



SONS of NORWAY



December 2019
Walworth County, WI

Norsemen of the Lakes 5-650

Greetings, fellow Norwegian Americans:

What a great time we had at our Julefest. It was a wonderful evening with great food, music, and fellowship. Please let me know if you had any issues with our evening as we want to improve on it each year.

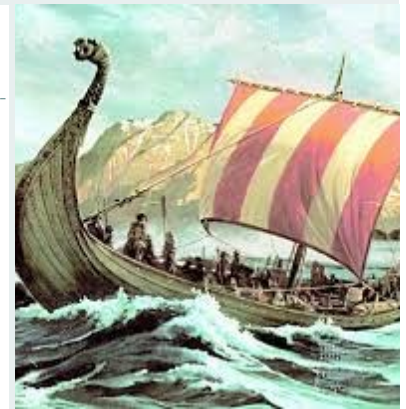
New this year, we are opening 2020 with January and February events. January we will be meeting at the home of new members Torbin and Judy Brun. They want to share their Scandinavian memorabilia with us as well as coffee and dessert. The date is Saturday, Jan 12th at 2 p.m. and the address is 211 Circle Pkwy., Wms. Bay. Note that it is on a Saturday, which is not our usual meeting day. This is because it might be cold and nasty and the evenings are dark as well. We felt that a meeting in the afternoon would be better. I won't be there as I am in sunny Arizona for a couple of months, but I'll be thinking of you.

Membership Committee News

Centennial: Again this month, we continue to receive results from our volunteers who worked the Williams Bay Centennial. We had four new members join last month. Welcome Torbin & Judy Brun and Jim and Linda David. Our new member in November was Deb Weber.

Consider gifting a membership to someone you know who might enjoy the fellowship and education they can receive by being a member. I think it would be a great birthday present and you can now pay with an automatic credit card payment at \$5/month. That's all a one year subscription costs.

Plans for 2020: Keep in mind events we might attend to recruit new members, especially for next summer. Also, I would like us to sponsor a baking workshop. These have been quite successful for other lodges in our area. Charging \$20 to \$25 per person and allowing 40 people to attend we might be able to gross up to \$1000. Our challenge is to find a friendly location, so please consider venues in your area that have a kitchen where we can have access to electricity and a place to clean up afterwards. It doesn't have to be a large kitchen, but we would need to set up 5 or maybe 6 stations where we demonstrate different ethnic foods. I was thinking of at least krumkake, lefse, smorgrat, waffles and rosettes. Please consider if you would be willing to demonstrate one of these or something in which you specialize.



Gratulare Med Dagen

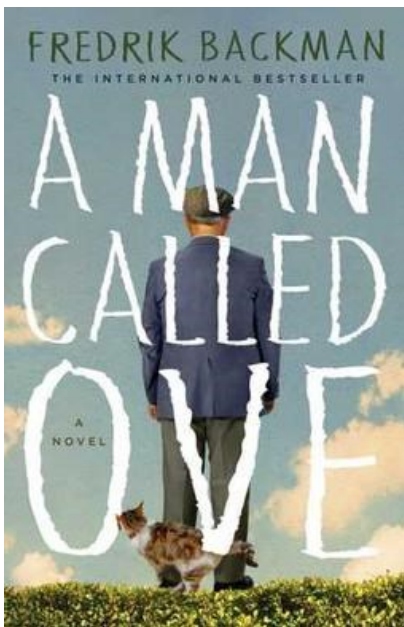
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KALENDAR

- Jan. 12th at 2 p.m., coffee and dessert at Torbin & Judy Brun's house, 211 Circle Pkwy., Wms. Bay.
- Feb. 15th 9 a.m. Breakfast at Perkins, Delavan
- March 10th at 6 p.m. the Atrium in Wms. Bay. We will watch the movie Kon Tiki: The Story of Thor Hyerdahl.
- April event will be at 6 p.m. at the Advia Credit Union, Elkhorn. The topic will be earning Sports Medals and Culture Pins.



A Man Called Ove (original title in Swedish: *En man som heter Ove*) is a 2012 novel by Fredrik Backman, a Swedish columnist, blogger and writer. It was published in English in 2013. The English version reached the New York Times Best Seller list 18 months after it was published and stayed on the list for 42 weeks.

In January 2015 a stage version of the book had its premiere in Stockholm. In addition, it was adapted as a film of the same name, which was premiered on 25 December 2015.

