



\* Supporting A Dementia Friendly Society \*

# NORDEN STAR



**NORDEN LODGE #407 HUNTINGTON**

Volume 56, Issue # 1

Celebrating Our 86<sup>th</sup> Year

**January, 2024**

Meeting normally each 4th Sunday of the month at Saint Peter's Lutheran Church, Huntington Station, NY  
Phone (516) 791-3983 [NordenLodge407@Gmail.com](mailto:NordenLodge407@Gmail.com) -Next Meeting **Sunday January 28, at 2 PM**  
On [Facebook](#) at: **NordenLodge3-407 Sons of Norway** - On the [WEB](#) at **NordenLodge3-407.org**  
**Deadline for Items for the February, 2024 Newsletter PERIODICAL is January 24, 2024**

## MONTH'S MESSAGE

Hi Everyone,

I want to wish everyone a happy, healthy, and safe Happy New Year. Barbara had posted our dates for the 2024 calendar at the bottom of the minutes. So please mark those dates on your calendar.

We have a few items to discuss. We need to review and vote on the 2024 budget for the lodge, we need to secure the teams for the Henrik Ibsen Bowling for Fun the beginning of February, we should plan on attending Henrik Ibsen's Anniversary in April, and Loyal's Anniversary in June right before the Third District Convention, we need to think of our date for the picnic as January is the time to secure the pavilion at the beach.

There are fun happenings you may wish to join, whether it be the lodge, zone and the district events. You will hear more about them at the meeting.

Sons of Norway and the International Lodge have not given us any information about their plans for a non-convention. It is not surprising as the communication has not been up to par and most of the information I learn about is from our 3D Officers as they are very good at communicating what is happening.

*Fraternally, Roy*



If you hear of anyone who is not feeling well, or needs some cheering up, please contact our **SunShine Lady**, Kathy Johannessen (631) 421-9482, so we can respond & get the word out.

### **PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME TAGS TO EVERY MEETING.**

As voted, a \$1.00 reminder fee for a temporary name rental will be charged each time you forget. This could be fun! Only excellent above reproach excuses will be exempted by Vote on the floor. **See Les Johannessen for your Tag**

**NORDEN ALWAYS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS**

\*\*\* NORDEN OFFICERS FOR 2023 \*\*\*

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<b>Sports Dir.</b> Charles Gottilla	<b>(631) 412-3361</b>
<b>Greeter:</b> Mary Booton	<b>Call Editor</b>

**November Meeting Minutes Summary –**

President Roy opened the meeting and we are missing Barbara and Kristin as they are in Boston to look at wedding dresses with Krystal, Kristin's daughter.

Susan Olsen – 3d Youth Director visited.

**Correspondence** Barbara sent:

1. Dear Lodge Presidents,  
the third district nominating committee is beginning to do their job to nominate members to be officers for the 2024-2026 term of the Third District Board. Contact either Audun Gythfeldt at [audun99@ptd.net](mailto:audun99@ptd.net) or Barbara Berntsen [barbarajb1230@optonline.net](mailto:barbarajb1230@optonline.net).
2. Lodge Brooklyn 100th anniversary was yesterday we want to thank the lodge for sending us.
3. Flyers for Henrik Ibsen bowling for fun is up here.
4. Made a donation to Helping Hands Mission
5. Made a donation to Charitable trust

**Committee reports**

Social director: Barbara wants to remind you that our Julefest December 3 meeting is in two weeks. Please let us know if you plan on coming.

**Newsletter:** Les – has extra copies with him.

**Sports director:** chuck reported:

Atlantic city date is June 1

Henrik Ibsen bowling for fun is on February 4th at 1 – 4pm.

The cost is \$26 per adult and \$24 per child. There are 4 – 6 people per team. Flyer is up here for those who want to bowl.

Kristin will make up the teams, please let her know you want to bowl.

**Zone:** Steve / Les /Karen / Barbara

1. Raffle tickets for the scholarship committee - \$5 each or 6 for \$25. Barbara and Karen have them with them. Dig deep so we can keep giving out nice scholarships to our students. This is your last chance – the drawing will be held on Dec. 6.
2. We will bring the bus trip to the Christmas fairs up again since our trip to scantest had to be cancelled.
3. Memorial service – May 5, Brooklyn will make that decision soon.

