



Norseman News

Leif Ericson Viking Ship *Norseman*

Vol. 13 No. 1

Spring 2005 Edition

www.vikingship.org

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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

The Questions Keep Coming In...

It seems that school teachers around the world have found our website, and are suggesting to their students that they "Ask a Live Viking" a question. Since the school year started, our organization has received approximately 77 emails; the majority arriving from the United Kingdom.

Our resident "Live Viking", Captain Dave Segermark, was so inundated with the questions that he recruited Dennis Johnson, "Wolf" Sutton, Jim Thornton, Maia Holt, Len Gustafsson and Karen Johnson to assist with answering the questions. The students' questions ranged from general curiosity about Viking culture, to specific questions about clothing, homes, weapons, ships, as well as what the women did and wore and who

Leif Ericson was. Some questions were very specific, and others... well, let's just say that some students were hoping to have their homework done for them.

Since September 2004, LEVS has received at least 77 questions regarding the Vikings.

Dave noticed that students were asking very similar questions, or would ask questions for which an answer was already posted on the LEVS website. He and the web designer, Karen Johnson, got together to work out a better solution. "The problem was, we didn't have the ability to easily divide the questions into categories, and the students weren't able to find the answer they were looking for." said Karen. "I was able to find a script that has a search capability, and even allows the student to post a question if they really

Continued on Page 3



This is a recent screen shot of the FAQ page, which can be found at www.vikingship.org/ourfaqs/index.html

LEVS
Norseman News

The *Norseman News* is distributed 4 times a year through mailings, our web site, and handouts at events. Our readers consist of mainly Scandinavian-Americans including members, friends and others who have shown interest in our mission, Vikings and Leif Ericson.

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Newsletter Editor

Karen Johnson
neditor@vikingship.org

If you would be interested in downloading current issues of the *Norseman News* from the website after an email notification, please email the editor.

The Norseman News is now accepting ads!

Advertising rates are:

Insert, supplied by advertiser . . . \$300/issue (8.5X11" 1 or 2 sides)

Full page ad \$200 (7.5"x10")

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Business card ad \$25 (3.5"x2.5" or 2.5x3.5")

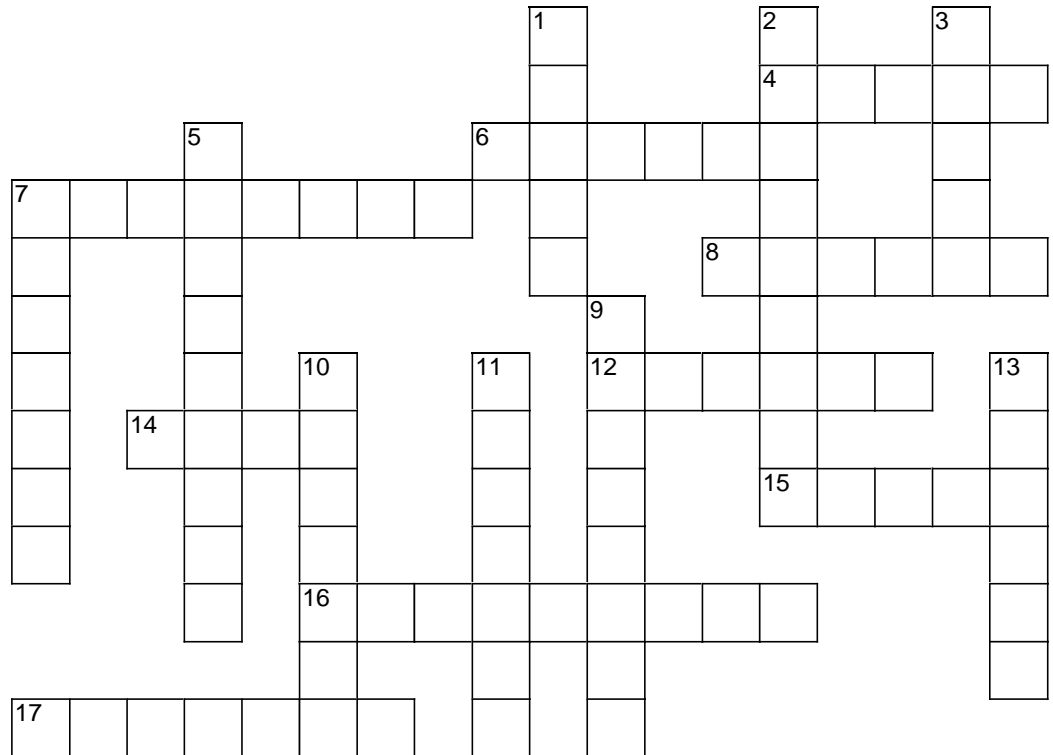
Paper submissions of artwork will not be accepted. All artwork must be grayscale or black and white. Please submit electronically as a BMP, TIF, EPS, or JPG to the newsletter editor. For layout services, add 50 percent.

