

**VIKING HALL 349-1613**  
**www.sofnalaska.com**

**May  
2014  
mai**

### Inside this issue:

Mandolin .....	2
Sunshine Report .....	2
Syttende Mail .....	3
Cooking with Kids .....	3
Fabulous Fish Dinner .....	4,5
BridgeBuilders .....	6
Kroner Wanted .....	6
Bike Repair .....	6
Feedback .....	6
Historic Document .....	7



## SONS OF NORWAY BERNT BALCHEN LODGE – PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

### *The Dissolution of the Union with Sweden (Unionsoppløsningen)*

Most people of Norwegian descent know about the Syttende Mai (the Seventeenth of May), the day in 1814 when the Norwegian Constitution was signed and ratified at Eidsvoll by the Norwegian Constitutional Assembly. On the other hand most members of Sons of Norway pay little attention to another very significant date in Norwegian history – June 7, 1905. This is the date that the Norwegian Storting (parliament) declared Norway to be fully independent of its union under the Swedish king. Before this date Norway had not enjoyed separate status as an independent country for 525 years, since 1380 it had either been part of the Danish or Swedish kingdoms.



Though Sweden had eventually accepted the Norwegian Constitution and allowed Norway to form its own legislature, Norway was still under the thumb of the Swedish king at the turn of the twentieth century. And the Swedish king, King Oscar, had a big thumb and the authority to use it at will. Though Sweden was a constitutional monarchy the king retained substantial powers as head of state and there was still a strong Old-World conservative strain among many of Sweden’s leading men. Without an aristocracy of its own, Norway by contrast, had fully embraced democracy and the concept of free trade by 1900. On the other hand, beyond being more conservative in outlook, Sweden favored a protectionist foreign trade policy. Norway, with its huge commercial fleet, felt restrained in its ability to do business with the world by the restrictions imposed by the Swedish king and government. To assist its world-wide interest in foreign commerce, Norway was particularly insistent on having its own consular service. Sweden, alternatively, wanted to retain full control over the foreign affairs of Norway. This conflict over who should conduct the foreign affairs of Norway was the issue that pushed Norway toward full independence from Sweden.

After having their various proposals for a separate foreign service brusquely rejected by King Oscar, the Norwegian Storting on June 7, 1905 voted unanimously to dissolve the union with Sweden. In an early August plebiscite over 99.95 percent of Norwegian voters gave

*President’s Message continues on Page 2*

## *Mother’s Day Brunch*

**Viking Hall**

**Sunday, May 11th  
10 am to 2 pm**

*Please call  
349-1613  
for Reservations*

### **The menu includes:**

*Walter’s sourdough pancakes,  
Nuna’s apple cinnamon syrup, ham,  
Reindeer sausage, eggs, mixed fruit  
Juice, coffee, tea &  
Mimosas for the adults.*

### **Brunch Prices:**

*Adults \$10 (non-members \$15)  
Ages 12-16 \$6 (non-members \$11)  
Ages 5-11 \$4 (non-members \$9)  
Children under 5 are free*

## Mandolin Repaired!

The mandolin that has been displayed in our library has undergone repairs and appraisal thanks to the aid of David Junge. David Junge will give a short program about the mandolin prior to our May business meeting.

If inclined you will have the opportunity to play the instrument. The mandolin was originally donated to the lodge by Kaare Birkeland, who also left the money for the "Kaare Birkeland Norwegian USA Exchange Scholarship". At the business meeting, we will discuss whether the lodge should sell the instrument.

If interested please attend the May 8th business meeting.



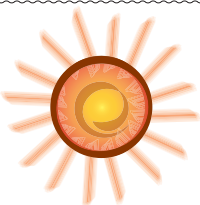
## Syttende Mai

### *President's Message continues from Page 1*

their support to the dissolution initiated by the Storting. For a few months both nations mobilized their troops and war looked imminent. Finally, on October 26 1905, Sweden decided against a ruinous war and formally, though somewhat begrudgingly, recognized Norwegian independence.

