

Budstikken

Wergeland Lodge #5/028 P.O. Box 3591, La Crosse, WI 54602-3591

December 2016

Volume 51, Issue 12

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Wergeland Kalender

- ♦ December 1, Christmas banquet at Drugan's in Holmen. 5:00 social hour, 6:00 meal
- ♦ December 13, 8:30 am, Board meeting at Perkins on Hwy 16 near the mall
- ♦ Saturday, Dec. 10 & Thursday, Dec. 15. Wergeland lodge ushering at La Crosse Community Theatre
- ♦ December 19, Deadline for Budstikken articles
- ♦ December 28, Budstikken mailed to members.
- ♦ January 5, General meeting at Harry J. Olson center, 7:00

Fra Presidenten



Happy holidays!

Very shortly we will be celebrating Thanksgiving and the holiday season that follows and, as always, we here at Wergeland lodge will start things off with our annual Christmas banquet. This year's banquet will again be held at Drugan's supper club and I hope to see another large turnout like last year. The evening will start with a social hour at 5:00 followed by the meal at 6:00 and then entertainment from our Wergeland dancers.

This event is always a great way to start off the holidays and has long been a tradition at Wergeland. Speaking of holiday traditions, those of you who were at the November meeting filled out a short survey regarding your Norwegian holiday traditions. The results of the survey can be found on page 5 of this newsletter. Thanks to everyone who took the time to fill out a form.

A thank you is also in order for the people who made it down to Riverside park to decorate our tree. If you get a chance in December, drive or walk through the lights, and take in the sights. And remember, we will be in the warming house on Dec. 7 from 6:00 to 7:00.

So here's wishing you and yours a happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a wonderful month in between. Whether you are traveling or staying home and welcoming family and friends, enjoy the holiday season and don't forget to put out some porridge for your nisse.

Dave



Next meeting: Thursday, December 1, 2016, 5:00 PM

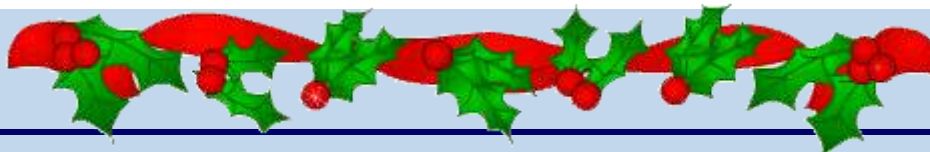
Drugan's Supper Club

Program for December

December 1, Christmas banquet at Drugan's



For our December meeting we will be holding our traditional Christmas banquet. This year's banquet will again be held at Drugan's supper club north of Holmen. It will begin with a social hour at 5:00 followed by the meal at 6:00. Following the meal we will be entertained by our own Wergeland dancers. As always, this promises to be a great event and a wonderful way to kick off the holiday season.



December Birthdays

2 Barbara Friell
 3 Ann Elise Ender
 4 Paul Williams
 5 Heather Larson
 6 Karen Allness
 6 Bonnie Koglin
 11 Kelly Dixit
 12 Wayne Olson
 14 Katelyn Canepa
 14 Carol Marking
 17 Charlene Harnish
 19 Karen Broadhead
 19 Kyle Hoff
 20 Lloyd Hoff
 20 Marilyn Romskog
 21 David Lokstad
 22 Adrian Johnson
 22 Todd Trautmann
 23 Vilda Olsen
 24 Charles Amundson
 24 Peter Gullickson
 24 Lois Kathan
 27 James Moe
 27 Georgia Rosendahl
 28 Calvin Stromwall
 28 Theodore Wilcox
 30 Arlan Henderson



Program for January

In January we will have the official installation of officers for 2017. If you were voted into office at the November meeting, please try to attend in January. In addition, we will have several exchange students from Norway in attendance so come out and welcome them as well.

Sekretær Notater...