We reserve the right to reject any advertising at our sole discretion. Deadlines for submission are Jan. 15 (Spring Issue out in Feb.), Apr. 15 (Summer Issue out in May), Jul. 15 (Fall issue out in late Aug.) and Oct. 15 (Winter Issue out in mid-Nov.).

Please make checks payable to LEVS, Inc. and mail to the address listed on the cover.

Search for the Answers

All of the answers to this edition's crossword puzzle can be found within the FAQ section of our website, found at <http://www.vikingship.org/ourfaqs/index.html>. Have a great time searching, and if you think of any other questions for our website, add them while you're there!



Across

- 4 The god of the Sea
- 6 Homes had walls made of wood, sod, and/or _____ and daub
- 7 In Eric's Saga, 27 ships started the voyage, but only _____ arrived at the destination
- 8 Tightly woven cloths were used for bartering
- 12 The home of the Gods
- 14 Many spices in the Viking age were imported from places like the Middle East and _____
- 15 The higher classes wore clothing made from _____, wool and sometimes silk
- 16 Most Viking ships were built using the _____ style
- 17 A style of warship with an hourglass shape

Down

- 1 The "moving van" in Viking times
- 2 A game similar to chess that kids liked to play
- 3 "Friday" is named after which Scandinavian goddess
- 5 Most "Vikings" were farmers and _____
- 7 A ship used for local travel that fit one to six people
- 9 An "apron dress" that women wore over their tunic
- 10 Where heros who died in battle would go
- 11 Who converted his mother and brought Christianity to Greenland
- 13 Word that comes from the Old Norse language, "Vind Oga", or "eye of the wind"

