

# SCANDINAVIAN CLUB/SOUTHEAST VALLEY



Denmark

Finland

Iceland

Norway

Sweden

February 2015

Email: [scandinavianclubsev@gmail.com](mailto:scandinavianclubsev@gmail.com) On the internet at: [www.tiny.cc/scanclubsev](http://www.tiny.cc/scanclubsev)



We were certainly impressed with the Scandinavian exchange students who joined with us in January. The one on the far left and the one next to Jerry Johnson were from Norway. The girl beside the boy from Norway was from Iceland and the one to Carolyn Hawkins left from Finland.

They had no problem with speaking our language as they shared their experience in the U.S. and talked about their homeland.

The two from Norway did a very interesting trivial game with some of our members. Gordon Roen was the big winner.

From President Bob,

Heritage is defined as something passed down from preceding generations; a tradition. Norway and Sweden and part of northern Finland were defined by European Scholars as the Scandinavian Countries. When you use the word, "Nordic", we can legitimately include Denmark, Iceland and Greenland. When the "Vikings" first set sail in the late 700's, they landed first in Iceland and Greenland and established settlements in Greenland.

I was stationed on the southern coast of Greenland at a U.S. Airbase at Narsarssuak for a year. Across the fjord, the herders/farmers were raising sheep. The growing season was real short, actually the sun shone in summer from 2 A.M. To 11 P.M.; The climate was moderated by the Gulfstream flowing by on the way to Europe.

While we were introduced to Scandinavia by a number of artifacts, table decorations, Dala Horses, candle holders, all kinds of wooden toys, food, Christmas customs, pictures, travel movies etc. our parents taught some of the children the native language. The culture also has been spread by some of us actually taking tours of Scandinavia and visiting with our relatives or visiting places where our ancestors lived.

In the present and future generations there seems to be a lessening interest in the things Scandinavian. One of our goals of the Scandinavian Club is to spread the culture to our children, relatives and the general public as much as is possible. Towns like Lindsborg, Kansas and Lindstrom, MN. are places many of us have visited. They are really as much a replica of the "Old Country" as exists in the U.S.

In March we will hold the election for new Board members. It is only because of the dedication of a few that your club is able to continue as the largest ethnic club in the area.

Last year we struggled to find people to put their name in nomination for positions on the Board. The position of Vice President was to go unfilled until Bob Sjolin threw his name in the hat at the annual meeting. So fortunate that he did. When our President Nancy resigned, Bob was elevated to take her place. The Vice President position was vacant until the Board meeting on January 24, 2015. The Board passed a motion to install Lyle Replogle as Vice President.

Once again we are preparing a list of nominees. While some of the present Board members will serve again, others need to be filled. We need a Newsletter Editor who ideally would serve on the board as well, but could serve as a committee member.

If you are an advocate for the continued success of our Club, look for Bob Sjolin, Gordon Roen or Lyle Replogle in January. The future of the Club is dependent upon your participation. Should you have any questions, send us an E-mail at: [scandinavianclubsev@gmail.com](mailto:scandinavianclubsev@gmail.com).

In January we had a wonderful evening with Scandinavian high school exchange students. Those who attended gave a free will offering of \$150 to assist them on a trip to see the Grand Canyon. Many thanks to our Carol Hawkins and Jerry Johnson for making this happen.

Our last meeting of the 2014/2015 year on March 15th will feature Sylvia Jorgensen and Carl Nyberg. They were a big hit last year and will treat us to some great music (might some trip the light fantastic?). They will assist with a presentation of Scandinavian Flags. The National Anthem of each of the countries will be played as they are posted. We will also set aside some time in March for our annual meeting to present our new budget and hold election of board members to serve in the coming 2015/2016 year.

March will once again be a choice of two main entrees' served with vegetables, a potato dish, rolls and a salad. Desert and coffee is included. The cost is \$13 per individual. The social hour begins at 5 P.M. with an open bar, followed by dinner at 6 P.M. in the Arizona Room at Sun Lakes Country Club.

### **SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS**

**November 16**

**Scandinavian Dancers**

**December 14**

**Chordaires Show Chorus of Sun Lakes**

**January 18**

**Scandinavian Exchange Students**

**February 15**

**Annual Heritage Dinner**

**Photo tour of Scandinavia by Jeanette Rajamaki of Savvy Travelers.**

**March 15**

**Silvia Jorgensen and Carl Nyberg**

**Scandinavian Flag presentation and music**

President -

Bob Sjolin

Vice President -

Lyle Replogle

Past President -

Nancy Espy-Martin

Treasurer -

Jerry Johnson

Asst. Treasurer -

Vacant

Secretary -

Carol Knudson

Two year term board members:

Darlene Knipping / Sue

Jordan exp. 03-2015

Jerry Christenson /

Lydia Larson exp. 03-2016

The following

committees have been

staffed by the

president:

Membership -

Carol Jacobsen

Historian -

Gordon Roen

Table

setup/coordinator -

Sue Jordan

Newsletter -

Lyle Replogle

Photographer -

Lyle Replogle

Publicity -

Jerry Christenson

Decorations-Setup -

Sue Jordan

## The History of the Dala Horse



The image of the horse goes back thousands of years. The magic and mystique surrounding the horse inspired people to recreate their image in cave and rock paintings. Horses were

highly valued and became a symbol of strength and courage. They arrived in Sweden 4000 years ago and were tamed and domesticated around that time.

In the 17th century little wooden horses were sold at markets in small towns and villages in Dalarna, in central Sweden. A



hundred years later wooden horses were carved by men working in the forests during long winter evenings and brought back to the village for the children to play with. This is

how the little wooden horse from Dalarna became a treasured object. These simple wooden horses were later painted in bright colours inspired by the flower patterns painted on furniture and walls in the region.

During this time, traveling salesmen selling traditional household items would also bring Dalahastar to use as payment for board and lodgings. They also became an important source of income for poorer families.

Even young children had to learn to carve wooden horses after returning home from school. The children of one such family started a small business at the ages of 13 and 15 in 1928. Their children and grand children are still producing the Dala horses to this day in a little village called Nusnas in Dalarna. Their Dalahastar has now become an authentic symbol of Sweden.

It wasn't until the World Exhibition in New York in 1939 that the Dala wooden horse became famous around the world. A giant painted Dala horse was placed outside the Swedish pavilion and caused a sensation among the visitors. During the year after the exhibition 20 000 Dala horses were shipped over to New York and so the Swedish Dala horse became a symbol for Sweden.

You can find a large array of Dala horses displayed, and for sale at:  
<http://www.swedensfinest.com/swedish-dala-horses.aspx> A 15 inch horse is \$450.00



Our Scandinavian guests each had an opportunity to share their experiences with us. Left to right; Iceland, Finland and Norway.



Maynard Iverson, Gordon, and Chris Roen and Bruce Brown joined in with a guest to participate in Norwegian trivia. The winner was Gordon Roen who was awarded a Norwegian jersey.

A great turnout in January when we hosted the exchange students from Scandinavia.



Don Munsen made it on time to share in some of pickled herring and cheese.



We had been wondering where Dick and Connie Rome have been. They showed up in January.



We found Maynard Iverson visiting with the student from Norway and his sponsors.



Marcy and Lee Lundgren were joined in January with their daughter.



A gathering of Scandinavians.



Curt and Lydia Larson sharing in their heritage.