



Chicago Sons of Norway *Torske Klub* Organized 1960

Web Site: <http://www.torskeklub.org> • Email: secretary@torskeklub.org

January 2005 • 45th year



Our January celebration the New Year and the first dinner of 2005 will be held on January 8, 2005 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 to seat us for dinner. Keep reading however, we have TWO dinners in January this year.

100 Years of Nordic Ski Jumping Godt Nytt År - Happy New Year!

Skiing originated in the mountains of the Scandinavian countries over 4000 years ago. Many Norwegians in the Chicago area have been, and still are skiers. One hundred years ago, the roots of ski jumping were formed by the Scandinavians of the midwest United States. From these early roots in 1905, there grew the current ski jump organization in Fox River Grove, IL. The jump has been rebuilt since that time, and it is now a world



Norge Ski Jump.
Photo by MJ Schauer and Norge Ski Klub

class ski jump which is celebrating its 100th meet on January 14-16, 2005. We are pleased to have Chuck Sedivick, of the Norge Ski Club of Fox River Grove, IL as our speaker for the regular January 8 meeting. Chuck will talk about this event, the club and some history. Call your reservation early for this event. And consider attending the Ski Jump event itself on the following weekend. ■

Membership Cards Enclosed **PLUS** a Torske Klub Pin

Your membership card for 2005 is enclosed, if your dues have been received at the time of this mailing. The Torske Klub Board of Directors has also voted to provide a Torske Klub Pin to all those members of record in this 45th year of the organization. This is new, we have sold these pins in the past. If your dues are not yet paid, don't

fret. We'll mail cards and pins in March for late receipts, or in person at future dinners. If you paid your dues, but were not acknowledged by the card this month, please contact Ken Larson at the reservation line. Thanks, by the way, to **Don Hogansen** who worked to acquire these pins for our klub. ■

Birthdays for January

The first birthdays for 2005 include the group of Patrick Betzel, Rich Wielock, Ted Torgersen, Norman Roland, Otto Eik, Irvin Mischler, Wolfgang Gruener (our newsletter publisher), and C.E. "Doc" Kallem. Gentlemen, we raise our aquavit glasses to you and wish you a Happy Birthday and a Happy New Year.

New Members!

We are always pleased to receive new members. Closing the year of 2004, we have 2 more: Jorgen Laursen of Lisle, IL and Scot Solberg of Antioch, IL. Welcome!

Make Your January Reservation by **TUESDAY Noon, January 4, 2005**

The Elks Club needs time to order the fresh fish. Last month, we had 69 reservations at noon on the deadline date and 81 at the dinner. Timely reservations insure that an adequate portion and a table space can be reserved for you.

Call 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. It will ring 4 times before answering. If you need to speak to someone urgently, please call Ken's office at 847-781-6820 during weekday business hours.

For those with email, feel free to send a note to secretary@torskeklub.org with the same information and the message title "Torske Klub Reservation".

We will reply to that with a confirmation of receipt. We have reservations from member numbers 3, 13C, 22, 43A, 47, 51, 55, 61, 64A, 73C, 78, 85, 98, 114, 126, 142, 163, 168. Remember that the guests of the members must be called in as well.. ****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 who brings one or more guests to the dinner this 2004/2005 season, excluding father/son/daughter and ladies day.

For Reservations Please Call (630) 443-6839



Road Trip!

It's time to go to Madison on January 15, the week after our regular dinner. The Madison Torske Klub has again invited the Chicago Torske Klub to dinner at the prestigious Madison Club in Madison, Wisconsin.

Once again, the Klub is renting a comfortable tour bus, with a restroom facility, at no extra cost to the participants. Your dinner cost and that of cocktails will be at each member's expense. Note that parking at the Elks Club may be an issue. The Elks have other dinners scheduled that day and ask that off-lot street parking be used for our private venture.

As we did last time, we will attempt to provide "coffee and ..." before the ride. Each member is responsible for his own "refreshment" during the ride. Arrive early for the bus and enjoy a coffee. Schedule requires that we leave at 8:45 whether you are there or not. Thanks to our boss, **Rob Alsaker** and to our honorary member **Trygve Lønnebotn**, the boss of the Madison Torske Klub and Wisconsin Honorary Consul for Norway, for arranging this. Kudos to **Bill Scheiderich** for arranging the transportation again this year.

We have Madison Dinner reservations from member # 3, 6, 13C, 17B, 22, 50B, 51, 55, 73C, 78, 84, 98, 112B (Rockford Pickup), 115, 118 (for 2), 143, 147, 163, 167, 168, 171. No reservations are assumed by board members or others; please call early, the bus is halfway filled. Reservations for this special event are now being received by calling

Did you know..?

On 7 June 1905 Norway unilaterally dissolved her ninety-one-year union with Sweden by declaring the union monarch no longer the king of Norway. The action by the Norwegian Storting (Parliament) climaxed a near century-long struggle between the two nations on the Scandinavian

December Christmas Celebration

The December dinner was a delightful mix of Christmas revelry and fellowship. Over eighty members and guests attended for a great dinner, preceded by smoked salmon appetizer. Our own resident wise man, **Rev. David Langseth** led the Christmas program and singing. He was accompanied by Kurt Wolfenger on the piano. Thanks to both! The raffle was well stocked and followed by an auction, led by **Don Hogansen**, for the sword and dagger. These were donated by **George Tarnow**. **Lowell Oilberg** muscled out all competition for both items with a generous bid. Thanks to both gentleman for their participation. ■

Timetable for the Madison Dinner Saturday, January 15, 2005

8:15 am	Meet at the Des Plaines Elks Club parking lot
8:45 am SHARP	Bus leaves Des Plaines
9:45 am	Bus stops at Rockford Clock Tower Inn
11:30 am	Start of Madison Dinner at Madison Club, 5 E. Wilson Ave, Madison WI
1:30 - 2:00 pm	Approximate departure from Madison, stop in Rockford
3:30 - 4:00 pm	Approximate return to Des Plaines

Club pays for bus. Member pays own costs in Madison, expected to be \$19 for dinner, excluding drinks.

the reservation line (630-443-6839) or by email to the secretary@torskeklub.org by January 11. Please identify your reservation as that for the Madison Trip. Reservations are taken by receipt until the bus is full; after that, you'll have to drive yourself. . Reservation is mandatory for the dinner in any case. ■

peninsula which had been initiated in 1814 as a result of the developments toward the end of the Napoleonic wars. Norway is having a centennial celebration across the United States with 900 events in 2005. The Norge Ski Club tournament will be it's kick-off event. ■

Chicago Torske Klub Board of Directors

Boss: Rob Alsaker

Assistant Boss: Don Hogansen

Treasurer: Gene Kaczmarek

Secretary: Ken Larson

Program Chairman: Dr. Ray Newgard

Wine Chairman: Garry Grube

Raffle Chairman: Ron Bentsen

Historian: David Cornwell

Membership Chairman: Robert Frost II

Board Member: Dick Fjeldheim

Board Member: Fred Glure

Board Member: Ralph Haug

This newsletter was published by the Chicago Torske Klub.

Editor: Ken Larson

Layout and Production: Wolfgang Gruener

© 2004 Chicago Torske Klub