



Volume 57, Issue # 5



* Supporting A Dementia Friendly Society *

NORDEN STAR

NORDEN LODGE #407 HUNTINGTON

Celebrating Our 86th Year



May, 2026

Meeting normally each 4th Sunday of the month at Saint Peter's Lutheran Church, Huntington Station, NY
 Phone (516) 791-3983 NordenLodge407@Gmail.com -Next Meeting **Friday May 15, at 5:30 PM**
 On Facebook at: **NordenLodge3-407 Sons of Norway** - On the WEB at **NordenLodge3-407.org**
Deadline for Items for the June, 2026 Newsletter PERIODICAL is May 26, 2026

MONTH'S MESSAGE

Those of you who could not attend our last meeting/ corporation meeting at Ciminelli's Pizza and Restaurant, you truly missed a wonderful afternoon and great food. We had 23 in-person plus Christine and Craig on zoom. At the end of the meeting Karen asked if we would like to do this again, and we all said a rousing YES! Christine said she will zoom in next month from Norway, as she is visiting family.

We opened with a moment of silence for Bob Saunders and Astri Torkelsen. Bob passed recently and Astri some time ago, which we learned recently. For all of you who come to the meetings, you know Bob as someone who is a gentleman and always willing to help, and we will all miss him very much.

Remember to sign up for all the exciting and fun-filled activities that Chuck and Kristin are planning. 1) The Whaling Museum on June 27th. At 11am. The cost is \$6.00. There is also a Firehouse Museum down the street and plenty of nice restaurants to choose from to have lunch at. 2) The Duck's game on July 18th and the cost is \$15 per person. There will be fireworks. 3) Norden Picnic on August 9th and Ellen called and she had a cancelation so she will be with us playing that day. The cost is \$10 {which Norden members get back when they come} and it will be from 11am to 5pm. 4) Henrik Ibsen's Fishing Tripon August 23rd from 1 pm to 5 pm. The cost is \$65 per adult and \$50 per child 12 and under. 5) Atlantic City on October 3rd. The bus will stop at 4 different locations to pick-up and arrive at the Tropicana Hotel where you get \$15 back. The cost per person is \$60. BRING your own breakfast to eat on the bus, and you will get snacks and water and a movie chosen from those on the bus. You can either watch or you can rest and/or sleep. {Norden members – regardless of your attendance at meetings you will get back half from the corporation so our total cost will be \$15 each member} At the lodge there are flyers for all these events and please remember to book you trip or event with Kristin and Chuck. We hope you will be able to make most of these events because it is great to get together.

Our meeting will be on Friday May 15th evening at the church - 5:30 is dinner – zoom at 6pm, and if you want to help please come about 4:30pm. Remember we are having a Norwegian cup raffle for the "Dues Assistance Program" so bring your dollars and participate to win for great items at our raffle. This seems to be "one-of-a-kind" program throughout our district and possible the order, where we're helping our members and giving our 90-year + young members an extra birthday present by paying their dues each year. See the last paragraph for the instructions.

By the time you get this newsletter, the Memorial Service will be over, but Barbara reminded me to say we had 3 Scholarship Award winners, and she announced the winners at the after-coffee hour. The convention is coming up so if you have any cultural items to put in the District Cultural contest and/or exhibit, or any items you are willing to raffle off for the Charitable Trust please bring them to the May or June meeting and Barbara and I bring them to the convention.

As always, remember each meeting you attend, in person or on zoom, will earn you 1 ticket in the Dues Assistant Program raffle. So, the more meetings you attend the more tickets you acquire and the better chance you have of winning a free one-year of membership. Just ask the committee: Karen, Roy, Kristin or Barbara.

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 2025* ***

For Contact Info Email bigjobber@aol.com

President: Roy Berntsen

Vice President Kristin Gottilla

Membership Chair: Tim Baxley Assist Mary Booton

Secretary: Barbara Berntsen

Counselor: Les Johannessen

Social Director: Janet Hannigan

Youth Dir: Vacant **Editor:** Les Johannessen

Alternate Editor: Barbara Berntsen **Financial Secretary:** Shirley Erland

Treasurer Shirley Erland **Sunshine:** Kathy Johannessen

Sports Dir. Charles Gottilla **Greeter:** Mary Booton

4-26-2026 Minutes Summary

President Roy thanked everyone for coming and turned the meeting over to the corporation committee. For members only. Corporation meeting reviewing their business. Steve H and Frank O were elected to continue as members of the corporation board.

