



Chicago Sons of Norway  
**Torske Klub**  
 Organized 1960



**43rd Anniversary Celebration  
 and Ladies Day  
 May 10, 2003 Meeting Notice**

Dear Torske Klub Member,

Our last Torske Klub meeting for this season will be held on May 10, 2003 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.

This is the month we celebrate two special occasions: our Klub Anniversary as well as dinner with the women in our lives. As a part of this celebration, we have arranged for a special appetizer during the cocktail hour, special music from Ray Nilsen & his accordion, our raffle, table prize and, of course, a rose for the women.

Our Torskemasters [yes, two!] will be our own Klub Boss, Rob and his beautiful wife Evy. Remember to bring a “clean” story or joke.



The Torske Klub marches in the Syttende Mai Parade in May 1983. Left to Right: Parks Kongsley, Gus Olsen, Orville Larson, the remaining members in the shadows are unidentified.

**Make Your Reservation by TUESDAY Noon, May 6, 2003**

This is a day earlier than usual. The Elks Club notified us that we need a day earlier for ordering fresh fish based on the number of people we have had and experiences from last month.

Call [630-443-6839](tel: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. Note that this reservation phone is unattended since it is an answering system only. It will ring 4 times before answering. In the event of a failure of technology or the need to talk to a human, please call my office at 847-781-6820 during weekday business hours. If I am not there, leave a message at either phone and I'll get back to you. I will be out of town during this reservation period, so please be patient with my response.

For those with email, feel free to send me a note to [larsonk@hp.com](mailto:larsonk@hp.com) with the same information and the message title “Torske Klub Reservation”. I will reply to that with a confirmation of receipt.



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**For Reservations Please Call (630) 443-6839**

Ken Larson, Secretary • 3710 King George Lane St. Charles, IL 60174 • Email: [larsonk@hp.com](mailto:larsonk@hp.com)



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Currently, we have reservations from member numbers 3(2), 6,13A, 13C, 22, 43A, 47, 51, 55, 64A, 73C, 85, 98(2), 114,118(2) 149(2), 150(2) 158(3). Total counts are listed in (...) above and board reservations are made by default. Remember that the guests of the board members must be called in as well. **Reservations must be in by the Tuesday Noon, May 6, 2003.** Call 847-781-6820 if we need to discuss this further.

### **Other Klub News**

If you were not at the meeting last month, we were treated to the rare performance of the joint Normennenes Singing Society and the Swedish Glee Club of Waukegan. A large and totally male chorus reverberated the Elks Klub that day. We thank them again as well as Thor Fjell, who led as Torskemaster and participant. The total number of members and guests were almost 100, partly because of the son/daughter participation as well.

If you recall that last letter, I had added a photo of the Normennenes Mural that had hung at the Kedzie Avenue club and later at the SACS club. Dick Fjeldheim provided that photo. Dick framed that mural reproduction and offered it for auction during the raffle. Thanks to him for the gift and also for the fine job that he and Don Hogansen have done in keeping the raffle well stocked and fun. Thanks also to all the members that have provided donations.

### **Other Klub News**

For any Swedes or Irish on our distribution list, syttende Mai means 17<sup>th</sup> of May. It is the celebration of Norwegian Constitution Day, 17<sup>th</sup> May 1814.

As in years past, the Norwegian National League sponsors the annual parade in Park Ridge, IL. This year, the parade is on May 18<sup>th</sup>, starting at Hodges Park. The Grand Marshall is **Berit Brørby**, representative of the Norwegian Labor Party and Vice-president of the Odelsting of the Norwegian Parliament (Storting). See the Internet web page <http://www.nnleague.org/parade.htm> for more details. Although the Torske Klub no longer marches in the parade, we have supported it with funding and a full-page ad in the program. Now let me think about this further: the 17<sup>th</sup> of May in on May 18<sup>th</sup> this year...

