



The Tuskegee Airmen and the "Red Tail Project"

The Torske Klub starts 2007 with an excellent program as we are privileged to have as our guest Lt. Col. David James, representing the "Red Tail Project", Americas Tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen. The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African Americans to be trained as WWII Military pilots in the U.S. Army Air Corps. They challenged America's racist attitudes with the willingness to give their lives to a country not willing to acknowledge them. There were 992 pilots trained at Tuskegee, Alabama while over 10,000 Black maintenance personnel trained at Chanute field in Illinois. To identify themselves, they painted the tails of their aircraft red, thus becoming the "Red Tails". The Tuskegee Airmen "Red Tails" carried their hopes and dreams of equality for themselves and their thirteen million African American countrymen into battle. Thanks to Gene Kaszmarek for his participation in arranging this program.



New Members!

The Torske Klub would like to welcome Sigurd Nielsen of Northbrook, IL and Knut Sjurseth of Chicago, Illinois as new members. Welcome! We have enclosed a 2007 membership card for all those from whom we have received dues. If your card is missing and you have paid dues for this year, don't panic or get insulted... we do make mistakes too. Please contact the secretary at the reservation line.

Last Month

The Torske Klub was pleased to have the Western Lights Chorus of Sweet Adelines International under the direction of Bonnie Fedyski. Thanks again to Einar Cannelin & Rob Alsaker for arranging this program with Ray Newgard.

Birthdays ...

This month, we honor the birthdays of January. Pat Betzel, John Rose, Rich Wielock, Mats Stenander, Bob Wanak, Ted Torgersen, Norman Roland, Howard Skoien & Gary Skoien (brother and son of our late good friend Bill), Otto Eik, Irv Mischler, Larry Ekstrom, C.E. "Doc" Kallem and our newsletter publisher Wolfgang Gruener.

We won't mention ages but we do count 52 years between the youngest and oldest. The sum of all ages is about 890 years. That's a lot of torsk that has been consumed.



Our first Torske Dinner of 2007 will be held on January 13, 2007 at the Des Plaines Elks Club, 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL. 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, Jan 9
NOON

ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE REQUIRED TO MAKE A RESERVATION FOR DINNER.

ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE REQUIRED TO MAKE A RESERVATION FOR DINNER. The Elks Club needs time to order the fresh fish. Timely reservations ensure that an adequate portion and a table space can be reserved for you. 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.

We have reservations from the following members: 3, 13C, 22, 47, 51, 55, 73C, 85, 98, 114, 115, 126, 141. Board members note that they have a reservation automatically and must call cancellations.

We are reactivating the email reservations if you choose. Please send to secretary@torskeklub.org with your number of reservations, including guests. We will respond with a confirmation email.

**TIP - Don't know or remember your membership number? Check the mailing label. It is the number by your name.

FREE Raffle Ticket to each member that brings one or more guests to the dinner this 2006/2007 season, excluding father/son/daughter in March and ladies day in May.

Dinner Reservation Phone: ☎ (630) 443 6839

Andy Andersen - Trophy Winning Ski Jumper



Andy Anderson stands before his dozens of ski jumping trophies

Our good friend and long time Torske Klub member, Andy Andersen, has had a very distinguished second career as a prize winning ski jumper.

Andy, born May 25, 1918 in Lillesand, Norway, won his first ski jumping contest at the age of six! Andy says that his earliest memories were on skies and snow. During the German occupation of Norway the Nazis' knocked on his door looking for skiers and skis. At the risk of being shot, Andy told them that he could no longer ski and had no skis. He had hidden his four pairs of skis in the attic loft under many pairs of blankets.

Andy moved to Chicago in 1948 and joined his brother who had moved here in the early 1930's. Andy worked as a carpenter with his brother's company building wooden bridges and boardwalks. He mar-

ried his sweetheart, Margrethe from Hjelmeland near Stavanger, in 1955 and with her raised their family.

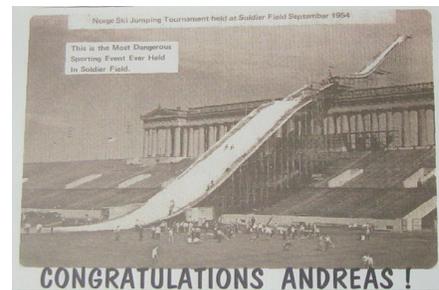
In 1954, the Norge Ski Klub erected another one of their legend-ski-jump scaffolds in Chicago's Soldiers Field. Our member, Andy Andersen, won 1st Prize for his jumps - three days in a row! Andy is pictured above with those ver trophies. Andy says the scariest moments of his life occurred while standing at the top of those jumps at Soldiers Field. The wind was blowing so hard that scaffold was swaying six feet from side to side!

Andy's last jump was in Fox River Grove at the Norge Ski Jump in 1956. That day he won 1st Prize in his Class.

The Torske Klub is proud to have Andy Andersen as one of our members - a true Viking and ski-jumping champion!

Story and photo by Robert Alsaker

[Note that January is the month that the Norge Ski Jump runs its biggest event of the year. January 21st 2007 is the ski jump date this year. See <http://www.norgeskiclub.com/> for details]



The Norge Ski Club ski jump in January 1954 in Soldier Field in Chicago

Torske Klub Memories



Torske Klub Boss Robert Alsaker presents a Torske Klub pin and honorary membership to Norway's Minister of Fisheries and governor of Troms Fylke, Svein Ludvigsen. Svein was the Torske Klub speaker in February 2003 and will host a number of Norwegian-American guests in July 2007 when the Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce (NACC) visits Tromsø.

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