



# SMÅ SNAKK SONS OF NORWAY

Volume 39 Issue 5

June-July-August 2013

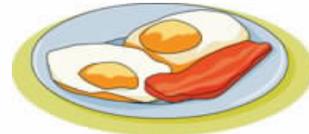
## ANNUAL NEW MEMBER BRUNCH AND WELCOME CEREMONY

Saturday, June 8 10 a.m. - 12 noon

Lørdag, Juni åtte Ti - Tolv

Fellowship Hall, SOTW

The coffee will be hot and robust, the food abundant, and the fellowship and camaraderie outstanding as we once again welcome the newest members to SON and our Gateway to Florida Lodge at our long-standing traditional New Member Brunch and Welcome Ceremony. *You are cordially invited to be officially "welcomed" if you have joined since fall, 2012.* All lodge members are invited and encouraged to bring a prospective member. The best news of all!!! This brunch is FREE!



But bring dollars for the raffle and also bring your cancelled stamps and your scissors for a Tubfrim stamp cutting party led by our Tubfrim coordinator Beverly Teigland. These cancelled stamps will be sent to Norway for Tubfrim.



The breakfast is hosted by Karen Ansell, our own financial benefits counselor, so everyone can learn more about the SON core areas of fraternal, financial and the foundation. SON offers a very competitive portfolio of insurance and annuities. Many members and "wannabes" are familiar with only the cultural and heritage side of SON membership, so this is a great opportunity to consider various fraternal benefits possibilities for ourselves, our children and grandchildren. We all know that Scandinavians can be "close with the dollar," but Karen has plans available in assorted price ranges.

We will also have a short business meeting and all are welcome to attend the one-hour convention planning meeting that follows the brunch/welcome ceremony.



Varied chefs will cook up a storm of wonderful brunch items that include baked egg dishes, quiche, fruit, yogurt, assorted muffins, Danish, juices and more. So come hungry, but please **RSVP to Kent Larson at 260-4064 by Wednesday, June 6.**

Shepherd of the Woods Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 7860 Southside Blvd. On the parallel service Road between JT Butler Blvd. and Old Baymeadows Road. Parking and Fellowship Hall entrance is in the back, behind the church.

## JUNE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE JUNI BESKJED FRA PRESIDENTEN



Greetings fellow members and friends - what a fun day we had at the Hopkins Camp on the Intracoastal Waterway to celebrate Syttende Mai and have our annual picnic and shrimp fest! Weather wise, it was a Chamber of Commerce Day. Thanks to our host and hostess Pete and Evelyn Hopkins, another round of thanks to Eugene Yerkes and Eric Nord for bringing the boats, a big round of thanks to our chefs extraordinaire John and Diane and continuing thanks to our members and friends who joined us. We were pleased to welcome Barry Sondern, general manager of the Omni Hotel where the convention will be held. We were especially pleased to see our golden members Myrtle Nessel (age 99) and Flora Eriksen (age 96), our former call girls who for many years outreached to our members monthly for their reservations.

Before we break for our summer hiatus with no meetings in July and August, I hope that everyone can attend the annual New Member Brunch and Welcome Ceremony Saturday, June 8 at SOTW. Please see meeting information on the front page. This is always a very popular event, probably because its free. New members, longer-standing members, wannabes and friends are all welcome.

Keep in mind that even though our lodge meetings are dark in July and August, our convention planning will be heating up with meetings and other information gathering over the summer. We are 14 months away from the biggest event our lodge has ever facilitated and we have lots to do. As you schedule your time at the New Member Brunch please plan to stay the additional hour following for a convention planning meeting. New members are especially invited to learn more and become involved.

As you know, the school at Shepherd of the Woods is our lodge's Adopt a School. We applied for a Helping Hands grant from the SON Foundation and have received \$250 to support this project. We are a major sponsor for the annual School Auction each March and provide assistance for other initiatives.

Our efforts continue in supporting the start up of the Ocala Lodge, which Gateway will sponsor. A second meeting was held May 11 which Karen Ansell, financial benefits counselor, and Marci Larson, 3D International Director and Lodge Counselor, attended along with Gail and Ron Martinsen representing District 3. They have about 20 members but need 40 to be instituted. Work to build interest and hopefully add members will

continue over the summer and activities will resume in September.

