



# Norseman News

Leif Ericson Viking Ship *Norseman*

Vol. 12 No. 3

Fall 2004 Edition

www.vikingship.org

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On Saturday, October 9, 2004

## LEVS Celebrates Leif Ericson Day in Phila., PA



LEVS and the *Norseman* sailing on the Schuylkill at a Leif Ericson Day event.

## LEVS Mission Statement

1. To educate Americans about Leif Ericson as the first European to discover and settle on the North American continent.
2. To promote knowledge and a realistic historic image of Viking people as merchants, navigators, shipbuilders, artists, explorers and warriors.
3. To provide sail training and practice in recreating the experience of traveling on water as Vikings did a thousand years ago.

Distributed 4 times a year

It is a sight that you only get to see once a year - the *Norseman* slowly making her way up the Schuylkill River, passing startled scullers and causing joggers along Kelly Drive to turn their heads.

When the ship "lands" at the statue of Thorfin Karlsefni on the western end of Boat House Row, it is usually the costumed Vikings and other Scandinavians dressed in traditional garb that get the attention of the passers-by.

The ceremony will begin at 12 noon once the *Norseman* lands, and will continue with the reading of the President's proclamation as well as the

City of Philadelphia's. There will also be short speeches from keynote speakers, and then we will place a wreath at the foot of the Viking statue.

At 6:30 PM we will continue our celebration with a Leif Ericson Day banquet, held at the Renaissance Hotel in Philadelphia. The *Norseman* and her crew have had an exciting year of events, and will have a display of photos that will highlight the year. The banquet will be a great opportunity for you to meet the crew and the other members of our organization.

Please plan to attend these festivities, and help us celebrate the historical fact that "Leif Landed First"!



40  
Years!

## The Proclamation of Leif Ericson Day is 40 Years Old!

On September 2nd, 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson, backed by a unanimous Congress, proclaimed October 9th "Leif Ericson Day" in commemoration of the first arrival of a European on North American soil. The law gave subsequent presidents the right to celebrate this day as well.

According to Ivar Christensen, President of the Leif Ericson Society International, October 9th was selected because October 9th, 1825 was the arrival date of the first Norwegian immigrant ship, the *Restauration*, which landed in New York from Norway on that date.

The proclamation shown in the box to the right was written by President George W. Bush for last year's celebration.

## Leif Ericson Day Banquet

**You are cordially invited to the annual Leif Ericson Day banquet, to be held at the Renaissance Hotel (next to the Philadelphia Airport) in Philadelphia.**

**Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served from 6:30 PM. Dinner, a short program and presentations will begin at 7:30 PM.**

**The entree choices are Chicken Oscar or Parmesan Crusted Swordfish for this wonderful meal. The cost of the dinner is \$48.00 per person; checks can be made out to the Leif Ericson Viking Ship, Inc. Please RSVP no later than October 5, 2004.**

**For more information, please contact Joe Jeantet at 610.328.9307 or [jjeantet@comcast.net](mailto:jjeantet@comcast.net).**

By the President of the United States of America

### A Proclamation

Traveling across the Atlantic as the first Nordic to lead an expedition to North America, Leif Erikson showed great courage in the face of danger. His actions marked the beginning of a longstanding exchange of people, ideas, and innovations between North America and the Nordic nations of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. As the United States celebrates Leif Erikson Day, we honor his historic voyage and give thanks for the many contributions of Nordic Americans to our Nation, and of our Nordic allies.

Since Leif Erikson's voyage, millions of immigrants from the Nordic countries have come to America. As teachers, lawyers, judges, doctors, authors, athletes, artists, scientists, and business people, and in many other occupations, Nordic Americans have contributed to America's cultural, political, and economic strength. America has also benefited from the diplomatic relationships we have long enjoyed with the Nordic nations.

