



Norseman News

Leif Ericson Viking Ship *Norseman*

Vol. 12 No. 4

Winter 2004/2005 Edition

www.vikingship.org

What's Inside

Focus On:
A Persistent Viking2
Board Meeting Info2
A Viking Night Before Christmas3
Word Search Puzzle3
A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words4-5
2005 Wish List6
Leif Ericson Day, 20046
Raffle Ticket Winners6
Rune Scratchings7
Word Search Solution7
Book ReviewCover

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

A Living History Event in Cecilton Elem. School

In November, LEVS brought the Norseman to the Cecilton Elementary School in Cecilton, MD, for a Living History event. The school “discovered” our organization with the help of Mary Segermark (Captain Dave Segermark’s wife) who substitutes there on occasion. She had donated one of the books we sell, *Yo, Vikings*, which then brought about the question, “Why a book on Vikings?” which turned into a discussion about our organization and its mission, and then the invitation from the school as a way to augment what the students were learning in their history class.

“Wolf” Sutton brought the ship to Cecilton from the Kalmar Nyckel shipyard, and met with Mary and Dave and approximately 120 fourth and fifth-graders, their teachers, some local residents who know Mary and Dave and a reporter from the *Cecil Whig*. Wolf, Mary and Dave discussed the lifestyle of the Vikings, passing around samples of tools, shields and showing weapons, so that the students could get a first-hand look at what they have studied. Afterwards, the students were able to ask questions, which ranged from what livestock back then were like, how long the Vikings worked, and what the shields were like.

When the presentation was completed, the students were led outside where the Norseman had been set up in a dry display with the sail up,



This picture, as well as a lengthy article on our event, appeared on the front page of the Cecil Whig.

and the students looked in and around the ship.

The Norseman and the presentation by our crew ended up getting on the front page news of the *Cecil Whig*, which has a press run of 17,000. Hopefully the fame won’t go to the crews’ head. Mary hadn’t yet substituted at the school since the event. “I don’t know how the students will behave towards me, now that they know I’m a Viking,” said Mary.

We have posted the article on our website at www.vikingship.org/files/cecilwhigarticle.html. If you would like information on sending LEVS to a school near you, please contact our organization’s event coordinator at info@vikingship.org.

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")

Half page \$125 (7.5"x5")

Quarter page \$75 (3.65"x5")

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.

Focus On: Gene Martenson A Persistent Viking

If you met Gene Martenson outside of an event, you wouldn't picture him as a Viking – until you get him talking, of course... As a founding member of our organization, the 76-year-old Swede has had years of learning and experience, and is always willing to promote our mission of educating the public about the positive contributions of the Vikings.

Gene has always had an interest in boating and enjoyed time spent with the members of the Leif Ericson Society, International (LESI). When LESI built the *Ravnen*, he joined the "crew". When the *Ravnen* was laid to rest and a committee was formed to build the *Norseman* and make LEVS its own entity, he jumped in even deeper. Gene would love to see more "young" people join LEVS and take a more active role. "It's frustrating to arrive at a work session and only one other person is there." He is quick to thank those that are involved, though, because he knows that most people have lives outside of LEVS.

Gene seems to like any type of event that helps promote the Viking culture. His favorite recent event was the Viking Legacy Symposium, which he helped organize. He and other Symposium committee members pulled together various speakers who were able to give the public a more detailed view of the Vikings' accomplishments. This format was able to draw in more people outside of the Scandinavian circles.

Gene thinks that the perfect land/water event was L'Anse aux Meadows. "We sailed towards the landing site with beautiful choir music wafting towards us. We were surrounded by other Viking ships, and when we landed, we were greeted very warmly by the event goers for presenting a visible link to their past."

If you talk to Gene, please don't ask him "Where's Hagar [the Horrible]?" "That's one of the strangest questions I've gotten", said Gene. He also explains to event goers that Vikings weren't all marauders and rapists – that they had many amazing accomplishments.

Come to our events and chat with Gene!

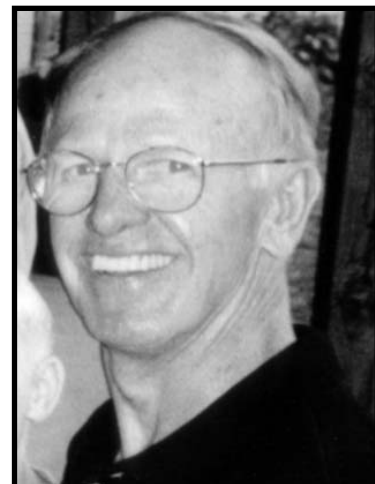
Get More Involved; Come to Our Board Meetings!