Although many of Norway's leaders favored a republican form of government, the Storting wisely decided on a constitutional monarchy instead and they invited Prince Carl of Denmark to be the new king of Norway. After a referendum on November 12 and 13, nearly 80 percent of Norway's voters gave their support to a constitutional monarchy and on November 18 the Storting overwhelmingly elected Prince Carl as king of Norway. He accepted the same day and took the name Haakon VII in honor of King Haakon VI who had died as the last king of Norway in 1380. By going with a constitutional monarchy Norway had gained the support of the many other monarchies that dominated Europe at that time. Because Queen Maud, King Haakon's wife, was from the British royal family, Norway also won favor with its close trading partner Great Britain. King Haakon and Queen Maude were officially crowned as King and Queen of Norway in Trondheim at the Nidaros Cathedral on June 22, 1906. In the end, the peaceful settlement of their differences earned a lot of credit on the world stage for both Norway and Sweden.

*Fraternally yours, Terje "Ted" Birkedal*



## Sunshine Report

**"Happy Birthday!"**

**"Gratulerer med dagen!"**

*Greetings are sent to the following members celebrating a birthday in MAY who are at least 75 years young.*

Margaret J. Edwards  
Reidum Hansen  
Gordon D. Homme  
Darrell E. Korman  
Gerald A. Swanson

If you know someone who needs a little sunshine, please call Cindy McDowell 696-0725 (cell - 862-1143)  
Or, email at [ccmcd38@hotmail.com](mailto:ccmcd38@hotmail.com)

# Sons of Norway, Bernt Balchen Lodge Syttende Mai Parade

**Saturday, May 17th Noon – 2 p.m.**

May 17<sup>th</sup> will be a busy day for Bernt Balchen Lodge members and guests in celebration of Norway's Constitution Day. The Syttende Mai Parade starts at 12 noon in downtown Anchorage followed by a Syttende Mai Celebration dinner at 6 p.m. at Viking Hall.

Please join us at noon for the parade. We will meet downtown at the Delaney Park memorial block in the open space west of "I" Street between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenues. We encourage you to wear your bunads or Norwegian sweaters and red and blue ribbons as we carry Norwegian flags and the Bernt Balchen Lodge banner around the block. We will have flags on hand – or bring your own.

We encourage all ages to share special talents or favorite 17 Mai memories. We'd also very much appreciate having some of our lodge's talented musicians accompany us as we march around the block as well.

A short program of speakers will precede the parade and hotdogs and ice cream will follow.

This event takes place rain or shine! If you would like to help or have questions please contact John Olnes at 562-2794.



***Please join us at  
Viking Hall***

8141 Briarwood Street Anchorage, Alaska  
Sons of Norway, Bernt Balchen Lodge

## **SYTTENDE MAI CELEBRATION**

***Celebrating Norway's Constitution Day***

**Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m.**

### **Potluck Dinner**

2014 is a distinctive year as it marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Norwegian Constitution and the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sons of Norway, Bernt Balchen Lodge 2-046 charter.

Please join us in a commemoration of these special anniversaries and to recognize lodge members receiving membership anniversary pins or lodge scholarships.

Bring your favorite side dish or dessert and enjoy time with friends. Meats will be provided by the lodge.

Adults – \$5

Please contact Ted Birkedal to assist or ask questions:  
tedbirkedal@gmail.com or 351-6095



## ***Cooking with Kids (of all ages)***

*On May 3rd we will be hosting an event where you have the opportunity to learn how to make such delicacies such as pickled herring, pickled pigs feet, Kransekakes (ring cake), Norwegian Mountain Bread, and hopefully a few other Scandinavian treats. Fortuitously this event is occurring one week prior to Mother's Day making an opportunity to give mom, grandma, etc. that perfect child or dad made Mother's Day Gift.*

***Everyone is welcomed from 1:00 to 5:00 pm.***

***Please call 349-1613 if you plan to attend.***







## Annual Fish Dinner

The Fish Dinner served over 100 guests this past Saturday.

