




## The State of Affairs in the Airlines January 10, 2004

Dear Torske Klub Member,

 Our January Torske Klub meeting will be held on January 10, 2004 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.

Our speaker for the January Dinner will be Anders Malm, the General Manager of the Central USA for Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS). He has had a long career with SAS, serving in several worldwide locations. His last position was in India. He will review the current state of affairs with SAS and the airline industry. Our own assistant boss, the handsome and talented Don Hogansen will be the TorskMaster for the day.



Scandinavian Airlines System and its predecessors have been flying since 1918. Photo of MD-80 aircraft courtesy of SAS.

### ► **Make Your January Dinner Reservation before TUESDAY NOON, January 6, 2004**

...to insure that you receive a fresh fish dinner. If you're reading this letter, call right now! By consensus of the Torske Klub board, I will note the reservations of the late callers. If we can serve you a fresh fish dinner, all is well. If there is not enough to distribute, the late reservations will be served the fresh frozen fillets (which are not too bad anyway). THANK YOU to all for all the timely calls last month. We had few late calls and everyone was accommodated with an excellent meal.

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. As we did last year, this reservation phone is unattended since it is an answering system only. It will ring 4 times before answering. If you need to speak to me urgently, please call my office at 847-781-6820 during weekday business hours. If I am not there, leave a message at either of the phones and I'll get back to you. I am in Kansas City during the reservation period, so please be patient with my response.

For those with email, feel free to send me a note to [secretary@torskeklub.org](mailto:secretary@torskeklub.org) with the same information and the message title "Torske Klub Reservation". I will reply to that with a confirmation of receipt. I believe that I have an internet email account for everyone that wants an email notice. If you wish to be included or excluded from this list, please contact me. I should mention to those without email, you are not missing anything; the letter sent is the same as this one.

We have January dinner reservations from 3, 13C, 43A, 47, 51, 55, 64A, 73C, 85, 98, 114, 126.

*continued other side*



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

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Web Site: <http://www.torskeklub.org>



### ***New Members!***

Our good member Julian Ronning, brought two guests to the Torske Klub December, and then promptly signed them up as members. Therefore, we welcome his son Kristian Ronning, and his father-in-law Sigurd Olsen as our newest members. Kristian is a graduate of Luther College (BA) and North Park Univ. (MBA). Sigurd was born in Brevik, Norway, and was in the Norwegian Merchant Marines. He is 85 and retired from International Harvester (now known as Navistar). Kristian, by the way, enjoyed his first dinner as a Torske Klub member since he now holds the position as one of our younger members. Welcome to both gentlemen!

### ***December Torske Klub Meeting***

We had an excellent Christmas dinner meeting on December 13. The smoked salmon was savored as an appetizer. The cocktails were well made, the fresh cod was firm, flakey and the Linnie Aquavit was ice cold and poured tall. Rich Wielock's wife, Grace, made krumkake, which was distributed with dessert; tusen takk! The Rev. David Langseth led us in our traditional Christmas Carols and provided a moving reading of the Nativity story from St. Luke, along with enjoyable, classic Norwegian and English Christmas stories. We were reminded that if your house is infested with trolls on Christmas Eve, get a polar bear. We auctioned a sampler of Norwegian Aquavits, and a Norwegian Military helmet, decorated by Carl Eglund. [By the way, I won the auction for the helmet and I want to note to Rob Alsaker that I am NOT wearing it around the house...anymore.] We welcomed Paul Amundsen back from his long West Nile virus related illness. We had 75% of our members at the meeting. We welcomed two new members. It was a good day.

As most of you noticed in the last meeting, we used no dinner tickets. The Torske Klub has adopted a name badge system, similar to that used by the Madison Torske Klubben. When you check in and pay for your dinner, you will pull your badge off the stack and wear it proudly in the dinner. Our guests will have a temporary stick-on badge. Our thanks for this work to assemble these badges go to our talented wine committee chairman, Garry Grube.

### ***News from the Boss***

Many of our Torske Klub members have many memberships in multiple organizations. One of these, the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce (NACC) is noted in our news frequently, because of this overlap. This group chartered a trip to Bergen in the week before our December meeting and this was well attended by our Torske Klub membership. One of the highlights was a formal dinner with Lodve Solholm who is the president of the Norwegian Lagting, the Norwegian equivalent of the US Senate.