Anybody that is a voting member or higher is encouraged to attend our monthly board meetings. In these meetings, the Board and voting members discuss issues that affect our organization: future events, operating needs and expenses, our current mission and where we want the organization to head. We would love to have more input from you, so please join us!

The meeting is held at the Community Services Building, Room 109 in Wilmington, DE, and begins at 7:00 PM. Please note the days listed below on your calendar.

Jan 6 (2nd Wed.)	April 20	July 20	Oct 19
Feb 16	May 25	Aug 17	Nov 16
March 16 (Room 6)	June 22	Sept 21	Dec 21

Many members also get together for dinner before the meeting; it's a great way to keep in touch with friends! If you would like directions or more information, please contact Dave Segermark at info@vikingship.org or 410-275-8516.



A Viking Night Before Christmas Our Ship's Word Search Puzzle

Anonymous

'Twas the night before Christmas
and all through the Hall
Not a creature was stirring, not warrior nor thrall.
And I in my armor, my greaves and my helm
Was drunker than anyone else in the Realm

I staggered upstairs and fell into bed
While four quarts of mead were ablaze in my head.
Then up from below came the sounds of a brawl
So I grabbed up my axe and ran down to the Hall.

I missed the last step and crashed down in a heap
Thinking, "Why can't those low-lifes downstairs
go to sleep!"
When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But two brawny strangers, wielding mallet and spear.

I said to myself, "We'll soon have them beat!"
Then I noticed ten warriors laid out at their feet.
I gave out a yell and leapt into the fray.....
I'll always regret my poor choice that day.

For the one laid his hammer to the side of my nose
And up, up, up to the rafters I rose.
Then came a lone frightened voice from the floor,
"Those are no mortal warriors — that's
Odin and Thor!"

Then they looked at each other
and they said, "Battle's done,

Now they know who we are, it no longer is fun."
Then Thor raised his hammer, and his elbow he bent,
And with a loud crash, through the ceiling they went.

I crawled through the Hall and flung open the door,
Not really sure that I'd seen them before.
The snow bathed in starlight, the moon like a glede,
I saw them ride off on an eight-legged steed.

And I heard them exclaim, 'ere they flew out of sight,
"TO HELA WITH CHRISTMAS, WE JUST LOVE A
GOOD FIGHT!"

Find the words in the grid.
When you are done, the unused
letters in the grid will spell out a
hidden message. Pick them
out from left to right, top line
to bottom line. Words can go
horizontally, vertically and
diagonally in all eight
directions.



Hidden Message:

“ _____ ”

S	T	S	T	D	R	A	O	B	R	A	T	S
D	R	T	H	H	B	L	O	C	K	F	E	N
L	O	S	I	R	T	C	S	K	I	N	A	M
E	P	A	L	A	O	T	E	G	O	G	Y	S
I	F	M	C	L	E	U	U	T	N	A	H	E
H	B	K	E	E	U	R	D	I	T	S	Y	A
S	L	O	H	S	E	H	G	S	T	B	A	S
E	E	S	W	H	R	G	K	E	P	R	R	E
E	N	T	E	I	I	C	R	S	T	A	D	R
O	D	A	I	R	A	N	E	J	A	C	A	P
P	D	M	L	B	S	A	I	L	I	E	R	E
Y	A	T	S	E	R	O	F	N	L	S	M	N
X	T	S	T	E	E	R	B	O	A	R	D	T

BACKSTAY
BLOCK
BOW
BRACES
FIGUREHEAD
FORESTAY
HULL
MAST
PORT
RIGGING

SAIL
SEASERPENT
SHEETS
SHIELDS
SHROUD
STARBOARD
STEERBOARD
STERN
TACKLE
TAIL

Puzzle solution can be found on page 7.

Our 2004 Events: A Picture



is Worth a Thousand Words...



To see more photos of our events, please go to www.vikingship.org/LEVSpotos.html.

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.

Review: Leif Ericson Day, 2004

Our Leif Ericson Day celebrations began with some minor chaos as we launched our ship between the Dragon Boat races that were running past our launch site. (Their races had been rescheduled from the previous week.) We garnered quite a lot of attention from the Dragon Boat racers, as well as their audience. ("That's the largest Dragon Boat I've ever seen," commented more than a few people.)