To honor Leif Erikson, Nordic-American heritage, and America's continued relationship with Nordic countries, the Congress, by joint resolution (Public Law 88-566) approved on September 2, 1964, has authorized and requested the President to proclaim October 9 of each year as "Leif Erikson Day."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 9, 2003, as Leif Erikson Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to honor our rich Nordic-American heritage.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

*GEORGE W. BUSH*

## Focus On: Maia and Aaron Holt A Couple of Vikings

Maia and Aaron Holt were “found” for our organization three years ago through a rather amazing coincidence. “Kinda a neat story” said Maia, “Aaron has a younger sister named Sarah, who in high school took a photography class. She decided to photograph us for a class project. Aaron was dressed in a ‘Viking’ costume and I was in a ‘wenchy’ costume. Later on in the school year at the annual art show for the school, Sarah’s photos were displayed. Enter Wolf Sutton. Wolf’s daughter Lauren was in the same grade as Sarah and also a photo student. Voila, Wolf saw the photos of us, and one thing lead to another.”



They joined the crew because it was something they could do together, and they had an interest in the Viking age as an extension to their more generic interest in early European cultures and history. Although their Viking knowledge was great, their boating experience was a bit lacking. “I did go canoeing once!” joked Maia.

Since joining, Maia has researched many aspects of daily life and the role of women such as clothing, dyeing, weaving, food preparation, crafts and the tools and processes to achieve each. She sewed her costumes by hand and learned to spin with a drop spindle and tablet weave.

Both Maia and Aaron are working on correcting misconceptions about the Vikings. Said Aaron, “A lot of what are viewed as misconceptions about the Vikings are actually only misconceptions about Scandinavians as a whole in the ‘Viking age’. The context in which the word ‘Viking’ was used throughout that time period for Scandinavians, Icelanders, Germans, Englishmen etc. was ‘sea-borne raider’ or ‘pirate’, not as a name for Scandinavians at large. One could hardly imagine a Northumbrian monk pulling his bed linens over his head and praying that God protect him from Danish merchants.”

In addition to correcting misconceptions, Aaron and Maia find themselves responding to some humorous questions. “The most common question for me is ‘Does that boat go in the water?’”, said Maia. Aaron quipped, “I’ve heard ‘Is red hair accurate?’”

Maia and Aaron would like to see the organization get “on the same page” in what is represented to the public, as well as further education on the Viking age. Aaron recommends Gwyn Jones’ *History of the Vikings*. “It offers a pretty good over-all narrative of the period without losing sight of the forest for the trees. It’s a good place to start for a sound knowledge of the time-period, and you can find it at almost any library if not a bookstore.”

**Come meet Maia and Aaron to talk about the Viking Age (and joke about his hair) at a future LEVS event!**

## Current LEVS ÷ Wish List

### Norseman

- ✓ A donation of \$1,500 to purchase a new sail.
- That we obtain enough events for the year to rebuild our treasury.
- That more people decide to join the crew, so that we have enough crew to work on her, sail her and bask in the glory of the *Norseman*.

### Trailer

- A donation of \$1,000 or so to cover the expenses incurred by having the trailer sandblasted and painted.

### Truck

- A donation of \$600 to cover the cost of six new tires for the truck.

### Ship shed

- A donation of about \$500 to install stone under shed to keep weeds from growing and to make it look better.

### Tool shed

- ✓ A donation for a larger, nicer tool shed to be installed at the end of the ship shed. We need to have storage for our tools as well as storage for our merchandise.

**See Note Below!**



**LEVS would like to give a hearty “Thank you!” to Mrs. George McFarland for her donation to cover the costs of the tool shed. We would also like to thank the Reinersten family for their gift in memory of Ragnhild Sasson, a lifelong “friend” of the organization.**

**The gift of your yearly membership dues as well as these additional donations help the LEVS organization run smoothly are truly appreciated.**

**Don’t forget - all donations are tax deductible, as we are a 501(c)3 organization.**

## A Word from the President of LEVS

Indeed it has been another eventful year. Our biggest problem was working our way through a financial crisis. Insurance and bank balances did not absorb the losses we experienced from our trip to St. Petersburg, Russia last year.