- Roy then opened the Norden Lodge #3-407. I would like to have a moment of silence for Bob Saunders and for Astri Torkelsen.

Both were wonderful members. We will miss Bob very much and for those who knew Astri – we will miss her too.

Secretary Barbara took the silent officer attendance.

Minutes were approved as distributed in the Newsletter.

VP Kristin reported: we do not have any applications for membership.

Correspondence: Barbara
announcement:

1. Karen gave the attendance list to Barbara. Mary and Tim collected the tickets for the 50/50 raffle.

Correspondence:

2. Flyers are up here from Kristin about the events & sports plans coming up.
3. Henrik Ibsen's fishing trip
4. Barbara has the parade pins with her.
5. Barbara reminded all the May meeting is on May 15 – Friday night at 5:30 pm.
6. Our Memorial Service will be held on the first Sunday on May 3, 2026. Ibsen is host. It is coming along well. We will also have our scholarship awards given out as Ibsen is the host of that too. We will let the 2 applicants know about that date.
7. We would like to start a new program – Calling for people who live alone. No matter the age, if we have not seen you for some time, it would be nice to have another contact for those who hopefully would know. It is totally a volunteer choice for those to provide the alternate phone number of a family or friend who can check if needed.
8. Janet gave a thank you card to the lodge for the delicious fruit basket and a candle, and Bob's Memorial remembrance brochure.

Financial reports – Shirley is in camp koinonia.

We will have it next month. Barbara stated the 2025 990 is approved and the 2024 was mailed in with their letter.

Committee reports

Newsletter: Les – has extra copies with him. Remember to sign up for a remembrance and your name in the newsletter. Les also asked if you would like to write something about a member who passed to Lodge Eternal, please send it to him to publish.

Sports directors: Chuck / Kristin

2026 new sports – all flyers were on the table to take for the dates and information

- Whaling museum
- Duck's Game
- The picnic
- Henrik Ibsen fishing tour
- Atlantic city.

Janet asked if we would like to go back to when we played games after the meeting. the suggestion was well received.

Sunshine: Les said that Kathy has gone away from flowers as they are getting very expensive, so she is sending nice baskets or gift card for about the same if not less.

3rd district: Steve & Karen:

- **Youth camp** will be held July 26, to Aug 1, 2026, at Camp Koinonia and the age for campers is up to 17.
- **Culture camp down south.** – it will be held in the same place – the coastal Retreat Isle of Palms in SC. September 16-20, 2026.
- **2026 convention** will be held in Virginia Beach VA on June 4 – 7th. There was a discussion on the resolutions.

Zone: Karen announced that the Zone committee is taking over the Christmas party for 2026. It is on Sunday December 6, 2026. The Zone may subsidize the tickets. It will be a Hanigan House. Norden members will pay \$10 to attend.

Good of the order

1. Inger announced a nice cultural dinner at Loyal. The author Nesbo has a show now on Netflix. And then she said we have a celebrity in our midst. Leif was in a movie.
2. Jim V thanked the lodge for the gift certificate after his surgery.
3. The 50/50 w won by Leif Easterson.

Counselor Les: may peace and harmony prevail within our lodge. **Our next meeting** is meeting on Friday evening– May 15 at 5:30 – come early if you want to help – dinner at 5:30 pm. Zoom at 6:00 pm.

Roy thanked everyone for coming today.

Roy said he especially want to thank President Steve and the whole corporation committee for their generosity to have this wonderful dinner at Ciminelli's.

Let's enjoy the rest of the afternoon.

Roy declared this business meeting adjourned.

Meeting over at 3:32 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Barbara, Secretary



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



IT'S ALL SCANDINAVIAN

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

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

Visits Whaling Museum and Education Center

301 Main Street, Cold Springs Harbor, New York 11724

**Come join fellow S/N members
as we come together to
cultivate knowledge &
celebrate creativity through the
arts, science, and history of
Long Island's whaling heritage.**

**Saturday June 27th @ 11am
Cost: \$8/person & \$6/Senior**

RSVP and payment due by May 16th

Please make checks out to [Kristin Gottilla](mailto:Kristin.Gottilla@venmo.com) or Venmo_@kgottilla

Kindly state the names of participants and phone numbers in case I need to contact you.