After launching our ship, we sailed/motored down to the statue of Thorfinn Karlsefni, where the crowd was awaiting our arrival. Joe Jeantet, the chairman for the event, introduced the guest speakers: Bert Georges, Icelandic Consul; Erik Torp, Norwegian Consul; Agneta H. Bailey, Swedish Consul; Carol Brooks, City of Philadelphia's Diplomatic Liaison and Naval Attaché, Capt. Bo Wallander. Our guest speakers then laid a wreath at the foot of the statue.



Swedish Consul Agneta H. Bailey and Naval Attaché Capt. Bo Wallander place the wreath at the statue of Thorfin Karlsefni.

The evening dinner, held at the Renaissance Hotel in Philadelphia, PA, was a chance for our members and guests to get together and relax. After a wonderful meal, Sally Christensen announced this year's "Viking of the Year" award winner - Joe Jeantet (who was very surprised). Joe then drew the raffle winners who are listed below.

And the 2004 Raffle Winners Are...

During the Leif Ericson Day celebratory dinner, Chairman Joe Jeantet and honored guest Sally Christensen picked the raffle ticket winners from all the tickets received. The winners were notified after the event. Thanks to our sponsors who donated the prizes!

1st Place Prize

2 tickets to Scandinavia from Icelandair
John A.; Aquebogue, NY

2nd Place Prize

Ekornes Stressless Chair from Dane Decor
Dale & Mary Jean C.; Newtown Square, PA

3rd Place Prize

\$200.00 store gift card from IKEA
Judy T.; Wilmington, DE

Rune Scratchings

by Dennis Johnson, "The Old Swedish Viking"

Remains have been found of a Viking settlement near Woodstown, County Waterford, Ireland. Early indications are that this was a sizable settlement of up to 4000 people, close to the river Suir. Many artifacts have been found and there are indications of numerous Viking ships at the settlement. Dating to about the year 812, the town was located to control harbor and river traffic on the Suir.



R

Roskilde, Denmark, was the scene of the launching of the latest Viking ship replica on Sept. 4, 2004. This is the last of five replicas of the Viking ships found in Roskilde Fjord in 1962, sunk as blockships to ward off invaders from the fjord.

Named Havhingsten fra Glendalough, the replica was christened at the launching by Queen Margarethe of Denmark. Study of the wood in the original ship indicated that the original was built in Dublin, Ireland, about the year 1040. The replica is 30 meters long (almost 100 ft.) and is scheduled to sail to Dublin in 2007.

N

Each May, Petersburg, Alaska has their Little Norway festival, one of Southeast Alaska's biggest celebrations. In the late 1890's, Norwegian immigrant Peter Buschmann established a cannery here on Mitkof Island, hence the nickname, "Little Norway". Timed to coincide with Norway's Independence Day, May 17, there is a big parade, Norwegian folk costumes, dancers, Native American dancers, Vikings, and a Viking ship. For more information, see www.petersburg.org

T

The Vikings used dogs for many purposes. Being well-traveled, they no doubt brought various breeds back with them from their voyages. Most well-known are the native northern Spitz type of dogs such as the Norwegian Elkhound and their similar counterparts in Sweden and Finland. Excavations have found remains of dogs of all sizes and many types, however. A huge guard dog for guarding sheep and cattle against wolves was the Molosser, similar in appearance to a large English Mastiff.

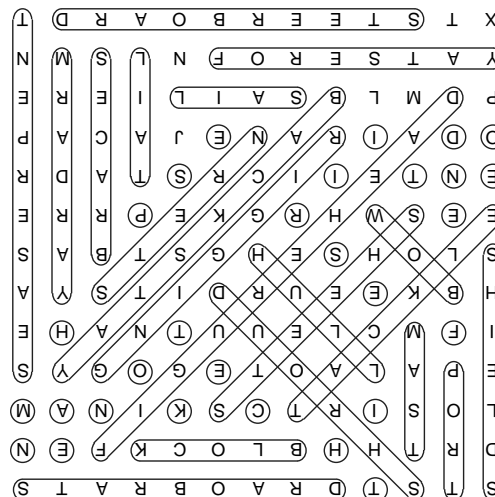
These large guard dogs were frequently equipped with

spiked collars, many of which have been found in gravesites and elsewhere dating to the Viking age. These were also known as Norsk Dogge, Fehund, or Vighund. A similar breed in Sweden was known as the Dalbo Dog. King Olaf Tryggvasson had a large Molosser named 'Wige', which he used to kill peasants who refused baptism as Christians.