Minutes of the November 3, 2016 meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President David Glomstad, and The Pledge of Allegiance was said and the three national anthems were sung. The Charter was draped and a moment of silence held in memory of two members that died - Ellen Olson, and Einar Olson. Several Guests and new members were introduced.

The Minutes from the Oct. meeting that were approved at the October Board Meeting, and printed in the Budstikken, were filed. Pres. Dave talked about Veterans Day coming up next week, and asked the Veterans to stand and be acknowledged. Dave also shared a cute referee story. The Budstikken clip boards were passed around to get news.

The Treasurer's report for October was presented. Income of \$1,289.50 – Expenses of \$826.97 – leaving a balance in the checkbook of \$2,183.42. The scholarship account had income of \$53, balance is \$4,400.50. The memorial account had income of \$20.94 Interest, leaving a balance of \$1,713.59. The Savings account had income of \$21.81 Interest, and Expenses of \$1,000 transferred to checking, leaving a balance is \$5,093.20. Marilyn has six 2017 calendars. She reminded us to save Cards for the soldiers and Veterans in Tomah. 740 cards were sent to Operation Home Front.

While the Foundation Cans were passed, President Dave told everyone to buy their Christmas banquet tickets from Ramona for \$22.00. Dave read the lists of the ushers for Dec. 10th and 15th Christmas play at the Weber Center.

Old Business:

Heritage Dinner at Drugan's on Dec. 1st. It will be a nice buffet with two choices of meat and their usual spread of other good choices. Ramona has the tickets for \$22 which includes the tax and tip. Our entertainment will be the Sons of Norway Dancers.

Festival of Trees at Riverside Park – Date and time to decorate it will be announced soon. Those who are able may come to the park to help decorate the tree assigned to our lodge. Families are welcome. Rotary Lights furnishes the tree, the sign, and the electricity. We put on the lights, and our Norwegian decorations (weather worthy type).

Rotary Lights – Wed. Dec. 7 at 6 pm – 7 pm - We have asked for this time and date and will hear soon. Our Sons of Norway dancers will be entertaining and showing how to dance and we ask our members to come and support this, and get in the Christmas spirit. Hopefully, the weather will be good so you can drive through the light displays, look at our Sons of Norway decorated tree, and stop at the heated tent and enjoy the music and dancing.

Pres. Dave reported that there is a 3-week delivery on the books to benefit Masse Moro "Hidden Heroes, World War II in Norway". Please have your order in by Dec. 1st meeting.

November Birthdays were recognized in song, as printed in the Budstikken.

New Business:

Election of officers – Shirley Schoenfeld, chair for the nomination committee read the full slate of nominations for officers. There were no motions from the floor. Ramona Johnson made the motion to accept the entire list, Frieda Nowland seconded it, m/s/p. Those officers will begin their position after they are installed at the January meeting. The officers will be updated on

(Continued on page 6)



Til minner om...

Tamara L. Nowland who passed away on Nov. 12, 2016. Tammy joined Wergeland lodge 27 years ago, and was married to **Ron** and **Frieda's** son **Paul**, who passed away in 2010. She would have turned 67 on Nov. 13th. Our sincere sympathy to Ron and Frieda Nowland and family.

Howard Sherpe, a local writer whose "Across the Fence" books are familiar to many, passed away on Nov. 15th.

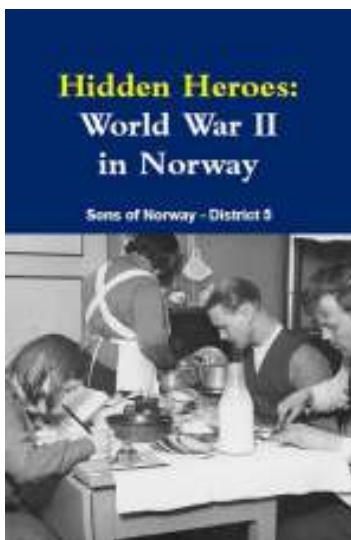
Condolences til...

