



# SONS of NORWAY



June 2023

Walworth County, WI

## Norsemen of the Lakes 5-650

This summer we have some really interesting things to do other than have meetings. In August we will attend the Zone 3 picnic just this side of Stoughton at the Arneson's farm (see below). Then in September, we'll take a trip to UW Green Bay to attend the Viking Fest, which is fun and educational. Please put both on your calendar, because I know we will have a lot of fun, learn new things, and enjoy each other's company on the road.

Our July meeting will have a presentation by Connie Aiello, the Dist. 5 Zone 4 Co-Director and Pres. of Nordlyset Lodge in Racine. The topic will be Norwegian/Scandinavian Foods History and Differences.

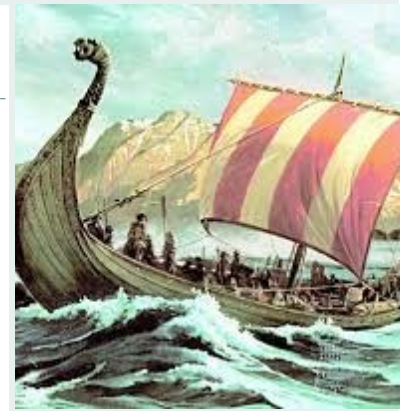
2023 Sons of Norway Zone 3 and Mandt Lodge Picnic  
Sunday, August 13, 2023 at 12:30 PM  
John and Darlene Arneson home  
2056 Skaalen Rd., Stoughton, WI 53589

Join members from our neighboring lodges for some food and fellowship at the home of John & Darlene Arneson. All members of your lodge, prospective members, and Masse Moro campers (past and present) are encouraged to attend. Please bring a dish to pass! Tableware, coffee, juice and other beverages will be provided.

There will be the Kubb game available so you can test your Viking skills! We will have basket drawing for some great items; feel free to bring items for it or just support it at the picnic!

Bring along announcements and flyers for "Remarks for the Good of the Order". For more information, call Darlene Arneson at 608-873-7209 (cell 608-514-4951) or email [arnesonfamily5@gmail.com](mailto:arnesonfamily5@gmail.com)

Then in September, we will travel to UW Green Bay to attend the Viking Fest. It is very interesting and they have demonstrations, activities, food trucks, and lectures on the Viking culture. You'll love it. I will drive and can take 4 passengers. I may even be able to borrow a van and take a few more. We will see what transpires. I encourage you to come; I know you will love it.



### Gratulerer med dagen

#### June Birthdays

Brian Ogne	8th
Kritsten Audisho	21st
Jessica Wilson	22nd

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#### CALENDAR

##### June 13th at 6:00

Advia Credit Union —Potluck

##### July meeting:

Guest Presentation  
Advia Credit Union  
Potluck

##### August outing:

Zone 3 picnic  
Aug. 13th (Sunday)  
Corlene will drive &  
take 4 members.

##### September

##### Special outing:

Sept. 8th (Friday)  
Viking Festival

# World's Biggest Warship in Oslo

May 24, 2023

News in English: Views and News from Norway

**Led by a Norwegian frigate and with hundreds of American sailors lining its decks, the aircraft carrier *USS Gerald R Ford* sailed up the Oslo Fjord on Wednesday for a symbolic visit now expected to last for at least four days. The nuclear-powered vessel had to obtain special permission to anchor up in a Norwegian port, even though the visit is an officially welcomed sign of solidarity among NATO allies at a time of war in Europe.**

"We have made a thorough evaluation of the application for permission from the defense department," said Per Strand, director of the Norwegian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (DSA). "We concluded it was safe to carry out the visit, as long as procedures are followed as described in the application, and that the conditions we have set are followed."



Norwegian authorities and the public in general have long been skeptical of nuclear power generation, and the symbolic visit of the world's largest warship was no exception. DSA evaluated risks, preparedness plans, security procedures and coordination with civilian authorities before granting permission for the visit. DSA also insisted on joint exercises by those involved, to test how they'd react to any radioactive leaks or other accidents.

"We determined it is extremely improbable that a serious incident would occur in connection with the visit," Strand said. "If an unwanted incident nevertheless occurs,

we have good nuclear preparedness in Norway."