More Info: Kristin Gottilla, 66642 Grand Ave, Lindenhurst, NY 11757

Phone: 516-521-3190 or Kgottilla@hotmail.com

Directions: Take the LIE to exit 49N (Rt 110N, which will become New York Avenue). Continue North for about 6.5 miles. Make a left on Rt 25A and continue west for 1.5 miles; museum will be on right. Note: While this is a direct route, Route 110 is full of street lights! (See Pg 4 for additional Info)



**NORDEN LODGE IS HOSTING A
LONG ISLAND DUCKS EVENT**

At 3 Court House Dr., Central Islip, NY 11722

On Sat July 18th 2026 @ 6:35 PM

For the fireworks spectacular Cost is: \$15 per person

Please contact Chuck or Kristin Gottilla with any questions or to say you will be attending.

Checks payable to and sent to: Chuck Gottilla
642 Grand Ave, Lindenhurst, NY 11757

Always a fun night filled with Baseball, Fireworks and Friends at this Rain or Shine Event!!

RSVP by June 15th

Contact: Chuck Gottilla: 516-512-9427

Kristin Gottilla: 516-521-3190



**3D Norwegian Cultural Camp Returns at
The Isle of Palms, SC
For Families and Adults Sept 16 - 20, 2026
More Information to Follow**

Sons of Norway Youth Camp



**@ KOINONIA
Highland Lake, NY**

**July 26-August 1, 2026 for ages
8 to 17**

Activities include:

- Bonfire
- Canoeing
- Rosemaling
- Language class
- Woodcarving
- Kubb, Archery
- Cultural Studies
- Hardanger

The completed application form, along with a \$100 deposit must be sent to: Katie Brink before May 26th. The check should be made payable to Sons of Norway District Lodge #3. You will receive camp materials including a health form when your application is received. Total cost: \$550 Sons of Norway Members, \$600 for Non Members.

The full balance must be received by June 26th

Send to: Katie Brink

Sons of Norway Youth Camp Coordinator
7107 Fernwood St #2421, Henrico, VA 23228

Email: Uyakm27@outlook.com Phone: 614-202-5964

NORDEN LODGE

Annual Picnic

at

**Centerport Beach
Senior Citizens Pavilion
Sunday, August 9, 2026**

11am to 5pm

(Rain or Shine)

Come join fellow S/N members, children and grandchildren for a day of great fun, lots of food and plenty of games for kids and adults. We will have a cook too, so all can have fun !!!

Cost: Members: \$10 (Qualified Members Reimbursed)

All Children (under 12 years): Free

Adult Non Members: \$10

Directions to Centerport Beach:

Going east on 25A to Centerport, turn left onto Little Neck Rd. - Continue past Vanderbilt Museum about half a mile. - Entrance is near bottom of hill on the left.

(Stop at Picnic Area gate to get day pass if you didn't get one)

Contact: Norden:

Chuck Gottilla: 516-512-9427

Kristin Gottilla: 516-521-3190

RSVP by July 15 - Checks to Chucks Gottilla

642 Grand Ave, Lindenhurst, NY 11757

**The Atlantic City Outing is "Back on" for
October 3, 2026, More Info as we get closer.**

Also see details of Ibsen Fishing Trip Pg 7



FROM THE 3RD DISTRICT



Fra 3D President, Steve Helmold, Spring/2026 - Spring is almost here and I hope the winter we had is over, and everyone can enjoy nice spring weather for a change. Lodges will be celebrating spring with St. Patrick's Day corn beef and cabbage dinners and Easter dinner celebrations.

The Third District is getting ready for the district convention in Virginia Beach, Virginia June 4th to 7th at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center. I hope your lodges will send your full delegation to the convention so they can hear and vote on resolutions and other matters that come up. Remember your delegates are your lodge's representatives to the district meeting (convention), so if you want a say in what is happening at the convention, you should be sending delegates.