Dennis and Anne Sprain. Anne's mother, **Viola Schroeder Piper** of Rockland, age 95, passed away November 10th, 2016 at Mulder Health Care Facility. Her funeral service was held Nov. 15th at Fish Creek Lutheran Church in rural Rockland.

Harry and Ardis Boldstad. Harry's brother passed away recently.

Hidden Heroes, World War II in Norway

Many of you have called or emailed with interest in purchasing the book "Hidden Heroes, World



War II in Norway". I will be taking orders until our Christmas banquet on December 1 and will send the order in the next day. As of this writing we have enough books requested so that the price will be \$16.67 per copy. These books are printed as ordered so the entire process will take up to three weeks. If you are interested in a copy and are not on the list yet, let me know by the 1st or talk to me at the Christmas banquet.

quet.



Wergeland at Rotary lights

About a dozen members turned out on Monday, November 14 to decorate the Wergeland lodge Christmas tree at Rotary lights in Riverside park. The weather was much warmer than last year and the day was concluded with a Christmas carol sing along around the tree.



In addition, Wergeland lodge will again have a time slot in the warming tent at Rotary lights. On Wednesday Dec. 7 from 6-7 we will be providing the entertainment in the park. At this time we are planning on featuring some of our local musicians as well as some Christmas carol singing. Put it on your calendar and come down to the park for some Christmas cheer.



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KAREN'S KORNER

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For the December Budstikken, I traditionally feature the Christmas customs of another country. Last summer we enjoyed the summer Olympics from Brazil, so how do the Brazilians celebrate their Christmas? Because Brazil was a Portuguese colony some of the customs are of the Iberian Peninsula. During and after WWII many immigrated to Brazil from parts of Europe so there is a strong European influence on the customs. Here are some of the favorite traditions:

Amigo Secreto – “secret friend” Names are drawn at the beginning of December. Small toys, gifts, or sweets, are given anonymously throughout the month. On Christmas Eve the secret friend reveals their identity and big presents are exchanged.

Presepio – “bed of straw” This represents the bed that Jesus slept on in Bethlehem. Nativity sets are placed in churches, homes, stores, and businesses. This is an old custom, introduced by a Franciscan friar, Gaspar De Santo Augustino, in the 17th century.

Los Pstores – “the shepherds” Traditionally a play about the birth of Jesus and the shepherds who come to celebrate the event. The Brazilian twist is that they are shephardesses and a Gypsy woman tries to kidnap the Christ Child!

Dia de Festas – “festival days” Christmas is the most popular of all the festivals.

Missa do Galo – “Mass of the rooster” Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. It runs into the wee hours so that the rooster is crowing when the people joyfully exit the church.

Christmas Trees – Like our traditions, Christmas trees are decorated with glass and plastic balls. In the larger cities such as Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, and Brasilia, huge electric trees of lights are erected, to be seen for miles.

Caroling – This is a popular tradition, with “*Noite Feliz*”, Silent Night, as the favorite carol.

Papai Noel – “Father Noel” Legend has it that this gift-bringer lives in Greenland the rest of the year, but brings gifts to good children on Christmas Day. He wears silk robes (because of the heat), not the fur and velvet of our Santa Claus.

Ceia de Natal – “Christmas dinner”

Bachalhau – “salted codfish” A tradition of some of the coastal cities; sometimes the fish is rolled into balls.

Chester Turkey – Crossing of special strains of turkey to create a very large, juicy “Super Bird”.

Panetone – “Italian sweet bread”

Stollen – “German sweet bread with dried fruits & marzipan”

Rabanada – Similar to our French Toast, with a syrup of honey, port and cinnamon.

Christmas Eve dinner usually begins at 9:00 p.m. so that families can attend Midnight Mass, in this predominantly Catholic country. The meat or fish choices seem similar to our own: Turkey, ham, or pork; salted codfish. Brazilian Rabanada, German Strudel or Stollen, and Italian Panetone are favorites. Colored rice is a staple, along with many varieties of fresh vegetables and tropical fruits, such as cherries, pineapple, and figs. The European traditions of beer and wine are common too. Gifts are opened on Christmas Day. Fireworks light up the sky on New Year's Eve. As you can see, most of the Brazilian holiday customs are familiar to us or similar to ours, with variations. How about the tradition of spending Christmas Day at the beach when the temperature is between 90 – 100 degrees?