*The huge American air craft carrier USS Gerald R Ford was escorted on Wednesday by the Norwegian frigate Roald Amundsen along with other Navy vessels and helicopters. PHOTO: Forsvaret/Tiril Haslestad*

The USS Gerald R Ford has more fighter jets, helicopters and other aircraft on board than that found in the entire Norwegian Air Force. Suburbs of Oslo can be seen in the distance as the unusual entourage sailed north Wednesday morning. PHOTO: Forsvaret/Onar Digernes Aase

Radioactivity levels will be measured around the vessel during the length of its stay, which still hasn't been confirmed by Norwegian defense officials for security reasons. Any sudden rises will immediately be reported to relevant authorities and the public, with Strand noting that DSA is staffed around the clock. Tests of the water where the vessel is anchored off of Malmøya in southeastern Oslo were taken and analyzed before the vessel arrived and will continue to be during and after its departure.

**The *USS Gerald R Ford's* visit is meant to symbolize** close cooperation within NATO and how highly the USA views Norway as an ally located in a strategic position, given Norway's northern border to Russia. It's a clear show of force that has prompted Russian officials to criticize it as an unnecessary demonstration of power.

Officials hadn't been willing to say exactly when the aircraft carrier, which is 330 meters long and 78 meters high with two nuclear reactors and a crew of 4,500, would arrive. As predicted, though, it entered the Oslo fjord early Wednesday morning after sailing through the North Sea, and headed north in brilliant weather. A no-fly zone was established over the entire region.

The vessel is so large that it can't tie up in Oslo's inner harbour. It's expected to remain at anchorage farther south, while other naval vessels use the area around the city's Akershus Fortress.

The warship, deemed the world's largest, finally settled into position, anchoring up south of the Norwegian capital off the islands of Malmøya and Ormøya. Norwegian Broadcasting (NRK) aired the entire voyage live on Wednesday morning.

Curious Norwegians turned out to watch the arrival of the largest ship ever, especially in the coastal town of Drøbak and, later, Oslo itself. Some were disappointed to see the mighty aircraft carrier veer right before entering Oslo's main harbor and disappear behind local islands.

Thousands of American sailors are due to have shore leave during the vessel's stay, via shuttle ferries from the ship. That prompted the US ambassador to Norway to joke to newspaper *Aftenposten* that Norwegians should "run and hide," quickly adding that, "no, I'm just kidding. Wish them welcome as friends." Local bars and restaurants were gearing up for extra business.

Many of the sailors and officers will also be staying on the vessel to carry out various exercises with the Norwegian Navy, Army, Air Force, Coast Guard and special forces. Norway's own defense forces have come under harsh criticism lately because of chronic underfunding and inadequacy in case of war. Defense Minister Bjørn Arild Gram referred to the aircraft carrier itself as "a symbol of our own security." That set off criticism from some Norwegian politicians in opposition, who claim Norway should vastly expand and improve its own defense. The government has boosted defense spending, especially after Russia invaded Ukraine.

A security zone has been set up around the aircraft carrier, which has more fighter jets and helicopters on board than the entire Norwegian Air Force. No vessels will be allowed within 1,000 meters of the USS Gerald R Ford, while other security zones are set up around Akershus.

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## Russian White Whale Arrived in Oslo Fjord, Along With US Warship

May 24, 2023 NEWS in ENGLISH.no

Views and News from Norway

**Norwegians have become fond of a white beluga whale that first surfaced in the far north in 2019 and has been swimming south ever since. Now the friendly whale who's believed to have been trained by Russians is in the Oslo Fjord, and state officials are worried about him.**



*A friendly white whale known as Hvaldimir is now reportedly swimming in the Oslo Fjord. State fisheries officials are urging people to keep their distance. PHOTO: Jørgen Ree Wiig / Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries (Sea Surveillance Service)*

"Even though the whale is tame and used to being around people, it's important that folks keep their distance and let him be in peace," Fisheries Director Frank Bakke-Jensen warned on Wednesday. He worries that the whale known as "Hvaldimir" risks being injured by too much human contact.

"We especially urge people in boats to keep their distance, to avoid injuring the whale or risking that the whale could even be killed by boat traffic," Bakke-Jensen said.

**The whale was first spotted** in Northern Norway when he started following a fishing boat off Måsøy in April 2019. He quickly became popular with the locals, gladly accepting fish tossed to him and even allowing

people to pat his head. It's believed he was initially trained in Russia for unconfirmed purposes and was quickly named Hvaldimir, because "hval" means whale in Norwegian and he was first found with Russian straps tied to him. Some have suggested the whale was trained for espionage purposes, others for helping children with mental health problems. Russian authorities have never acknowledged association with the whale.