Going forward after the convention is the Third District Youth Camp which is from July 26th to August 1st, so if you have children that would like to attend camp, please send in an application which can be found on the Third District Website or contact District Vice President Katie Brink.

Following Youth Camp, there is Cultural Camp September 16th to 20th. For more information, contact Third District Cultural Director Cheri Johnson.

Speaking of Cheri Johnson, as I have done in some of my past president's messages, when I highlighted some of the Third District Board members, I am introducing Cheri Johnson to everyone now. Cheri has been a member of the district board since the 2024 convention and has been the perfect person for the Cultural Director's position. Here is what she has to say about herself in her own words.

It is my pleasure to be involved in the Sons of Norway as Cultural Director of the 3rd District and President of Bla Fjell Lodge in Salem, Va. near Roanoke. When I was a teenager, in a suburb of Chicago, I wanted to be an archeologist because I loved studying cultures of people. I ended up as a Special Needs teacher for 38 years, a profession I loved very much.

During those years I was fortunate to be an exchange teacher through our United States Gov't to Russia, Sweden, Costa Rica, New Zealand, and The Netherlands. At night I taught classes at Roanoke College, UVA, and Radford University in Special Education and Global Studies. My Lutheran church needed a missionary, so I made 7 trips to Central and South America to teach children alongside a medical team. 20 years ago, I became interested in my ancestry. My Norwegian and Austrian grandparents shared their past with me, and I found myself tracing my roots to Telemark, Norway, the Heddal Church, and Vienna, Austria.

Deep down I knew I had the "Viking Spirit" to travel.

I feel very blessed because my wonderful husband, Don of 45 years, and my 3 children, Theresa, Scott, and Tiffany have supported these endeavors. I loved having my youngest daughter, Tiffany, accompany me on several exchanges and missionary trips.

I love my position as Cultural Director in SON. I work with wonderful and talented people and can share in the joy of learning about our Nordic countries. Our Bla Fjell Lodge has 2 Adopt-a-Schools, where I share lessons on the Vikings, Sami of the Northern Cap, and all the Nordic Countries. This is my 20th year at Bla Fjell Lodge, and I love sharing Cultural programs with fellow members, colleagues, and our satellite Lodge, Hardrada, in Charlottesville, Va. My Virginia friend, Katie Brink, and I have worked with the Youth Camp at Koinonia in New York and started a Cultural Camp in Isle of Palms, SC for adults and children. We are all learning from each other and enjoying our love of Norway. I love doing research on many countries, reading, and trying cultural recipes to share with my 74 Cultural Studies students at Cornerstone Classical Academy one day a week. They love it too.

Thank you, Stephen Helmold, for giving me this opportunity to share my cultural experiences with 3rd District, all my Nordic friends, and fellow lodges. Please consider coming to our Cultural Camp in Isle of Palms, SC for fellowship, fun, the beach, and the "joy" of learning with each other from talented instructors in September 2026.

Thank you, Cheri. Karen and I and the rest of the district board are very pleased to have the opportunity to work with Cheri. She has been tremendous in her position, and is always willing to step up to the plate and lend a hand to help out.

Until my next message in May, Karen and I and the rest of the district board would like to wish you all a Happy St. Patrick's Day and a very Happy Easter.

Fraternally, Stephen Helmold

Additional Info about The Whaling Museum Trip: Parking:

- Street parking (unmetered) is typically available by the museum. The Museum does not have a private parking lot.
- Guests are welcome to park in Cold Spring Harbor's free town lot, a 5 minute walk away located between 90-126 Main Street, next to the Town's Post Office.

Afterwards, we are going to walk down Main Street and see all the beautiful shops, and you can stop for a bit of lunch. Some suggestions: Sandbar, Grasso's Restaurant, Sweetie Pies on Main, The Gourmet Whaler & Cold Spring Harbor Plaza Delicatessen

You can also visit along main street:

- **Firehouse Museum**. Exhibit about the local fire department. \$2/adult
- **Picnic or Hike in Cold Spring Harbor State Park**. Picnic near the shoreline, or hike hilly terrain in a hardwood forest that offers scenic vistas of the Cold Spring Harbor. Excellent birdwatching. The park serves as the northern trailhead of the Nassau Suffolk Greenbelt Trail that extends to Bethpage State Park. Pets are permitted on leash only. Free parking. Use restrooms in the Cold Spring Harbor Library (check library for hours).