As you enjoy your summer, please think of friends, neighbors and colleagues who might be interested in learning more about Sons of Norway. While we have a healthy membership we must continue to talk to anyone interested in the culture, heritage or the financial benefits that SON offers to people of all ages. We don't want our local lodge or Sons of Norway to be a well-kept secret.

Thanks to everyone for making our lodge successful and for your engagement in the international convention planning. All hands are needed, no matter what size, shape or age. There's a job for everyone. Enjoy your summer and see you June 8.

Kent Larson  
Lodge President

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### TUBFRIM

About 80 years ago, the local postmaster in the small village of Nesbyen, Norway, Ditlef Frantzen came up with the plan of collecting and selling canceled stamps to raise funds for the Association for Children threatened by Tuberculosis. Today the funds are also used for handicapped children. Initially, this was a modest project. Today Tubfrim employs over 40 people and processes annually millions of stamps coming in from all over the world. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been made and distributed as a result of the global assistance.

Tubfrim sells the stamps to collectors all over the world. All kinds of postage stamps are accepted, but the large commemorative stamps issued are the most valuable. Our chairperson for Tubfrim is Beverly Teigland.

**Ha en god sommer!**

**Have a good summer!  
June 21 - First Day of Summer**

**June 16 Happy Father's Day!**



**Sons of Norway**  
**Third District**  
**President**  
**Gail Ekloff**

June; 1 year as President! It has been a busy term! In addition to performing the usual District Presidents duties of visitations, installations,

attending special events, board meetings, both District and International and starting a new lodge, District Three has been faced with some unusual items of business that have taken much time to resolve. In fact some are still in process at the time of this writing.

I attended the second international board meeting of the District President's Council (DPC). I enjoyed the camaraderie and the support from my fellow District Presidents. The time went quickly and was packed with information. As discussed in my fall message after the 1st board meeting the DPC was given the job of putting together the report on the name change of Sons of Norway as requested at the International meeting last August. It was requested that the International President by resolution for the purpose of studying all positive factors including but not exclusive, of reviewing a name change, which will affect membership growth as well as financial and fraternal viability of Sons of Norway. This committee will draw conclusions, then present a written report to the International lodge at the next convention (Aug. 2014).

Each District president took a topic to research, and after many hours of time and effort we composed the 1st layer of our assignment. In rebranding ourselves, the purpose would be to reflect what our core purpose is in the name. Since we are a Fraternal Insurance Company, our name should somehow reflect this. It was also noted that a majority of our members join and stay for the fraternal and cultural part of the organization.

As we go to the 2nd level of our assignment we will try to see if it is possible to address both issues in the new name. By our next meeting, we will see what this entails and how it will affect current members or prospective members negatively or positively. It is our hope that the end result is a full and decisive report putting an end to the issue of a Sons of Norway name change.

Another important topic was the issue of governance. This topic was started at the past convention and has been discussed at the last board meeting and again this spring. The International board and the DPC attended a very informative seminar held by Jackie Gardner, a CEO of a fraternal insurance organization and previously an Insurance regulator. During this presentation we were able to have a question and answer period. Jackie helped clarify some of the issues we felt were a bit of a grey area and really gave us an opportunity to explore all the ways Son of Norway can comply with governance of its Insurance sector. More information will be forth-coming from the International board.

Stepping up and in the right direction, Sons of Norway has hired a strategic management planner, Beth Michael, who is guiding and helping Sons of Norway to set its goals for the next 3-10 years. There was a 2 day workshop attended by the International Board members, their input was evaluated by

Beth, and a draft plan was put in place. The presentation was given to the District President's counsel and we were asked to give our thoughts on issues that we see as important to our members and SoN. Although most of us think only of the fraternal side of Sons of Norway we must not forget the Insurance side of our organization for it helps us enjoy the fraternalism we have within our lodges.

Our ability to reach out to our communities is KEY to SoN success and prosperity. Knowledge of our financial products will help secure Sons of Norway members financial future and continue to provide lodges with monies for their operation. The Foundation is another way SoN engages in the overseeing of the scholarships and humanitarian efforts to help members. Funds for education or monies when a family faces losses due to mother nature's wrath (like Hurricane Sandy) is both a proud and humbling way Sons of Norway helps our fellow members.