Ove is a curmudgeon—the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him “the bitter neighbour from hell.” However, behind the cranky exterior there is a story and a sadness. So when one November morning a chatty young couple with two chatty young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove’s mailbox, it is the lead-in to a comical and heart-warming tale of unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul. All of which will change one cranky old man and a local residents’ association to their very foundations.

The Infamous Harrytur

by Bradley Kurtz

Introducing *harrytur*, or *harryhandel*. It’s the great Norwegian tradition of driving, riding, flying, sailing, or whatever else, to another country in order to buy goods, namely alcohol, tobacco, and bacon, at a slightly cheaper price.

(Relax; I know this isn’t only a Norwegian tradition. Most countries have their version of *harrytur* too)

You can witness a miniature version of *harrytur* at any Norwegian airport if you’re flying internationally. As soon as you get through security or off the plane, you might see a little bit more hustle in the steps of the blonde haired people around you as they make a B-line straight for that glorious ‘Tax-Free’ zone for their candy, tobacco, and liquor needs.

What does *harrytur* mean?

Directly translated *Harrytur* means Harry Trip. *Harry* is a term to generally describe something as unsophisticated, though it has a plethora of other definitions. But in the case of this article *Harry* means unsophisticated, of poor taste, less than classy, etc.

This came to be due to people in lower and middle classes giving their children English names, such as Harry, whereas upper-class kids got to be called Sven and stuff with more traditional Scandinavian names, with the occasional French or German name sprinkled here and there.

Where do you go?

Because of simple geography, **Sweden** is the most common destination for Norwegians on a *harrytur*. From many places in Norway, you can get to the border with Sweden in a relatively short time. Denmark isn’t out of the question either.

Conveniently located just a few meters across the Norway-Sweden border are large supermarkets filled with all the needs of the everyday Norwegian. Imagine a warehouse-sized building filled with rows and rows of candy, and all around this building is a slew of state-run liquor stores, tobacco outlets, sporting goods and clothing stores.

You can find a few of these across the border from Oslo. There’s even one across the border from Trondheim, albeit a little smaller.

How do you get there?

Harrytur can take many different forms. A large portion of people will jam into a car with close friends or family. Traveling by car gives the added benefit of marveling at the (slightly) higher speed limits and glorious wide highways that apparently start as soon as you cross the border.

A student’s version of *harrytur* might mean packing themselves onto one of the free buses that run from the universities. But don’t feel left out if you’re not a student; there are often busses that fulfill the same mission for us regular folk as well.

Given the amount of shopping a *harrytur* requires, taking a train across the border might be a little difficult, but if you’re just stocking up for a weekend, a *harrytur* by rail could still be a viable option. Also, plenty of ferries make the trip from South-eastern Norway and on into Sweden. You can also make a holiday out of it by hopping on the *Danskebåten* for a pseudo-cruise day-trip to Copenhagen. These boats run daily, take the trip in the morning, spend the day shopping, and jet back across the water in the afternoon.

Is it really that much cheaper?

Well, sort of. The majority of stuff will be marginally cheaper. Standard groceries such as meat and dairy products, and of course *smågodt* (*tidbits*), will also be a tad cheaper. Alcohol is significantly cheaper thanks to lower taxes. You can also save on some products such as tobacco.

Tolls

Be wary all ye’ who go to Sweden and come back to Norway. There are laws that prescribe how much meat, dairy, alcohol, and tobacco you can bring back over the border.

Though these limits are still quite high, think twice before filling up the entire trunk of your car with spare ribs and beer. These limits are calculated per person. That’s one of the reasons why there are so many full cars crossing the borders on weekends and before holidays.

Harrytur is a good time

While the end goal is to save a few kroner on things you are going to be purchasing anyway, the reason many people go on a *harrytur* is simply that it is fun. Often times the cost of petrol and lunch at the infamous Max Burger offset the actual savings on the trip!



The Viking Lifestyle

by Bradley Kurtz

The ordinary nature of how the Vikings lived day-to-day may surprise you.

Whenever someone mentions Vikings, the general picture painted in the mind's eye is of burly blonde dudes with horn-winged helmets hopping out of a boat, sword, and axe in hand, ready to burn, plunder, and do all sorts of nasty things to whoever crosses their path.

The truth of the matter, however, is that the acts of raiding and pillaging really only took up a fraction of the time people spent during the age of the Vikings.

Working the farms

For the most part, Vikings were farmers. The majority of the crops they grew were things such as oats, barley, and wheat, with a number of vegetables taking root here and there. Much like Norway today, there was plenty of livestock scattered across the countryside: pigs, cattle, sheep, horses, chickens, all the basics of European farms.

