



Ladies Day with Arctic Explorer John Huston

February is ladies day at the Chicago Torske Klub for the luncheon. All the ladies, wives, family and friends, are invited to attend. This month we correct the scheduling snafu from last year and present Polar Explorer and author John Huston. Mr. Huston has completed major expeditions to the North Pole, South Pole, on Greenland, and most recently on Ellesmere Island. In 2009, he and his expedition partner became the first and only Americans to reach the North Pole unsupported, a self-sufficient and self-powered journey of 55 days and over 500 miles.



John Huston
—Photo © johnhuston.com

In the spring of 2005, John was selected to join a team of Norwegians restaging Amundsen's 1911 expedition to the South Pole for the History Channel and BBC mini-series, *Blizzard: Race to the Pole*. The expedition team skied and dogsledded 1400 miles over 72 days on the Greenland icecap, using only 1911 period clothing, equipment and food.

This spring John co-led a 65-day expedition to Ellesmere Island, Canada – one of the wildest and most remote regions in the Arctic. The documentary film about this expedition aired on Norway's TV2 this holiday season, North American distribution is pending.

A native of Evanston, Illinois, he is a speaker, writer, consultant, and guide. In April of 2009 John and his expedition partner, Tyler Fish, became the first and only Americans to travel "unsupported" from land to the North Pole. This 55-day, 475-mile journey has been accomplished by only 13 expeditions and has been called the "toughest expedition on the planet." To travel unsupported means to travel under one's own power without resupply. John's award winning book, *Forward*, will be available at the event. Jon Knudsen is our torskemaster.



Normennenes Singing Society at the 109th Norge Ski Jump on January 26, 2014.

See Ladies Day—p. 2

Torske Klub Luncheon - February 8, 2014

The 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 February 3, 2014. 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. The fish order is called in after the deadline.. \$5 surcharge for late reservations

**Fish or Steak:
Reservations
by
February 3**

Call **312-233-2887** 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, listing STEAK and/or FISH counts. The same information is required when you reserve for other members. We have reservations from the following members : **3, 13C, 38, 40, 47, 55, 84, 98(2), 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 reservations@torskeklub.com (not .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 2013/2014 season, excluding father/son/ daughter day in March and excluding ladies day in February.

Luncheon Reservation Phone: ☎(312) 233-2887

Ladies Day—Continued from p.1

In addition to our speaker, we will be led in our opening ceremonies by music from the men of the Normennenes Singing Society, the oldest such group in North America.

As in past years for ladies day, diners have the choice of **traditional torsk, or steak for dinner**. Indicate the number of dinners when you call in reservations. This day tends to be well attended and as such the “Table of Ten” rule will apply. All parties of ten people should send a representative before 11:45 am to reserve the table for their party. No seating for individuals or couples are allowed before this time. After this, all seating is open for self reservation as usual.

See you there, and bring your valentine and friends; any adult guests may attend this month. Non-member guests welcome.

Member Birthdays and News

This month we celebrate the birthdays of these good members: Ed Grendahl, Neil Andersen, Phil Waters, David Svendsen, Ed Eckstrom, Cedric Syrdahl, our Program Chairman Thor Jondahl, and our longtime board member and last remaining charter member Dr. Ray Newgard.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of two men that we saw frequently at the Torske Klub.

Gene Kaczmarek passed away in January. He was recovering from various conditions and was taken suddenly by pneumonia in early January. Gene met most of us at the check in table as treasurer and board member for many years. Our thoughts and prayers to his wife Tordis, and their family.



Gene Kaczmarek



Bob Newgard (right) with his brother Dr. Ray Newgard

Earlier in January, we lost another good member Bob Newgard. Memorial services are to be held this Saturday, February 1, 2014, 10:45am at the Norwegian Memorial Church (Minnekirken) located at 2614 N Kedzie Ave, Chicago. Some members of the Torske Klub will be speaking and Ray invites us to lunch at the church afterward.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bob's brother Ray, and sister Dianne Newgard Tengesdal and their families.

Finally, we send greetings to our board member and long time raffle chairman Ron Bentsen, who is recovering from surgery. We understand that he and Carol will be joining us for lunch in Feb.

January Meeting Recap

Our January luncheon enjoyed a good turnout of Norwegian sweater clad members and guests for the presentation of Prof. Reinhold Heller. He provided a fascinating review of Edvard Munch through his self portraits and biography. Thanks to all the fill-ins for the day for secretary, treasurer, raffle, and our torskemaster.

Mark these Luncheon and Other Dates for the 2013 / 2014 Season

- February 8, 2014—Ladies Day Lunch
- March 8, 2014— Father, Son, Daughter Luncheon
- April 12, 2014—Luncheon
- May 10, 2014— Anniversary Luncheon

Check for updates on our website
<http://www.torskeklub.org> or
<http://www.torskeklub.com>

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