One of the first items brought to our attention was the lack of marketing SoN. Beginning with our local lodge's deeds to the community to our competitive and stable financial products, plus the future endeavors established by the Sons of Norway foundation. All this will be brought forth in a concrete plan presented and decided upon at the Nov. 2013 International board meeting.

A thorough discussion was held by the DPC on the leaders --present and future leaders of Sons of Norway, from the local lodges, to the District... to the International level. Fraternal organizations such as ours that have a business base, need to convey the information on how the organization works and what guidelines must be followed by all officers so our organization is in compliance with both Insurance and IRS regulations. This Fall we will set into motion the resources needed for this, including seminars for those who wish to take on leadership roles.

Another point to mention was the need to reconsider the dues structure for the local lodges. According to the home office, each lodge in every district has its own dues amounts. WE are hoping to come up with a simpler system ...any ideas? I was thinking those lodges with property would have one dues level and those without property would be one flat rate (\$50.00 a year?). If you have an idea please contact me and I will bring it to Minneapolis for discussion and decision.

Hope everyone enjoys the summer break. Have a Happy Father's day, a great Sant Hans and a joyous 4th of July!

Mange Takk - Alt for denne gangen

Gail



May 18 Shrimp Festival at the Pierce's home in Fernandina Beach: Philip Pouey, Betty Rae and Philip Pierce, Lynn Polley, Eugene Yerkes. The Pierce's entertained neighbors and SON members in their new home before leaving to summer in Cape Cod.



Golden Members Myrtle Nessel, Flora Ericksen, Kent Larson, and Flo (Deane Kirvan's mother) at the Hopkin's Shrimp Fest.

## SUNSHINE NEWS

This month I'll share some personal good news: on May 18th our 24 year old granddaughter, Anabel, who lives in Seattle, Washington, graduated from law school at the University of Washington. She will study for the Bar this summer as well as work at the zoo and then sit for the Bar in September.

She did herself proud, did our Anabel, because in addition to the usual difficulties of going to law school, Anabel has the extra obstacle of being an "Aspy." She has the Asperger Syndrome on the Autism Spectrum. Aspies are super intelligent and super inadequate, socially. Somehow, their brains do not send the signals that gives the clues about social behavior, all we "non-Aspies" learn from birth. Aspies have to be taught social behavior and be on constant guard how to act and react among other people. Anabel is comfortable with animals and in nature. She is an excellent writer. She intends to work in the area of environmental law.

So take heart, all you parents and grandparents out there with your own Aspies - there is increasing understanding of Aspy differences and they are no longer doomed to quiet and confusing social isolation they used to have to deal with.

Anabel's brother, our 25 year old grandson, William, is also an Aspy. He is having a very difficult time reaching realistic levels of his abilities and acceptance of his differences. Though also super intelligent, he made a disasterous mess of his freshman year in college and dropped out. He went into a deep depression but did work a bit within areas that caught his interest but which quickly dwindled. Since babyhood, he has taken things apart to see how they worked. That's still his abiding interest and he has added the interest of problem solving like putting things back together. He is now attending a one year college course in Heating-Ventilation-Air Conditioning. That seems to be a field that requires taking things apart and problem solving and putting things back together and that can also provide a good financial living. Perhaps our William has finally found a steadier foothold on his path through life.

Enjoy our lodge hiatus and have a great summer.