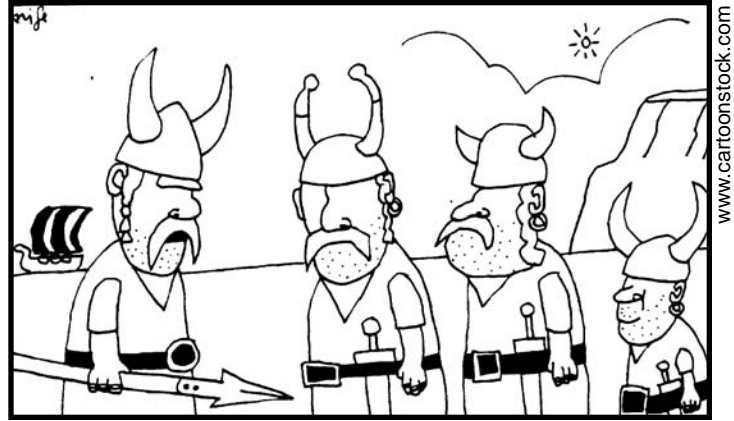
Since then we have been fortunate to book appearances at several events that have rewarded us with much needed revenue. This allowed us to attend to some costly maintenance on our physical assets. At this juncture our towing vehicle, longboat and trailer are back to good working order as well as more presentable to our public.

We are also grateful to have received some generous donations that have certainly helped us to upgrade and repair our equipment.

But, frankly, we are still in need of outside funding since our inventory of books and souvenirs needs replenishment. As you may know we are a "nonprofit" organization that depends heavily on the generosity of the public to help us provide the latest and factual education concerning the earliest history and development of North America. Yes, we have fun presenting ourselves as Vikings of old, but our mission of providing truthful education is our primary objective.

We welcome and sincerely thank you for your interest and support.

Captain Marty Martinson  
President of LEVS



**"No, Eriksson, there will not be an opportunity to stop and observe the flora and fauna of strange new lands."**

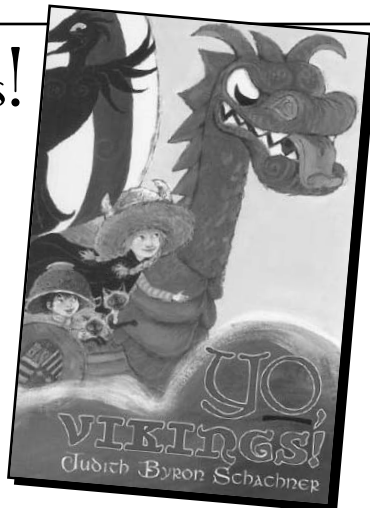
## July 4th Tallships Review

We had a very successful event in Camden! We met a lot of folks who had never heard of us, a lot of folks who had heard about us and came specially to see us, sailors from many nations and cities and towns around the USA, and just plain folks from all over the USA. We distributed countless 500 newsletters and brochures, and sold our merchandise and kept the public happy. We heard in a report on KYW NEWS RADIO that the interviewer talked to a family about the Tall Ships they had seen, and in their final question, asked the children which was their favorite Tall Ship to which they answered "The Norseman"! What exposure!

We spoke to teachers, historians, those who think they are historians, and presented ourselves beautifully. We should give special thanks to the crew members for giving up their holiday (and some vacation) time to help man the ship and our sales table. It was hot work, but fun! The kids made it worthwhile!

## Yo, Vikings!

Check out the (mostly) true story about our first ship (the *Ravnen*) and her final resting place.