**Sunshine:** Barbara Struckman said she is out of cards, so if anyone has cards laying around please bring

them to give to her. A motion was made to give Barbara \$100 to buy cards and stamps when needed. It was approved.

**Parade:** Barbara – we selected our theme: “celebrating our 70th parade” and we are working on our pin design.  
3rd district: Steve –Karen - The secretary letter is up here on the desk.

1. Youth camp will be held in July 21 – 28, 2024 at camp Koinonia and the adult culture/sports weekend will be July 25 – 28, 2024 – the end of the week. The southern culture sports will be held at camp Luther rock in Newland North Carolina. August 8 – 11th, 2024.
2. The leadership training sessions were held by zoom on November 5th – 10th & 12th, 2023.
3. Please give Barbara your email address – even if you do not have it on the sons of Norway web site – because the district sends out e-mail blasts to inform you of something important.

**Old business**

Cultural event at Scandinavian house in NYC is announced under new business.

It is an exhibit by 8 different Nordic artists between October 14 and February 17, 2024.

Our next meeting, will be on Sunday December 3 – we will again have a zoom meeting.

Roy thanked Les for taking the October Meeting minutes.

Meeting ended at 3pm.

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting Was Short Due to Our Christmas Fest**

President Roy opened the meeting and had a few short announcements before we celebrate our Jule Fest.

He asked for a moment of silence for us to remember a former member and a good friend to so many of us. Deacon Frank Arthur Jr. Passed to lodge eternal on December 14. A calling post was sent and I hope some of us could bring our regards to the Oden family.

Secretary Barbara – silent attendance taken

Minutes were approved.

Barbara reminded everyone to sign in the attendance book and flyers for Henrik Ibsen bowling for fun is up here.

Dinner was ordered for today.

Les – has extra copies of the newsletter with him.

Chuck said the Atlantic city date is June 1.

Kristin is working on creating the list of bowling teams.

Our next meeting, will be on Sunday January 28th at 2pm– we will again have a zoom meeting.

Barbara added to the minutes our calendar for 2024.

We held a 50/50 and Jane Mathew won the \$90 (half take in of \$180)

**Respectfully Submitted by Barbara Berntsen**

## Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum Folk Art Classes

Registration is open for Vesterheim's winter 2024 online classes, which in-clude wood carving, fiber arts, rosemailing, cooking, book discussions, and much more.

Register here: <https://store.vesterheim.org/collections/online-folk-art-courses>

**\*\*\*\* UP COMING EVENTS \*\*\*\***



**IT'S ALL SCANDINAVIAN**

**Follow and see  
Ellen Lindstrom's Band  
perform at:**

<http://www.theswedishmeatballs.com/shows.html>

**3D  SONS of NORWAY**



**SAVE THE DATE**  
*Mark your calendars!*  
**3D SONS OF NORWAY  
YOUTH CAMP 2024**



Ages 8-18  
**Camp Koinonia**  
**July 21 - July 28, 2024**  
Highland Lake, NY  
**NEW THIS YEAR!**

**Cultural/Sports/Family Weekend**  
*Fun for everyone old, young, and in between!*  
**July 25 - July 28, 2024**

**\*\*\*\* More Details to follow soon. \*\*\*\***

The District has set a date and site for a family weekend for our Southern District members to take advantage of. More information will follow as plans firm up and all that are interested can make plans. (Emphasis on ALL)

**ANNIVERSARY**



**Henrik Ibsen Lodge No. 393**  
Bayshore, New York  
Established March 1934  
Instituted March 11, 1934

*"Come Celebrate with us our 90<sup>th</sup> year"*  
Sunday **April 14, 2024** 12noon - 4 PM  
Marconi Manor,

333 Moffitt Blvd. Islip, NY 11751

Buffett with open Bar

Raffles, 50/50, Music by Smörgåsbandet

Key note speaker Barbara Berntsen

\$75 per person, children under 12yrs. free

Payable to Henrik Ibsen Lodge, mail to Treasurer

Kris Holvik

49 Brook Street, Islip NY 11751

Please respond no later than

February 17, 2024

**Norden Lodge's  
Atlantic City Bus Trip**



**June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**



**Cost: TBD per person**

*On the way down we will have breakfast and coffee, play a few games. On way back we will hand out some drinks/snacks and settle down for the movie chosen by all. The casino is providing something to get us started.*