Sunshine Greetings from Jay Vogeley



Read news from District 3 at  
<http://www.3dsofn.org/>



**LODGE KALENDER**

Subject to Change

June 8 New Member Brunch and Welcome, SOTW  
from 10 a.m. - noon

**July and August:** NO board or lodge meetings;  
convention planning meetings may be scheduled as  
needed.

**LEARN NORWEGIAN**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Norwegian word:      | glemme  |
| English translation: | forget  |
| Part of speech:      | verb  |
| Norwegian example:   | Jeg glemte passordet mitt og<br>kan ikke logge inn. |
| English example:     | I forgot my password and<br>cannot log in.          |
| Norwegian word:      | lykkes  |
| English translation: | succeed   |
| Part of speech:      | verb  |
| Norwegian example:   | De lyktes i deres andre forsøk.                     |
| English example:     | They succeeded in their second<br>attempt.          |
| Norwegian word:      | eie   |
| English translation: | own   |
| Part of speech:      | verb  |
| Norwegian example:   | Vi eide en stor formue.                             |
| English example:     | We owned a large fortune.                           |
| Norwegian word:      | nyse  |
| English translation: | to sneeze   |
| Part of speech:      | verb  |
| Norwegian example:   | Det er umulig å nyse uten å<br>blunke.              |
| English example:     | It's impossible to sneeze without<br>blinking.      |
| Norwegian word:      | gammel  |
| English translation: | old   |
| Part of speech:      | adjective   |
| Norwegian example:   | Han er en gammel norsk venn av<br>meg.              |
| English example:     | He is an old Norwegian friend<br>of mine.           |
| Norwegian word:      | raspeball   |
| English translation: | potato dumpling                                     |
| Part of speech:      | noun  |
| Norwegian example:   | Raspeball er en tradisjonell norsk<br>matrett.      |
| English example:     | Potato dumpling is a traditional<br>Norwegian dish. |

*From Transparant Language*

**SMÅ SNAKK BOOSTER CLUB MEMBERS**

Your donation is a voluntary act. At the Board Meeting on 3/5/2012, the Board made the following resolution: Små Snakk booster fee be increased from \$15 to \$20 effective 6/1/2012.

This donation helps pay for publication and distribution of the Små Snakk newsletter. Make your check payable to Sons of Norway and mail to Gail Yerkes, Editor. Tusen takk for your support.

| BOOSTER NAME            | DATE EXPIRES |        |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------|
|                         | Month        | Year   |
| Adolph & Jane Baste     | 11           | 2013   |
| Johanna Davidson        | 10           | 2013   |
| Lorraine Drummond       | 09           | 2013   |
| Roy & Martha Hauge      | 06           | 2013   |
| Jan Hilyard             | 11           | 2013   |
| Carol Scott             | 10           | 2013   |
| Bjorge & Jenny Spilling | 05           | 2013 * |
| Rita Tweed              | 09           | 2013   |
| Bill & Jay Vogeley      | 02           | 2014   |

May we add your name here?

A \* next to your name means it's time to renew.

**VELKOMMEN NYE MEDLEMMERS  
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Kent Smedley**, 2459 Brownwood Road, Jacksonville, FL, 32207. Phone: 904-993-8728.  
E-mail: admin@KentSmedley.com



Unge Venner Catagory:  
**Kaitlin Smedley**, 2459 Brownwood  
Road, Jacksonville, FL,  
32207. Phone: 904-993-8728.  
E-mail: admin@Kent Smedley.com

**Chloe Rynell Coleman**, 953 Duskin Drive, Jacksonville, FL, 32216. Phone: 404-831-8081.  
E-mail: Chloe.Coleman17@gmail.com

**Deanne Ruth Simpson**, 6611 Spring Flower Court,  
Jacksonville, FL, 32258. Phone: 904-210-0092.

**THE MISSION OF SONS OF NORWAY**

- is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway
- to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries
- and to provide quality insurance and financial products to its members



SYTTENDE MAI SHRIMP FEST AT HOPKINS CABIN



Photos by Anna-Rita Perkins, Eugene Yerkes and Franklin Morrison III

## BIRTHDAYS GRATULERER MED DAGEN

### June

|    |                     |
|----|---------------------|
| 2  | Alexander Waller    |
| 2  | Arlene Larson       |
| 8  | Kent Larson         |
| 10 | Gertrude Ann Calvin |
| 10 | Martin Iverson      |
| 11 | Flora Ericksen      |
| 14 | Carrie Lindblad     |
| 14 | Eugene Skinner      |
| 19 | Joshua Ryan Rivera  |
| 19 | Laura Phelps        |
| 26 | Mary Kay Hill       |
| 26 | Sean Rivera         |
| 28 | Dave Johnson        |
| 28 | Jay Vogeley         |



### July

|    |                     |
|----|---------------------|
| 3  | Jordan Williams     |
| 5  | Deanne Ruth Simpson |
| 8  | Kirsti Stewart      |
| 10 | David Fluker        |
| 12 | Sarah Stacks        |
| 12 | Carly Ann Rivera    |
| 13 | Margaret Winslow    |
| 16 | Sally Stanton       |
| 17 | Connor Chepenik     |
| 20 | Peter Sharp Sack    |
| 27 | Mariah Morrison     |
| 29 | Quentin Stevensen   |
| 29 | Sharon White        |
| 31 | Sam Genet           |



