



Norwegian Society of Texas –  
Houston/Galveston Chapter (Snorre)

**SNORREPOSTEN**

Spring 2002

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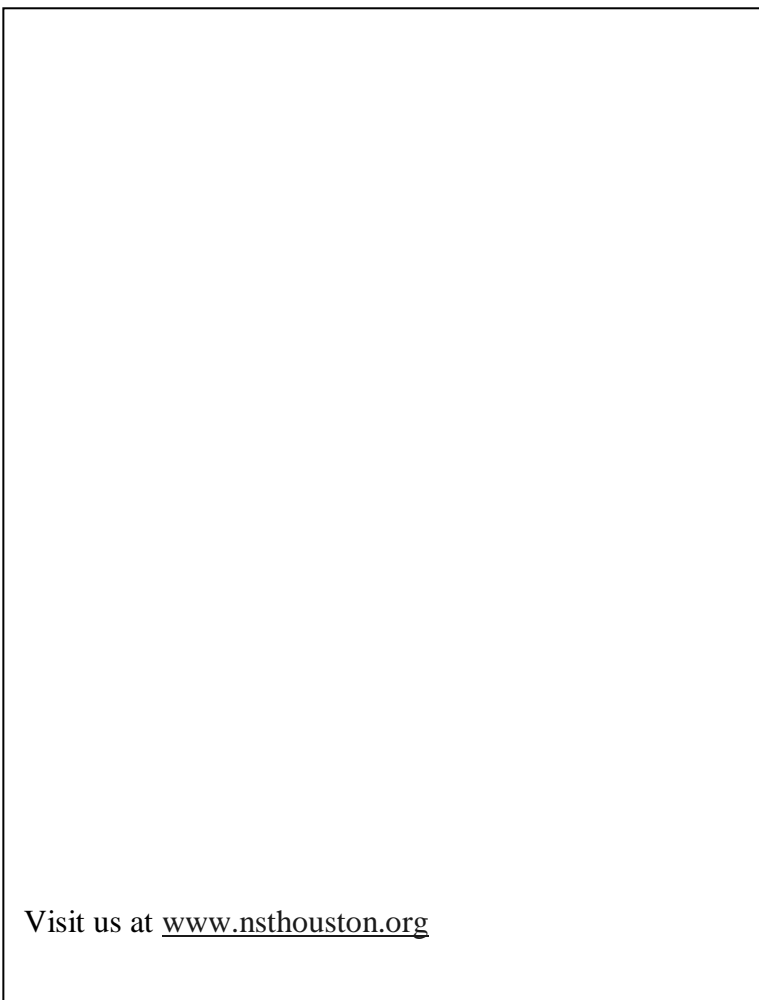
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**A few words from the President**



Visit us at [www.nsthouston.org](http://www.nsthouston.org)

**Special Thanks To:**

**Bernt Hellesoe** and **Wenche Kirkebye Moe** for hosting the Wine & Cheese Party and the annual Rekefest, respectively. The Wine & Cheese Party drew a large crowd, and the Rekefest continues to be a cornerstone event for NST.

### **May 17<sup>th</sup> in the rain:**

After several weeks of beautiful weather in Pasadena, the weather gods decided to give the Norwegian Seamen's Church a heavy downpour on May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

All the scheduled events for the children had to be cancelled or brought indoors, limiting the event choices for the young ones. A mini-parade was still completed in the early evening hours, giving all the remaining attendees an opportunity to show off their great bunads and holiday spirit.

Thanks to the Norwegian Seamen's Church for hosting this event, and to the staff and volunteers who did their best under very difficult conditions. See you again next year !!!!

### **Scandinavian Club Report:**

Please have Robert add the new events here.....

Contact Robert Bjercke with the Scandinavian Club at 281/778-6486 or at [bjercke@worldnet.att.net](mailto:bjercke@worldnet.att.net) for full details.

### **First Annual Wine & Cheese Party:**

It was a very promising debut for the Wine & Cheese party at Bernt Hellesoe's residence in Seabrook. Approx. 50 people attended the event, and the feedback was very positive. This type of event is a very good way of getting to mingle, walk around to meet other NST members, hopefully making new and meaningful friendships. We would like to thank everybody in attendance for making the long trip down to Seabrook.

### **Rekefest 2002 a huge success:**

Due to a scheduling conflict, the newsletter editor missed out on this annual highlight, but have been informed by various sources that the event was once again extremely well attended, threatening to grow past the capacity of the current host's residence.