Leaving LIE Exit 49 Park & Ride at 8AM,  
Stopping at Christopher Morley Park at 8:30AM  
(500 Seasingtown Rd N, Roslyn),  
Stopping at Brooklyn PC Richards parking lot at 9:15AM  
(576-80 86<sup>th</sup> St., Brooklyn),  
And Lastly Arriving at the Tropicana, Atlantic City.  
We will be departing Atlantic City around 6 PM for Home

**\*\*\*Make sure to get to the bus pickup 15 minutes before the time stated for your stop. It is better for you to wait for the bus, because the bus will NOT wait for you!!!\*\*\***

RSVP by: TBD Call or E-mail Today!!!  
Contact: Chuck: 516-512-9427  
Kris: 516-521-3190  
[CGottilla@hotmail.com](mailto:CGottilla@hotmail.com)

Make check payable to Charles Gottilla  
642 Grand Ave, Lindenhurst, New York 11757

**Norway has a marathon that happens in the middle of the night.**

Marathons are one of the most difficult tests of human endurance ever devised. [Training your body](#) to run 26.2 miles requires constant practice and determination. Running a marathon at midnight would seem to make a hard task even harder, but that's exactly what happens every June in the [Norwegian town of Tromsø](#), one of the world's northernmost cities. Thankfully, its position some 200 miles north of the Arctic Circle gives the marathoners a distinct advantage — because even in the middle of the night when the race takes place, the sun is still shining in Tromsø.

[From May 21 to July 21](#), Tromsø experiences constant daylight, meaning that one "day" technically lasts around 1,600 hours. This particular race, fittingly named the [Midnight Sun Marathon](#), draws some 6,000 participants and takes place around the summer solstice, when the sun's vertical rays strike their northernmost position [over the Tropic of Cancer](#). Tromsø — and other cities and towns north of the Arctic Circle — experience these long stretches of day in the summer (and long stretches of night in winter) because of the [Earth's axial tilt](#). The Northern Hemisphere is tilted toward the sun during the northern summer, and these northern cities catch the sun's rays even when the star is shining on the other side of the Earth. But while the Midnight Sun Marathon is certainly a special event, Tromsø has no plans for some sort of "High Noon Moon" marathon during the winter solstice. That's probably a good idea, since daytime highs in December [never reach north of freezing temperatures](#).



# FROM THE 3<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT



**Fra 3D President, Steve Helmold, January 2024** - I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and I wish a very happy and healthy new year to all.

2024 is going to be a very busy, productive, and fun-filled year for the Third District.

First however, there are certain business items that must be attended to. Considering the new lodge disbandment policy developed and implemented by the home office, it is imperative that lodges file their paperwork on time. Also, our 2024 District Lodge meeting and convention near Washington DC is shaping up to be an exciting event, so you want to be sure that you register for everything on time. Below are just a few deadlines that you should be aware of.

In **January**, District Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold will inform lodge secretaries and presidents of the maximum number of delegates that each lodge will be permitted to send to the District Lodge meeting. This is based on the number of members you had on December 31, 2023 and the formula in our bylaws. As soon as Karen gets the official membership numbers from the home office, she will inform lodges of the number of delegates that they are allowed. I hope that all lodges will send the maximum number of delegates they are allowed as well as many nondelegates to participate in the events being planned.

In **February**, lodges should vote on their delegates and alternates and complete the delegate report that must be sent to Karen as District Secretary by **March 1<sup>st</sup>**. The form will be sent to all lodge secretaries in January.

**March 15<sup>th</sup>** is the deadline for lodges to file their D-17 Local Lodge Financial Statement with the home office. The home office is no longer accepting snail mailed or emailed forms, but instead lodge treasurers must sign onto the Sons of Norway website and use the home office's electronic program.

**March 15<sup>th</sup>** is also the deadline for lodges to submit resolutions to be voted on at the district lodge meeting in June. Resolutions must be submitted using the format approved by the home office. Karen will send the template to all lodge secretaries with the January/February District Secretaries letter.

