



Annual Torske Klub Christmas Celebration



The Torske Klub will celebrate Christmas in a fashion which has become very traditional for us. Pastor David Langseth will host our annual Christmas program along with an accompanist on piano. This is an excellent time to bring friends and relatives to celebrate the holiday. Christmas Cheer will be provided for all; reindeer are the responsibility of each member.

Holiday Birthdays

This month, we honor the birthdays of December: Milt Gustafson, Oystein Borsheim, Harold Bendicson, Roger Elmer Sr., Arthur Carlson, board member emeritus Art Fitzgerald, our board member and treasurer emeritus Richard Biehl, current board member and secretary-emeritus Dave Cornwell, our treasurer Gene Kaczmarek, and aquavit chairman Garry Grube. Gentlemen, we raise our Gløgg glasses to you.

The "Viking" was built at Framnes Shipyard in Sandefjord, Norway in 1892. In 1893, the ship sailed from Bergen to New York and on to the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. The ship was first housed beside the Field Columbian Museum in Chicago, then restored in 1920 and placed in Lincoln Park under a fenced-in, wooden shelter. Since 1994, it is located at Good Templar Park in Geneva, Illinois.



\$52,000 for Viking Ship

The historic viking ship has received a 2nd place vote and a grant for \$52,000 from American Express and the Midwest office of the National Trust according to the Chicago Tribune and the Daily Herald. The funds offer a chance for the current caretakers to stabilize the boat's condition and enclosure while it is hosted at Good Templar Park in Geneva, Illinois.



Our annual Christmas celebration and monthly dinner meeting will be held on December 8, 2007 at the Des Plaines Elks Club, 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL (847-824-1556). Cock-tail 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, Nov 6
NOON

Make Your Regular Dinner Reservation by **TUESDAY Noon, December 4, 2006** 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 insure that an adequate portion and a table space can be reserved for you. Noon means noon. A call at 12:30 on Tuesday is no better than a call on Friday evening; the fish order is made.

Call 630-445-1263 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, 39, 40, 47, 51, 73C, 85, 97(2) 98, 115, 126, 141. Board members note that they have a reservation automatically and must call cancellations.

We are changing the email reservations temporarily if you choose to use this. . Please send to larsonk@sbcglobal.net 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 2007 /2008 season, excluding father/son/daughter in March and ladies day in May.

NEW! Dinner Reservation Phone: ☎ (630) 445 1263

Torskeklub.org website

About 50-60% of our members use a computer regularly. For those that don't, you may as well stop reading here. For the others, you may know that the Chicago Torske Klub created a web site about 4 years ago which could be found on the internet through the website Universal Resource Locator (URL) of <http://www.torskeklub.org>.

On November 6, the website was not accessible and continues not to be through no fault of the Torske Klub. We are in the midst of a technical resolution with a non-responsive web host-supplier.

In the mean time, a new host was found and the website reactivated at <http://www.torskeklub.com>. We are working on obtaining our previous URL with .org. You know what they say: "To err is human, to really screw things up requires a computer".

Chicago Torske Klub Board of Directors

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Member News

We were saddened this month to learn of the death of our good member, Sigurd Nielsen and also of Margrethe Anderson, wife of our member Andy Andersen and mother of member Roy Andersen. Our condolences are to their families.

Thanks for all those members who have submitted their dues for next year along with any corrections to the membership info. We have about 80% of our 142 members renewed already. Membership cards will be sent after the first of the year. Please submit dues before end of December by mail to the secretary or personally at the meeting.

Last Month: Fermilab

We welcomed Ronald Moore from the particle accelerator at Fermilab in Batavia, IL. He discussed "Getting to The Heart of Matter: An Overview of Fermilab" and introduced the physics they study at Fermilab, described the particle accelerators and experiments used as tools. Thanks to member Wolfgang Gruener for arranging our speaker and to Fred Glure for stepping in as Torskemaster.

United Nations: Norway still one of the world's best countries to live in

After years of regularly being named the best country in the world in which to live, Norway has been toppled from top spot on the United Nations list. [Last week,] Norway was edged out, but the Nordic region continues to dominate the UN list of best places to live.

The Human Development Index (HDI), which ranks and classifies living standard based on variables such as income, expected lifespan, education, and other factors, now rates Iceland as the world's best place to live. Norway is second, followed by Australia, Canada, Ireland and Sweden. Finland is 11th and Denmark 14th. The West African nations Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso and Guinea-Bissau are in the bottom places on the UN's HDI. The rankings are based on 2005 statistics from the 175 member nations of the United Nations, plus Hong Kong and the autonomous Palestinian areas. Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia and 14 other nations are not included due to a lack of data. Most countries, notably Brazil, China and India, have had a significant improvement in living standard over the past 30 years, but some countries have seen a decline.

Sixteen nations had a lower living condition index than in 1990, and in Congo, Zambia and Zimbabwe the conditions are now worse than in 1975.

(taken from Aftenbladet, Nov. 28, 2007. In case you are wondering, the United States are ranked 12th.)