



Chicago Sons of Norway  
**Torske Klub**  
Organized 1960



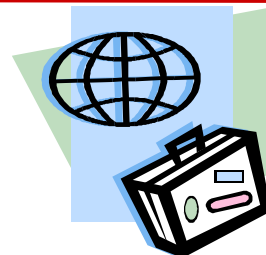
www.torskeklub.org • secretary@torskeklub.org

# Newsletter

October 2009

## October Luncheon—A Tour of Moscow & Russia

Our October Luncheon will be a celebration of Leif Ericson day as well as a special presentation by the renown world traveler Bill Helmuth. You may recall that Bill presented to the Torske Klub once before in January 2008. We enjoyed it so much, we asked him back. This time, Bill will talk and present slides on his travels to the former Soviet Republic, including Russia and the city of Moscow. Make reservations today for October 10th.



## October Begins Our Dues Collection Period

Your October mailing should contain a slip of paper with your specific information and a request for payment of the \$40 dues for the 2010 year, due by December 31, 2009. Please send this in as soon as practical by one of our multiple payment methods: Cash or Check. Either use the enclosed envelope, stamp it and post it to the secretary, Ken Larson, or bring it to the meeting and hand it over at the back desk. For our honorary members and those whose dues are paid, only return the form if your information needs correction.

Please take time to correct or add detail to your membership form. We are a bit nosier this year. Tell us something about you. Your work, your hobbies, your family, your life. We have some fascinating people in our klub and we hope to tell your story in a curriculum vitae when we publish some 50th anniversary material this year.

## September Recap: Greg Borzo Speaks of the "L"

Our first meeting of the year was well attended as we were entertained to our speaker, Greg Borzo, author of The Chicago "L". His slide show noted some amazing facts and history of that stalwart structure, the Chicago Elevated Train, or "L", including movies shot on or with the "L".

Tusen Takk to Bob Newgard, who made his debut as the Torskemaster, and to Ken Nordan who passed the acid test as the new treasurer: the books were balanced.

We had about 10 members more than we had when the fish was ordered at noon on Tuesday due to late reservations; the \$5 penalty was imposed. Call early, eat cheaper.



### **Torske Klub Luncheon October 10**

Our monthly dinner meeting will be held on October 10, 2009 at the Des Plaines Elks Club, 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL (847-824-1556). Cocktail hour begins at noon; dinner starts promptly at 1:00 P.M. when, according to our tradition, our BOSS, Robert Alsaker, rings the bell to seat us for dinner. Make Your Regular Dinner Reservation by TUESDAY Noon, October 6, 2009

**ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE REQUIRED TO MAKE A RESERVATION FOR DINNER.**

The Elks Club needs time to order the fresh fish. Timely reservations insure that fish and a table space can be reserved for you. Noon deadline means noon. The reservation is called in directly after.

Call **630-445-1263** at any time day or night to leave a reservation. If there is voicemail difficulties, call Ken at 630-336-6723. As usual, please leave your MEMBERSHIP NUMBER, NAME, and the TOTAL number of people in your party. The same information is required when you reserve for other members. The phone usually will ring 4 times before answering.

We have reservations from the following members: 3, 13C, 22, 47, 40, 51, 55, 73C, 85, 98, 114, 115, 126, 141, 179A. Board members note that they have a reservation automatically and must call to cancel.

If you prefer email reservations, please send to secretary@torskeklub.org with your number of reservations, including guests. We will respond with a confirmation email.

**\*\*TIP** – Don't know or remember your membership number? Check the mailing label. It is the number by your name.

**FREE Raffle Ticket** to each member that brings one or more guests to the dinner this 2009/2010 season, excluding father/son/ daughter day in March and ladies day in February.

**Dinner Reservation Phone: ( 630) 445-1263**

Reservations  
Required by  
12:00 Noon on  
October 6, 2009

## Vasa Park Day Welcomes a Dozen Potential Members

Boss Robert Alsaker, Ron Bentsen, Ken Nordan and Ken Larson manned the Chicago Torske Klub booth for a magnificent day at the annual Vasa Park Scandinavian Day event in South Elgin, Illinois. Dozens of vendors, food, dancing and music participants saw a great turnout of hundreds of folk.



Ken Larson and Ken Nordan at Vasa Park

We were there to meet and greet the spectators and hand out some information forms, along with a membership form. But we did something different this year. Instead of soliciting membership, we invited a number of men to "try before you buy." Many of you are

receiving this letter for the first time, along with an invoice for membership. Follow the directions on the front and call in a reservation as a member for any of the next three months. If you like what you find (and we're betting that you will), send in the dues and reap the benefits of membership. If not, let it lapse, and we'll remove you from the rolls as the new year rolls by.

Thanks to all of you who were spotted in the field with those classic Torske Klub blue shirts. Thanks to Ron- for the appropriate provisioning of his cooler.

## A Visit from Svein Ludvigsen

Our good friend, Governor Svein Ludvigsen of Troms county, Norway, recently visited the Norwegian Genealogy Center in Madison, WI and Vesterheim, the Norwegian American Museum in Decorah, IA. Shown here is Svein standing next to King Olav V's 1951 seven passenger Cadillac limousine that was recently restored by a group headed-up by Boss, Rob Alsaker and including our own good member, Hank Solberg. Svein was picked up at the Hotel by Vesterheim's new Director, Steve Johnson. Svein was very impressed by both the work of the Genealogy Center and the depth of Vesterheim's collections, it's educational programs and its other activities.—RA



Troms Governor Svein Ludvigsen stands by the restored limousine of King Olav V at the Vesterheim Museum in Decorah. Svein recalled seeing the King drive by in the limo when he was a boy. - photo by R. Alsaker

## October Birthdays

This month, we toast the monthly birthdays for October: Max Stokes, Peter Hastings, Madison Torske Klubben Boss Emeritus Trygve Lonnebotn, our namesake Eivind Torske, Board Member Kristian Ronning, Kaare Nevdal, Sam Smith, and Thorkil Winther. Skål and a tip of the Halloween pumpkin cap to all.

### Some Future Dates:

- 10/10/09 —Bill Helmut's Moscow travels
- 10/14/09 —Beekeeper Harry Patterson
- 12/12/09 —Christmas w/ Langseths & Ronnings
- 1/9/2010 —Sweater Day
- 2/13/2010 —Ladies Day
- 3/13/2010 —Father/Son/ Daughter day
- 5/8/2010 —Anniversary
- Oct. 2010 —50th Anniversary Black Tie Optional Dinner

## Vasa Park Q&A

Each visitor to our Scandinavian Day table usually has a good question, and over the years, we eventually stumbled on some good answers:

"Are you a Fishing Club?" - No, we are a fish eating club, but we have been known to fish on occasion.

"Can we women join?" - No, we remain a men's club, but ladies are invited to dine with us in February. We invite wives and girlfriends, inviting both is discouraged. We do remind wives that signing up their husbands is a good way to get rid of them on Saturdays.

"Do I have to be Norwegian to join?" - No, but it doesn't hurt to be Norwegian either. You do have to be in one of these three categories for membership: you are Norwegian, you know a Norwegian, or you know someone who knows or may know a Norwegian. We have to draw a line somewhere.

"Do you serve meals other than cod-fish?"- Generally not, because torske means cod. It kinda takes the spirit out of the occasion to serve steak.

### Chicago Torske Klub Board of Directors

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