



SONS of NORWAY



July 2022

Walworth County, WI

Norsemen of the Lakes 5-650

We are still working on our 25th anniversary celebration to be held Saturday Aug. 20th at the Elkhorn Library Community Room. Things are looking very good and confirmations have been established. The big thing we need to focus on is advertising. I have listed the activities we are planning. If you may be able to assist us with the "need a volunteer" item on the list, please contact me. It would be ever so helpful.

We hope to see you at the Lakeside Pavilion in Williams Bay for our next meeting, which is to be a BYO picnic at 6 p.m. on July 12th.

Those Items with a red X will have one half-hour presentation each.

- X Masa Moro Cultural camp, (confirmed) Cheryl Wille Schlessner
- X Bunad history lecture/presentation, Mandi Beck (confirmed)
- X Walworth County Genealogical Society, Karen Weston
- X Immigration history, local and national Dave Miller from Nordlyset Lodge??
- X Hardanger embroidery (confirmed) Olga Fast
- X Sandy Brehl, author of the Odin Trilogy (confirmed)
- X Hardanger/violin (confirmed) Robin Fossum
- Yggdrasil board game, open table (confirmed) Clint and Alexis Bartels
- Kubb yard game, Cheryl Wille Schlessner's niece from Wms. Bay
- Folk Dancing (need a volunteer)??
- Rosemale painting (confirmed) Carol Andersen
- Carving display (confirmed) Bill Kaul
- Krum kaka demonstration (confirmed) Barb Ogne
- Greg Reagan, fraternal insurance (confirmed)
- Dist. 5 gear to sell and help us with membership (confirmed, Cheryl Wille Schlessner)
- Table for kids to make Scandinavian woven stars/ hearts (need a volunteer)??
- Table of Scandinavian "things" (confirmed) Barb Ogne

Smoked Norwegian Salmon and Egg Sandwich

This delectable baguette sandwich incorporates two 17. Mai brunch favorites as toppings: salmon and eggs. Enjoy this light savory dish at home or pack and bring on picnic.

Ingredients:

- 8 slices smoked salmon
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 Tbsp. chives, fresh
- 1 Tbsp. butter
- 4 pieces baguette
- Lettuce
- Dill

Directions:

Whisk egg, salt and chopped chives together.
Melt butter in a pan without letting it brown.
Add the egg mixture and stir as it starts to set.
Remove the eggs when set, and still shiny.
Cut baguettes in half and fill with smoked salmon, scrambled eggs, and lettuce.
Sprinkle with dill and serve



Gratulerer med dagen

July Birthdays

Donald Henderson 15th

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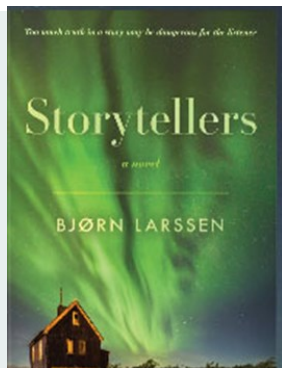
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CALENDAR

Next meeting:

**July 12th, Williams Bay
Lakeside Park
BYO lunch @6 PM**

Meeting topic: enjoying the park and conversation.



A gripping historical suspense novel of Iceland.

In March 1920 Icelandic days are short and cold, but the nights are long. For most, on those nights, funny, sad, and dramatic stories are told around the fire. But there is nothing dramatic about Gunnar, a hermit blacksmith who barely manages to make ends meet. He knows nobody will remember his existence – they already don't. All he wants is peace, the company of his animals, and a steady supply of his medication. Sometimes he wonders what it would feel like to have a story of his own. He's about to find out.

Sigurd – a man with a plan, a broken ankle, and shocking amounts of money – won't talk about himself, but is happy to tell a story that just might get Gunnar killed. The blacksmith's other "friends" are just as eager to write him into stories of their own – from Brynhildur who wants to fix Gunnar, then marry him, his doctor who is on the precipice of calling for an intervention, The Conservative Women of Iceland who want to rehabilitate Gunnar's "heathen ways" – even that wicked elf has plans for the blacksmith.

As his defenses begin to crumble, Gunnar decides that perhaps his life is due for a change – on his own terms. But can he avoid the endings others have in mind for him, and forge his own?