Message from the President - Marty Martinson

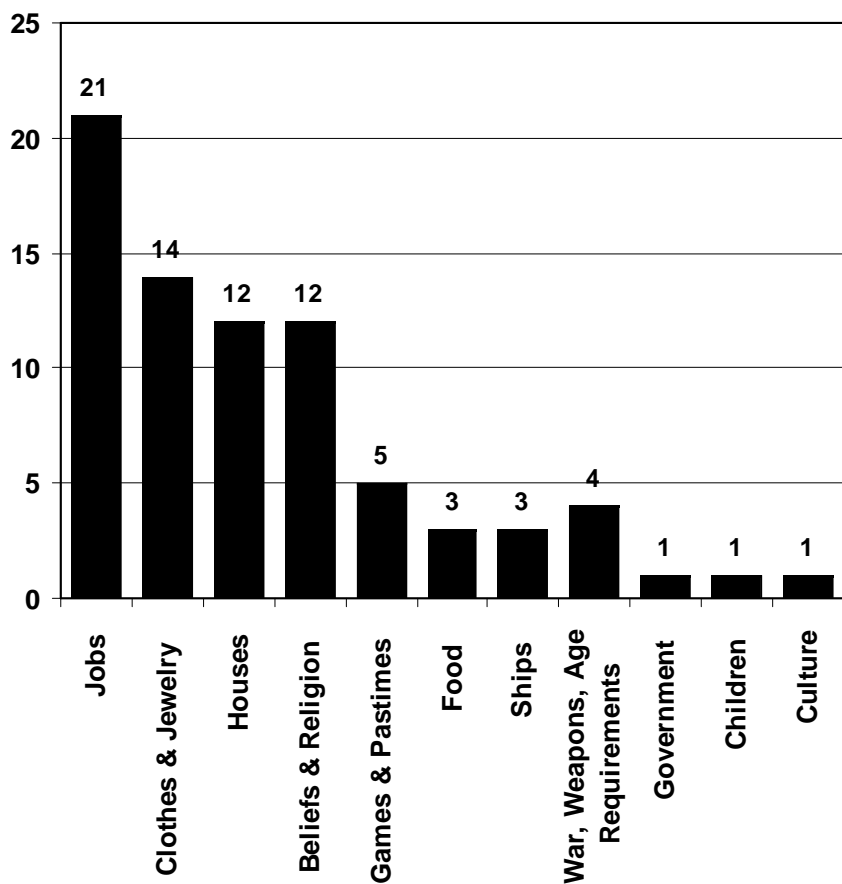
We continue to take part in a wide variety of events. We are very well received whenever we take part and we are reasonably compensated for our expenses. Do we have problems? Yes, of course. An example - we have to pay considerable attention to our valuable physical assets. The maintenance is time consuming and costly but it is absolutely necessary because when we make a commitment to attend an event even a long distance away we are expected to arrive on time and ready to perform. Our longboat, the *Norseman*, must be kept seaworthy as well as functional and attractive.

We do have a core of active and talented members that indeed give generously of their time but the problem is that they become overworked or their private lives sometimes don't mesh with our Viking needs.

Frankly, we need more active members to help distribute the work load. "Work" is a poor choice of terms because fortunately our "work" most often is actually fun. We all enjoy the camaraderie prevalent in both our work and our performing as Vikings. Our message is probably obvious but it worth repeating --- We welcome new ACTIVE members.

Whatever your particular talents or interests are --- we need you. Our mission is basically to spread accurate knowledge of our country's Viking Heritage. We do this by entertainment; demonstrations and dialogues. We are colorful and we do have fun. The best part is that we find our audiences have fun also. As an example, one of our activities is to have dialogues with children in their school classrooms. Their responses and questions are just plain great. Come on folks -- become an ACTIVE member -- I am sure we have a good place for you in our many activities.

Questions by Category



FAQs Keep Coming Cntd. from Page 1

can't find the question they are looking for." New questions are sent to Dave, and the answer can be sent to the student and then placed on the website for future reference.

Dave added, "We also renamed our 'Viking Legacy' page to reflect what it really is - FAQs. Now that we have the new format, when people email me directly, I point them to the FAQ page and let them know that they can email me if their answers aren't already there. It seems that the students are finding their answers." A look at the logs shows that 81 people have searched our FAQs since the new format was put in place in February of this year.

Having the ability to answer students' questions even if they are a world away has been a great way for our organization to fulfill its one of our missions - to promote knowledge about the Viking people - even if we cannot meet them in person. Please take a look at our website, let us know what questions we are missing, and pass our website URL on to your local school teachers. We'd love those questions to keep coming!

Winning Essays from the Cecilton Elementary School Event

The following two students wrote the winning essays, chosen by LEVS from all of the entries submitted. The prize for first place is a “Leif Landed First” t-shirt, a “Leif the Lucky” hand puppet, and a ride on the *Norseman* during our next sailing season. Enjoy the articles unedited, as written by the students.

Vikings by Morgan S., 1st Place Winner from Fourth Grade

Wow! Did you know that the Vikings only had two ways of transportation? Well they did! They only had boats or they would walk. When the Vikings wanted to see a family member they had to travel by boat, or they could walk there. They could not drive a plane. Vikings always depended on a boat to take them from place to place. Today we use cars, buses, trains, and subways to get where we want.