### August

|    |                       |
|----|-----------------------|
| 1  | Paul Mohrman          |
| 2  | Gracie Walker         |
| 5  | Jack Wilson           |
| 6  | Eric Nord             |
| 7  | Anna Hastings         |
| 7  | Beverly Teigland      |
| 8  | Clinton Sage          |
| 11 | Mora Berry            |
| 11 | Isaiah Nields         |
| 12 | Roger Winslow         |
| 13 | Inez Tweed            |
| 13 | Kaitlin Smedley       |
| 15 | Mary Ellen Kristensen |
| 16 | David Davalt          |
| 17 | Jim Lehman            |
| 18 | Judie Knudtson        |
| 18 | Bill Vogeley          |
| 24 | Erling Larson         |
| 24 | Charles White         |
| 25 | Richard Lee Ruth, Jr. |
| 27 | Arne Ingebrightsen    |
| 27 | Philip Pouey          |
| 29 | Christopher Griffiths |
| 29 | John Rasmussen        |
| 30 | Donald Pederson       |
| 31 | Hanne Funk            |
| 31 | Verna Lauritsen       |



## 2013 LODGE OFFICERS

|                               |                                  |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| President                     | Kent Larson                      | 260-4064             |
| Vice Presidents               | Pete & Evelyn Hopkins            | 733-4268             |
| Counselor                     | Marci Larson                     | 260-4064             |
| Secretary                     | Rita Tweed                       | 305-7245             |
| Treasurer                     | Franklin Morrison III            | 303-6344             |
| Membership Secretary          | Ida Iverson                      | 726-0626             |
| Social Director               | Rotating                         |                      |
| Cultural Director             | Maureen Williams                 | 246-9660             |
| Sports Director               | Rich Brew                        | 443-6331             |
| Youth Director                | Charlotte Fluker                 | 396-8006             |
| Marshal                       | Stewart Svendsen                 | 565-9001             |
| Adopt A School Coordinator    | Charlotte Fluker                 | 396-8006             |
| Greeter                       | Beverly Teigland                 | 641-7796             |
| Trustee 1                     | David Fluker                     | 396-8006             |
| Trustee 2                     | Stewart Svendsen                 | 565-9001             |
| Trustee 3                     | Marty Iverson                    | 726-0626             |
| Historian                     | Sharon White                     | 718-7518             |
| Publicity/Communications Dir. | Marci Larson                     | 260-4064             |
| Editor                        | Gail Yerkes                      | 268-9924             |
| Webmasters                    | Charlotte Fluker/<br>Jim Johnson | 396-8006<br>226-3987 |
| Tubfrim                       | Beverly Teigland                 | 641-7796             |
| Librarian                     | Carol Scott                      | 386-447-1672         |
| Sunshine                      | Jay Vogeley                      | 731-3597             |
| Musician                      | Tony Cruz                        | 221-0460             |
| Insurance Representative      | Karen Ansell                     | 242-8893             |

## FLAG DAYS IN NORWAY



|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| June 7    | Norway - Sweden Union dissolved in 1905.<br>Unionsoppløsningen |
| July 4    | HM Queen Sonja's Birthday                                      |
| July 20   | HRH Crown Prince Haakon's Birthday                             |
| July 29   | Olsok (Day of Saint Olaf, king and<br>patron saint of Norway)  |
| August 19 | HRH Crown Princess Mette-Marit's Birthday                      |

## IT'S A CONTEST

### International Convention Theme

Calling all members and friends to exercise their creative thinking as we welcome suggestions for a 2014 International Convention theme. We are a city of bridges so want to incorporate the word bridge(s) into the theme. All ideas are welcome and should be sent to Convention Co-Chair Marci Larson (mlarson@northfloridatpo.com) by April 15. We will work with a graphic designer to refine the look. The creator of the winning theme, as selected by the Convention Planning Committee, will receive a years SON membership.



