

Roald Amundsen's NAVIGATOR



Sons of Norway Lodge 6-48, Sacramento

November 2012

Fra Presidenten

We had a successful participation in the Scandinavian Festival on October 6th. Our congratulations to Joe and LaRena Hannon who organized and all those who lent a hand to this event. I don't have all the names



as I spent too much time in the kitchen, but all of your efforts are appreciated by the Lodge. Our Lodge meeting on October 9th featured a Rick Steves travelogue on visiting Oslo. Thanks to Steve Rosenthal and Carol Francis for the refreshments.

By the time you read this, we will already have held the Lutefisk and Meatballs Dinner on October 20th. Sorry if you missed this tasty and festive evening. Our next Lodge meeting on November 13th will feature the election of officers for next year and an initiation ceremony for new members. Come out and attend.

On November 17 we will be producing our Viking Fest at the Masonic Hall from 10 am to 2 pm. Come and enjoy some Norwegian culture, crafts, and food. Further future events include the Julebord on December 8th at Lutheran Church of the Master and the

Family Christmas Party December 16th at Carmichael Community Center. Please see the enclosed fliers.

Lots of activities. Look forward to seeing you there.

Mange takk,
David Bailey
President

Summary of September Board Meeting

The board reviewed the planning for future events for the rest of the year -- Scandinavian Festival, Lutefisk Dinner, Viking Fest, Julebord, and Family Christmas Party. The board agreed to have the next newsletter folded by Office Depot. The board recommended that the Lodge again support the Century Club (Camp Norge). The board scheduled the October and November board meetings. The board discussed how to increase participation at Lodge events and meetings and improve communications with members, including increased email and website use. The board also discussed the need to empty the crowded cupboard in the Masonic Hall and remove surplus materials to the shed.

The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries, and provide quality insurance and financial products to our members.

your lodge officers:

President

David Bailey - 916-925-8123 • davidsbailey@yahoo.com

Vice President - open

Secretary

Carol Lee Solheim-530-677-2006• solheim2636@earthlink.net

Recording Secretary - **Lyla Hansen**

Treasurer - **Stephen Rosenthal**

Membership

Florence Smith - 916-783-8830 • darian98@surewest.net

Counselor - **Carol Francis**

Social Director - open

Marshall - **Patricia Harriman**

Youth Director - **Jessica Brown**

Greeters - **Ron and Cecelia Byrd**

Librarian - **Carol Lee Solheim**

Historian - **Gordon Hanson**

Musician - **Janet Moe**

Ass't. Musician - **Bob Dahl**

Sports Director - **Ann Sandner**

Cultural Director - **LaRena Hannon**

Newsletter Editor

Knute Blodger - 916-632-9118 • kblodger@aol.com

Publisher - **Bob Dahl**

Webmaster

Anne Bandy - 916-486-8397 • abandy100@gmail.com

Publicity Director

Dee Ann Smeltzer - 530-676-9416 • smeltzer4@sbcglobal.net

Foundation Director - **Jim Smith**

Trustees

3-years **Joe Hannon**, 2-years **Ron Byrd**, 1-year **Ann Sandner**

Auditors

Susan Lemmon & Ingrid Sceals

Lodge meetings

Join us at 7:00p.m. on the second Tuesday of most months to learn about your Norwegian heritage and how the Sons of Norway can benefit you and your family. It costs nothing to visit.

See the Sons of Norway Sacramento website for membership information.

www.sonsofnorwaysacramento.com

San Juan Masonic Center

5944 San Juan Ave.

Citrus Heights, CA

COMING EVENTS

November

Tues. 13th: 7pm lodge meeting

Sat. Nov. 17th:

VIKING

FEST

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

SAN JUAN MASONIC HALL

5944 San Juan Ave. Citrus Heights

December

Sat. 8th: Julebord

Tues. 11th: 7pm lodge meeting

Sun. Dec. 16th:

ROALD AMUNDSEN LODGE

SONS OF NORWAY

FAMILY

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Activities: Christmas Story, Singing Around the Christmas Tree,

and maybe a surprise visit from a guy in red... plus refreshments.

Hope you ALL can come!

SUN., DECEMBER 16,

2012 • 2:00pm til 4:00pm

To be held at the

COMMUNITY CLUBHOUSE in

CARMICHAEL PARK,

5750 Grant Ave (near corner of Fair Oaks

Blvd & Grant Ave).

See back cover for all the details

VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE SACRAMENTO SCANDINAVIAN FESTIVAL A SUCCESS!

by Joe Hannon, Chairman 2012

The 29th Annual Sacramento Scandinavian Festival on Saturday, October 6th proved to be a very successful event enjoyed by 602 that attended at the Divine Savior Catholic Church in Orangevale. Many positive comments were received relative to the facility, the overall program, Scandinavian hot foods and baked goods, vendor demonstrations and the merchandise items available. Thanks to all the lodge volunteers that pitched in to either cook, sell prepared food and baked goods or beverages.