Plenty of other trades were also alive and well at the time. Boat builders and wood craftsmen, blacksmiths, leather workers, fishers, even merchants were not uncommon occupations for people like Ragnar or Rollo.

Many Vikings would do some of the above, but as time went on and larger settlements came to be, there began to be some Norsemen who specialized in one or two particular trades.

Animal-based clothing

When it came to clothing themselves, Vikings were particularly fond of wool and lots of animal skins. Viking women were very skilled weavers, able to make beautiful patterns from wool dyed with plants.

For men's fashion, it was pretty standard with pants and shirts of varying lengths. For women, the standard fashion was long woolen dresses.

There is plenty of debate on what the styles of the Vikings really were, as not much of their clothing has survived the battle with time.

Having said that, it can generally be assumed that the styles you see on television and in films are probably not historically accurate representations.

For one thing, the Vikings loved bling. Men and women were likely bedecked in rings, bracelets, necklaces, armbands, and so on. Beautifully crafted metals have survived well, and jewelry made from leather, bone, and wood was not uncommon either.

Simple living spaces

After a long day toiling in the fields, or at the end of a long voyage to haul back loot, plunder, and slaves, there was nothing better for a Viking than to kick up their feet at home. The structures were generally wood, mud, stone, or a mixture of all the above. The home was generally shaped rectangular-ish and with a sweet hole in the roof to let out the smoke of the probably always burning fire.

Viking homes didn't differ much from other structures around Europe of that time period, though they were much less grand than how they are often depicted, and perhaps with better methods of insulating the space to keep in the heat during those long, dark, chilly Nordic winters.

Food from the ocean and the farms

Unsurprisingly, fish made up a large portion of a Vikings diet. They also had plenty of other proteins to choose from. Pork was the most popular, while horse meat kebabs graced many a table. Bread was made from the different grains they grew on their farms. Added to that were the fruits, berries, and nuts that could be foraged from around the farms.

Fun through competitive sports

Like many other archaic societies, a lot of the entertainment came from sports such as wrestling, racing, and fighting games.

Vikings even had board games to occupy their time. Researchers suggest that the famous Isle of Lewis Chessmen were created in Trondheim before ending up off the coast of Scotland, although these are dated to be from the very tail end of the time of Vikings. It can be assumed that these were grown out of a longer history of tabletop games.

Warrior poets seem to have been commonplace as well. On many days the towns, the farm, or the great halls were filled with music, poetry, and storytelling. And, of course, the Vikings loved skiing and drinking mead!



HAPPY NEW YEAR

As the New Year's celebrations end, standard resolutions quickly come to mind. This year, why not keep Norway at the heart of your New Year's resolutions? To help get you started, here a few ways you can add a little more Norway to your daily life.

Embrace Hygge

Hygge (HIG-geh) is the feeling of coziness, togetherness and taking comfort in life's simple pleasures. It's all about centering yourself, spending time with loved ones and being present. Start with a steaming cup of tea, a lit candle, warm socks and a good book, and feel your stress diminish in the New Year

Speak Norwegian

Learning another language can be a great way to connect to your heritage and its people. Start by setting small goals throughout the year like learning the Norwegian alphabet or how to count to 10. Maybe try learning a Norwegian song or lullaby, or even choose your favorite song in English and relearn the lyrics in Norwegian.

Master a Cultural Skill or Earn a Sports Medal

Try completing a Norwegian cultural skill or folk art project like rosemåling, folk dance or hardanger embroidery this year. Or embrace the winter outdoors with a personal challenge to earn a sports medal. With a Sons of Norway membership, you get full access to our Cultural Skills and Sports Medal Programs.

Learn to Cook your Favorite Norwegian Dish

Breakfast, lunch or dinner; try adding a little Norwegian flare to your menus this year. Make something you've never had before or master your favorite dish. For inspiration, check out Sons of Norway's online recipe box.

Research Your Family Roots

Whether you're deep in your research or just starting out, learning about your family's genealogy is a great way to stay connected to your Norwegian roots. Making small goals like organizing your information, interviewing older relatives or computerizing your data can help you manage the work load and stay connected to your heritage all year long.