Marci A. Larson

### GATEWAY TO FLORIDA LODGE HONORS:

District 3 Lodge of the Year 2003, 2007, 2009, 2010. Membership Lodge of the Year 2007-2008, Founders Award for Membership Achievement 2007, 2008-09, 2010-11. President's Gold Merit Award for Fraternal Excellence 2007, 2008-09, 2010-11, President's Special Recognition Gold 2010 and 2011; World of Nations First Place/Best Country 2006, Grand Overall Winner Jacksonville Boat Light Parade 2008, First Place Palm Valley Boat Light Parade 2008, 2010, Organized Club Winner Jacksonville Light Parade 2009, 2010, First Place Whitey's Fish Camp Boat Light Parade 2010, Grand Prize Best Overall St Augustine Holiday Regatta of Lights 2009. Winner of Fall Blitz Recruitment Contest in Large Lodge Category 2009. Third District Golden Newsletter Award for Medium Size Lodge Division in 2009. Newsletter Honorable Mention 2011.

Lodge Web site: <http://www.sonjax.com>. Third District Web site:<http://www.3DSofN.org>.  
Sons of Norway Web site: [www.sonsofnorway.com](http://www.sonsofnorway.com)  
<http://twitter.com/SonsofNorwayJax>, <http://goo.gl/cKc21>

### MIDSUMMER

The seasons are changing and summer is upon us yet again, which means midsummer is right around the corner.

The height of summer, June 24, marks the longest, brightest day of the year in Norway, the Land of the Midnight Sun. Also known as the Summer Solstice, the axial tilt of the earth rotates around the sun and being exposed to the most consistent sunlight. The sun sets and rises in full view for those in the Northern Hemisphere and after long dark winters, this time is a joyous celebration of a much-awaited summer.

This sunny day is celebrated under different names throughout the Northern Hemisphere with festivals, gatherings, and rituals dating back to Pagan times. It is said that John the Baptist was born on June 24, giving special meaning to this day for Christians around the world. When Christian traditions began mixing with Pagan customs, the day evolved from one celebration to another. Many cultures believe in superstitious rituals; for example, getting married on this day ensures good luck and a happy life for the couple.

Norway celebrates Sankthansaften, or St. John's Eve, each June 23, the eve before the longest day of the year. It is also called Jonsok which translates to John's wake, referring to St. John the Baptist's birth. Rituals carry on each year as little girls pick flowers and put them under their pillows at night with hopes of dreaming of their future husband. Many traditions continue to provide amusing stories and activities for children and the various origins of this day will endure, but the celebrations have and will continue to evolve over the years.

In Norway, festivities typically occur on June 23 and largely give thanks to the bright warm sun and the beautiful sweet smelling flowers in full bloom. Family and friends grill sausages and light bonfires bigger than on any other day of the year. Most bonfires are lit along Norway's coast and are assumed to protect Norwegians from evil spirits and

trolls lurking in the forests. Rømmegrøt is a favorite meal on this day steeped with melted butter, sugar and cinnamon. Once the bonfires die down and the sun begins to set people understand that the cycle must continue. This means the coming days slowly get shorter and shorter until the days grow completely dark. Norwegians live with these polar opposite seasons every year and, therefore, they take full advantage of every summer and enjoy the extended company of the sun on Sankthansaften.

How do you celebrate the summer solstice? Plan an event with your lodge and enjoy the sunny weather, then tell us about it by emailing [membership@sofn.com](mailto:membership@sofn.com)



## CULTURAL CORNER: GOING ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN IN A ROW BOAT?

Frank Samuelson and George Harbo

What would you attempt to accomplish to win \$10,000? Even in these times it is a lot of money to win, but back in the 1860's it was a fortune. Well these two brave Norwegians would row across the Atlantic Ocean to claim their prize. Frank Samuelson (1870-1946) and George Harbo (1864-1909) were Norwegian-born Americans who in 1896, became the first men ever to row across the Atlantic Ocean.

A publisher of *National Police Gazette* and the *Police Gazette*, Richard Kyle Fox, thought of a scheme. Fox offered a prize of \$10,000 to the first men to row across the Atlantic. So using their life savings, Frank and George built an 18-foot ship-lap (clinker-built) oak rowboat with water-resistant cedar sheathing with a couple of watertight flotation compartments and two rowing benches. They added rails fitted across the row-boat to help them right it if capsized, a feature that saved their lives in mid-ocean. The boat was named "Fox" in honor of the editor. With a compass, a sextant, a copy of the *Nautical Almanac*, some American flags, oilskins and three sets of oars. Samuelson & Harbo lashed safely in place, they set sail. They left from The Battery in New York City June 6, 1896, and arrived 55 days later in the Isles of Scilly off the southwestern tip of the Cornish peninsula of Great Britain. Frank and George took the challenge to row across the Atlantic Ocean.