A gripping historical suspense novel of Iceland. Available in paperback on Amazon for \$12.99

The Prehistoric Alta Rock Art

July 3, 2020 by David Nikel

If you are passing through Alta in northern Norway, a trip to the World Heritage Rock Art Centre is an absolute must. Here's what to expect at this UNESCO World Heritage Site.

This fascinating collection of **historic Norwegian art** far above the Arctic Circle shows that people have lived in the area for several thousands of years. In fact, there's more hunter-gatherer rock art here than anywhere else in northern Europe. This suggests that from 2,000 to 7,000 years ago, Alta was an important meeting place in the far north.

Despite the age of the engravings, we've actually only known about them for little more than 50 years. Rock art was first discovered in the area in 1950, but most of it wasn't found for another 20 years.

Visit a World Heritage Site in northern Norway

The site in Alta was confirmed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985, following Bergen's **Bryggen**, Urnes Stave Church and **Røros**. Since then there have been several additions. **Norway now has eight sites** on the list, with several more candidates. Specifically, the World Heritage Site consists of 4 sites around Alta. Three rock carving collections (Hjemmeluft, Kåfjord, Amtmannsnæs and Storsteinen) and 1 site with rock paintings (Transfarelv) are included. However, only Hjemmeluft is open to the public. That's because erosion and vandalism are potential threats to the carvings and paintings. Some of the other sites are kept covered to protect them.



The **Alta Rock Art Centre** showcases the carvings at Hjemmeluft, just a few miles west of downtown Alta. It's easy to reach by car, but there's also a **local bus** for those without their own transport. Tours are self-guided by way of a map booklet or an audio guide that costs for an additional fee. A 45-minute guided tour can be reserved in advance, but the hefty additional cost means it's best suited only for those with a serious interest in the field.

A wooden pathway several miles long has been constructed to lead visitors around the otherwise boggy ground where the rock carvings are. The pathway is split into two loops. The shorter loop takes approximately 45 minutes, while you should allow 2-3 hours to fully explore the entire site.

Understanding a pre-historic society



The thousands of petroglyphs help us understand the environment along the Altafjord and the prehistoric human relationship with it. Made between 2,000 and 7,000 years ago, many of the thousands of engravings indicate that Alta was a religious meeting place in the Stone Age. Artwork depicts scenes from days long gone, specifically hunting and gathering, fishing, rituals, and social occa-

sions. Many animals are depicted in the scenes, showing the importance of nature to the people of the time.

Why are some of the engravings red?

Many of the older carvings were painted red in the 1970s to make them more visible, which was normal practice at the time. However, this process is now being reversed to preserve the authenticity of the art, even though some of the carvings will be harder to see on cloudy days. The outdoor exhibition is now split into sections, some with pigment and some without.

The discovery of the rock art

No-one knew about the substantial amount of petroglyphs hidden in plain sight until a local farmer ploughed a potato field in 1950. He discovered a large stone with a distinct engraving of a human-like figure. Archaeologists dated the stone to somewhere around 4,000-5,000 years old. It was named 'pippi' after the fictional Norwegian children's character Pippi Longstocking. She has plaits sticking out either side of her head, which resembled the engraving.

An indoor exhibition

A permanent indoor exhibition tells the story of the inaccessible carvings such as the Kåfjord panel, consisting of around 1,500 carvings including many of bears, suggesting that the animal had a special ritual significance to the local people.

The Kåfjord art is carved into basaltic tuff, a very soft rock that is at high risk of erosion, so the carvings are permanently covered and the exhibition at the museum is the only way to see what lies underneath.

If you can't visit Alta in person, there's more to see online. You can explore the site using the Digital Rock Art Archive at www.altarockart.no.

Elsewhere in Alta

If you are thinking about a trip, there's plenty more to see in the area. Downtown Alta is largely useful only for **accommodation**, shopping and restaurants. The one main exception is the **Northern Lights Cathedral**, notable for its unique architecture and striking interior. In the nearby area, the Tirpitz museum and Alta Canyon are big attractions, although the latter involves a substantial hike. Kåfjord church is worth a stop, although it's not generally open for visitors.