The group was also accompanied by the Norwegian Consul in Madison, Trygve Lonnebotn. Trygve is the president of the Madison Torske Klubben and an honorary member of our Klub.

This trip also allowed the group to visit Edvard Grieg's home at Trollhagen. See the enclosed story.



Photo front row: Hugo Lanesskog, Don Hoganson, Lodve Solholm (president of the Norwegian Lagting), Rob Alsaker. Back row: Per Bye Ohrstrom, Sam Smith, Thor Fjell, Bill Schiederich, Lowell Olberg, Ted Torgersen, Hank Solberg. Photo by Evy Alsaker.



### **Other News from our Members**

We have recently learned that Torske Klub member and occasional wine steward Kenneth (Ken) Nordan has recently graduated from Dominican University with a Masters in Knowledge Management. Congratulations! In this high-tech world, Knowledge Management is an emerging discipline that combines the studies of Library Science, Computer Science and Business Administration. As a Knowledge Manager, Ken would be responsible for developing and maintaining systems within an organization for the gathering, storing, cataloging and sharing of information and knowledge vital to the everyday operation of the organization. Ken has many years of experience developing computer databases, web pages, intranet portals and organizing information. He is currently looking for full or part time employment as part of a corporate library, knowledge center, competitive intelligence department, marketing group or university library where maintaining access to information and knowledge is vital to the organization. Ken and his wife Julie can relocate for the right opportunity, Norway or England could be an option! Please contact Ken Nordan by phone at 1.630.406.8155 or by email [kjncampbell@ameritech.net](mailto:kjncampbell@ameritech.net) for additional information.

The Torske Klub extends our best wishes and prayers to our long time member, Finn Braathen. His wife has been hospitalized with serious illness this holiday season.

### **Membership and Dues**

We have received most of the membership dues for the 2003 - 2004 Torske Season and the membership cards are enclosed in this January mailing for those from whom we have received the dues. If your card is not enclosed and you have paid your dues, please contact Ken Larson.

### **Remember to bring a Guest!**

Any male guest to the Torske Klub this season, who is 21 - 50 years old, will have his first dinner paid for by the Klub, if he joins the Torske Klub.

I hope to see you all at the dinner.

Beste Hilsen,

Ken Larson



A highlight of the NACC tour was a visit to Trollhagen, the home of the famous Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg (1843- 1907) and his wife Nina. This is the cabin that he used for his composing.

During Grieg's lifetime and after, those who heard his music gained the impression that it was strongly linked to the landscapes and way of life of the people around him. His first biographer, Aimer Gronvold, helped to strengthen this impression through a situation he once described. When Gronvold, one summer day in the 1880s, sailed past the little settlement of Ullensvang in Hardanger on the local steamer, he caught sight of the small figure of Edvard Grieg, striding along beside the fjord at Lofthus. Picking a path through rocks and trees he made his way towards his destination, a small knoll with a wooden cabin specially built for him to compose in. It boasted but one tiny room, and was poised on the edge of the fjord, in the midst of the exquisite beauty of Ullensvang, with the dark, deep fjord below, and the glittering ridge of the Folgefonna glacier on the other side of the water. Grieg returned there every summer, and sometimes in the winter too, to seek the peace and tranquility he needed for his work. In the heart of this matchless amphitheater of nature, surrounded by the most sublime and majestic scenery in Norway, Grieg placed his grand piano and his writing desk. Here he sat, like an Orpheus reborn, and played in his mountain fastness, among the wild animals and the rocks. His music came from the depths of rural Norway, where the quick and resonant tones of the Hardanger fiddle met his ear, and the Hardangerfjord's shifting moods enchanted his eye. Gronvold concluded that there was an intense and indissoluble relationship between the environment he lived in and the music that he created. It is almost impossible to listen to Grieg, be it in a concert hall or a drawing room, without sensing a light, fresh breeze from the blue waters, a glimpse of sparkling glaciers, a recollection of the steep mountains and of life in the fjordland of western Norway, where Grieg was born and dearly loved to roam. [From Biography of Edvard Grieg by Harald Herresthal ©1996-2001, MNC]