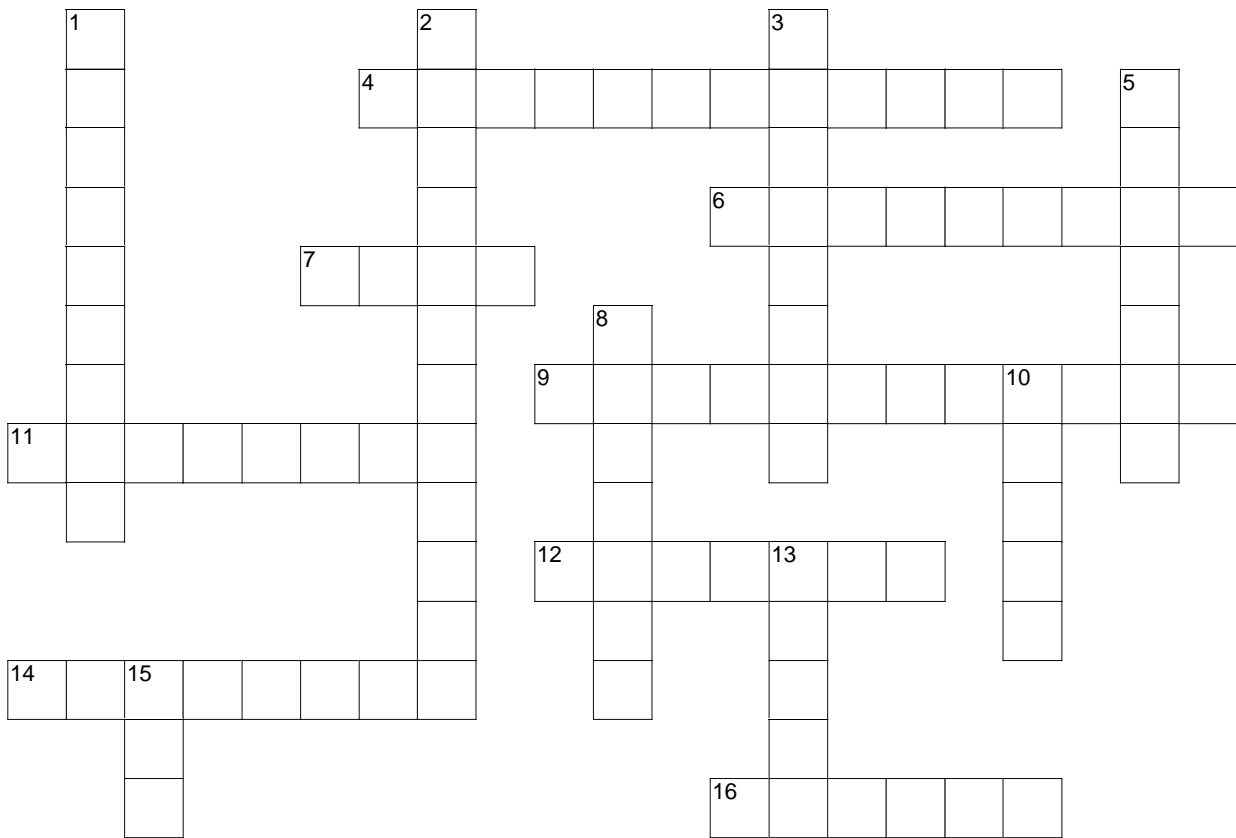


Our first ship, the *Ravnen*, needed to be laid to rest due to dry rot and hull damage, but we wanted to send her off in grand style. The author of this book had a daughter that saw our add in the paper, and this book tells her story. From Judith's site:

*"Emma has an imagination that won't quit, and when she has to prepare a report about Viking explorer Erik the Red, she's off and running on a voyage of discovery... After the librarian shows her a newspaper ad for a 29-foot Viking ship (\$7000 or best offer), Emma and her brother write to the owner proposing to pay \$128, two baseball cards and a fox tooth."*

This is a wonderful book that shows what one little girl can do with a lot of imagination and determination.

# A Puzzle in Honor of Leif Ericson Day



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

## Across

- 4 What did Leif convert to, and spread to Greenland?
- 6 In what country did Leif grow up?
- 7 Approximately how many hundreds of years did Leif precede Columbus?
- 9 In what North American province did archeologists find Viking remains?
- 11 Leif named a flat and wooded land \_\_\_\_\_.
- 12 What is the last name of the President, who in 1964 proclaimed October 9th "Leif Ericson Day"?
- 14 Leif is known as the first \_\_\_\_\_ to set foot in North America.
- 16 Baffin \_\_\_\_\_ is the most likely location of the land that Leif called Helluland



## Down

- 1 What nationality were Leif's parents?
- 2 What was Leif's father's last name?
- 3 The present-day name of the wooded land that Leif is presumed to have discovered.
- 5 What did Leif name the country he discovered with grapes and wheat?
- 8 L'Anse aux \_\_\_\_\_ is a Norse settlement found in Newfoundland
- 10 In one of the sagas, Leif was known as "Leif the \_\_\_\_\_"
- 13 What are the oral stories about the Vikings called?
- 15 Leif's father was more commonly known as Erik the \_\_\_\_\_.