Cyberattack hits Norway

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — A cyberattack temporarily knocked out public and private websites in Norway in the past 24 hours, Norwegian authorities said Wednesday. Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre said that to his knowledge the attack “has not caused any significant damage.”

The distributed-denial-of-service (DDOS) attack targeted a secure national data network forcing the temporary suspension of online services for several hours, the Norwegian National Security Authority said.

A criminal pro-Russian group seems to be behind the attacks, NSM head Sofie Nystrøm said. She added that the attacks “give the impression that we are a piece in the current political situation in Europe.”

Norwegian media reported that the country's ambassador to Moscow was summoned to the Foreign Ministry Wednesday for a complaint over Russian supplies being prevented from transiting via Norway to an Arctic Russian coal-mining settlement.

The Barentsburg settlement is in the Svalbard archipelago, more than 800 kilometers (500 miles) north of the Norwegian mainland. The European Union has slapped sanctions on several Russian goods due to the war in Ukraine. Norway is not a member of the EU but mirrors its line on most topics. Under a 1920 treaty, Norway has sovereignty over the Svalbard archipelago, but other signatory countries have rights to exploit its natural resources.

DANNY MAIORCA

SCANDIFICATION JULY 2, 2022

Fun facts about Morten Harket: Get to know one of Norway's greatest vocalists

Despite being a relatively small country by population, Norway is a poster boy for the world in many ways. You'll probably know about its music exports like a-ha, and there are plenty of fun facts about Morten Harket – the band's lead singer.



Harket is one of the most famous Norwegians full-stop, and he has received national and international recognition for his services to music. The gifted singer is still active and known for his easy listening songs, plus more.

Who is Morten Harket?

Morten Harket is the lead singer of a-ha, which is one of the most famous techno-pop bands of all time. He was born in Kongsberg, a small mining town in Southern Norway and around an hour south of Oslo.

Harket was born in 1959 and has been in the music business for most of his life. Prior to becoming a part of a-ha, he sang for Soldier Blue and was a key part of the Norwegian capital's nightlife scene. In addition to singing with a-ha, Harket has had a lengthy career on his own and released several solo albums.

Harket has four siblings, and he's the second oldest of these. He suffered from bullying in his younger years but overcame these challenges to become a national icon; he helped launch an anti-bullying campaign in Norway in 2015.

When did Morten Harket first get involved in music?

Harket joined a-ha in 1982, but the early phases of his music career started well before that. As a youngster, the band's lead singer played the piano at home; several prominent musicians helped him form the style he became famous for, including David Bowie and Johnny Cash.

While Harket gave piano lessons a go, he lacked discipline when it came to practicing — and this is something that was a recurring theme in many of his subjects at school.

What is Morten Harket's voice range?

Morten Harket is one of the most gifted Norwegian musicians, especially when it comes to his voice. He has said himself that he doesn't know, as he's "never counted" — which you can understand, as it's an unlikely thing to think about when you're on the stage.

Others, however, have tried to determine Harket's voice range. And if we believe them, we can say that it spans across five octaves; others have said his voice range spans three octaves and nine semitones. Meanwhile, NME (remember them?) argued that Harket has potentially "the greatest falsetto in the history of pop music".

Is Morten Harket still married, and does he have any children?

The Norwegian singer has had a varied dating life with various partners. His first marriage lasted from 1989 to 1998, and it was to the Swedish actress Camilla Malmquist.

While together, Harket and Malmquist had three children; one of them, Tomine Harket (full name Anna Katharina Tomine Malmquist Harket), is an actress and singer. She featured on the song "Darkside" with British-Norwegian music sensation Alan Walker. The other two children Harket and Malmquist had together are Jonathan Henning Adler Malmquist Harket and Jakob Oscar Martinus Malmquist Harket.

Following Morten and Camilla's divorce, Harket entered a relationship with Anne Mette Undilen — a skier from Norway. The couple had a daughter in 2003 named Henny. Later, he entered a relationship with Inez Andersson and had another child — called Karmen Poppy.

So who is Morten Harket married to now? Well, according to several sources, he's still in a relationship

with Andersson.

Was Morten Harket on the Masked Singer?