Appreciation is extended to David Bailey, Joe Hannon, Richard Jacobson and Curt Thue all of whom prepared the Viking Ship for display. Also thanks to Richard Jacobson and Arne Jensen for serving at the Beverage Bar. Viking -on-a-Stick were previously prepared by LaRena Hannon, Nancy Ottum, her sister Lynn and Karen Duncanson of Daughters of Norway. Deep Fry cookers were David Bailey and Mike Jones with sales provided by Carol Francis and Anne Bandy assisting in the kitchen. Those serving at the Bake Table were Sharon Brooks, LaRena Hannon, Pat Harriman, Dorothy Jones and Maggie Karlstad. Baked goods were provided by Erin Bradley, Raye Brown, Donna Gordon, Edna Johnson, Tove Lise Miller, Ann Sandner and Florence Smith and members of other Scandinavian Clubs. Judy Felker and Karen Nelson worked at the Daughters of Norway Craft Table and Gloria Jacobson served waffles for the Daughters and Judy also sold tickets at the back door. Jim Smith and Carol Lee Solheim sold items at the lodge's Viking Stopp Table and Ann Sandner provided information at the Norway Table and was Flag Bearer for the Norwegian colors at the flag ceremony. Thanks also to DeAnn Smeltzer for providing publicity for the festival. I'm sorry if I missed others that may have helped with the festival.

Mark your calendars for next year's festival that is tentatively scheduled for early October which will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the festival.

LUTEFISK AND MEATBALL DINNER

by Joe Hannon



A dinner for about 80 Lute-fisk Lovers and Meatball Eaters was held October 20th at the Lutheran Church of the Master. Visitors came

1. from as far-away as Colorado and Arizona to enjoy a delicious meal. Carol Francis planned the Dinner and Kirsten Wyatt was the chief cook and bottle washer assisted by daughter Katrina and niece Erin Bradley. Meatballs were previously prepared by Carol Francis,



Sharon Brooks, LaRena Hannon, Lyla Hanson, Pat Harriman and Arne Jensen, his daughter and Ann Sandner. Cookies were provided by Erin Bradley, Edna Johnson and Carleton Peterson. Carol Francis presented the cultural program, 'The Gold Rush in Norway' (Whaling). A number of people pitched-

2. in for cleanup at the end of the program, including

Ronald and Erna Alfital, Sharon Brooks, David Bailey, Carol Francis, Joe and LaRena Hannon, Pat Harriman, Mike and Dorothy Jones and the Malme family.



3. Many thanks go to the out-of-town guests that attended, and to the above people that helped with this event, especially Carol Lee Solhiem, who took reservations and provided appetizers for the social hour.

- 1. The crowd
- 2. Mike Jones
- 3. Erin Bradley & Katrin Wyatt
- 4. Kirsten Wyatt



4.

Knute's Korner

by Knute Blodger

Thank You! Thank You!

The October Navigator with a biography of Ann Sandner sure brought the phone calls. Some knew Ann very well and others were introduced for the first time. Everyone was pleased to know all about such a fine lady.

There were even kind words for Knute's Korner and wanting more bios. Yes there will be more but not every month, as there is more to a bio than meets the eye.

Since I have been doing a Knute's Korner for ten years for the Sun City, AZ, Sol Byer Lodge, I have accumulated a fine selection of stories of Norwegians who have made a difference nationally but primarily in California. Richard Gilman is one of my sources and he is a great historian and prolific writer. Here are some of the stories that will appear in this column: LEIF ERIKSON IN LOS ANGELES, THE ORIGINS OF THE COFFEE BREAK, NORWEGIANS IN HOLLYWOOD, IT ALL BEGAN IN CANTON, SOUTH DAKOTA, NORWEGIANS IN SONG, A POLAR PIONEER, A NORWEGIAN "PRES-ENCE" AT UC BERKELEY, NORWAY'S ROLE IN CONSTRUCTION OF THE, STATUE OF LIB-ERTY, THE FIRST NORWEGIANS IN AMERICA

Thanks again for all of the nice comments.

Two brothers from Norway...one a past president of Roald Amundsen, the other unknowingly helping to start the sport of skiing in California and the far west.

Let me now take you back to the winter of 1929-1930 in Sacramento, California. A young Norwegian immigrant by the name of Andreas Bløtekjaer had come to find work. His brother Olaf had sent him a letter saying things were good here in America.

Andreas had worked his way across Canada laying track for the railroad, planning to enter the U.S. at

Seattle. His wife Birgitt Skarmyr was pregnant and gave birth to Knut in Canada. Knut was conceived in Norway and delivered in Canada en route to California. (He obviously came to America as a stow-away, not having a proper ticket.)