The success of the event was due to the efforts of a number



*Courtesy of Glenn Soby*

of members, but before singing their kudos, it is appropriate to sing those of someone who was not there. Cynthia Olnes did not make this years dinner due to a family event. Those of you who have worked in the kitchen for

any lodge event have noted that in a very unassuming manner Cynthia ends up at one of the kitchen sinks or the dishwasher cleaning utensils, pans, dishes, etc. After this years dinner, the kitchen workers were perplexed by the mountains of pans and dishes that needed to be washed compared to prior



*Courtesy of Karl Augestad*

years. We then had an "Ahah" moment and realized Cynthia was not in the kitchen this year. Please show Cynthia our lodges appreciation for her many efforts to enhance our lodge and Viking Hall.



*Courtesy of Glenn Soby*



*Courtesy of Karl Augestad*



*Courtesy of Karl Augestad*

The Fish Dinner was a farewell to Phil and Theresa Smith. Phil is retiring from the military and they will embark on adventures including a Syttende Mai celebration, cross country car trip, attending their daughters graduation, off to Spain and returning to hike the Appalachian Trail in March. We enjoyed having them as members and appreciated their assistance with various lodge events.

## Annual Fish Dinner



### Special thanks to:

- Arni Thomson for his efforts in procuring, and Copper River Seafood for providing at wholesale, wonderful fillets of cod and salmon.



*Courtesy of Glenn Soby*

- Sandra and Wayne Johnson for providing the gravlox, baking the fish, sharing their global insights and efforts to make a successful dinner.
- Cindy McDowell and Susan Soby for setting up the hall and the fantastic decorations. Plus a multitude of tasks performed by Cindy from set up to clean up.
- Ashley Brusven for preparation of desserts plus cooking of vegetables and potatoes.



*Courtesy of Karl Augestad*

- Colin Walker for parboiling the vegetables, greatly easing the burden of Saturday night's preparation.
- Ted Birkendal for making the meatballs, shopping and other tasks too numerous to mention.



*Courtesy of Glenn Soby*

- Phil and Theresa Smith for making the bread, preparation of appetizers and desserts along with cleanup.
- Mickey Andrew for potato and vegetable preparation.
- Andy Wilcox for developing the process and implementing the pounding of 21 pounds of round steak and assembling the boneless birds.
- Shirley Moe for preparing numerous trays of stuffed mushrooms. This was the first time she had made stuffed mushrooms and they all disappeared.

- Jane Moe for assistance with serving, cleanup and knowing how to sell raffle tickets.
- Sandra Hanson and Bev Griffin for selling tickets and having to explain to all that we would be serving them in two waves to accommodate the number of attendees.
- Glenn Soby for photographing the event.
- Karl Augestad of Action Video Productions also provided photos.



*Courtesy of Glenn Soby*



## Bridge Builders Gala

The Bridge Builders will be again hosting their Gala August 23rd. This year the Gala will be the inaugural event to kick off the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Anchorage.

The event also is an opportunity to honor the contributions of our lodge's members. Last year Marit Kristiansen was our chosen honoree. At the May 8th business meeting we will be discussing nominees for our honoree.

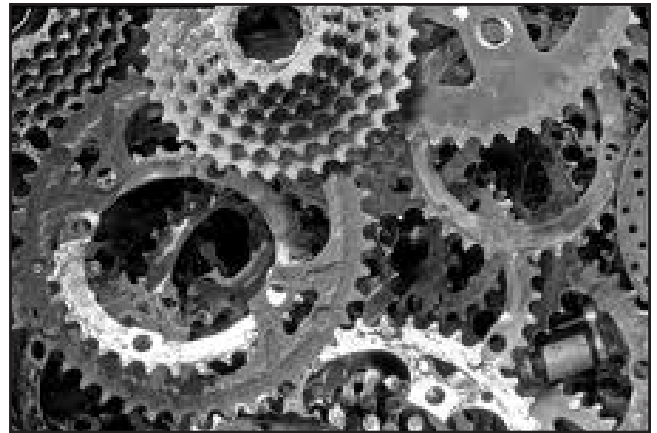


### KRONER WANTED

Does anyone have Norwegian kroner they would like to exchange for US dollars? I am traveling to Norway and arrive May 16, too late for any exchanges to be open. I am told by my relatives in Drammen where I will go directly upon arriving, none will be open the 17/18.