The Masked Singer is a singing competition that is popular in the UK and the US, and in 2021, Harket appeared on the UK version. He appeared in a Viking outfit on 30th January of that year, and the Norwegian sang Coldplay's heartstring-pulling hit "The Scientist".

On the Masked Singer, he also sang "Take on Me" — perhaps a-ha's greatest-ever song. When asked about why he participated in the contest, Harket said that he wanted to challenge himself and do something uncomfortable.

In [an interview on a-ha's website](#), Harket said that he found it quite easy to keep everything a secret. About his appearance, he said, *"My main reason for joining was that I knew how much I would be exposed to performing conditions of which I would have very little control. It's the complete opposite of my usual mindset. Knowing I would hate that was an excellent reason."*

Does Morten Harket still sing? Yes — Harket is still active in the music space. He has a very decorated career, to say the least; in addition to his six solo albums, the Norwegian has released 10 studio albums.

As a member of a-ha, which also includes guitarist Pål Waaktaar, Harket was part of the group during its initial active phase from 1982 to 1994 — before doing likewise from 1998 to 2010. The group started playing together again in 2015, and Harket remains a part of it to this day.



Two Norwegian indicted in US over price fixing Thirteen charged in connection with conspiracy

by [Nadarajah Sethurupan](#) | June 27, 2019

An indictment of two former Höegh Autoliners executives has been unsealed in the U.S. District Court in Baltimore, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Ingar Skiaker and Øyvind Ervik have been charged with participating in a long-running conspiracy to allocate certain customers and routes, rig bids, and fix prices for the sale of international ocean shipments of roll-on, roll-off cargo to and from the United States and elsewhere, including the Port of Baltimore. A federal grand jury returned the indictment in February 2018.

Skiaker and Ervik, both Norwegian citizens, are former top executives at Höegh Autoliners AS, which has pleaded guilty and been sentenced to pay a \$21 million fine.

Including the charges announced today, 13 executives have now been charged in the ongoing federal antitrust investigation into price fixing, bid rigging, and other anticompetitive conduct in the international roll-on, roll-off ocean shipping industry. Four have pleaded guilty and been sentenced to serve prison terms. Others remain international fugitives.

Including Höegh, five companies have also pleaded guilty for their roles in this conspiracy, resulting in total collective criminal fines over \$255 million.

The newly unsealed indictment alleges that, from at least as early as 2006 and continuing at least until September 2012, Skiaker and Ervik conspired with their competitors to allocate certain customers and routes for the shipment of cars and trucks. The defendants accomplished their scheme by, among other things, attending meetings during which they agreed not to compete against each other, and by refraining from bidding or by agreeing on the prices they would bid for certain customers and routes. In addition, Skiaker and Ervik agreed with competitors to fix, stabilize, and maintain rates charged to customers of international ocean shipping services. The customers affected by the conspiracy included U.S. companies.

"The Division's investigation revealed that collusion was endemic and rampant in the shipping industry going back years," said Assistant Attorney General Makan Delrahim of the Justice Department's Antitrust Division. "The indictment unsealed today advances the Division's mission to restore and promote open competition. Höegh has already pleaded guilty, and now we must ensure that its executives will be held accountable."



Celebrating Midsummer in the Nordic Countries

Midsummer is known as the time in the middle of the summer, often celebrated on or close to the summer solstice – the longest day of the year. Traditionally, Midsummer is on June 24th and is quite popular in the Nordic nations.

The celebration of Midsummer dates to pagan times. It started during the Stone Age as a ritual for a fruitful harvest and for fertility. The main theme of the celebration was honoring nature by dancing around maypoles, picking herbs to fend off evil spirits, and having bonfires. Since

then, Midsummer has had a couple different names and versions. In the 4th and 5th centuries, it was known as *St. John's Day* to fit into Christian beliefs and known as *Litha* in Germany. People still celebrate Midsummer today in different capacities depending on location. Let's take a look!