### **Future Event Madison Torske Klub October 4, 2003**

We have noted for months that the Chicago Torske Klub has made arrangements to be the dinner guests of the Madison Torske Klub on October 4, 2003. We'll leave mid morning, have lunch in Madison and travel home in the afternoon; times to be announced. The Boss has already confirmed reservations for a 55-passenger coach limousine bus (large bus, comfortable seats, toilet, A/C) from Robinson Coaches to provide transportation to the dinner from the Elk's Club parking lot in Des Plaines. We also announced that we would make a stop at the Clock Tower Inn in Rockford to pick up members there. We owe our appreciation and gratitude to our good member Bill Scheiderich for arranging this bus. This trip will be a BYOB event for the bus; each member pays his own dinner/drinks in Madison. **THE BUS RIDE IS COURTESY OF YOUR TORSKE KLUB AND IS FREE!** Mark your calendars for this daylong event and call (630) 443-6839 to reserve your space early or make changes. We have already received reservations from members 3,14,22,51,98, 118, 177(1 + 1 dinner only). I had one reservation for "#142-2 people", since we have no #142 someone's reservation is missing. Whoever is missing on this list, please confirm.

### **Viking Ship Event**

Enclosed is a description of an opportunity to see the Viking Ship in Geneva, Illinois next month. You may recall it when it was staged for years in Lincoln Park. Fred Gilbertsen sent this along just in time to get a mention in this letter. See the enclosure for details.

### **Have a Good Summer**

As I previously mentioned, the Torske Klub does not meet during the months of June, July and August nor do we publish a letter. The regular meeting and letters will resume for the 2nd Saturday of September. If you find a burning desire for something Norwegian, check <http://nor-am.org> for national events. I notice the Hardanger Fiddle concert at the newly remodeled Opera House in Stoughton, WI on July 22nd, featuring some of Norway's most prominent fiddlers, among other things.

On behalf of the Torske Klub and the other board members, thanks for participating. I had fun; I hope you did too.

Beste Hilsen,



Ken Larson

# **THE 78TH SWEDISH DAY OF THE IOGT AT GOOD TEMPLAR PARK**

## **INTRODUCING THE IOGT**

In 1851 in Utica, New York the IOGT was founded by persons dedicated to abstinence from alcohol and any mind-impairing substances. Not only do members take a pledge of such abstinence but also support the principles of peace and brotherhood.

## **GOOD TEMPLAR PARK**

This temperance-based park comprises 66 acres with considerable wooded areas between the open lawns for the festival reached through the south gate and the lawns around the Community House surrounded by the 55 cottages accessible through the north gate, with rambling creek running through the woods. Persons who have been IOGT members for one year are eligible to purchase a cottage. The park is available for rental to groups for picnicking, soccer, and other games. The Community House with a kitchen in the basement may be rented for meetings in this rustic setting. For arrangements one may call the Good Templar Park Association, 528 East Side Drive, Geneva, IL 60134 at 630-2324208 The park is north of Main Street, Geneva, Route 38, and south of Main Street, St. Charles, Route 64. 7th Avenue in St. Charles becomes East Side Drive in Geneva.

## **SWEDISH MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL, SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 2003**

The entrance fee is a modest \$5.00 per person, with children under twelve years of age admitted free of charge. The gate opens at 9:00 AM, with the first event, a worship service, at 10:00. There will be wagon rides and a walk to various cottages, soccer, and other games. Swedish music will be heard by a band and singers, and Swedish folk dancing, with flags of Scandinavian countries and the US flying. Traditional Swedish food will be served and Scandinavian gifts and crafts will be offered for sale.

## **THE VIKING SHIP REPLICA**

In 1893 the ship called "Viking", a 76-foot, 20-ton full replica of the Gokstad viking ship was sailed from Bergen, Norway to the Columbian Exposition in Chicago by modern-day Norsemen demonstrating a modern survival of the old Norse courage and daring for adventure. The original ship, excavated from a burial mound, contained the bones of a king, and may now be seen in the ship museum in Bygdoy, just south of Oslo. Norwegian Captain Magnus Andersen built and sailed this ship with a 12-man crew across the Atlantic through several storms, sighting Newfoundland after 28 days. The "Viking's" impressive performance under the most difficult conditions demonstrated the seaworthiness of viking ships and their ability to reach North America. This replica, after many years in Lincoln Park, Chicago, was eventually moved to Good Templar Park, where a lecture presenting it will be offered at 11:30 AM. This is a once-a-year presentation, which will probably be the last at the park before this ship is moved to other quarters.