If anyone has Norwegian Kroner to sell please call me. I leave May 14, so ahead of that would be good.

*Tusen takk.  
Linda Sharp  
907-227-0036*



### GET READY FOR SUMMER BIKE RIDING!

Bring your bicycle to Bernt Balchen Lodge for the free Spring Bike Repair Tuneup on Friday May 9th from 6:30 to 8:30. Martin Hansen, Sons of Norway Sports Director, will bring the tools and lubricants. You bring your bicycle and, if you have them, clean rags, and gloves.

Martin would appreciate an RSVP, so give him a call or text at 907-980-5333.



### Feedback Corner

*I just wanted to say thanks to President "Ted" Birkedal for his very interesting message in the April Newsletter. I'm not sure if it was his style of writing or his connection to Stavanger that caused me to read it to the end. Usually I scan the articles, knowing that I'll not be attending events, and knowing few of the members.*

*As a Norske in-law (husband Lars, now deceased, was born and grew up in Ardal near Stavanger) my connections to Sons of Norway are limited, but I maintain my membership primarily because of auto insurance.*

*(They were there for me when my car was in an accident.)*

*Thank you for your well done efforts on the newsletter. Great pictures of the Iditarod participants!*

*Frances Vadla*

Send comments, thoughts, or suggestions to:

[sonancak@gmail.com](mailto:sonancak@gmail.com) Attention: Feedback - Flyer

## Rare Historic Commemorative Document from 1905

### *A Generous Donation from Kaare and Rae Elde*

Two of our long term lodge members, Kaare and Rae Elde of Moose Pass, Alaska have generously donated a rare historic commemorative document from Norway's history (see accompanying photo). This large framed document shows all the members of the Storting (Norwegian parliament) along with Prime Minister Christian Michelsen and his cabinet. This is the Storting that gained full independence for Norway by dissolving Norway's union with Sweden on June 7, 1905 (see President's message for a full historical background). These Storting members were Norway's heroes who bravely challenged the political might of Sweden and brought Norway full status as an independent country for the first time in over 500 years.

The document is not only historic, but beautiful, and is graced by prominent painted Norwegian flags at its top along with the great seal of Norway (see accompanying photo). The document has been in the Kaare Elde's family over 100 years and came with his relatives when they left Norway for South Dakota some 80 years ago. Kaare was entrusted with the document by his North Dakotan family members after he came to America in 1959. Five years later, it came with Kaare when he came to Alaska to begin his career as a marine pilot on the coast of Alaska. Both Kaare and his wife Rae formally donated it to Bernt Balchen Lodge on December 13, 2013. This

commemorative document will be prominently displayed in Viking Hall on the evening of May 17, 2014 as part of our Syttende Mai Celebration. After that it will be hung in the lodge with proper attribution to Kaare and Rae Elde for all to enjoy on a permanent basis.

Thank you again, Kaare and Rae Elde for your wonderful and thoughtful gift to the Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge.



*Terje "Ted" Birkedal*

*President, Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge*



**Sons of Norway**  
8141 Briarwood St.  
Anchorage, AK 99518  
907-349-1613

Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Anchorage, Alaska  
PERMIT 505

## MAY EVENTS

3	Saturday	1:00 - 5:00 pm	Cooking with Kids
6	Tuesday	10:00 am - Noon	Needle Crafts
8	Thursday	6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Potluck/Program Business Meeting
11	Sunday	10:00 am - 2:00 pm	Mother's Day Brunch
13	Tuesday	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Rosemaling Class
17	Saturday	Noon 6:00 pm	Syttende Mai Parade Syttende Mai Celebration
20	Tuesday	10:00 am - Noon	Needle Crafts
27	Tuesday	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Rosemaling Class

### Food Bank Donations

Our lodge continues to donate canned goods, non-perishable foods and money to the local food bank.

Please bring your food or monetary donation in to Viking hall.

**All events take place at Viking Hall, 8141 Briarwood St., unless otherwise noted.**

Please send articles or event information

for the next Newsletter by the 20th to: [sonancak@gmail.com](mailto:sonancak@gmail.com) Attention - **Ruth** Subject Line - **Newsletter**