The uncomfortable straps were later removed and Hvaldimir, free to swim on, began a long journey that's now brought him so far south that whale experts fear he won't find enough food. The fisheries directorate reported on Wednesday that the whale has had a tendency to linger around fish farming operations where he can hunt fish feeding on excess pellets thrown to captive fish.

The whale was spotted off Haugesund and Stavanger earlier this month and then made his way to the southern coast, and north again towards Oslo.





Even former Prime Minister Erna Solberg was intrigued by Hvaldimir, and fed him fish here in July 2019, nearly three years before Russian President Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine and relations between Norway and Russia froze. PHOTO: Statsministerens kontor/Tor Borgersen

We have communicated the whole time that this whale is a wild animal and we don't see any reason to capture it and put it in captivity," Bakke-Jensen said, referring to some calls for authorities to do just that. "But now that he's in a more vulnerable area and access to food can be limited, we will evaluate other measures. It's too early to say anything concrete about that now."

It's enough to worry Hvaldimir's fans, since it was Bakke-Jensen who just last year ordered the highly controversial [killing of a friendly and otherwise protected walrus](#) because people ignored warnings to stay away from her. That walrus was named *Freya*, and her fans recently created a memorial in Oslo to her.

It's ironic that Hvaldimir's arrival in the Oslo Fjord was reported by officials on the same day that a [huge American aircraft carrier sailed up the](#)

[fjord](#) as well. Known as the world's largest warship, its visit is meant to symbolize solidarity among NATO allies and the US' defense presence in Europe, as Putin's war on Ukraine drags on.

Bakke-Jensen said he and his staff think the whale will turn around and swim out again when it reaches the end of the Oslo Fjord, not far from where the *USS Gerald R Fjord* is anchored.

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## Waving Children Cheer

AP News May 17th, 2023

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Norway's King Harald V, who was released from a hospital earlier this week, appeared Wednesday on the royal castle's balcony to salute the thousands of children marching by as the Scandinavian country celebrated its Constitution Day.

Cheering and shouting, waving blue-white-red Norwegian flags, kindergarten and school students marched in front of the royal palace where Harald, 86, and his wife, Queen Sonja, sat and waved back to the vast crowd, many of whom wore traditional costumes.

Elsewhere in Oslo, the chairman of the Ukrainian parliament, Ruslan Stefanchuk, who was visiting his Norwegian counterpart, stood on another balcony and waved at a cheering flag-waving crowd, saying he hoped that "we as soon as possible can celebrate like this in Ukraine."

Harald was released from Oslo's main hospital on Monday after treatment for an infection.

The aging monarch, who has been seen using crutches in recent years, has been hospitalized several times in recent months. In August, he spent three days with a fever at a hospital and in December, he was also admitted for an infection that required intravenous antibiotics.

In October 2020, the king underwent surgery to replace a heart valve after being hospitalized with breathing difficulties.



# Tourists still find Norway expensive

May 5, 2023 NEWinENGLISH.no

Views and News from Norway

**Even with its weak currency, Norway can still seem expensive for tourists from abroad. The price of drinks and eating out can be most shocking, because of Norway's high taxes especially on alcoholic beverages.**



**"We bought four beers,"** Nicola Cox from Wales told business news service *E24* last week while visiting the coastal city of Ålesund. "They cost at least double what they cost at home." And that's even though one of her British pounds now buys around 13.35 kroner, at least two kroner more than it did before the pandemic and four kroner more than a few years before that.

The value of Norway's krone has fallen dramatically in recent months, even though it strengthened a bit this week after the Norwegian central bank raised interest rates. Visitors from the US and Europe are getting highly favorable exchange rates in Norway now, but high prices can dampen prospective gains.

*Cruise ships have returned after the pandemic to Norwegian ports like here in Ålesund on the northwest coast, but tourists on board them still find prices ashore very high. PHOTO: Port of Ålesund/Torgeir Emblem*

Cox and her group of friends arrived with a few thousand others on a cruise ship, meaning they can eat and drink on board. Most do, even returning to the ship after morning sightseeing in Oslo to eat lunch, before setting off on an afternoon tour. Their overnight accommodation sails with them, meaning they're not staying at many local hotels either. Norway's tourism industry has long been disappointed that cruise passengers don't spend much money locally and can generally avoid Norwegian prices.

## Price hikes offset currency exchange advantage

Another visitor in Ålesund from Southampton had been in Norway three times earlier, but doesn't think the country is any cheaper now. That's largely because of major increases in the price of food and high electricity rates that get passed on to both residents and tourists. The price of most everything in Norway has gone up after the pandemic ended. Inflation is now running at around 6.5 percent.