When Vikings needed to get anything they would either raid people or trade things. When Vikings raided people they would either kill people, take money, people or their pets. When they traded, they would trade jewelry, food, silver, and bee’s wax. Viking boats to be very quick so they could raid without getting killed. Bee’s wax was a very valuable thing to trade. But today when we want to get what

we want we would go to a store like Walmart. We could go to a garage sale to get somethings that we want also.

Viking clothes wer a lot different than the clothes we wear today. Vikings would wear animal skin, leather, and fur. Today we wear jeans, t-shirts, and decorated shirts. Also, the Vikings made their clothes by themselves. Also, our clothes are already made for us. Today we would by our clothes at mall or stores. Also, the Viking would wear animal skin like a coat. Our coats would be made out of wool, leather, and some rough materials.

Would you prefure to live back then or the way we do today. I would rather live like we do today because I don’t want to make my own clothes.

Vikings by Allison E., 1st Place Winner from Fifth Grade

The Vikings are fantastic people. Did you know the Viking period lasted 850-1066, they worked sun up to sun down. Vikings were very great ship builders, they used hardwood from oak trees to build boats. The dragon on the front of the boat meant when you go to an enimes village, it would scare of the enimes gods out of the port so the gods can’t protect the enimes.

Viking houses are made out of wood or stone the roof was often made of straw. Also Viking families lived with aunts, uncles, and grandparents. The women stayed in the house, they cooked and sewed. Little girls picked fruit, the boys practiced fighting, and the husbands went hunting and fishing.

The Vikings adored jewelry, brooches to fasten thier clothes, rings, bracelets, necklaces, and rich people wore lots of gold. Some Viking families took their animals and moved across the sea, they went to different countries like Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Greenland, and Iceland. They built new homes and started new farms. The woman had somewhat control, if they say I want a divorce, they would be able to get a divorce. Viking children didn’t have to school to sit by the fire and hear grown-up stories.

Vikings lived by farming and fishing. Most Viking

people worked as farmers, women did housework, women wove cloth, everyone worked on the farm even children. Farmers grew vegetables, raised pigs, sheep, and cattle. In autum farmers stored food for people to eat in the cold winter. Also Viking farmers made tools to use on their farms, many of the tools were similar to the tools used today. Men wore wool trousers and women wore long wool dresses.

The Vikings ate vegetables, fruits, seafood, and other meats. Also cheese, bread, porridge, and drank milk. If you went to someone elses house you had to bring your own spoons if you were going to eat porridge or something. If you didn’t you would be eating with your hands.

Vikings loved to decorate swords, carve handles, and belt buckles with patterns. They bought items with silver. When they fought they banged on their chests and yelled to try to scare off their enimes. Some bad Vikings crossed the sea and raided other lands, stole animals, belongings, and even people. They attacked with swords, battle axes, spears, and large knives, also they wore metle hats.

As you can see Vikings are amazing people. They didn’t last very long but they were strong. I just typed six paragraphs on how fantastic Vikings are I hope you noticed.

A Note Regarding School Events Dave Segermark

For a long time we have had a few of our members going out to schools in the Western Suburbs of Philadelphia. David J. Sutton, Sr. and Steven Clarke have been visiting schools in the West Chester and Coatesville areas in Pennsylvania for years now, probably starting when their kids were in school, but continuing beyond their kids' school years. Others, such as Dennis Johnson and Marty Martinson have also visited schools in the Pennsylvania area and in Florida.

It seems that recently there has been an increase in the number of requests to present Leif Ericson and Viking life to more schools in a wider area. On November 22nd, we made a presentation to Cecilton Elementary School (David Sutton (aka "Wolf") with Dave & Mary Segermark backing him up), on February 10th, 2005 at the Avon Grove Charter School (Steven Clarke and Dave & Mary again, with Karen Johnson and Maia Holt backing up) with two more requests to go to Coudersport, Pennsylvania in March for an Intermediate Unit presentation, and then down to Camden, Delaware for a living history day in June for a middle school there.