Norway Greenlights Copper Mine With Tailings to be Dumped in Arctic Fjord

By Thomas Nilsen



Minister of Trade and Industry, Torbjørn Røe Isaksen, on the shores to Repparfjord, northern Norway. Photo: Thomas Nilsen

“Allowing this to happen with a protected national salmon fjord doesn’t make sense at all,” said Silje Lundberg, head of Naturvernforbundet. The organization is the Norwegian branch of Friends of the Earth.

Lundberg said the planned dumping of tailings from the copper mine to the fjord is equivalent to 17 lorry loads every hour of production. In total, that sums up to two million tons of tailings every year.

The Norwegian government on Friday turned down the protests and gave final thumbs up to Nussir Mining Company to start exploring the resources, estimated to about 72 million tons of copper ore. Located on the shores of Repparfjord, an hour drive from the town of Hammerfest, the mine will be the northernmost on mainland Europe.

“Dumping of mining waste will kill every living thing on the ocean floor in the immediate area and disturb spawning grounds over a much greater distance. Scientists have repeatedly warned against dumping. This decision shows conclusively that the government does not take the fight to conserve ocean life seriously and would rather prioritize short-term profit over conservation and sustainability,” added Ask Lundberg.

Minister of Trade and Industry, Torbjørn Røe Isaksen, previously said to the Barents Observer that the mining indeed would have impacts, but he assures it will be done in accordance with “very high environmental standards.”

Øystein Rushfeldt, CEO of Nussir Mining Company, said “all mining has negative consequences for the environment; use of land and other effects, and it doesn’t matter if the tailings are placed on land or in sea, it always has consequences.”

A 2017-report by the World Bank about the global need for metals for a low carbon future said demand for copper is expected to jump by as much as 50 percent over the next 20 years alone. Electric vehicles, increased renewable energy sources and energy efficiency all require significant amounts of copper to function.

Minister Røe Isaksen said the mine in Repparfjord “is needed for the green shift to tackle climate changes.”

In Finnmark, Norway’s northernmost region, the mining project has triggered controversies. Although local municipality authorities in Hammerfest welcomes the mine for bringing new jobs and economic growth, the indigenous Sami people have disapproved the entire project. President of the Norwegian Sami Parliament, Aili Keskitalo, said the Repparfjord mine just adds to a long list of projects with negative impact on areas important for reindeer herding; “power-lines, wind mills, roads.”

“The reindeer herding can’t bear this. Neither can the ecosystem in the fjord,” Keskitalo said.

Although the appeal against the mining project was turned down by the government on Friday, the final word might not yet have been said. 4,500 Norwegians have signed up for civil disobedience against the project should it go ahead, including members of Nature and Youth (Young Friends of the Earth Norway).

“This project is a serious environmental crime and that’s why 4,500 people have expressed their willingness to participate in civil disobedience to protect the fjord,” said Gaute Eiterjord, head of Nature and Youth. He adds that the organization “now will go after the investors” to the mining project and have them withdraw the money “so that the mine can’t be realized.”

Norway Spending Record Smashed on Black Friday

By David Nikel

Consumer spending hit new heights in Norway last week as Norwegian shoppers rushed to pick up a Black Friday bargain.

Debit and credit cards were used almost 9.3 million times on Friday, according to Norway's payments provider Nets. Mobile payments service Vipps also recorded a new daily record.

A record number and value of card payments

It is the first time Norwegian cards had been used more than nine million times in a single day. The population of Norway is just 5.5 million. The number of uses increased 3.5% from Black Friday last year. In total, goods and services were bought for more than NOK 3.8 billion. That's a 1.9% increase over last year.

"Based on the card statistics, it seems like there were a lot of people who were shopping already from 10a.m. This continued for much of the day. There was also significantly more card use during the evening, right up to 11p.m.," said Nets' press officer Stein-Arne Tjore.

A boost in online shopping

Not everyone braved the crowds to pick up a bargain in person. Figures showed many more than usual chose to shop online. Nets' data shows that Black Friday online shopping was 12% higher than in 2018. The weather could have been a factor here, as heavy snow began to fall over large parts of the country during Friday. "Compared to an average Friday, a total of 46% more online purchases were made that day," said Tjore.

Electronics were the most popular purchase

Norwegians were most interested in buying electronics and fashion items during this year's sales. These are the categories in which sales revenues increased most compared to last year. The quest for cheap electronics is also shown in the product search results on price comparison engine Prisjakt.no. Apple topped the list of most-wanted brands. The Apple Airpods 2 was the most searched for item, followed by the iPhone XR, according to e24. Also popular were the Sony WH-1000XM3 headphones, Polar Ignite heart rate watch and Xiaomi robotic vacuum cleaner.