**April 15<sup>th</sup>** is the deadline to register delegates and nondelegates with the host committee. Registration forms will also be sent with January/February District Secretaries letter. These forms will also be available on the Third District Website in January. While all this business is important and must be attended to, it should not be the be all and end all. We are a fraternal organization and should work just as hard to get together and celebrate our Norwegian heritage while spending time together enjoying each other's company. Washington Lodge, the host for the 2024 convention, has many fun events planned for all to enjoy. Look for details on the Third District Website.

On **April 20<sup>th</sup>** the District will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Picnic at Nansen Lodge's picnic grounds.

We will also be holding two family cultural weekends for all to enjoy. The first will be at camp Koinonia in New York Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup> and the second will be at Camp Lutherock in North Carolina Thursday, August 8 to Sunday August 11<sup>th</sup>. Details will be sent to lodges in the near future. Let's get together and have some fun!

Fraternally, Stephen Helmold

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## SON INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

**The Sons of Norway Foundation** offers college, trade school, and high school scholarships starting at \$1,000 for current members and children or grandchildren of current members. For more information and complete eligibility requirements call (800) 945-8851, or visit [https://www.sofn.com/foundation/grants\\_and\\_scholarships/](https://www.sofn.com/foundation/grants_and_scholarships/) The grant and scholarship applications are now open on the website! They offer over a dozen scholarship opportunities for study in the US, Norway, and beyond. Each fund caters to different interests and comes with different requirements, so take some time to review. Please note application deadlines are changing this year, so check each early 2024 deadline carefully. Information on grants and scholarships is available on the website at [Foundation | Sons of Norway](#). Any questions can be directed to [foundation@sofn.com](mailto:foundation@sofn.com).

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## With the World Wide Winter Sporting Events Once Again Going On, I Thought it is Worth While Mentioning:

### Norway has more Winter Olympic medals now, than any other country.

Norway is the Winter Olympics king. The Scandinavian country has more than 400 medals – 70 more than the U.S. in second place, It certainly helps that Norway essentially invented skiing, including the events of ski jumping and slalom. Thus the [Article of the History of Skiing on Page 7](#) maybe of interest. Especially with Norway being such a small country it still maintains it's lead in not only competition but is absolutely enjoyed by Norwegian in a way that aligns to us here in the States going on vacation.

## LODGE SAVE THE DATE 2024

- Jan 28 – Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Feb 25 – Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Mar 24 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM Music by Ellen
- Apr 28 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- May 17 – Lodge Meeting St Peters 6 PM Change due to Memorial Day Weekend
- Jun 23 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM Music by Ellen
- Sept 22 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Oct 27 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Nov 24 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Dec 8 – Christmas Fest St Peters 2 PM Music by Ellen

\* Notes Change of planned meeting date.

### Activities In Our Zone!!!

Lot's will be happening going forward – Stay Tuned more to come!

**Youth Camp is once again planned for 2024 and is once again dependent on numbers attending. DON'T MISS another OPPORTUNITY for this extremely successful event Your Kids/Grandkids will Thank YOU !!!! Check it out, can't beat the price or experience! And in addition this year the rest of your family will be able to join the campers for the last two days at Camp Koinonia at Highland Lake, NY not to mention the planned Family weekend in the Carolinas this summer for which more info will follow,**

-- Still More coming !!!!

### \*\*\* BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS \*\*\*

#### Month's Birthdays – Gratulerer Med Dagen!

Name	Day	Name	Day
Gladys A Sollitto	7	E Clifton Hotvedt	21
Jean A Tremel	7	Arthur Jensen	22
Ronald F Price	8	Peggy Geoghan	27
Joseph L Accordino	11	Barbara L Johnsen	27
Elizabeth Patalano	13	Thore Omholt	27
Kathy Johannessen	16		

### 5 Yr+ Membership Milestones For January, Congratulations:

- Hjordis Anderson– 59 Years, Margret Berntsen – 56 Years
- Kym Van Wicklen - 40 Years, Kathy Johannessen – 40 Years
- Les Johannessen – 40 Years, Eric P Oltedal – 8 Years
- Jacqueline Oltedal – 8 Years, Rebecca L Oltedal - 8 Years

**NOTE – A few members have brought some errors to our attention. Please let us know so we can inform the home office**

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

**Our Fraternal Funeral Service for Frank Odin was performed in Lindenhurst at the end of last month. Frank's wishes to support St Vincent De Paul in lieu of flowers, has been honored by the Lodge. Our hearts are with his family today as he will be missed.**

**Sister Margret Berntsen has suffered another setback after falling and breaking her hip. Her operation has successfully been completed and we wish her a speedy recovery once again. Wishing Barbara & Roy some relief from these recent occurrences going forward.**

## Meeting Attendances - an attempt to enhance our members benefits by increasing subsidies for good participation. The more involved the more you benefit.

