the most well known festival worldwide – Munich's Oktoberfest. More than 6.5 million people visit the "Wies'n" – as locals call the 195-year old tradition – every year, drink more than 1.6 million gallons of beer and eat almost 500,000 chickens during the two weeks of the event.

You may have visited the Oktoberfest yourself or one of the many re-celebrations here in the U.S., known as "Oktoberfests." But there is much more to the fest than many of us may imagine: We are honored to have as our

speaker Wolfgang Gruener, who was born and raised in Munich and today is employed as managing editor of one of the most influential computer industry publications in North America. He will guide us through the widely unknown origins of the Oktoberfest and shed some light on mysterious traditions, including the lederhosen & dirndl, beer tents & fish rolls, polka music, Bavarian Gemütlichkeit, and others.

Join us for an entertaining and informative dinner with stories, facts and things to touch and see... If you ever were curious in what the Oktoberfest is about, you don't want to miss this presentation!

2006 Dues

The \$35 dues for the Torske Klub are due annually. We will send out a slip of paper with your address and membership information in the upcoming letters requesting information updates. A number of members have asked to pay their dues at the meal. We have set the due date for the dues as 12/31 of each year, but we will gladly accept your dues payment at any dinner from now on. A couple have already done this in September. In such a case, we will mark your dues payment slip as "PAID". Please note to the secretary if you pay your dues at the dinner. Dues cover the cost of this mailing, and pay for the aquavit in honor of your birthday.

New Members

Gentlemen, we have continued the trend that started two years ago as we grow to receive three new members. Gary Skoien and Howard Skoien joined our group last month as they attended to pay homage to Bill Skoien, their late father and brother respectively. We also welcome Truman Eddy, the son of another long time member of the same name. Truman joined us as we hosted a booth at the Vasa Park Scandinavian festival last month.

By the way, many of the men that passed by our Vasa Park table that day declined to join us, saying "I don't fish!", as they walked away. We will have to correct that image.



The regular Torske Klub dinner commences on October 8, 2005 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 our tradition, our BOSS, Robert Alsaker, rings the bell to seat us for dinner.

**Reservations due by:
Tuesday, October 4
NOON**

The Elks Club needs time to order the fresh fish. Timely reservations insure that an adequate portion and a table space can be reserved for you. Noon means noon. A call at 12:30 Tuesday is no better than a call on Friday evening; the fish order is made.

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. It will ring 4 times before answering. For those with email, feel free to send a note to secretary@torskeklub.org with the same information and the message title "Torske Klub Reservation". We will reply to that with a confirmation of receipt. We have reservations from board members and also a few other members including numbers 3, 13C, 22, 23, 43A, 44, 47, 54, 55, 64A, 73C, 98, 101A, 121, 126. Remember that the guests of all members must be called in as well.

**TIP – Your membership number is the number next to your name on the mailing label.

FREE Raffle Ticket to each member that brings one or more guests to the dinner this 2005/2006 season, excluding father/son/daughter and ladies day in May.

Dinner Reservation Phone: ☎ (630) 443 6839

Frequently Asked Questions

We do keep such a list on our web site, but with the number of new members we have, we have not always done our job introducing the practices of our Torske Klub.

► What responsibilities do I have as a member?

Come to dinner, have fun, make your reservations early, pay your dues yearly. Quite easily done.

► What should I wear to dinner?

We would call it business formal, most wear coat and tie. We will announce Norwegian Sweater month in a winter dinner.

► What if I miss the dinner deadline for a reservation?

Call anyway, but leave a phone number. If there is insuf-

ficient fish for your dinner, prepare for an alternate menu. If you need to cancel due to illness or emergency, please call as well.

► Why should I be a member when I could just be a guest?

Well, you don't get this neat letter; you don't get the occasional special gifts and the recognition of your birthday with a toast. We love having guests, but members support the whole camaraderie, the financial support and the future of any viable organization.

► Do I need to be Norwegian to join?

No, but it doesn't hurt either. Do you need to Mexican to enjoy their food, too? ;-)

September 2005: Norwegian Genealogy

We had an excellent dinner in September; it is good to have our torsk again. The lefse was ordered again for this year. We were treated that day to a series of stories and experiences from Ken Larson, our secretary and an amateur genealogist. From the discussion that day, Ken promised to publish a few of the web sites of Norwegian and general interest in the talk:

Digitalarkivet, Norway's digital archive: <http://www.digitalarkivet.no/>

Vesterheim Genealogy Center: <http://vesterheim.org/genealogy/>

Valdres Samband, regional Norw. interest: <http://www.valdressamband.org/>

Cyndi's List: <http://www.cyndislist.com>

Dokumentasjonsprosjektet, Documentation Project: <http://www.dokpro.uio.no>

This includes Prof. Oluf Rygh's documentation about the origin of Norwegian Farm Names - http://www.dokpro.uio.no/rygh_ng/rygh_form.html

.... Lift a Glass on October 9

In 1964, President Lyndon B Johnson, backed by a unanimous Congress, proclaimed October 9 to be Leif Erikson Day, in commemoration of the first arrival of a European on North American soil. This arrival happened one thousand years ago; five hundred years before Columbus. Not that we won't acknowledge that Chris Columbus didn't find America and that things didn't change afterward, but Leif found it first!

Upoming Events

Our program chairman, Dr. Ray Newgard, has announced the following coming events for this year:

► **Nov. 12** - Ms Womazette Jones - A supervisor of DCFS (Illinois Dept. of Childrens & Family services), Cook Count Division. She will discuss the child abuse hot line, statistics of child abuse, and trends and reasons for the things we read daily in our newspapers. Thanks to our good member Harold Bendicsen who also works in this field and who introduced the speaker to us.

► **Dec. 10** - Prof. Toufic El Rassi, Oakton College History Dept. - Dr. El Rassi has unique insight on the Middle East and world events today. He will be our speaker for the day.

October Birthdays

Our birthday list for October includes William Kronborg, Kaare Nevdal, Kristian Ronning, Sam Smith, Max Stokes, Eivind Torske, Thorkil Winther and our new member Truman Eddy. Gentlemen, we raise our Oktoberfest steins of beer and wish you all a Happy Birthday, and many more.

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