Visitors from Denmark, who can now get 100 Norwegian kroner for less than 70 of their own, should find Norway less pricey, "but we still think most everything is more expensive here (in Norway)," said Danish tourist Nanna Schalck during *E24's* random interviews along the pier.

The Norwegian tourist industry is still hoping for more visitors from abroad this summer but may be disappointed. One visitor from Australia on board a Hurtigruten coastal voyage ship was: He said a glass of Australian wine in Bergen cost four times what it does at home, "so a currency exchange gain of 10 percent (against the Australian dollar) doesn't mean a thing."



# Norway's Havila Voyages to Star in New PBS Show

April 6, 2023 by [Life in Norway Editorial Team](#)

The beauty of the Norwegian coastline is coming to PBS later this month thanks to one of the new eco-friendly vessels of Havila Voyages.

If you have ever dreamed of experiencing the breathtaking beauty of Norway's coastline, then the upcoming TV series "People of the North" is a must-watch. This prime time show, **premiering on PBS this month**, takes viewers on a journey to the heart of the Arctic, showcasing the rich culture, stunning landscapes, and thrilling adventures that await visitors to northern Scandinavia.

## Havila Voyages in the spotlight

The show follows the [famous Norwegian coastal voyage](#), the 130-year-old local passenger and cargo ferry service. The ferries call at 34 ports between Bergen and Kirkenes, and also offer 11-day roundtrip voyages.

While Hurtigruten is the most famous name on the route, the series features [Havila Voyages](#). The new Norwegian coastal cruise line began operating on the coastal route in December 2021, becoming the 10th line to operate the historic route.

Havila sponsor the new show and provide one of their brand new, [hybrid-powered coastal vessels](#). With energy-efficient hull design and the world's largest marine battery packs, the ships can sail for up to four hours silently with zero emissions.

These environmentally responsible ships play a vital role in connecting communities along the coast, providing transport links, attracting tourists, and boosting the local economies.

## PEOPLE OF THE NORTH

In "People of the North," viewers will be treated to an intimate look at Norway's fjords, soaring cliffs, and [UNESCO Heritage sites](#) as the presenters sail the country's scenic coastal route.

But the journey along the coast is not just about the views. It is also a culinary adventure. During the show, audiences will discover mouth-watering, locally-sourced dishes such as [golden cloudberries](#) that only grow in the high north and the famed king crab.

The series is presented by Norwegian television personality Arne Hjeltnes, Swedish chef Frida Ronge, and Norwegian Stig Bereksten, an award-winning distiller, who bring their unique perspectives and expertise to the show.

Episode one focuses on the Finnmark plateau, in particular the wild game and fish. The second episode takes a closer look at the culinary treasures available from the Barents Sea.

Consisting of ten half-hour episodes, "People of the North" is poised to captivate viewers across the US, with PBS stations providing coverage to over 85% of the country. With prime-time TV slots nationwide, Havila Voyages is expecting the show to drive strong demand for Norway and their cruises, as more people become inspired to embark on their own Norwegian adventure.

**Editors note:** There are 10 episodes of *People of the North* for you to watch if you can view it by streaming methods. I am not sure if you can watch all of them if you are not a member as I looked for them on their schedule and could not find any episodes. I found out that PBS has had a major problem and their apology follows: *Recently, a construction crew working near a Pioneer PBS tower severed major power and fiber optic lines needed to keep Pioneer PBS broadcasting over the air on television. The damaged fiber cannot be fixed and new fiber must be installed. The station has ordered replacement fiber to be run. This event will only affect viewers who rely on over-the-air television. Our regular programming will continue on streaming services and online platforms.*



*Presenters of the new PBS show: Norwegian television personality Arne Hjeltnes, Swedish chef Frida Ronge, and Norwegian Stig Bereksten, an award-winning distiller. Photo: Havila Voyages.*



# Is there a correlation between the number of homicides in a country and the number of firearms owned by civilians?

The USA, Serbia, Yemen, Finland, and Norway have the highest number of firearms per capita.

*Bård Amundsen* JOURNALIST Monday 15. May 2023 - 11:22

The countries with the most firearms per capita in the world are the USA, Serbia, Yemen, Finland, and Norway. Some small states are excluded from this statistic. People in Bosnia, Lebanon, Switzerland, Austria, and Canada also have a lot of guns at home.