**If you don't see your name, & you attended, let us know.**

**12-2023 Meeting Attendance: MEMBERS –** Roy & Barbara Berntsen, Margaret Berntsen, Nancy Rucci, Nickolina, Kathy, Les, Dan, Kristen, Lilianna Johannessen, Shirley Erland, Harald Solfeld, Jane Mathew, Larry Mathew, Live Solfeld, Steve Helmold, Joe & Solvia Accordino, Mary Booton, Tim Basley, Inger Neilsen, Clif & Nina Hotvedt, Janet Hannigan, Bob Saunders, Barbara Struckman, Ellen Lindstrom, Norma Ohsberg, Linda Peterson, Fred & Jean Tremel, Dorreann Kohl, Mildred Sandberg, Thore Omholt, Nancy Seals, Bob & Ethel McKeever, Kim Lynn, Annabel Lynn, Justin Lynn, Sheila Eian Finn Eian, Leif Easterson, Elsa Hansen

### 2023 Norden Star Boosters Updated 11/19/23

Berntsen, Barbara & Roy 5/24	Helmold, Steve & Karen 3/25
Berntsen, Margret 5/23	Meusel, Helen 6/27
Berntsen, Roy Jr 5/23	Rucci, Hector & Nancy 7/25
Brown, Greta & George 6/58	Sandberg, Mildred 4/24
Carlson, Craig & Christine 11/22	Seals, Nancy 5/24
Erland, Shirley 9/24	Sorg, Mabel 6/26
Hansen, Elsa 6/23	

#### IN MEMORY OF

Erland, Endre & Sigrid 9/24  
 Frey, Judith 2/30  
 Maies, Betsy Jane Sersted 3/24  
 Johansen, Lars, Sigrid & Art 10/30  
 Jacobsen, Edward 4/24  
 Larssen, Tryggve & Signe 3/23  
 Stuckman, Erik 12/23  
 Skauvold, Harry & Kate 12/23

#### COMMEMORATORS

Daughter Shirley Erland  
 Daughter Norma Frey  
 Daughter Janet Maies Hsnnigan  
 Family  
 Brother John & Wife Carol  
 Daughter Greta & George Brown  
 Mother Barbara  
 Daughter Christine Carlson

Room for more members that would like to join us. The \$5/Yr helps mailing costs. The dates following the names denote the end of the annual support Please make checks payable to Norden Lodge 407

### WE THANK ALL OUR BOOSTERS HELPING TO GET THE NEWSLETTER OUT

### ZONE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications for a scholarship for every student in Zone 1, are available upon request from your Editor Les as well as Barbara Berntsen & Karen Helmold.

The application is a newer version with some tweaks, so please use this new application.

**They are Due by March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

### Norwegian Embassy Newsletter

The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Washington, DC has begun publishing a biweekly newsletter, *Norge Nå*. Content includes security policy, the green transition, Norwegian trade and business, Arctic issues, and what's happen-ing at the Embassy. It will also publicize upcoming events with Norwegian artists around the US. To subscribe, email [elisabeth.addison@mfa.no](mailto:elisabeth.addison@mfa.no)



## Some Cultural Items for the Month

### *Cultural Corner: Where There Dutch Vikings?*

**Part 2 THE VIKINGS:** Vikings were people from southern Scandinavia (modern-day Sweden, Denmark, and Norway) who raided, pirated and settled throughout parts of Europe from the late 8th to late 11th centuries. They were the ones who first explored Greenland and Iceland. The impact of the Vikings on Europe can be observed even today. There are conflicting stories of the centuries when Vikings were raiding different parts of Europe. In truth, Vikings were much more than their raids and pirating. Their women enjoyed more freedom than the women of England and Spain in the 17th century. The farming cultures of the Vikings also influenced the people of Europe all over.

Almost all the towns and villages raided by the Vikings were located by a river. Because the Vikings were excellent navigators, they could travel in their longships through every river easily. For the Vikings getting control over cities was not the ultimate goal. They traveled to different parts of Europe because they valued their family life and wanted to provide for their family members.