(Information about customs of Brazil were from various internet sites.)

Feliz Natal God Jul Merry Christmas

Karen Scarseth,
Librarian

Looking back through the Budstikken
by historian Karen Broadhead

Fem år siden (5 years ago)2011

The Heritage Dinner was held at the American Legion Hall, catered by the Legion and Norwegian treats provided by lodge members. The Norwegian dancers performed, followed by Christmas carol singing.

Recent milestone events for Wergeland members included 80th birthdays for Lil Malzacher and Richard and Marilyn Fox, 90th birthday for Ray Hanson, 50th wedding anniversary for Doris and Arlan Henderson, and 60th anniversary for Richard and Marilyn Fox.

Wergeland Lodge's participation at Rotary Lights included entertainment by the Norskedalen trio and children making woven heart Christmas decorations, led by Joyce Abernathy.

Ti år siden (10 years ago)2006

The Heritage Dinner was held at the American Legion Hall, with members providing various dishes for the meal. New members were welcomed, and the program featured the Wergeland dancers, singing around the Christmas tree, and a reading of “The Lutefisk Lament”, as written by Boone and Erickson of WCCO, Minneapolis. Members also brought canned goods for area food pantries.

Leif Marking and the Brice Prairie Conservation Association monitored 858 bluebird boxes this year, and counted 4756 young bluebirds fledged, or 5.5 bluebirds per house.

Lois and Jim Preeshl celebrated their 50th anniversary with an Alaskan cruise. Other travels were enjoyed by Les and Helen Munson-eastern Europe; Helen Nelson-Colorado; Cathy Ells and Karen Scarseth, Italy; Richard Granum, Norway; Ellen Olson and Freida Nowland, California; Sonja Benegas and Tia Hrudka, New York; and Gene and Shirley Schoenfeld, Minnesota.

Femten år siden (15 years ago)2001

Lodge members furnished main dishes and Norwegian treats for the Heritage Dinner, held at the Harry J. Olson Center. Walton Ofstedahl, “The Singing Farmer”, sang some solos, and all joined in singing Christmas carols.

Wergeland Lodge donated \$100 toward bringing author Lois Lowry to Viterbo University, and \$100 toward the Regional Ski for Light.

Sports medals were awarded to Helen Munson, Les Munson, Leon Edman, Carol Pestel, and Lloyd Hoff, all for walking.



