



“Norwegians in Hawaii” at the May Luncheon

I am not sure if you reacted the same way I did when I read this, but it may be something like “Huh?” We are pleased to welcome Jon Satrum to learn about a little known part of Norwegian history – Norwegians In Hawaii in 1881. Norway was suffering from an industrial depression with high unemployment at the same time Hawaii had a need to expand their sugar plantation labor force. From their sea voyage to their working conditions, this was a very different story from that of other emigrant Norwegians. Our May program is based on a paper presented at the NAHA – Norway, Norwegian-American Seminar XI at Luther College in June of 2011. By the way, this was the first time in 19 years this organization held their conference outside of Norway. With over 100 hours of research on this topic, our presenter is one of the more knowledgeable people on this aspect of Norwegian emigration. Our torskemaster is the ever popular Greg Le-Duc.



A land of opportunity for Norwegians in 1881—Photo from Wikipedia.org public

This month denotes the first speaker that our new Program Chairman, Thor Jondahl, has arranged. It looks like he is starting this tenure with a bang.

This month is also the anniversary of our Chicago Torske Klub, founded in May 1960.

Join us for that celebration and what we expect to be an excellent and interesting program. Reservations by Monday evening, May 7th please.

In May, we have been abandoning the traditional coat and tie for the **blue Torske Klub shirt**, or your favorite golf shirt. In honor of the topic for the day, your favorite Hawaiian shirt would be appropriate if you choose.

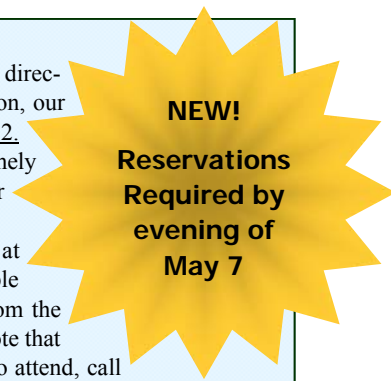
April Luncheon Focused on the Rails

We enjoyed the presentation of our own Board Member Fred Glure as he reviewed the Amtrak services, and the Rails and Trails program, in which he participates. Thanks to Fred Olk as he led as Torskemaster.

Torske Klub Luncheon - May 14, 2012

The next luncheon will be held at the Des Plaines Elks Club, 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL (847-824-1556 for directions that day). Cocktail hour begins at noon; dinner starts promptly at 1:00 P.M. when, according to our tradition, our BOSS rings the bell to seat us for dinner. Make your regular dinner reservation by the evening of May 7, 2012. ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE REQUIRED TO MAKE A RESERVATION FOR DINNER. Timely reservations insure that fish and a table space can be reserved for you. Noon deadline means noon. The fish order is called in directly after noon.

Call **630-445-1263** at any time day or night to leave a reservation. If there is voicemail difficulties, call Garry at 312-497-6407. 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. We have reservations from the following members (and guests): **3, 13C, 38, 40, 47, 51, 55, 84, 98, 114, 115, 120, 149,**. Board members note that they have a reservation automatically and must call or prearrange to cancel. If you are not a member and wish to attend, call the same number and leave your name according to the principle “Once a guest, twice a friend, three times a member!” If you prefer email reservations, please send to **secretary@torskeklub.org** with your total number of reservations, including yourself and 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 2011/2012 season, excluding father/son/ daughter day in March and excluding ladies day in February.



Luncheon Reservation Phone: ☎(630) 445-1263

What's all about this Facebook?

A sure sign of which side of the generation gap you are on is whether you have a Facebook account. For those of us that are “digitally challenged”, Facebook is one of those obscure internet things that pops up occasionally and irritates us. If you look around, however,



you'll find that it has become a significant presence in the lives and methods of communications of the modern world. Over

900 million people subscribe to Facebook, and that's about 1 of every 6 people on the earth. With all that said, the over 55 crowd is only about 5% of subscribers. I can attest that those 5% usually find it convenient to communicate with remote children and family. That also explains why the Chicago Torske Klub is late to adopt this tool.

We have had a couple inquiries from our members, and a majority of the board agreed to leverage this as a communications tool. So we did. Anyone can be our “friend” and access the news and photos that we post, just as we do for the web pages. In addition, friends can post comments and use it to connect to other friends. Notice the “thumbs-up” with the “2”. We currently have two people that “like us”. We will see more as the info spreads. This page is new.

The Facebook page gives us bit more exposure to a new generation. As before, the website will be updated with news and related info. —
Ken Larson

May Birthdays and Member News

This month, we toast the May birthdays: Consul General Emeritus Per Bye Ohrstrom, Nels Nelson, our treasurer Ken Nordan, Rev. David Langseth, Marv Meyer, Henry Hansen, Thor Fjell, board member Roger Elmer, Fred Gilbertsen and Leonard Zielinski of Nelson's Funeral Homes. Happy Birthday to all our good members, and skol. For all the summer birthdays, we will toast you in September.

A note to all members, we are approaching our summer hiatus but as we have done in years past, we continue to post emails to members who have provided us their addresses. This becomes the primary communication tool for concerns of our friends and news that needs to be passed. If we should send a communication for you or a friend to our group, please let a board member know.

Norwegian Constitution Day

The Chicago Torske Klub has had well over 100 members for years, yet our showing at the annual Syttende Mai parade has been usually less than 6. Many members are marching in other groups as well, but many remain as spectators. Mark your calendar and consider joining us for the walk on May 20th this month. Contact a board member early enough if you need to ride in the parade and we will make arrangements.



The Chicago Torske Klub is now on Facebook. Search for “Chicago Torske Klub” and ‘friend us’.

Future Dates

- ◇ **May 12, 2012**—Anniversary of Torske Klub. Presentation on Norwegians in Hawaii.
- ◇ **May 20, 2012**—Syttende Mai Parade in Park Ridge. 1pm. See <http://www.nnleague.org> for Syttende Mai other events
- ◇ June, July and August we golf, fish and rest; not necessarily in that order.

Also see <http://www.torskeklub.org> for more and updated information.

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