VELKOMMEN!!

Syttende Mai Parade of Brooklyn is "ON" for 2026,
And it is right on the day, May 17th! Come to Gjøa Sporting Club
850-62nd Street after the parade for the best "after-parade-party"
—Just like the old days!!

GJØA
850-62
STREET
3-7 PM

MAY 17,
2026

SMORGASBANDET

"Homecoming Day"
BROOKLYN

LODGE SAVE THE DATE 2026

- May15 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 5:30 PM (Note Date/Time Change)
- Jun28 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Aug 9 - Lodge Picnic Centerport 11 AM
- Sept27 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Oct25 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM
- Nov22 - Lodge Meeting St Peters 2 PM

Activities In and Out of Our Zone!!!

- May15 - Gather Raffle Items at the Lodge Meeting
- Jun27 - Cold Spring Harbor Museum Trip 11 AM
- Jul18 - Ducks Game w/Fireworks 6:35 PM
- Jul 26 - Aug 1 - Youth Camp- Koinonia at Higland Lake, NY
- Aug23 - Ibsen Fishing from Captree 1-5 PM
- Sept 16-20 - Cultural Camp - Isle of Palm, SC
- Oct 3 - Atlantic City Bus Trip - Leaving at 8 AM

*** BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS ***

Month's Birthdays - Gratulerer Med Dagen!

Name	Day	Name	Day
Ryan Schofield	4	Else Kinney-Patecell	31
Robert J Michta	20	Karen Schofield	31

5 Yr+ Membership Milestones For This Month, Congratulations:

- Greta Brown - 76 Years, Susan S Olson - 57 Years
- Inger Gundersen - 56 Years, Else Colasonno - 50 Years
- Thore Omholt - 43 Years, Ann Omholt - 35 Years
- Bette I Stahl - 26 Years, Michael DiPierro - 10 Years
- Dylan Solberg - 10 Years, Robert Ryan Wick - 7 Years
- Gary Abrahamsen - 5 Years, Robin Abrahamsen - 5 Years

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

The Lodge recently had to update to a new application with the CallingPost phone notification method. It did not go as smoothly as we would have liked. Many non-member calls were made requiring a total list rebuild. So, if you should experience something unusual with our calls be sure to let us know. However, it was noted during this review of our members, to ensure we had it corrected, that we had some members drop out with no apparent notification. Some maybe due to the increased to the Dues we are experiencing. If you know of anyone who falls in this category PLEASE, PLEASE, let them or us know that the Lodge is addressing just this situation! They will be missed if they leave for this as well as any other reason!

Meeting Attendance - in order 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. Corporation at Ciminelli's 4-26-26> Roy & Barbara Berntsen, Chuck & Kristin Gottilla, Les Johannessen. Frank Odin, Steve & Karen Helmold, Susan Olson, Mary Booton, Tim Baxley, Inger Nielsen, Jim & Heidi Varady, Roy Berntsen Jr.,

Bob & Ethel McKeever, Linda Petersen, Leif Easterson, Clif & Nina Hotvedt, Norma Ohsberg, Janet Hannigan, Craig & Christine Carlsen (Z) 25 in attendance - 50/50 \$43 won by Leif E.

The Lodge's Official Annual List of Attendance at our Meetings is Available upon request. Just ask your Editor or any of the Lodge's Officers.

2025 Norden Star Boosters Updated 3/24/26

Berntsen, Barbara & Roy 5/26	Holvedt, Clif & Nina 11/28
Berntsen, Margret 5/26	Meusel, Helen 6/27
Berntsen, Roy Jr 5/26	Obsberg, Norma 11/26
Brown, Greta & George 6/28	Rucci, Nancy 7/28
Carlson, Craig & Christine 11/30	Sandberg, Mildred 6/26
Erland, Shirly 9/27	Seals, Nancy 5/27
Hansen, Elsa 6/25	Stuckman, Barbara 12/25
Helmold, Steve & Karen 3/25	Tremel, Fred & Jean 9/26