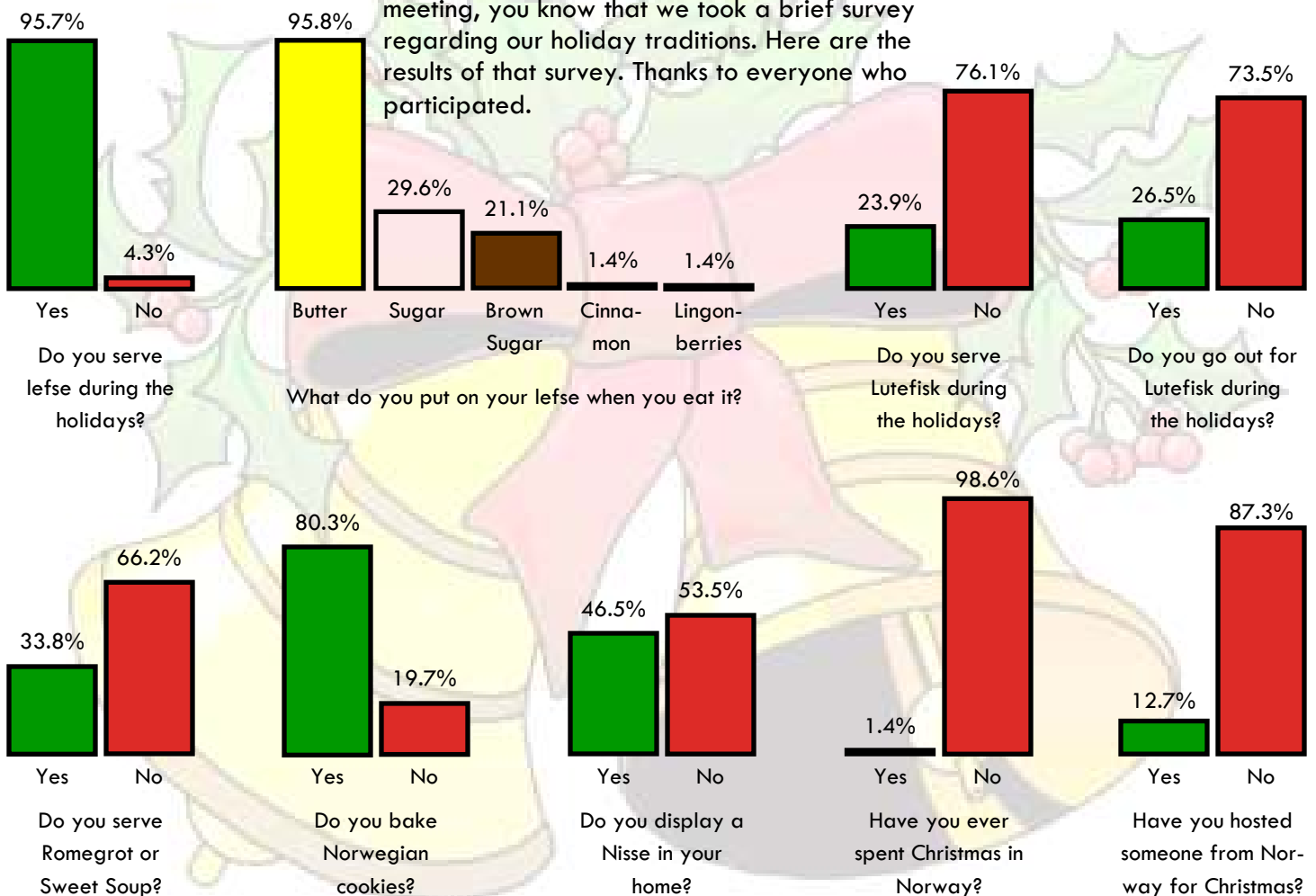
Appointed committees for 2017

Librarian	Karen Scarseth
Co-Ast. Librarian	Pam Knudtson
Social Committee	Beverly Nelson
Social Committee	Darlene Erickson
Social Committee	Those who bring food need to
Raffle Chairperson	Adrian Johnson Apr-Dec
Stamps Chairperson	Marilyn Rudser
Good Will/Flip Tops	Ron Sacia
Budstikken Mailing Note	It takes 6 people each time
Budstikken Mailing Sub	Tim Ofte Jan-March
Budstikken Mailing Sub	Cathy Ofte Jan-March
Budstikken Mailing Sub	Madonna Hanson Jan-March

Budstikken Mailing Sub	Beverly Nelson	Jan-March
Budstikken Mailing Sub	Marilyn Trisch	Jan-March
Budstikken Mailing	Annie Piske	Jan-Dec
Budstikken Mailing	Char Vangen	Jan-Dec
Budstikken Mailing	Ramona Johnson	Apr-Dec
Budstikken Mailing	Adrian Johnson	Apr-Dec
Budstikken Mailing	Fred Johnson	Apr-Nov
Budstikken Mailing	Dee Johnson	Apr-Nov
Rotary Lights/Festival of Trees	Shirley Schoenfeld	
Scholarship Committee	Marilyn Rudser	
Scholarship Committee	Kathi Beane	

Holiday survey results

For those of you who were at the November meeting, you know that we took a brief survey regarding our holiday traditions. Here are the results of that survey. Thanks to everyone who participated.