Andreas was a ski jumper and loved sports of all kinds. Once in Canada he asked to borrow the little hand track-car for the weekend. He had heard of a ski jump twenty miles down the track. He pumped the twenty miles, borrowed a pair of jumping skis and won the ski jumping tournament. The competitor who loaned the skis, was so impressed with this Norwegian, that he gave him the jumping skis. Then it was pumping twenty miles back to work.

In Sacramento the two brothers had heard there was a lot of snow on Donner Summit. They made it to the snow one weekend and the first thing Andreas did was to build a jump. The locals were all excited to see this man jump higher and farther than anyone.

As they were packing to go back to Sacramento a man came up and said, "That was just great watching you jump, I hope you can come back next weekend." Andreas was quick to say, "can't do that, as I have to find a job." The stranger replied, "You come to the Auburn Lumber Company tomorrow and I will give you a job." The man making the offer was Wendell Robie, owner of the The Auburn Lumber Company, Tahoe Lumber, Truckee Lumber and Heart Savings & Loan.

Andreas now known as Andy drove truck for the lumber company all through the 1930's. Both he and his brother left their jobs as soon as war broke out, and went to work at the Alameda Shipyards. Their families back in Norway were having hard times, and this was their way to be of some help in the war effort.

Robie was an entrepreneur and he spearheaded the Auburn Ski Club, seeing the potential for recreational skiing. This was quite an undertaking since Auburn is far below the snow line. Other Norwegians ended up in Auburn which is in the foothills of the Sierras on 1- 80. There was Halvor and Roy Mickkelsen (1936 Olympic team), Rolf Wigaard, Sig Vetestad, Orin Ellingson, and Finn Rasmussen. Andy was also a great cross country skier and became the California State Champion for eight years in a row during the 30's.

The Auburn Ski Club built a ski lodge and rope tows at Cisco just west of Donner Summit. Robie was trying to make ski jumping a spectator sport, just as he was taken by seeing ski jumping himself for the first time. A jump requires the in-run and take-off, the landing and the outrun. The hills at Cisco demonstrate this clearly because there are three natural jumping hills. Many hills only have the landing so a scaffold is used for the in-run and take-off.

In time, trying to draw a crowd of non-skiers to watch a tournament became too difficult, it is tough to stand in snow with open toe shoes, Rather than being a spectator sport, skiing is a participant sport. As time went by and the interest in skiing gathered momentum, the club purchased property right on the top of the summit. Today it is know as Boreal Ridge and is a very popular ski area on 1-80, with full facilities including chair lifts.

In order to increase interest in skiing, the club sponsored competitive races, jumps and downhill events. A number of these Norwegians were invited to put on exhibition ski jumps in various parts of the west. They went to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, Leavenworth, Washington and even Berkeley, Calif.

This Berkeley jump was quite an undertaking as the club had to load fifteen train cars of snow to be spread on top of straw on a natural hill in back of the university campus. The train tracks were below the snow on Donner which helped in loading and above the jump at Berkeley for unloading.

The Berkeley Daily Gazette excerpts reported Jan. 15, 1934:

Berkeley momentarily hosted a marquee winter sports event that attracted tens of thousands and featured nationally known skiers flying down a local, snow-covered, hillside.

Sunday, Jan. 14, 1934 the Auburn Ski Club built a temporary ski jump at the top of Hearst Avenue and shipped tons of snow to town to stage a ski jumping extravaganza for the locals.

“Snow arrived in Berkeley late yesterday, not from the heavens, but in gondola freight cars from the high Sierras, and today a snowy carpet is being spread on

the hill at the head of Hearst Avenue where the first ski jumping events ever held in the California lowlands will be staged,”

An estimated 200 to 300 people came to town via train from Auburn, the day of the event. Temperatures hovered in the 40s, “fifty thousand or more persons saw several of the Nation’s greatest ski jumpers give an exhibition.

It was apparent that the sight and feel of snow have the same effect on Central Californians as sprigs of catnip on alley cats, and thousands of the spectators rolled over in the snow and even in the mud, while cleaners and pressers in the crowd looked on enjoying it immensely ... ,” the Gazette observed.

While tens of thousands gathered, “less than 5,000 of them paid the 50 cent and dollar admission. “The Depression may be on the run and money may be more plentiful but a great throng from all over the Bay District saw no reason for expending money to see ski jumpers when by swarming up the sides of the hillside University property one could get a better view for free than those who parted with 50 cents to stand in melting snow beside the ski course,” the paper added.

Today there is an Auburn Ski Club & Far West Ski Association Museum at Boreal, commemorating these early pioneers of skiing in California. On the back wall you will find the trophies, pictures, medals and the skis of the Norwegian who built the first jump on the mountain. The club honors all of the Norwegians who took part in building the Auburn Ski Club and being the start of skiing in the west.