The figures are from 2017 and come from the [Small Arms Survey](#) research project at a research institute in Switzerland.

The purpose of the Small Arms Survey project was to investigate whether there is a correlation between the number of civilian firearms in a country and instances where such weapons were used to commit violence. Switzerland, where the project was located, is one of the countries with the most civilian firearms.

The Small Arms Survey project has also been involved in Sudan and South Sudan, two African countries where there are a lot of weapons after years of armed conflict.

## **A billion firearms**

In 2018, the project concluded that there are more than one billion small firearms in the world. Four out of 10 handguns in the world are found in the USA. The police only possess 2 per cent of these weapons, and the US military has 4 per cent of them.

For Norway, the Small Arms Survey estimated that there were about 29 firearms per 100 inhabitants in 2018. In total, there are over 1.5 million guns in Norway.

In Serbia, there were 39 firearms per 100 inhabitants.

This is far more guns per capita than in most other European countries, but there are also many civilian firearms in Norway's Nordic neighbors. Most in Finland with 32 guns per 100 inhabitants, and least in Denmark with 9 guns per 100 inhabitants.

After the United States, Yemen is probably the country in the world with the most firearms per capita. Serbia, therefore, follows as number three.

## **USA does not have the most gun homicides**

Nicholas Marsh is a researcher at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO). He has participated in the Small Arms Survey project. "Despite the many firearms in the United States, this is not where we find the highest levels of gun homicides. We find them in countries in Central America and South America, and in South Africa. These are countries where firearms are not very prevalent in the population," he tells [sciencenorway.no](http://sciencenorway.no).

Marsh cites Mexico as a specific example of a country with many homicides, but not very many firearms among its citizens. "So it may seem that the amount of weapons in a country is not very significant," Marsh says. He believes that Norway is also a good example of this, with many firearms and few gun homicides.

## **The number of firearms and the number of homicides**

"In Norway, there are many firearms in people's homes. But many of these weapons are rifles and shotguns that are used for hunting. Such weapons are rarely used in connection with homicide," Marsh says.

There are several studies that have looked at correlations between the amount of firearms in a population and the number of homicides committed. When these studies are carried out in the USA, they often indicate a clear correlation.

A [study](#) in the American Journal of Public Health, in which researchers looked at homicides committed with firearms in the 50 US states from 1981 to 2010, concluded that states with many guns also have significantly more homicides. For every 1 per cent increase in civilian firearms, researchers found a 0.9 per cent increase in the number of homicides committed with such weapons. Although the researchers cannot say for certain whether there is a causal relationship between the two – that one leads to the other – they did find a very strong correlation between firearms and homicides.

An American study from 2022 found a direct correlation between states with more liberal gun laws and more deaths or suicides by firearms, [according to CNN](#). States like Hawaii and California have the strictest gun laws and the fewest firearm deaths in the United States.

At the opposite end of the scale, researchers found Mississippi to have the most liberal gun laws and the most firearm homicides. It is worth noting that this study was conducted for an organization that advocates for stricter gun laws.

#### **Criminal gangs are the most dangerous**

Nicholas Marsh singles out criminal gangs as something to pay particular attention to. “Organized criminal gangs in combination with easy access to firearms and a pronounced masculine culture can be a recipe for trouble,” he says. “In Oslo, we see that knives are the weapon most commonly used in connection with violence. But if we get more organized crime and more criminals carrying firearms, we could also have much bigger problems here.”



Organized crime in combination with easy access to firearms and a pronounced masculine culture can be a recipe for trouble. Here is a gang member in Venezuela. (Photo: Rodrigo Abd / AP / NTB)

[UN figures](#) point precisely in the direction that Marsh is warning about: Up to 20 per cent of all civilian homicides in the world are now committed by organized criminals.

Since the turn of the millennium, organized crime and gang conflicts have cost as many lives as all wars did in the same years, according to UN figures.

Every year, far more people are killed in connection with crime than in war, military conflicts, and terrorism combined. The ratio was 5 to 1 in 2017.

At the same time, [UN figures](#) show that there are fewer and fewer homicides being committed in the world.

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#### **References:**

Siegel et al. [The Relationship Between Gun Ownership and Firearm Homicide Rates in the United States, 1981-2010](#), *American Journal of Public Health*, 2013. DOI: 10.2105/AJPH.2013.301409

Small Arms Survey. [Global Firearms Holdings](#), 2020.

UNODC. [Global Study on Homicide](#), 2019.