Midsummer in Sweden is an official holiday and is known there as **Midsommar**. Many Swedes celebrate the holiday in the countryside by wearing flower crowns, dancing around maypoles, and enjoying a picnic of Swedish delicacies. If you celebrate in Sweden, you'll want to say: "*Glad Midsommar!*"

Folks in Finland celebrate similarly, however they call it **Johannus** after St. John. Many Finns spend the weekend relaxing in a sauna in their summer homes or lighting large bonfires. There is a belief that "the louder a Finn got when marking the Midsummer, the better luck they would have in the year ahead." Don't forget to say "*Hyvää Juhannusta!*" if you celebrate in Finland.

Midsummer traditions in Norway and Denmark are quite similar. Both involve large bonfires and enjoying the outdoors. It is known as **Sankthansaften** in both places, though it's also known as **Jonsoke** in Norway. In Northern Norway, you could also honor the holiday by experiencing the midnight sun. If you celebrate in Norway, wish others a "*God Sankthansaften!*"

Lastly, celebrations in Iceland look a little different from the rest. It is called **Jónsmessa**, "Mass of John the Baptist," and is more superstitiously celebrated than anything. According to nordicvisitor.com, "It is said that cows are able to speak, seals become human, and elves may interact with you on Jónsmessa."

Regardless of how Midsummer is celebrated, the main themes of the day are important reminders. It allows us to take a moment to show appreciation towards nature and reminds us to be kind and generous to all.

Norwegian Mythology & Folk Tales

April 29, 2020 by [David Nikel](#)

A country's mythology and folklore provides a window into its culture, society and history. That's especially true in Norway, which has a rich Norse mythology along with plenty of folk tales.

Most people have at least a superficial knowledge of Norse mythology, even if only knowing the names of Thor, Odin and Loki! But Norwegian mythology and folklore is about far more than the Norse Gods.

There's many rural tales of trolls and their antics. And of course, appearances of the aurora borealis conjured up tales for hundreds of years before science provided an explanation.

Norse mythology

However, let's start with the big one! Before the Vikings converted to Christianity, there was a vibrant belief system that persists to this day in popular culture. Today we call that 'Norse mythology', but there was no name for it in the Viking Age. It was simply the set of myths and stories that gave meaning to people's lives.

The stories didn't hide the struggles of everyday life. Unlike some religions of today, the belief system of the Vikings didn't center around salvation. Rather, it marveled at the way things were, with a heavy focus on nature.

One of the reasons Norse mythology is such an integral



part of modern culture in the English-speaking world could be that little was known about it outside the [Nordic region](#) until the 19th century. To us, it's relatively recent!

Much of what we know about the stories come not from the time of the Vikings at all. It's the Icelandic historian Snorri Sturluson who wrote down many of the stories in the decades around the year 1200. Previously, the stories were passed down orally. The most famous of Sturluson's sagas is *Eddas* and the *Heimskringla*.

The [Norse Gods](#) were broadly split into two groups: the Æsir were associated with chaos and war, while the Vanir were associated with nature and fertility. The Gods are often considered together with the [Jötnar \(singular Jötunn\)](#), often referred to as *Giants* in English.

Many of the Norse stories involve one or more creatures. The world of fantasy literature is packed with mythical creatures including elves, dwarfs and giants. What many don't realize is that most of these creatures are heavily influenced by Norse mythology.

Read more: [Creatures in Norse Mythology](#)

Some of the best known include Odin's ravens, Huginn and Muninn. Odin used them to keep an eye on his people and gain wisdom. Some consider the ravens as a metaphor for Odin casting out his thoughts. He was known to fear that one day they might not return.



Odin

My personal favorite? The kraken! The giant squid-like creature is said to measure more than a mile long. Lying in wait in the deep waters, the Kraken rises up only when disturbed by boats. Sailors often headed straight for it, believing it to be land. Only when they were pulled down to their doom did they realize their mistake.

NORWEGIAN TROLLS

Visit Norway and it's hard to miss the influence of trolls on the tourist trail. Maybe you've even driven Trollstigen or [hiked to the Troll's Tongue](#). But how much do you know about the mythology behind [Norwegian trolls](#)?

In short, these mythical creatures fall into two categories. There's trolls of the mountain and forest, and trolls of the caves.

The trolls of the mountain/forest are usually seen as large, dumb, brutish creatures. Think of the reputation of a large neanderthal and you're half way there! These creatures are closely connected with nature. As such, they are able to uproot trees to use as clubs and also control the weather.