Another breed known since the Viking era is the Swedish Vallhund (Västgötaspetz), also called the Swedish Shepherd Dog. These smaller dogs were used for herding, vermin control, and as general guard dogs.

M

Have a question about Vikings? Try the Viking Answer Lady on the internet, who offers to answer your questions about the Viking Age literature, history, and archaeology. Try www.Vikinganswerlady.com

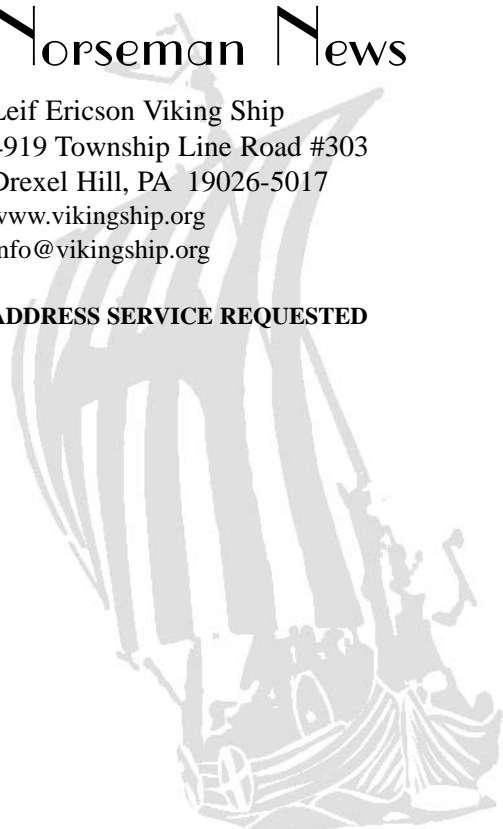


"The Solution Puzzle"
 nickname
 of the
 serpent is
 "Odin"

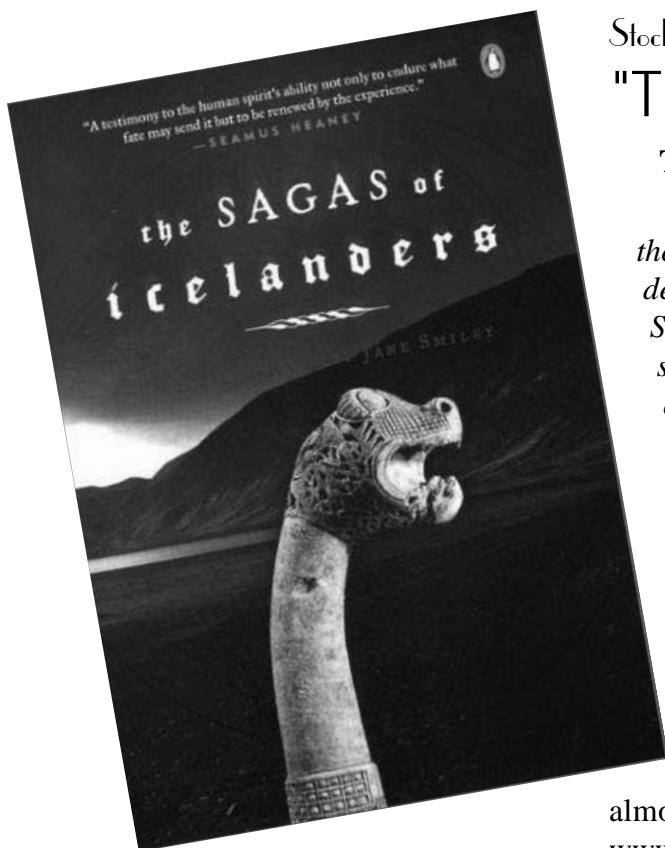
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"The Sagas of Icelanders: A Selection"

The following review is from Amazon.com

"A unique body of medieval literature, the Sagas rank with the world's greatest literary treasures-as epic as Homer, as deep in tragedy as Sophocles, as engagingly human as Shakespeare. Set around the turn of the last millennium, these stories depict with an astonishingly modern realism the lives and deeds of the Norse men and women who first settled Iceland and of their descendants, who ventured further west-to Greenland and, ultimately, the coast of North America itself.

The 10 Sagas and seven shorter tales in this volume include the celebrated Vinland Sagas, which recount Leif Eiriksson's pioneering voyage to the New World and contain the oldest descriptions of the North American continent."

LEVS stocks this book and many more, for readers of almost any level. Please take a look at our inventory at www.vikingship.org/BooksInCat.html.