(Continued from page 2)

the SON Website by Dec. 15th and are attached to these minutes.

Announcements:

The next Wergeland meeting will be held on December 1 at Drugan's Supper Club at 5:00 Social/6:00 Dinner.

The next board meeting will be held on November 8 at 8:30 am at Perkins by the mall.

Our Saviors Church in West Salem is having a lutefisk and meatball dinner Nov. 5th from 3:30-8 pm

Genealogy class at Old Main in Galesville on Nov. 12 from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm.

Remarks for the good of the Order. Frieda Nowland introduced Ellen Olson's son Jacob and his wife. Laura has the new name tags and pins, Helge said he has to leave early this evening.

Pres. Dave thanked everyone for attending and talked about the Cubs.

Counselor Adrian Johnson thanked everyone for being officers in 2016 and those who accepted nominations to be a new officer in 2017. He wished peace and harmony to prevail in our lodge

Raffle Drawing: \$129 collected - \$43 to Laura Ira for the correct number; \$43 to Ron Sacia for the member drawing; and \$43.00 goes into the scholarship account. Adrian announced the drawings will be better and different in January.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM The closing song was "The Sailors Greeting" in English.

Co-Cultural Dir. Shirley Schoenfeld introduced speaker Karen Hankee of Westby - "Antiques made useable"

There were 93 (87 adults, 5 children) people in attendance. \$143.25 in table collections and \$55.50 for Foundation Collection.

Shirley Lokstad Schoenfeld, Secretary Pro-tem



Community theatre ushering



As has become a yearly holiday tradition at Wergeland lodge, we will again be providing ushers for two showings of the Christmas production at La Crosse Community Theatre. This year's show will be "A Christmas Carol" done in the form of a live radio show. Those that signed up just need to remember to be at the theatre roughly one hour before show time and that they should wear either a Sons of Norway vest or a Norwegian sweater.

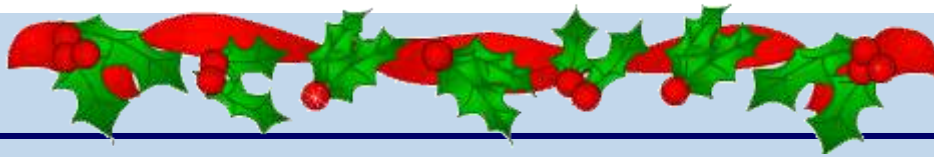


Wergeland raffle update



As mentioned at our November meeting, the Wergeland lodge raffle that is held at our monthly meetings will have a couple of changes made going into 2017. We will continue to divide the money for that evening into three equal amounts but we will change how the money is dispersed. First, instead of having one ticket winner and then drawing a name from the general membership (which sometimes takes a while), we will be drawing two winning tickets. This will double your chances of winning if you have purchased a ticket. The other change is that the portion that last year went to the scholarship fund will now be put into the general fund (since the scholarship fund is now well funded for several years). Thanks to everyone who participates and good luck in 2017!





A little in English...

Why Norwegians are Driving More Slowly

Norwegian motorists have slowed their pace year after year. A wild theory has been that older drivers are slowing things down. Now researchers have studied the trend.

Several times in recent years traffic authorities have been able to determine that motorists of all ages are slowing down. Data from monitors in areas around the country with a speed limit of 80 kilometers per hour (50 miles per hour), show that the average speed has fallen by 1 kilometer per hour (0.62 mph) over the course of five years. It's not very much, but still a clear break with the tendency that traffic authorities were seeing decades earlier, which was that motorists were steadily driving faster.

Surveyed and Interviewed

Traffic researchers stood on the roadside and interviewed 204 motorists who passed the monitors. In addition, they recorded license plates and extracted data from the Motor Vehicle Registry of the 3,750 cars and car owners who passed. One of the goals of this study was to determine how much older age among motorists has had an effect on speed reduction.