The solution can be found on page 7.

# AMRMFRMUFAMN+MKLRFTLNHIXH

F

## Rune Scratchings

E

L

Dennis Johnson

H

M

Stamp collectors will welcome a new issue of Nordic stamps celebrating Viking mythology. Eight postal bureaus including those of Åland, Denmark, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Greenland will be issuing eight stamps with separate Nordic themes. This year is the first issue of these stamps, Issues on the same themes will occur in 2006 and 2008. For more information, see [www.topoftheword.nu/](http://www.topoftheword.nu/)

each May 17 with traditional music, costumes, flags and dancing. The town is accessible only by ship or plane; see [www.petersburg.org](http://www.petersburg.org) for more information.

X

M

H

J

The Viking ship *Sigrid Storråda*, based at Benson's Harbor on Lake Vänern, reports the theft of about 25 Viking costumes from their storage loft. The Sigrid offers commercial and corporate charters all summer, and provides the costumes to guests to help them get in the spirit of Viking sailing.

A

R

\*

A

A previously unknown Viking ship harbor appears to have been found on the west coast of Sweden near Köpstad, in Halland. This is the first harbor to be found on the west coast of Sweden, in the land of the Goths. Several houses have been excavated at this site, and investigation continues.

H

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The Viking ship *Hemkomst* which sailed to Norway in the 1960's, rest safe in its Museum in Moorhead, Minnesota. The massive flooding that struck the Red River in 2003 spared that city from the worst of the high water and the ship and building are intact. A replica Norwegian stave-church is on the same site, near downtown Moorhead.

Y

The Island of Gotland in the Baltic will be celebrating a 1000 year anniversary of the Viking age in 2005. Events are being held all year to commemorate the importance of Gotland as a center of trade and commerce in the Viking age. Check in on [www.vikinggotland.com](http://www.vikinggotland.com) to find out more

N

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T

To stay up to date on new Viking research, articles, and news, subscribe to *Viking Heritage* magazine, published by Gotland University in Visby, Sweden. This is a quarterly and is by far the best periodical available on Viking news. The magazine has subscribers in 29 countries and the cost is about \$28.00 per year. For subscription information, write [subscription.Viking@hgo.se](mailto:subscription.Viking@hgo.se)

L

Traveling to Alaska? Consider including Petersburg, on Mitkof Island in southeast Alaska. The town celebrates its Norwegian heritage on *Syttende Mai*

P

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Y

# AMRMFRMUFAMN+MKLRFTLNHIXH

## A Recipe for Viking Bread



### Ingredients:

- 2 cups of flour
- 1 cup of whole grain flour
- 1 teaspoon of dry yeast
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 1 cup of comestible grains
- 2 cups of warm water.

### Preparation:

1. Put all the flour in a bowl with the salt and mix it. Put the dry yeast in the warm water until it melts, then add it to the flour in the bowl. The Vikings used dry green peas but we've substituted the grain of the sunflower. Put half of the grain into the bowl, mix.
2. Pour in our water with yeast and mix it with a wooden spoon, until it is hard to stir, then hand knead the dough. Add flour as needed so that the dough doesn't stick to our hands.
3. When the dough is nicely kneaded and doesn't stick put it on an oiled pan. Take the remaining grain and sprinkle them on top of your bread.
4. Put it in a cool oven, it will help the rising process. While it rises, set the oven to around 190° and let it cook for about 1 hour.

# A Jamestown Festival Review

Dave Segermark

What a nice time we had this past weekend! Although we drove up to Jamestown, NY in showers and downpours, once we started to set up for the Jamestown Scandinavian Folk Festival, the sun came out and stayed out for the whole three days! I want to especially thank: Gene and Anne Martenson for hosting us at their place in Chautauqua Institute, Gil and Ellen Jacobsen, Karl and Mitch Spalin, Steven Clarke, Karen A. Johnson and Mary and Dave Segermark for supporting this event with their time and labor.