This is wonderful, as our primary mission is education of folks to the fact that the Vikings did explore in North America 500 years before Columbus, and we can't think of a better place to do that but in the schools. While we do have to charge a fee based on the distances involved, we try to keep that fee to the absolute minimum, covering the costs of getting the ship and crew to the event and back in a safe manner.

There is no question that the presentations are a hit; if only you could see some of the e-mails, thank you notes and cards that we get after a presentation. The teachers are impressed and thankful that we have come. One problem we currently have is that our pool of crewmembers that do the presentations is not large. We could use more members who are willing to learn about Leif Ericson and the Viking Life in order to pass it on to others.

Thanks for your support in our efforts to "Tell the World of the first European to explore North America: Leif Ericson" a Viking of Icelandic birth and Norwegian heritage, and of the Viking Culture.

Focus On: Karen Johnson It Runs in the Family...

If you were to ask Karen Johnson how long she's been a member of LEVS, she'd have a hard time answering. That is because she grew up with Dave Segermark as her father, so the Viking world has always been a part her life. Karen said, "I grew up with the *Ravnen* in my driveway and I brought Dad to my elementary school classes as 'show and tell'. The organization has become a huge part of my life."



After college, she started participating a bit more behind the scenes by taking pictures for the organization, then recently offered to work on the newsletter and website. As for being an active crewmember, she is still a "newbie", having only participated in last year's events.

"I had always wanted to be part of the crew in costume at events," said Karen, "but first I had to get over my nerves about speaking in front of crowds, and had to choose to set aside time to become an active member." She admits that she still needs more experience in sailing the ship. She laughed, "I have had plenty of experience as a passenger on pleasure sail and power boats, but I'm finding out that I don't have much experience as a crew member on a sailing ship."

Since taking on a more active role, she has found that she is learning from her crew mates along with the event patrons. Said Karen, "I've learned so much more from the other crewmembers about the Vikings' everyday lives: what they wore, how they lived, that they weren't all sailors and warriors, and so on."

Karen enjoyed the event Ashville, first because the audience was enthusiastic about the LEVS being there, but also because it was a combination sailing and land event - her favorite type. She also enjoyed the four day Tall Ships event in Camden, NJ and Philadelphia, PA despite the heat. "We reached a more broad and diverse audience because it was held on the Fourth of July weekend in two major cities." said Karen.

Karen's goal for LEVS is "to see our organization grow with active and interested members; to be able to go to more varied events, as well as have fun just for the fun of it; and to see the organization try new avenues to attain its mission."

Come meet Karen at an event in 2005!

Rune Scratchings

by Dennis Johnson, "The Old Swedish Viking"

If you have a new baby on the way and do not wish to name the child after a movie star or TV personality, check out the lists of Viking names for men or women on the Internet. Several sources have compiled long lists of names with meanings, and even ways of creating a new Viking name. Just do a google search for "Old Norse Names". Also some tips on how Vikings chose names for their children.

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Viking Heritage Magazine, published by Prof. Dan Carlsson of Gotland University, Visby, Sweden, is the best journal on Viking History being published today. Quarterly issues include articles on many Viking sites, new discoveries, research, archaeology, and news about Viking events in Scandinavia and elsewhere. Mail subscriptions are now \$40.00 per year, but you can now get an internet subscription of the complete Journal for \$25.00 per year. For more information, see www.sgo.se/viking.

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2005 is the year of the Viking on the Island of Gotland in the Baltic Sea. Gotland has produced the richest collections of Viking gold and silver hoards of any place in Scandinavia. The summer season will bring many events centered on Vikings, including the opening of the Spillings Hoard exhibition, excavations, theatre plays, markets, and reenactments. Events run from February through August, 2005. For further information see www.vikinggotland.com.