Record-breaking mobile payments

The use of Vipps on Black Friday also broke all previous records. There was a 154% increase in payments via Vipps online during Black Friday 2019 compared to 2018. Of course, much of this growth can be attributed to the increase in popularity of Vipps, both with consumers and retailers.

"The growth comes both because you can now use Vipps online in more and more online stores, and because more and more Norwegians also use us when shopping online. At the end of the year, we have a 15 percent market share online," said Vipps' spokesperson Hanne Kjærnes.

Black Friday in Norway

America's biggest shopping day of the year has been popular in Norway the last few years, but its origin lies in the USA. Thanksgiving always falls on a Thursday, so the following Friday has long been a big day for holidays and shopping ahead of Christmas.

The name "Black Friday" was actually coined by the Police to describe the mayhem of the congestion in downtown areas. The volume of shoppers caused traffic accidents and sometimes even violence.

If you're wondering why the shopping event came to Norway, the answer can be found back in 2010. The shopping mall Norwegian Outlet launched a publicity stunt to increase sales. It quickly caught on. Nowadays, Norwegian retailers promote Black Friday, Black Weekend or even Black Week offers.



Russia Flaunts Increased Military Strength on Norway Border

by Life in Norway Editorial Team

New mobile surface-to-air missile system adapted for cold temperatures unveiled by the Russian Armed Forces. It follows the test of another missile system capable of reaching three Nordic air bases.

The Tor-M2DT surface-to-air missile system has been officially handed over to the Northern Fleet units in the Pechenga valley. Russia's Armed Forces says the purpose of the deployment is to “secure air space control and defense.”

Located on the Kola Peninsula, the military bases are just 10km from the [Norway-Russia border](#). They are also close to Russia's EU border with Finland. Norway's Globus intelligence radar system is located in Vardø, less than 100km away from the Russian bases. Just days after the announcement, the Russian military revealed it had tested the nuclear-capable Kinzhal missile.

Designed for extreme Arctic conditions

The Russian-made air defense system is designed to protect Russia's northern military bases, ports, airfields, supply depots, command centers and other important assets. The missiles can operate in cold temperatures as low as -50C.

Military Today says the Tor-M2DT can engage multiple targets simultaneously: “It is claimed that this air defense system can deflect massive enemy air raids, when enemy extensively uses electronic countermeasures.”

The website also explains that the system can be used against aircraft, helicopters and many other aerial threats. “It destroys targets that long- and medium-range air defense systems fail to hit.”

Missile test proves Russia's strength

The [Barents Observer](#) said the recent test of the Kinzhal ballistic missile “changes the power balance in the north.” That's due to its range, speed and ability to beat all known defense systems.

A military source said the test took place from the air at a ground target. The system is believed to be deployed on aircraft that take off from a Russian air base on the Kola Peninsula, relatively close to the Norwegian border.

While the target was a long way to the east of Scandinavia, the distance involved shows the missile system has the capability to hit three Nordic air bases: Norway's Bodø, Sweden's Kallax and Finland's Rovaniemi. Norway's fleet of F-16 fighter jets is based at Bodø.

Norway-Russia relations in the High North

Following recent sanctions and frosty relations, Norwegian-Russian business cooperation is at a record low. Norway's Minister of Defense Frank Bakke-Jensen wrote in [Defense News](#) that “profound changes” are taking place in the region.

He says the Russian Armed Forces have undergone a thorough modernization in the last decade. “New and silent submarines are entering Arctic waters. Long-range precision weapons can reach all corners of Europe. We have noticed several simulated attacks on Norwegian targets. GPS signals on Norwegian territory have been disrupted,” explained the Minister.

According to a report in the [Barents Observer](#), the Bal (NATO name SSC-6 or Sennight) coastal missile system was moved this summer from its permanent location to the Barents Sea coastline.

The fact that military exercises are being carried out in the borderlands with little to no advance warning increases uncertainty regarding intentions. “The increased Russian power projection and military activity has led to an increased interest in and need for allied exercises and training in the north,” he added.

Just a few weeks ago, a remarkable three-way “spy swap” took place between Russia, Norway and Lithuania. A retired Norwegian border inspector, two Lithuanians and two convicted Russian spies were exchanged.

The Norwegian, Frode Berg, had been detained by Russia for almost two years on espionage charges. The New York Times said Russia used Berg as “a symbol of a new Cold War descending on Scandinavia's Arctic north.”

