



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

SNORREPOSTEN

March 2004

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A few words from the President

Dear Members and Friends:

Our President has been a little under the weather lately, so as the Editor of this newsletter, I will alert you of a couple of important situations that touches us all.

First of all, here is a piece of news right out of our mother country:

A new law cuts the number of days a store can keep eggs on the shelf from 40 days to 28. That prompted the egg industry to warn there might not be enough eggs for the Easter holiday.

Oeystein Hedstroem (FRP), found the threatened shortage so profound that he raised it in the lawmakers' weekly question-and-answer session with the government.

"We lack 3.3 million eggs," Hedstroem said. "Will the minister of agriculture lower import duties during that period if Norwegian suppliers can't meet demand?"

Agriculture Minister Lars Sponheim stated that "Hens generally lay one egg per day, and not significantly more during holidays. And that means they have a little problem meeting the holidays and peaks,"

Also, NST is currently looking for a new Board Member, to fill the position of Social Chair. Please contact us if you, or someone you know, are interested in being a part of our Chapter.

Special Thanks To:

All of our Norwegian teachers, who make it possible for NST to offer Norwegian classes to a growing crowd of knowledge-hungry Americans in search of a better language. Our teachers for this semester are **Anne-Brith Berge, Inger Russell, Johanna Ofstad and Heidi Stensland.**

On the Horizon for NST:

The ever popular Shrimp Party is coming ! Please look for further details for this year's Rekefest later in this newsletter. The date is set for April 23rd, so keep that night open.

Some NST info:

Bob Bjercke, our Membership man, is reporting that there are still memberships available, on a first come, first serve basis. Even though it causes him several minutes worth of work to enter in new members, he is welcoming new members with open arms. If you have any questions regarding becoming a member, please contact Bob at bjjercke@worldnet.att.net.

Now, that's a lot of meat !!!!

In 2003 hunters felled a total of 38 600 moose in Norway – 672 more than in 2002. Still, this is slightly less than in the record year of 1999. A total felling quota of 46 700 animals were allocated for the moose hunting in 2003, of which 83 per cent were felled.

20 per cent of all moose shot in the autumn 2003 were felled in the county of Hedmark. Regarding the number of hunting licenses and number of felled animals, Hedmark is the largest "moose county". 8 472 hunting licenses were issued, and 7 652 animals were felled. In the counties of Nord-Trøndelag and Telemark 5 042 and 4 244 animals were shot respectively.

Is it time to visit Lofoten ??

The Lofoten Islands in Northern Norway have been ranked by The Observer newspaper as no. 2 on a list of the world's 20 most beautiful islands.

Lofoten is a group of islands, with a dramatic mountain landscape contrasted against sheltered coves and beaches, and is a year-round destination which offers a variety of high quality experiences for tourists.

Accommodation options in Lofoten include the old fisherman's cabins, the Rorbuer, which are of a high standard and include all the facilities travelers have come to expect from modern accommodation.

For further information visit www.lofoten.info.

Did you know ???

February 6th is celebrated as the indigenous Sami People's Day in Norway and other Scandinavian countries.

The Nordic Sami Council decided in 1992 to celebrate a joint Sami National Day, and the first was celebrated on February 6th 1993. It marks the date of the first Sami National Convention in Trondheim in 1917. This was the first time the Sami gathered around common interests, across national Nordic boundaries.

After 100 years of "Norwegianization", Sami spokesmen started working for a recognition of Sami culture, language and Sami rights around the turn of the century.

The Sami language is again used in local schools, and a Sami Parliament has been established in Norway. The Sami are also campaigning for first rights to natural resources in their region.

The Sami anthem and flag were approved at a Nordic Sami Convention in 1986.

The Sami National Day on February 6th has been made official flag day in Norway, and the Sami flag is flown on all official buildings, alone or alongside the Norwegian flag.

Just when things were calming down.....

As the eldest daughter of Norway's late King Olav, Princess Ragnhild once held a central role in the country's monarchy. Ships have been named after her, she's been a fixture at most royal events and she endured a strict, tradition-bound life as a royal herself.

Now, at age 73, she's spoken out in a TV2 documentary peppered with harsh assessments of today's royals in Norway. She's lived in Brazil for the past 50 years, and clearly has been watching the royal family from afar with no small amount of dissatisfaction.

Asked whether she ponders the future of the monarchy, she said she does. "I'm not worried for myself, but for Norway, yes," she said. "I hope I die before that happens. I really hope so."

The Passport Issue:

Machine Readable Passports – once again.

Since US authorities announced in the early spring of this year that after October 1, 2003, entering the US on the Visa Waiver Program would require a machine readable passport, the Consulate has received a lot of telephone calls from worried Norwegians. First of all: **the implementation of the new requirements have been postponed and will not go into effect until October 26, 2004!** Secondly: Remember that the new rules ONLY apply to travelers who enter the USA for a maximum stay of 90 days under the Visa Waiver Program.

Rekefest

**NST welcomes all its members and friends to the
Annual Shrimp Party on April 23, 2004.**

The location will once again be

1024 Rocky River Road

from 7pm to 10pm

**Formal invitations, with RSVP information and date will be
sent out in the near future.**