The honorable Wenche Kirkeby Moe once again gave the Rekefest a home, filling her yard to capacity for our members and guests. We try very hard to fit everybody in, but realize that at its current growth rate we will have to look at either capping the number of invitees, or consider moving the event to a larger area. We all enjoy the hospitality of the Consul General's residence, and would like to keep the event at its traditional location.

### **Culture Corner:**

We would like to take this opportunity to remind everybody of the Norsk Hostfest in Minot, ND. This annual celebration of our heritage is scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup>, 2002. This will be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Norsk Hostfest, and the line-up is solid, including traditional performers like Bjoro Haaland and newcomers like Bill Cosby. Tickets went on sale May 17th, visit [www.hostfest.com](http://www.hostfest.com) for complete details.

### **Quiz:**

By land area (sq. km), what is by far the largest city in Norway? Answer at the bottom of this page.

### **Tip of the day:**

**Exercise!** Billions of dollars are spent every year on weight loss products, but very few pounds are actually lost. The incredible focus on weight loss totally ignores the real issue, being healthy. By exercising you will not only lose weight, but you will also improve your general health.

### **Royal Wedding Bonanza in Norway**

In the span of 8 months, both Crown Prince Haakon and Princess Mārtha Louise got married, shaping the future Kingdom of Norway. The lives of both the Crown Prince and the Princess were pretty much mapped out since birth, but we wonder if Mette-Marit and Ari have any idea what they have gotten themselves into. Privacy is suddenly only a word in the dictionary, and their choice of clothing will forever be a topic of national discussion. Good Luck !

### **One of the Greatest:**

One of Norway's greatest citizens passed away recently. Thor Heyerdahl received more awards and national decorations around the world than we could possibly list in this newsletter. The historian, author, explorer and challenger, never rested until all the questions were answered, all the possibilities explored, and all the critics silenced. Mostly known for his Kon-Tiki travels and his strong interest in the Galapagos Islands, Thor spent his life traveling the globe, letting his quest for knowledge lead the way.

We have all, in some way, taken part of his expeditions, either by reading the books, watching the television programs, or visiting the museums decorated with his historical and scientific artifacts.

He was truly one of a kind, and we are all thankful that he was one of our kind.

**Quiz Answer:** Tromsø, 2,520 sq.km.

## **Soccer Anyone?**

Most Norwegians prefer Soccer over both Baseball and American Football, and for those of us who are truly passionate about the game, our 4 weeks of heaven are rapidly approaching.

The 2002 Soccer World Cup is kicking off in Japan/South Korea on May 31<sup>st</sup>, with one of the favorites, France, taking on Senegal. My guess is that Senegal is right now thinking of ways to sabotage the French food service to even out the odds a little. The 2002 World Cup finishes off with the Final on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, with most bookmakers seeing France or Argentina taking home the Grand Prize. The fact that Norway failed to qualify, and has fallen 30 spots on the FIFA world ranking in 3 years, will be discussed in a future edition of this newsletter.....

## **Norwegian Moments**

### **Don't they know:**

Our Prime Minister, Kjell Magne Bondevik, brought two massive pieces of elephant tusks home from Nigeria. The import of elephant tusks has been illegal in Norway for decades, and we should expect our Prime Minister, or his advisors to know this. The African elephant is an endangered species, totally extinct in Nigeria, just because they get killed for their tusks.

To top it off, his wife accepted two purses made from the skin of a threatened boa constrictor species.

With gifts like these, no wonder we forgave millions of dollars in debt for Nigeria.

### **Don't they know 2:**

Kjell Inge Røkke is on thin ice for trying to bribe his way to a yachting license. He paid 100,000 nkr. to receive licenses for himself, his mechanic, and his personal assistant.

I would think that Kjell Inge had both the time and the means to do this the right way, but he obviously did not have the smarts.

He is now facing a maximum sentence of two years in prison, plus a fine. I am guessing that he is slightly more concerned about the jail time than the fine.

Does he have enough money to buy the justice system?

## **The Big Project:**

As you all may or may not know, there is a project in the works to move and preserve the "Ringness House" in Bosque County. Get all the pertinent details at:

[www.bosque-norsemen.com/jens\\_ringness\\_project](http://www.bosque-norsemen.com/jens_ringness_project)

### **Editor's Closing Remarks:**

Whenever a new editor takes over **SNORREPOSTEN** there will always be changes in the format, and also in the material covered. **SNORREPOSTEN** is mainly meant to be a source of information regarding your local NST chapter, reporting on past events and keeping you apprised of coming events. I welcome all your comments and ideas for future editions of **SNORREPOSTEN**.

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Rune Gabrielsen, Editor