The Vikings went as far as Russia and Iran. They established settlements on different islands. They not only came into contact with local nations but also married native people. This is why the ancestry of the people of Europe is mixed. One speculation is that the Vikings went extinct because they didn't marry out of their communities. But that has been proven wrong thanks to modern technology. Vikings have had a huge influence on the languages of Europe. North Germanic languages, also known as Scandinavian languages, are the descendants of the Old Norse, which was the vernacular of the Vikings. The modern-day languages of Denmark, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Spain, Italy, and England have either been directly or indirectly influenced by Old Norse.

There are a lot of misconceptions about Vikings. People think their attacks were not well-coordinated, or the fathers did not care about their children. On the contrary, the attacks of the Vikings were well coordinated. Fathers and mothers took care of their children together. Family life was very important to the Vikings.

The Vikings had their own religion and murdered priests in certain regions. But later, they became Christians. The factor that played a role in this is hard to point out.

**MODERN-DAY VIKINGS:** In order to find out which European country's populations have Viking ancestors, different studies were conducted. Scandinavians (people from Denmark, Norway, and Sweden) have been proven to have Vikings ancestry. But due to intermixing, there are also descendants of Vikings in England. This proved that the Vikings married into local families when they made settlements in England. Various cities in England, Scotland, and Ireland have a significant percentage of people with Viking ancestry.

The ancestry of people from France, Belgium, Germany, Spain, and Italy can also be checked. But certain parts of Europe were not ideal for Vikings to attack. This allowed them to venture south and north towards other continents.

Before the Netherlands was the Netherlands or even Holland, it was known as Frisia. According to Historians, Vikings came to Frisia in the 9th century. They established control over all of Frisia. They conducted raids in cities and towns by the rivers. The Viking rule over Frisia did not last for months but for years. It wasn't until the local noblemen of Frisia started their resistance against the Vikings that things began to change. But there is nothing to suggest that all the Vikings left the Netherlands.

When they began their raids on Frisia, many Viking teams established their settlements in different cities. They learned local cultures and began to live peacefully. So, it can be said that the Vikings may have influenced the Dutch culture the way they influenced Germanic cultures through their beliefs and ideas. There were different types of raids under the Vikings. Some focused on the largest cities of Frisia for trade, while others targeted major cities for their settlements. The latter group did not want control over the cities of Frisia and just want to live with their family in a peaceful environment. In Frisia, the first group disappeared after the locals rebelled. But the majority of Vikings who wanted to settle down stayed behind.

Although it is impossible to know the origins of everyone in the Netherlands, it can be speculated that some of them have Viking blood so this is a Dutch Viking. One thing is for certain, people with Viking ancestry do live in different parts of Europe. If they move to France or Spain from England or Denmark, that won't change their genetic makeup.

**THE NETHERLANDS:** The Netherlands, commonly known as Holland, is a country in Western Europe and the Caribbean. In the old times, the Netherlands was known as Frisia. It borders Germany, Belgium, and the North Sea. It also shares its maritime borders through the North Sea with England, Germany, and Belgium. There are twelve provinces of the Netherlands in Europe. Amsterdam is the nominal capital of the Netherlands, whereas The Hague holds the seat of the Supreme Court and the Cabinet. Amsterdam is also the most populous city in the country. The museums and parks of Amsterdam bring millions of tourists to the Netherlands every year. Rotterdam is another important city in the Netherlands. Its port is the busiest in all of Europe.

Barbara

### *History Article: The Kon-Tiki Expedition*

**(Part 3)** Check out more pictures on the site:

<http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Kon-Tiki>

**Marine Life Encountered continues:** The whale shark, huge in size, hence its name, was so big that as it swam under the raft the explorers could see its huge, flat head on one side and its tail on the other. After about an hour of the whale shark circling the raft, a crew member rammed a harpoon into its skull. The whale shark simply broke the harpoon and swam away.

**Anthropology:** The Kon-Tiki adventure is often cited as a classic of "pseudoarchaeology," although its daring and inventive nature is still widely acclaimed. While the voyage was successfully demonstrated the seaworthiness of Heyerdahl's intentionally primitive raft, his theory that Polynesia was settled from South America did not gain acceptance by anthropologists. Physical and cultural evidence had long suggested that Polynesia was settled from west to east; migration having begun from the Asian mainland, not South America.