Olaf Blodger made his home in Sacramento and was a prime mover in Roald Amundsen Lodge during those early years. He was president in 1938.

Andy and Birgitt Blodger lived their entire lives in Auburn and it all started with Andy being told in 1929: “you come to the Auburn Lumber Company tomorrow and I will give you a job.” Three generations of children also remember Andy as the man who taught them the love of skiing. Certainly a lasting legacy for an immigrant from Aamli Norway.

6.

Just for laughs

A doctor in Duluth Minnesota wanted to get off work and go hunting, so he approached his assistant.

'Ole, I am goin' huntin' tomorrow and don't want to close the clinic. I want you to take care of the clinic and take care of all my patients.'

'Ya youbetcha!' answers Ole.

The doctor goes hunting and returns the following day and asks: 'So, Ole, How was your day?'

Ole told him that he took care of three patients.

The first one had a headache so I gave him TYLENOL.'

'Bravo, mate, and the second one?' asks the doctor.

'The second one had stomach burning and I gave him MAALOX, sir,' says Ole.

'Bravo, bravo! You're good at this and what about the third one?' asks the doctor.

'Sir, I was sitting here and suddenly the door opens and a woman enters. like a flame, she undresses herself, taking off everything including her panties and lies down on the table and shouts: HELP ME I haven't seen a man in over two years!!'

'Tunderin' Lard Yeezus, Ole, What did you do?' asks the doctor.

'I put drops in her eyes!!'



Sons of Norway's

Roald Amundsen

Lodge

Presents

VIKING

FEST

Saturday, November 17, 2012

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

SAN JUAN MASONIC HALL

5944 San Juan Ave. Citrus Heights, CA

Folk Dancing, Crafts, Demonstrations

Open Faced Sandwiches,

Fish Soup, Vikings on a Stick,

Baked Goods and

Scandinavian Merchandise

ADMISSION FREE

For Information Contact:

Florence Smith

916.783.8830

Roald Amundsen Lodge & Sons of Norway

Invite you to attend its Annual

JULEBORD Traditional Norwegian Christmas

Saturday, December 8

Social Hour at 5:00

Dinner at 6:00

The evening will feature a program on St Lucia with a special tribute.

Please bring a small item or two to donate to the drawing for door prizes

Deadline for reservations is Dec. 1, 2012

**1900 Potrero Way,
Sacramento**



Lutheran Church of The Master

Menu: Norwegian Appetizers - Cider Christmas Toast - Pork Roast - Medisterkaker (pork meatballs) - Herring --Surkal (sweet & sour cabbage) - Seasonal Vegetables - Red Potatoes - Beet Salad - Cucumber Salad - Fish Aspic - Desserts - Lefse - Coffee

-----Clip and save-----

Please hold the following tickets at the door for the Julebord Dec. 8. **Res. Deadline, Dec.1.**

Lodge Member Name(s) _____

Non Lodge Member name(s) _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

of members at \$17 ea. _____, total \$ _____

of non members at \$20 ea. _____, total \$ _____

of child tickets at \$8 _____, total \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Mail Reservations to Florence Smith by Dec. 1, 606 Joann Lane, Roseville, CA 95678,
916-783,8830, email darian98@surewest.net

Roald Amundsen 6-48
Sons of Norway
P.O. Box 3734
Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3734

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Sacramento, CA
Permit #124

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



ROALD AMUNDSEN LODGE SONS OF NORWAY **FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Activities: Christmas Story, Singing Around the Christmas Tree,
and maybe a surprise visit from a guy in red... plus refreshments.

Hope you ALL can come!

SUN., DECEMBER 16, 2012 • 2:00pm til 4:00pm

To be held at the

**COMMUNITY CLUBHOUSE in CARMICHAEL PARK,
5750 Grant Ave (near corner of Fair Oaks Blvd & Grant Ave).**

From Fair Oaks Blvd, go west on Grant Ave, the Community Clubhouse is on the left. There is a sign on the Clubhouse and tennis courts are next to the building. Parking is limited in front of the clubhouse, but there is ample parking in the back. Google maps or "carmichael park". ~ ~ ~

PLEASE BRING A PLATE OF GOODIES TO SHARE.

LODGE WILL PROVIDE COFFEE AND CIDER AND GIFT BAGS FOR THE CHILDREN.

If you want a bunad or vest for a child to wear for photos, let Carol Lee know as early as possible, as the costumes are stored. Boys should wear a white shirt and girls a white blouse in order to wear the Vest and Bunad correctly.

We need a count of the children coming by December 12th, with names and ages:
Please contact Carol Lee Solheim at 530-677-2006, solheim2636@earthlink.net