



## Ring in the New Year with our Norwegian Sweater Day and a Trip "Down Under"



Bill Helmuth, a world traveler & speaker who grew up in Chicago, will take us on a trip to New Zealand & Australia. Join us for the first Torske Dinner of the New Year this January 12th! This day is also our annual "Norwegian Sweater Day". In place of the traditional coat and tie, wear your favorite sweater to the day. We'll ask the Elks club to keep the thermostat cool.

## Torske Klub Dues and Membership Cards

We have collected dues from over 85% of our membership. If we received your dues, a membership card is enclosed, with thanks from your Torske Klub. To those of you for whom we have not received dues, a letter is enclosed instead. The funding for our Torske Klub and its activities is dependent on dues and somewhat on the raffle.

Please call the secretary, Ken Larson at home, (630)443-6829, if you've paid and we have not received the dues. We have found the postal mail to be regularly unreliable recently for our letters; we assume the same for dues.

## Torske Klub Website Back in Operation



The web site at [www.torskeklub.org](http://www.torskeklub.org) is back in operation after a brief outage.

It provides the latest information about our group as well as links to the community and historical items. As we collect photos, they are finding their way online, plus we have collected the newsletters from many past meetings in recent years. Even if you don't have a computer, your sons and daughters and grandchildren likely do and may find it interesting.



Our first luncheon of the new year will be held on January 12, 2008 at the Des Plaines Elks Club, 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL. 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.

**Reservations due by:**  
**Tuesday, Jan 8**  
**NOON**

Make Your Regular Dinner Reservation by **TUESDAY Noon, January 8, 2008.**

**ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE REQUIRED TO MAKE A RESERVATION FOR DINNER.**

The Elks Club needs time to order the fresh fish. Timely reservations insure that an adequate portion and a table space can be reserved for you. Noon means noon. ANY reservation made after noon on Tuesday will have a \$5.00 late fee imposed, making your dinner charge \$25.

**Call 630-445-1263 (the New Number) at any time day or night to leave a reservation; call 630-443-6829 if you can't get through.**

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 a few times before answering.

We have reservations from the following members: **3, 13C, 22, 47, 55, 73C, 85, 98, 114, 115, 126, 141.**

You can also email reservations if you choose. Please send the message to [secretary@torskeklub.org](mailto:secretary@torskeklub.org) with your number of reservations, including 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.*

**NEW!** Dinner Reservation Phone: ☎ **(630) 445 1263**

## December Meeting

We thank the Rev. David Langseth and his piano accompanist for what has become an annual tradition of Christmas carols and readings. His recital of "The Cremation of Sam McGee", a poem by Robert W. Service, was oddly appropriate for our group and brought smiles to many and amazement from others. Those that arrived early were treated to a smoked salmon appetizer with the cocktail. It was delightful day. Well done, David.

## January Birthdays

This month, we honor the birthdays of the new year babies: John Rose, Ron Hoppe Sr., Rich Wielock, Thomas Maxson, Mats Stenander, Bob Wanak, Ted Torgersen, Norman Roland, Howard Skoien, Gary Skoien, Otto Eik, Rick Nelson, Larry Ekstrom, C.E. "Doc" Kallem and our newsletter publisher Wolfgang Gruener. Happy birthday and New Year to all.

### Chicago Torske Klub Board of Directors

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## Events Reminder

The calendar for the remainder of this torske season includes:

- ⇒ **January 12, 2008** - Bill Helmuth, a world traveler & speaker who grew up in Chicago will take us on a trip to New Zealand & Australia. Norwegian Sweater Day: Wear your favorite sweater.
- ⇒ **February 9, 2008** - Normennenes sings for **Ladies Day!** (\*\*Notice\*\* Ladies Day is no longer in May).
- ⇒ **March 8, 2008** - Father, Son, Daughter day
- ⇒ **April 12, 2008** - Steve Larson, an engineer working on satellite systems, talks about the space program.
- ⇒ **May 10, 2008** - 48th Anniversary of the Torske Klub! (\*\*Notice\*\* May is no longer Ladies Day)

## A Norwegian Tsunami?

As we pass this holiday season, we recall the terrible event a few years ago when an undersea earthquake caused a terrible loss of life along the Indian Ocean coast. Norway is not immune from such a coastal catastrophe. In central Norway, local hikers and residents had observed a crack and noticeable movement of the mountain, now called the Åkernesrenna, the Åkernes crevasse.

The Åkernesrenna has in the recent years widened at an accelerating rate, and analyses threaten a coming landslide, estimated at 50-100 million cubic meters. The landslide will go directly into the fjord, causing a landslide induced tsunami of about thirty meters in height, about 100 feet. This will sweep the fjord and devastate the areas adjacent to Sunnylvsfjord and Storfjord, including the scenic towns of Geiranger, Hellesylt and the populous Ålesund. This is also a route of the Hurtigruten, whose coastal ships navigate the fjord to Geirangerfjord, currently one of the most beautiful spots on earth.

This fjord was visited by many of our Torske Klub members during the 2006 NACC tour.