IN MEMORY OF

COMMEMORATORS

Berntsen, Knut 5/26	Barbara & Roy Berntsen
Berntsen, Margaret 10/26	Barbara & Roy Berntsen
Gladys J Ecock 10/26	Barbara & Roy Berntsen
Erland, Endre & Sigrid 9/27	Daughter Shirley Erland
Frey, Judith 2/30	Daughter Norma Frey
Maier, Betsy Jane Sersted 3/26	Daughter Janet Maies Hannigan
Johansen, Lars, Sigrid & Art 10/30	Family
Jacobsen, Edward 4/29	Brother John & Wife Carol
Larssen, Tryggve & Signe 3/23	Daughter Greta & George Brown
Obsberg, Artie 11/26	Wife Norma
Hector Rucci 10/28	Wife Nancy
Stuckman, Erik 12/25	Mother Barbara

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. Cash is fine.

WE THANK ALL OUR BOOSTERS HELPING TO GET THE NEWSLETTER OUT

**Barbara is out of 17th of May Pins, there maybe some nail clippers available now!
We thank all of you for supporting the 17th of May Celebrations !!!**

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

IN NORWAY, MOTHER'S DAY WAS CELEBRATED ON FEBRUARY 8TH THIS YEAR. ALWAYS ON THE SECOND SUNDAY IN FEBRUARY. IT IS A DAY FOR SHOWING APPRECIATION TOWARDS MOTHERS AND MOTHER FIGURES. WE HERE IN THE USA CELEBRATE ON MAY 10, THE SECOND SUNDAY IN MAY. IT IS CELEBRATED AROUND THE WORLD, MANY ON DIFFERENT DATES BUT IT HAS THE SAME MEANING. THAT IS SO NICE TO HAVE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN OUR LIVES SO HONORED AND REMEMBERED!

Some Cultural Items for the Month

Cultural Corner: *The New Breeches:* On a farm - it

was somewhere in Jarlsberg, as far as I know - they had a Nisse who was kind and helpful. But he could get angry too, and then he was not easy to get along with. When he was angry, he would do things like putting new-born calves down in the bucket and pouring out the milk for the dairymaid and many other tricks. So, both the farmer and the dairymaid thought it best to satisfy the Nisse in everything within reason, and they certainly did not regret it either. The dairymaid took care to put out really fine cream porridge in the barn every holiday, and on Christmas Eve she put an extra big lump of butter in it so the porridge would be rich and good.

It was easy to see that the Nisse appreciated all the good things he got, for nowhere did the cows thrive so well as on that farm. Not to mention the horses! For the Nisse had bestowed most of his love on them. When the farmer came home, he did not even have to put the horses in. He just unharnessed them and the Nisse took care of the rest, put them in the stable, rubbed them down with a handful of straw, took down hay to them, and gave them water. The farmer knew this, and so he let the Nisse take care of the horses the way he liked. And, as he was so well satisfied with the Nisse in every way, he put a fine pair of white leather breeches out for him one day.

One day the man and the boy were out driving. When they got back it was raining as though the heavens had opened, so they left the horses standing outside and hurried in the house. They thought the Nisse would put them in the way he usually did. But the one who didn't come, that was Nisse. They had gone over to the window to see how the horses were getting along, and there stood the Nisse, quite content, in the door of the stable, with his hands deep in the pockets of his new leather breeches.

The farmer was annoyed, so he went to the door and shouted, "My good Nisse, what does this mean? Don't you see the horses today?"

The Nisse slapped his thighs with both hands and laughed so hard he almost fell over. Then he straightened up, stuck out one leg, thrust his hands down in his pockets again, and said, "Well, you certainly don't expect me to go out in this weather with my new white leather breeches on, do you?"

So I guess the moral of the story is not to give your Nisse something so nice he stops working. This was a tale I found on an app called *Norwegian Folktales*. There have many of their tales available and I like to add one to our culture articles every so often. I hope you enjoy. . .

Barbara

History Article: *Weird Things about Norway -*

part 3: Continuing with Tim and Teresa Ward who have been traveling for years, and they are now on the road in Norway for two whole months. They drove from bottom to top, east to west.