Dave, Mary, Karen and Steven drove up on Thursday, taking care of flat tires and other maintenance on "Big Red" along the way... We met up with the rest of the crew and Gene and Anne at their place in the Chautauqua Institution that night to find Gene in good spirits after his kidney surgery. What a relief for all of us! He really looked well and while moving slowly (to be expected) was a most congenial host.

On Friday we were up and ready to roll around 9:30 AM to bring the *Norseman* down to the event location. We proceeded to the Allen Park Skating Center - our location for the event. The location was interesting, in a corner of a parking lot, between the main event and a group of reenactors who were camping out on the fields adjacent to us. The organizers wanted us to be a tie-in from the main area to the reenactors. Surprisingly, it worked. As folks started coming in, they would see the *Norseman* and change their direction and come over to see us. Traffic was light on Friday and the hours fairly nice and short. Having eaten dinner at the event, once we closed down at sunset, we returned to our lodging and gathered around Gene and Anne's dining room table and talked about everything until around 10:30 PM then hit the sack.

Saturday came too soon, as we had to set up at 9:00 AM for the opening at 10:00 AM. What a day! We were busy from the opening until sunset! There were many neat folks to talk to, and many old friends, as we figured that we had been coming to Jamestown area for seven years now! There was great entertainment (think "Lingonberries"), great food vendors (ahh, those Korv burgers!), and lots of crafts and craftsmen, history, and Scandinavian vendors too! And the people poured in all day! Evening came and we all were happy at the results of the day in sales and contacts.

Sunday was a repeat, and seemed more laid back. It started a bit slower, built up and then tapered off toward the end of the event at 4:00 PM. As usual, we always have last

Gil Jacobsen and Steven Clarke pause for pictures in front of Steven's tent.

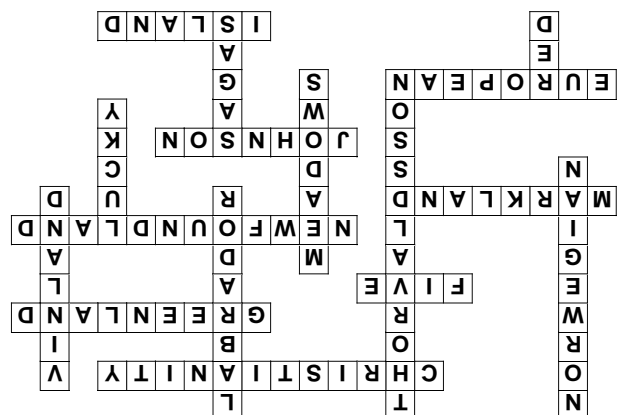


The weekend was beautiful and the Norseman was ready to greet visitors.

minute lookers as we are breaking the *Norseman* down for the trip home, but these folks are as interesting and interested as all the folks that stopped to talk to us. The whole crew got together for a nice meal at a local restaurant in the evening to relax and chat about the happenings of the weekend. Then we headed for our lodging that evening, and home the next day.

Of course, as we travelled back on Monday, at each pit stop, gas stop, meal break, toll booth, we always had to answer a dozen questions about the ship. This happens whenever we go out on an event, and it is part of the fun, and, who knows... the next member may join as a result of these meetings!

**Thanks to all of you for volunteering and supporting our efforts to "Tell the World that Leif Landed 1st!"**



# Norseman News

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

## Look for us on TV!

Crewmember Jim Thornton was filmed for a segment called "Comcast Newsmakers" which is shown on CNN Headline News in the greater Philadelphia region. In the segment, Jim talked about LEVS, Leif Ericson, the Norseman, our mission and recent events and our upcoming Leif Ericson Day celebration in Philadelphia, PA. Starting in mid-September look for the segment at either :25 past the hour or :55 past the hour!



## Fall 2004 Edition!

## Help Us Save Money!

Our organization is looking for ways to conserve our operating costs wherever possible. If you would be interested in downloading current issues of the Norseman News from the website after an email notification, please email the editor at [neditor@vikingship.org](mailto:neditor@vikingship.org). Please title your email "Change to email notification", and include your name & current mailing address in the body (so we can remove the information from our mailing list).



If you are no longer interested in receiving the newsletter, please contact the editor at the email address listed above (titling your email "Stop receiving newsletter") and include the same info as above; or you can mail your request to:

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