George Harbo: was from Sandefjord in Vestfold, Norway, on September 14, 1864. He was baptized Gottlieb Harbo Ragnhildrød and born in the community of Sandar. He was the older of the two men and the instigator of the idea to row across the Atlantic Ocean. George had been in the merchant marine, a surf fisherman and a part time pilot before clamming in his own boat, of his own building, off the Jersey Shore with his younger friend Frank Samuelson. By 1886 he was settled in the United States with his wife, Anine Brynhildsen.

Frank Samuelsson: was born Gabriel Samuelson in a seacoast town, Farsund in Vest-Agder, Norway on February 26, 1870 and went to sea at age 17, spending six years in the merchant marine. Samuelson was quickly promoted up the ships chain-of-command to boson's mate. After six years at sea he covered many of the world's oceans. Frank decided to make New York his permanent port. He headed for the fishing villages along the Jersey coast where his brother lived and met George Harbo. They became fast friends and clammed together.

Richard Fox came to Paris and at a dinner held in honor of their Atlantic voyager, he handed Frank and George a gold medal. They never received the fame and fortune on the lecture circuit nor did they ever receive their prize money from Fox, who was photographed giving them gold medals nevertheless. The only honor they received, in addition to the two gold medals, was 10 Swedish krona from King Oscar II of Sweden.

Heading back home, the partners loaded their

boat on the steamer for the return journey. The steamer ran out of coal off the coast of Cape Cod, and when the Captain ordered all wooden objects aboard was to be broken up to stoke the fire to make steam for the remainder of the trip. Samuelson and Harbo launched their boat *Fox* over the side and rowed it back to New York. Though they soon faded again into anonymity, their 55 day time record for rowing the North Atlantic would not be broken for another 114 years. Single oarsmen have made the crossing and ocean rowing developed into a kind of extreme sport.

In the summer of 2010, four rowers - skipper Leven Brown (37), Ray Carroll (33), Don Lennox (41), and Livar Nysted (39), on the *Artemis Investments* - bested the record set by Samuelson and Harbo by crossing the Atlantic Ocean in 43 days, 21 hours and 26 minutes. But the record for two people rowing across the Atlantic still belongs to Harbo and Samuelson.

Their logbook plus their journal dictated by Harbo does survive to document their feat. A freelance writer David W. Shaw wrote their dramatic account in 1998. In 1985 folk singer Jerry Bryant wrote *The Ballad of Harbo and Samuelson* which has since been recorded by many other artists.

By Barbara Berntsen



Frank and George with the Fox

## NORWEGIAN NAME DAYS

In Norwegian culture, a person's name day is a day of the year that according to an almanac is dedicated to their first name. The tradition of celebrating a name day comes from the early Christian church, evidently to reduce the significance of celebrating birthdays, which was considered a heathen practice. The original name days were taken from a list of Catholic saints and martyrs from the Middle Ages. Even though the religious basis for saints' days fell away after the Reformation, the practice was retained in folk tradition. From about the middle of the 18th century until early in the 1900s these name days were published in almanacs. By 1912 both the names and the traditions surrounding them had died out in Norway.

You can look up your own name day at [http://www.nordicnames.de/wiki/Norwegian\\_Name\\_Days](http://www.nordicnames.de/wiki/Norwegian_Name_Days)

The Award Winning Gateway to Florida Lodge:  
 District 3 Large Lodge of the Year 2010  
 President's Gold Merit Award for 2010 and 2011  
 President's Special Recognition Gold 2010 and 2011  
 Founders' Membership Certificate 2010 and 2011



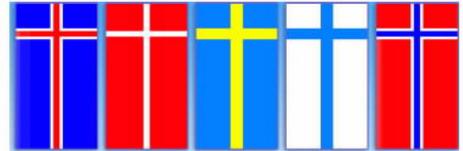
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E-mail: KBAnsell@comcast.net

www.sonsofnorway.com



Små Snakk Return Address:  
 Gail Yerkes, Editor  
 1742 Lord Byron Lane  
 Jacksonville, FL 32223-0800  
 904-268-9924  
 www.sonjax.com