<https://medium.com/mature-fl%C3%A2neur/ten-weird-things-about-norway-7bdb11d65607> Remember to see the full article all at once, check out their web site. This is from Tim Ward's point of view.

8. Spectacular scenery abounds, but don't expect a room with a view. - One of the strangest things we

encountered time and again were hotels, homes, and cottages located in the midst of vast grandeur, but situated so poorly you couldn't see the view. This is especially so in the rugged, mountainous Lofoten Islands, where there are hundreds of waterside cabins — most of them are facing onto a harbour with no view at all. Renters are more likely to be looking out on a lumber yard or fuel depot than the ocean. - The reverse is also true: Industrial zones are often right by the waterfront, and highway depots stacked with supplies and rubbish are located in front of spectacular mountain vistas. Maybe Norwegians are so used to being surrounded by natural beauty they don't think about the "view" the way a visitor does? - Spectacular viewpoint! Let's put the road-repair



depot here! *Advice:* When booking a hotel or air B&B, be sure to find a photo of the view from the window.

9. Everyone speaks English.

Here's a fun statistic: a greater percentage of Norwegians speak English (89%) than Canadians (86%). Not only is English taught in school, but Norwegians are mostly fluent. Sure, watching American TV shows and movies helps, but so does the fact that Norwegian and English are both Germanic languages with sentence structures that have a similar word order. As a result, visitors can get by with English pretty much everywhere, which makes traveling very easy for unilingual North Americans.

Norwegians say they learn English because it is an international language, and they consider themselves international people. In our experience, they really enjoy talking with native English speakers. When they find you are from another country, they will ask with genuine curiosity, "Where are you from?" Whatever you say, odds are they have traveled to your city too, especially in the USA. Sadly, Norwegian is not so easy for English speakers to master. We ran into a plucky English bartender in Bergen who said that even after 4 years of living in Norway, he found it very hard to learn Norwegian, mainly because of the language's tonal inflections. He knew a lot of words but found it impossible to grasp what his Norwegian friends were saying — so they usually switched over to English when he was around.

On the other hand, I discovered basic written Norwegian was not too hard for me to understand, because many words are almost the same as English. I can read most signs and menus: "Bread" is *brød*; "coffee" is *kaffe*; "fish" is *fisike*. But "don't speed" is written on road signs as *dint fart*. Oh well.

10. Norwegians don't treat you like a tourist.

Teresa and I have travelled all over the world in the past 30 years. After a while, being treated like a tourist gets tiresome. People are usually professionally polite, but you get the feeling you are just one face in a long line of customers. Worse, sometimes you are treated like sheep, just part of the flock waiting to be shorn. I haven't felt this way once in the past two months in Norway. Norwegians don't see you as a tourist. They see you as a person. Even the people in the tourism business — servers, hotel staff, tour guides, bartenders — talk with you as if it's *you* they are speaking to, not a customer.

The one situation where there is tension with tourists in Norway is with [cruise ships](#). These ships dump a few thousand tourists off in tiny little fjord towns day after day through the summer months. It's overwhelming. The ships not only pollute the fragile fjord waters, but they are also sometimes registered in offshore havens, avoiding taxes and environmental regulations — so claims a flier from #cruisenotwelcome I found posted in central Oslo (below)

Left: a poster in Oslo; Right, ships like this one in Geirangerfjord daily disgorge more tourists than these tiny towns have residents.



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

Remembering
Memorial
Day





Archaeologists Found a Ship Buried in Norway. It's Older than the Vikings.- APR 24, 2026 Popular

Mechanics - Monumental ship burials had a wider and deeper past than we thought. - The [Vikings](#) weren't the first to get into the business of monumental ship burial mounds in Norway. It turns out that burying ships under piles of Earth was happening at least 100 years before the Vikings made it famous and in more widespread areas than archaeologists realized.

According to a new study [published](#) in the journal *Antiquity*, a team of scholars reexamined the Herlaugshaugen mound on the Norwegian island of Leka using [metal detectors](#) and radiocarbon dating. They pulled up 29 iron rivets and dated charcoal and wood remains—some still attached to the iron nails—of what was once a mighty ship to 700 C.E. (same as A.D.), roughly 100 years before Vikings took control of the area.