Increased age is not important

"We conclude that the increased age of the drivers explains maybe 25 percent of the speed reduction. Most of the decline in speed is explained by other factors," says researcher Torkel Bjørnskau of TØI (Transportøkonomisk institutt, the Institute of Transport Economics). One such factor is that more cars being on the roads causes motorists to slow down. Another factor is that fewer people are driving recklessly on Norwegian roads. Why there are fewer reckless drivers, researchers don't know. One possible explanation is the increase of boxes with speed counters. Another possible explanation is the increased media attention on road safety and speed.

Gender, engine size and make of car

In this study researchers also found that cars with an owner aged 35-44 were driven fastest. After that, speed sinks steadily with increasing age. The researchers also looked at the drivers' gender. They did not find that speed held any connection with the car driver's gender. Some researchers, however, saw that cars with larger engines are driven faster than cars with small engines. And newer cars are driven faster than old cars.

Litt på Norsk...

Derfor kjører norske bilister stadig saktere

Norske bilister har satt ned farten år etter år. En het teori har vært at flere eldre bilførere får det til å gå saktere. Nå har forskere sett på saken.

Flere ganger de siste årene har trafikkmyndighetene kunnet konstatere at bilistene setter ned farten. Tall fra målere plassert ulike steder i landet med fartsgrense på 80 km/t, viser at snitthastigheten her har gått ned med 1 km/t i løpet av fem år. Ikke så veldig mye, men likevel et klart brudd med den tendensen trafikkmyndighetene så gjennom flere tiår tidligere, som var at bilistene kjørte stadig fortere.

Målte og intervjuet

Nå har trafikkforskere stilt seg opp i veikanten og intervjuet 204 bilister som passerte disse målepunktene. I tillegg registrerte de nummerskiltene og hentet data fra Motorvognregisteret om 3750 biler og bileiere som passerte. Ett av målene med denne studien var å slå fast hvor mye økt alder blant bilistene har hatt å si for fartsnedgangen.

Økt alder ikke viktigst

– Vi konkluderer med at økt alder på bilførerne kanskje forklarer 25 prosent av fartsnedgangen. Det meste av fartsnedgangen skyldes altså andre forhold, sier forsker Torkel Bjørnskau ved TØI (Transportøkonomisk institutt). En slik faktor er at flere biler på veiene, får bilistene til å sette ned farten. En annen faktor er at færre råkjører på norske veier. Hvorfor færre råkjører, vet ikke forskerne. En mulig forklaring er stadig flere bokser med fartsmålere. En annen mulig forklaring er den økte medieoppmerksomheten på trafiksikkerhet og fart.

Kjønn, motorstørrelse og bilmerke

I denne studien fant forskerne også at biler med en eier i alderen 35-44 år blir kjørt fortest. Deretter synker hastigheten jevnt og trutt med økende alder. Forskerne så også på bilførernes kjønn. De fant ikke at farten som ble holdt hadde noen sammenheng med bilførers kjønn. Noe forskerne imidlertid så, var at biler med større motor blir kjørt raskere enn biler med liten motor. Og nyere biler blir kjørt fortere enn gamle biler.

**Sons of Norway
Wergeland Lodge
#5/028**

**P.O. Box 3591
La Crosse, WI 54602-3591**

DECEMBER 2016

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Norskedalen Activities

Throne Visitors Center:
(January 1-March 31)

Monday-Friday: 8 am to 4 pm

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: Closed

**Norskedalen 'Member's Use' Program in Place with Windshield
Parking Pass Sunrise time to Sunset time**



Norskedalen old fashioned Christmas

Old Fashioned Christmas, Saturday, December 3, 10 - 6. Santa will be here from 1 -3, dinner will be served from 10:30 - 5:30, ornament crafting for all ages available all day long throughout the property, a variety of musicians with a variety of styles throughout the day...plan to join us!! Oh....did I say sledding if there's snow? And s'mores with hot chocolate in the shelter? Plan to join us for an Old Fashioned Christmas!

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