In the late 1990s genetic testing found that the mitochondrial DNA of the Polynesians is more similar to people from southeast Asia than to people from South America, showing that their ancestors most likely came from Asia. It should be noted, however, that Heyerdahl claimed the people that settled Polynesia from South America were of a white race that was distinct from the South Americans and had been driven from their shores. Therefore, it would be expected that the DNA of the Polynesians would be dissimilar to that of South Americans.

According to Heyerdahl, some Polynesian legends say that Polynesia was originally inhabited by two peoples, the so-called long-eared and the short-eared. In a bloody war, all the long-eared peoples were eliminated and the short-eared peoples assumed sole control of Polynesia. Heyerdahl asserted that these extinct people were the ones who could have settled Polynesia from the Americas, not the current, short-eared inhabitants. However one of the problems with this argument is that traditions involving long-ears and short-ears are found only at Easter Island, and are unknown in the rest of Polynesia.

Heyerdahl further argues in his book *American Indians in the Pacific* that the current inhabitants of Polynesia did indeed migrate from an Asian source,



but via an alternate route. He proposes that Polynesians traveled with the wind along the North Pacific current. These migrants then arrived in British Columbia. Heyerdahl points to the contemporary tribes of British Columbia, such as the Tlingit and Haida, as the descendants of these migrants. Again Heyerdahl notes the cultural and physical similarities between these British Columbian tribes, Polynesians, and the Old World source. Heyerdahl notes how simple it would have been for the British Columbians to travel to Hawaii and even onward to the greater Polynesia from their New World stepping-stone by way of wind and current patterns.

Barbara

**Don't forget by selecting (clicking) on a picture you can enlarge it by selecting it first and then select & hold one of the dots that appear & pull until the desired size is reached.**



## The History of Skiing in Norway

March 1, 2020 by [David Nikel](#)  
It's known that the act of skiing dates back at least 8,000 years. Here's the full

story of Norway's love affair with skiing, from critical transport method to recreation and sport.

It's no surprise to hear that Norwegians love skiing. But once you move to Norway, you soon discover [just how much they love skiing](#), the national sport of Norway.

Their love for the sport is responsible for the country's stunning performances at Winter Olympics. On winter weekends, city centres are deserted as the locals disappear onto the [cross-country skiing](#) trails. When there's snow, at least.

### When did skiing begin?

Skiing has taken place in the world for such a long time that we have to rely on archaeological evidence to figure out when the pastime began.

### Paintings and carvings

Paintings more than 5,000 years old suggest use of skis in the Altaic region of China. In Russia's White Sea region, rock carvings dated to 2,000-2,500 BC show people on equal length skis hunting game. They appear to show that the hunters use their bow and spear as ski poles.

Within [Scandinavia](#), the earliest known reference to skiing dates back to around 3,000-4,000 BC. Primitive carvings depict human figures walking on skis.

The best known is the carving at Rødøy in Norway's Nordland. Here, a skier holding a single pole wears skis of equal length. Elsewhere, one of the famous Alta rock carvings depicts a hunter on skis. This image is dated to around 1,000 BC.

### Physical evidence

There's more archaeological evidence when it comes to the skis themselves. In northern Russia, fragments of objects believed to be skis were dated to around 6,300-5,000 BC. The first primitive ski found in Scandinavia was uncovered in a peat bog in Sweden's Jämtland County. It dates back to 4,500-2,500 BC.

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Other notable finds include a Finnish discovery dated to 3,245 BC, Sweden's Kalvträskskidan ski dated to 3,300 BC, and Norway's Vefsn Nordland ski, dated to 3,200 BC. More than 20 well-preserved skis or ski fragments have been found in drained bogs in Norway.

These discoveries in particular indicate skis have been used in Norway—especially in the north—since prehistoric times. Early written evidence includes Procopius' description of Sami people as (translated) as “ski-running sami's”. In fact, the very old Sami word for skiing – čuoigat – suggests Sami people have skied for several thousands years.

**So, we know that skiing has been around for a long time. But why? Early uses of skis as transport and a hunting aid**

According to mythology, several [Norse gods](#) were described as hunting on skis. In fact, Ullr and Skaði have later been regarded as the god and goddess of skiing and hunting. It's no surprise that the act has been immortalised in the gods given that it was of such importance to early transportation.