Unlike their forest-dwelling siblings, the trolls of the caves live out of sight. Generally, they are depicted as shorter than humans, with stubby arms and legs. They're not generally friendly to humans. Like the other kind of trolls, they also use their connection with nature. However, more often than not it's to deceive humans.

The northern lights in Norwegian mythology

There are more myths and legends surrounding the aurora borealis than the number of times I've seen them! Some of the stories still persist today in the culture of the [Sami people](#) of northern Scandinavia.

If you've ever seen the northern lights, it's not hard to understand why. Before we understood the science, these lights must have seemed almost like magic. The way these ribbons of light seem to dance through the sky certainly suggest something far from natural pulling the strings.

In a previous interview, a [northern lights chaser](#) from Tromsø explained some of the superstitions. She explained that because Sami people work outside, they look up at the sky far more often than most: "Their superstitions vary across the communities, but overall it is about having a big respect for the northern lights, almost to the point where they're fearful of them. Many Sami people used to think you shouldn't make the aurora angry because they would come and harm you. For instance, they never looked directly at them. Since they believe in nature-related gods, spirit of the water, sea and mountains, it was a powerful phenomenon."



But the association of the northern lights with paranormal goings-on stretches back, way back. One legend in Norse mythology suggests that the lights were the reflections from the shields of the Valkyries – the female figures that were said to decide who made it to Valhalla.



Norwegian troll in a fairytale forest at Årdal in Ryfylke, Norway.



Norway, The Long Way

A through-hike of the Appalachian Trail. Riding the Great Divide. Among the ranks of these epic treks is Norge På Langs, or “Norway lengthwise.”

What began as a national scouting relay in 1951 turned into a solo tour in 1966 for Bjørn Amsrud, the first person to attempt Norge på langs (abbreviated to NPL) alone. Amsrud hadn’t wanted to make a big deal out of it—in case things didn’t pan out—so he referred to it as “a slightly longer hike than usual.” By land, the distance is 1550-1860 miles, depending on how you go, with a vertical gain of 246,000 feet.

NPL has become a bucket list item for endurance hikers, bikers, rowers, paddlers, skiers and at least one rollerblader. The only requirements are two points: Nordkapp (the North Cape) at the top of Norway, and Lindesnes Lighthouse on the southern coast. The route in between is determined by the travelers- some head southward, while others choose a northbound path.

Prior to the 2000s, fewer than 100 people had attempted the feat. Thanks to word of mouth and the internet, the challenge has attracted more interest from people wanting to test their mettle, and not just Norwegians. Athletes in top shape will crush NPL in under 70 days, but the majority take five to six months to finish.

Some find it more practical to cross the border into Finland or Sweden for parts of the journey. Others aim to navigate 100% within Norway. Many travel self-supported, lugging their own tent, mess kit, and all their own supplies. Others ship foodstuffs and restock at drop points along their route. Most adventurers do it all in one go, but some do it in segments with time off in between. Folks have brought their dogs or their kids along. The youngest participant was only 10 years old, with the oldest being 70. A few people set their sights on a fastest known time using a support vehicle and crew to carry their food, gear and sleeping quarters.

A few trekkers have aimed to bring awareness to a cause, with the top fundraisers earning \$50,000 for charity. One couple, Liv Karin Lund Thomassen and Øyvind Thomassen paddled the length of Norway for their honeymoon!

Eighteen books have been published about the experience. Norwegian adventurer and TV host Lars Monsen embarked on Norge på langs in 1989, following it up with a book by the same name. The challenge took him and Trond Strømdahl a full year, testing their friendship and personal strength to the utmost degree.

At norgepaalangs.info you will find a list of top finishers sorted by season, method of travel, age and other details. You can also view a [photo gallery](#).

Tell all your friends and acquaintances about our 25th Anniversary events:

Aug. 20th at the Matheson Memorial Library Community Center: 10 to 4

Here are 4 things you can memorize and try to tell your neighbors

- ♦ Sandy Brehl book presentation and book signing, author of Odin’s Trilogy
- ♦ Mandi Beck, Bunad demonstration and history presentation
- ♦ Masa Moro Cultural Camp Presentation
- ♦ Rosemaling display