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The first Christian Church in the new world was the little chapel built by Tjodhilde, the wife of Erik the Red, at Erik's farm, Brattahlid, on Eriksfjord in Greenland. The church was built in the year 1000 and in 1999 Icelandic specialists in Viking architecture reconstructed the building. It was consecrated in 2000 as part of Leif Erikson Millennium events as a memorial to the first known Christian convert in the new world, Leif Erikson's mother.

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Viking children from an early age were taught to be tough and self-reliant. When an infant was born, the act of



naming meant that they were accepted into the household and would be cared for. Unwanted or deformed children were often exposed to die without naming. A ceremonial washing and dressing of the infant accompanied the naming. If a named child died, frequently the name would be used again for a later child as a sign of the reincarnation of a soul.

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The Viking town of Birka, on the island of Björkö on Lake Mälaren west of Stockholm, was a major trading center in the 9th and 10th centuries. At the time, ships from the Baltic Sea could sail all the way in to Birka where they would find many merchants and craftsmen with whom goods could be bought or exchanged. Excavations have revealed remains of the town, the harbor, burial grounds, and many Viking artifacts. It is now a historic site where research continues. A visitor's center has scale models of the town and many other exhibits about Viking life.

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Sailing was also possible to Sigtuna and to the Viking center at old Uppsala by ships from the Baltic. To guard against raiders or invaders, a stockaded fort was built on a rocky island at the narrow entrance from the sea to lake Malaren. This fort was to grow into the city of Stockholm. (Stock, from stockade, and Holm means island.)As the land in the area slowly continued to rise, locks later had to be built to pass from the sea into the lake.

Current LEVS "Wish List"

In General

- That people renew their membership for 2005.
- 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*.
- That we obtain enough events for the year to rebuild our treasury.

Trailer

- A donation of \$1,000 or so to cover the expenses incurred by having the trailer sandblasted and painted.
- A donation of \$100 to add reflective lettering to the trailer (our website URL) for more "exposure" while on the roads.

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.

Norseman

- ✓ A donation of \$1,500 to purchase a new sail.

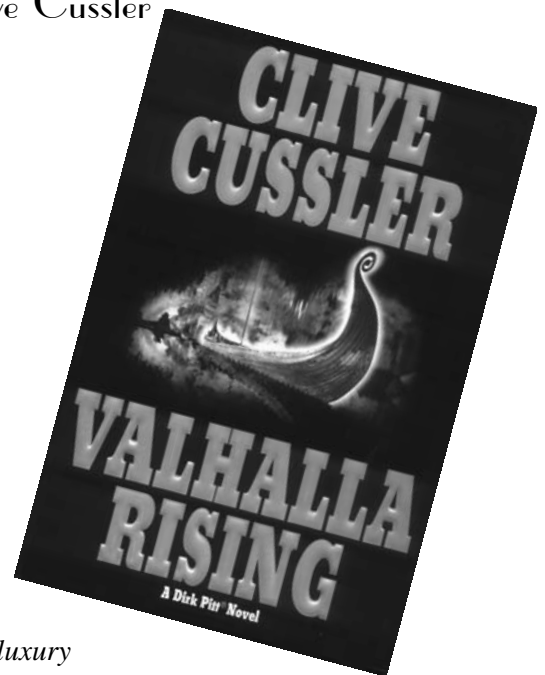
A Book Review

Valhalla Rising by Clive Cussler

Not only does our organization sell books on the history of Vikings, we also enjoy fictional books that have anything to do with Vikings. Below is a review from Amazon.com about *Valhalla Rising*:

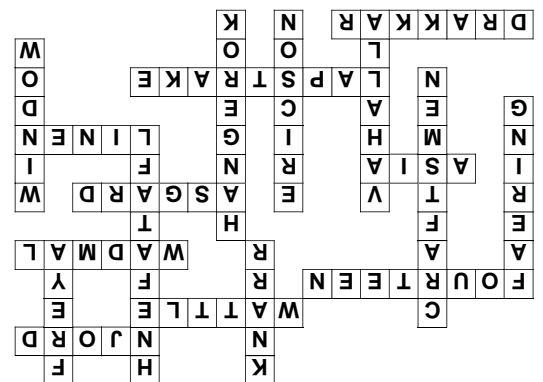
Dirk Pitt, Clive Cussler's aging but still potent superhero, returns in the 16th adventure in this popular series about the director of special projects for the National Underwater Maritime Administration (NUMA). Pitt's NUMA survey ship happens to be in the vicinity when the world's newest and biggest cruise ship founders and sinks, giving Pitt the chance to stage the daring rescue of nearly 2,000 passengers. Among those who perish is a famous scientist whose revolutionary engines powered the ship to her watery grave; while Pitt is unable to save Dr. Egan, he rescues his beautiful daughter Kelly from the sea, and later from a murder attempt aboard the rescue vessel.

Pitt and his trusty pal Al Giordino track the sinking to the boardroom door of a multinational conglomerate called Cerberus, whose evil CEO has designs on the world's oil supply. He'll do anything to keep Egan's advanced engines and secret formula for frictionless oil off the market--even sabotage another vessel, this time a



luxury passenger submarine. By the time our heroes have foiled the mastermind's nefarious plots, they've also uncovered the existence of a working submarine nearly a century before one actually existed--irrefutable proof of a Viking landing on the Hudson River--and the remains of the British sailor who inspired Jules Verne's Captain Nemo. A solid page-turner that even features a cameo appearance by the author himself, Valhalla Rising snaps, crackles, and pops with Cussler's usual brio. --Jane Adams

Don't forget
to renew your
membership!



Norseman News

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Spring 2005 Edition!

2005 Tentative Event Schedule

April 30th, thru May 1st - Viking Festival; Ashville, OH - A "renaissance faire".
Possibly sailing on Friday with the event on Saturday.

May 7th - Amani Festival; Carlisle, PA - A multi-ethnic festival that gets the whole town involved!

May 14th & May 15th - Viking Fest and May 17th Parade; Brooklyn, NY -
A return of a favorite event!

May 28th, 29th & 30th - Black River Medieval Fantasy Faire; Lorain, OH -
Memorial Day Weekend, another renaissance faire & parade.

June 6th - Fifer Middle School Living History Event; Camden, DE -
A Viking presentation for 8th graders with the ship and costumed Vikings.

July 29th - 31th - Scandinavian Folk Fair; Jamestown, NY - A return event!

August 12th - 14th - Swedish Festival; Mt. Jewett, PA

September 24th - Vasa Park Leif Ericson Day; Budd Lake, NJ - A return event!

Leif Ericson Day - October 9th - Philadelphia, PA - The *Norseman* sails the Schuylkill River near Boathouse Row and the statue of Thorfinn Karlsefni. Dinner that evening at various locations. We celebrate Leif Ericson Day every October 9th, on whatever day it falls!

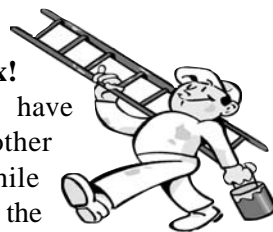
Fun Days on the Sassafras; Sassafras River, Cecil Co., MD - Informal, sailing on the river at least once a year! Crew only, for practice & fun.

This list is tentative and could change. Please go to www.vikingship.org for up-to-date information.

Work Parties

Work and play DO mix!

Come out and have fun with other members while helping to keep the organization organized! No skill is needed - just the willingness to help. All work parties are from 9:00 AM through 3:00 PM, with a break for lunch (we eat at a local restaurant or you can bring your own). The work parties are at the Kalmar Nyckel Shipyard at 1124 East 7th Street in Wilmington, Delaware.



Saturdays	Sundays
March 19	June 5
April 9	June 26
June 11	August 7
July 2	August 28
August 27	October 16
October 15	