Even just a few hundred years ago, there was a lot more snow and ice in Norway than today. Skis, therefore, were of critical importance to get around quickly on land, whether to move from place to place or to aid with hunting wild animals.

The saga of Egil Skallagrimsson describes King Haakon the Good's practice of sending out his tax collection men on skis.

The number of people skiing must have been significant. Among other references, the Gulating law of 1274 states that “no moose shall be disturbed by skiers on private land.”

According to a saga, Haakon IV of Norway was transported as a baby in 1206 by soldiers on skis. He was taken to safety through the hills between Gudbrandsdalen and Østerdalen valleys. The event has a strong legacy to this day in the form of the Birkebeinerrennet ski marathon.

Norwegians had been skiing for many hundreds of years before others began to take notice. In 1799, French traveller Jacques de la Tonnay wrote of a visit to Norway in his travel diary: *In winter, the mail is transported through Filefjell mountain pass by a man on a kind of snow skates moving very quickly without being obstructed by snow drifts that would engulf both people and horses. People in this region move around like this. I've seen it repeatedly. It requires no more effort than what is needed to keep warm. The day will surely come when even those of other European nations are learning to take advantage of this convenient and cheap mode of transport.*

### Ski warfare

For many years, soldiers on skis have been used for both offensive and defensive purposes. Another saga describes how King Sverre sent out troops on skis to patrol the Aker area near Oslo. The first use of troops on skis in warfare was recorded in the 13th century by Danish historian Saxo Grammaticus.

The speed and distance that ski troops are able to cover is comparable to that of light cavalry. The Trondheim garrison used skis from the 17th century, when specialised skiing battalions were a common sight in the Danish-Norwegian army.

Skis were also a vital element in the famous [Heroes of Telemark](#) story from World War II. In February 1943, a team of Norwegian commandos destroyed the facility, but only after several days of cross-country skiing.

### Skiing as recreation and sport

It seems likely the development of skiing from purely function into a competitive sport occurred within the military. The first known races occurred within Norwegian and Swedish infantries. Military races such as cross-country skiing with a full backpack turned into races.

In fact, the military exercise of target practice following a period of skiing eventually became the [biathlon](#) Olympic winter sport.

### Telemark skiing

Sometimes in the 19th century, skiers in [Telemark region](#) challenged each other on wilder slopes that included steep mountains, steep jumps and sharp turns.

The Norwegian Sondre Norheim is the man most often credited with the invention of what is now known as Telemark skiing. He did this by showcasing the style in races, bringing national attention. He also experimented with the design of skis and bindings, eventually introducing side cuts to skis and heel bindings.

While it has a long history, Telemark skiing is popular today thanks to its renaissance in the United States in the 1970s. Those using the technique use flexible Alpine skis with bindings that fix just the toe of the boot to the ski.

### Ski jumping

Ski jumping was first contested in Norway in the late 19th century, although there is evidence of the practise taking place in the 18th century. The first records suggest that Sondre Norheim (remember him!?) won the first ever competition with prizes in 1866.

When Norheim and fellow Norwegian skier Karl Hovelsen relocated to the United States, they introduced the concept there. Its popularity soon spread. In 1924, ski jumping became an Olympic sport for the first time. Oslo's [Holmenkollbakken](#) has been the home of Norwegian ski jumping ever since it first hosted the Holmenkollen Ski Festival back in 1892. The annual event is now part of the FIS Ski Jumping World Cup. The current ski jump opened in 2010.

If this article has left you with more questions than answers, then Holmenkollen is also home to a great ski museum, full of exhibits depicting the history of skiing in Norway, and beyond.

### The vocabulary of skiing

Most people know that the term ski is a Nordic word. It's origin is from the Old Norse word *skíð*, which means “cleft wood” or “stick of wood”. Even today, *ski* in Norwegian and Swedish remains a noun, not a verb. In Norwegian, the equivalent verb for skiing is *å gå på ski*, which literally means to walk on skis. To reference a skier, you may call them a *skiløper*, which literally means a ski runner. But the vocabulary doesn't stop there. Other skiing-related words are of Nordic origin too, such as slalom (from *slalåm*).



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