The new dating of a mound containing a powerful seafaring vessel that spanned 65 feet not only proves the existence of [Norwegian](#) maritime expertise prior to the Vikings' arrival, but also rewrites the legend associated with Herlaugshaugen and fills in gaps in ship-burial lore.

- The earliest known ship burials in Europe are those in [Sutton Hoo](#) in East Anglia, England, which have been dated to between 600 and 625 C.E., and Swedish burials ranging from the sixth to the eighth centuries. Norway's oldest previously-known burials were dated to the late eighth century. Now, the [clinker](#) nails, charcoal remains, and elm or oak wood of the Herlaugshaugen ship burial have been dated to roughly 700 C.E., filling a historical gap between early ship burials in England and Sweden and the later burials discovered in Norway. - As the authors put it, the new research "provides a chronological bridge between the early seventh-century ship burials of [Anglo-Saxon](#) England and Norway's famous late-eighth and ninth-century ship burials."

- The new findings also put into question a long-held myth about Herlaugshaugen according to which the pre-Viking King Herlaug sequestered himself into the mound and died inside of it, with his [remains](#) allegedly exhumed in the 18th century. The new dating of the ship puts its burial roughly 80 years before the death of the king, making the premise of the myth implausible. - What the new research does establish is the Leka site is not only one of the oldest ship burials in Norway, but also a [pivotal location](#) in a larger trade network. Leka likely offered a seafaring link connecting northern and southern Scandinavia and serving as a hub for trade across the North Sea to Britain and elsewhere in Europe.

- "This article situates Herlaugshaugen and the island of Leka as a node in a regional network that also connected the coast of Trondelag with a larger network reaching the continent," the authors wrote. "The new discoveries at Herlaugshaugen raise questions concerning the sociopolitical context of [ship](#) burials. The mound stands out for its early date and for its location, far north of most well-known ship graves."

There's an economic element too. Norwegian farmers weren't getting rich—that was left to traders. To build a mound of almost 200 feet in diameter and over 40 feet high (not to mention then burying a ship inside) required plenty of expensive labor and social cachet. The wealth associated with [Viking](#) trade must have been present, thanks to maritime ingenuity, well ahead of previous estimates, given the size and contents of the mound.

"New excavation at Herlaugshaugen reveals that the phenomenon of monumental ship graves was not restricted to southern Scandinavia, the northern Norwegian coast was also integrated into networks established in the seventh and eighth centuries," the authors wrote. "The monumental ship mound at Leka represents another piece of the puzzle for understanding the social development of [northern Europe](#) in the seventh to 10th centuries."

Norwegian Embassy is Advancing U.S.-Norway Space Cooperation

The Embassy proudly hosted the U.S.–Norway Space Operations Coordination Meeting, convened by Andøya Space. The gathering brought together senior government officials, the U.S. Space Force, Rocket Lab, and the Norwegian Ministry of Defence to discuss the future of allied space access. Key discussions focused on aligning mission requirements, advancing launch operations from Andøya (an island in Northern Sami area of Norway along the coast) and strengthening resilient, secure launch pathways. The Embassy is honored to support this vital collaboration, underscoring a shared transatlantic commitment to assured launch capabilities, interoperability, and allied space security.

The Norwegian Legacy of K9s in it's Armed Forces

While human military units drill with rigid precision, the K9 units often train with barking, zoomies, and tactical tail chases. Yet, behind this playful exterior lies a proud, heroic tradition. The legacy traces back to the 1940 German invasion when an iconic St. Bernard named Bamse was officially enlisted in the Royal Norwegian Navy, famously saving a young lieutenant from drowning. Decades later, Bamse's legacy lives on. Today's Norwegian military K9 units are elite specialists, highly trained for extreme Arctic deployments and critical search-and-rescue missions in the harshest winter conditions. A unique cold weather experience.

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Happy Mother's Day

Join us at our next meeting on Friday **May 15th at 5:30PM** "MAY" provides two special days for all of us. The Norwegian in us celebrate Norwegian Independence Day (17th of May), then we remember all the troops that allowed us to enjoy our blessing on Memorial Day. Both events have parades to express ourselves and at the end we realize Summer is really close. Come on out and celebrate it all with us, and bring a friend!



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