



Norseman News

Leif Ericson Viking Ship *Norseman*

Vol. 14 No. 2

Fall 2006 Edition

www.vikingship.org

What's Inside

- Message from the President 2
- Thanks to Active Crew3
- Events through 20063
- Diary of a Viking (Ctd) 4 & 5
- A Note from the New Membership Director6
- New Merchandise Item! . . .7
- All About Iceland8
- Leif Ericson Day 2006 InformationCover

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 3 times a year

Diary of a Modern Viking

Day 1 - Wednesday, July 26th:

Travel Day (aka "What did I just see on I95???")

I woke up at the ungodly hour of 6:00AM so that I could meet up with the other folks that would be traveling with the Norseman in the truck: Dave, Marty and Charlotte. (It seemed extra early because I was packing 'til 2:00AM - next time I'll plan better.) We all arrived at the Kalmar Shipyard around the same time, packed our gear in the truck, hooked up the ship, and rolled out. We were on our way to Jamestown, New York!

I won't bore you with the mundane details of the actual driving, except to say that it took about eleven hours to get to Jamestown from Wilmington, DE. Dave, Marty and I all took turns driving. Traveling with the ship is always a little bit of an adventure in itself. First of all, it takes much longer with the ship than it would in just a car or truck; the added weight of the ship uses up

I've noticed that we get two kinds of people - those that wave and honk and love the weirdness of the ship, or those that pretend that seeing a Viking ship traveling on an interstate is an everyday occurrence, and therefore just ignore us altogether.

gas at a quicker rate, so we need to refuel more often. Secondly, when we make our stops, we're often approached by people at the rest stops who want to know more, which usually adds a few minutes to the length of our stops. Finally, when we're on the road, other drivers often cause near-misses as they rubberneck at the ship, trying to figure out what it is, or read (or write down) the information on the trailer or truck. I've noticed that we get two kinds of people - those that wave and honk and love the weirdness of the ship, or those that pretend that seeing a Viking ship traveling on an interstate is an everyday occurrence, and therefore just ignore us altogether.

We arrived at the Sheldon House, our accommodations for the length of **Continued on Page 3**

Cast of Characters:

Me (Karen Johnson) - One of the "younger" (but not the youngest) members of our gang.

Dave Segermark - my Dad, as well as our Director of Events and one of the captains of the ship.

Marty Martinson - Our President, the other captain and a seasoned sailor to boot. Marty loves to ham it up with our visitors.

Charlotte Berg - An enthusiastic and chatty new member who loves to attend events to find items to accessorize her costume.

Steve & Barbara Clarke - Steve is our resident historian, and Barbara complimented the group with her yarn spinning demonstrations.

Aaron and Maia Holt - Our youngest members, also very historically correct. Aaron is a Viking musician while Maia is one of the women who we turn to for our costuming needs.

Emilie Knud-Hansen - A "local" member (hailing from Cleveland), who livened up our event with her magnetic personality.

Gene Martenson - Our "hometown hero", Gene grew up in Jamestown, and still knows many of the locals. Since he was hosting his extended family, he only pops into the story every once in a while.

LEVS Norseman News

The *Norseman News* is distributed 3 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

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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.).

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

A Message from the President

Our season for attending events and festivals has gone well. We interfaced with the public, ate great food, and had fun as well.

The season isn't quite over yet so we look forward to some more camaraderie and exposure to the public while teaching about the exploits of the Vikings.

We have also taken on a major task. Although we are reasonably solvent to handle our many routine expenses, we have no large funds in our treasury to cover the significant cost of completing this major task. The task is to acquire a bigger than life statue of "Leif Ericson".

So we need your help! Why a statue, you may ask? Statues of Leif Ericson are few and far between and yet there are many population centers that are predominantly Scandinavian in heritage. All Americans have good reason to be aware of and celebrate the discovery of North America by Leif Ericson back in 1003 AD. Yes, "Leif Landed First!" and started the growth of European culture on the North American soil. There should be more symbols of this legacy - our early history.

Too many people have been told only that Vikings were marauders and plunderers. Yes, they were aggressive in their efforts to better their own plight. However, Vikings were also very well organized. They governed their own people based on reviews and rulings at meetings of the leaders at the "Allthings" - their "parliament". This assured fair play and cooperative behavior.

The Vikings life was difficult during a period of oppression. Their exploits required that they be both courageous in their desire to improve their life as well as bold to successfully fulfill their goals. One way to celebrate this positive contribution is to build a statue to honor this first European to reach our shores.

Again, I must appeal to you for your generous help to build the fund that is necessary to cover the cost of casting a full size bronze statue. It is a big project and will take many months to complete. So please join us to help succeed in providing a permanent symbol of Leif Ericson's contribution to us.



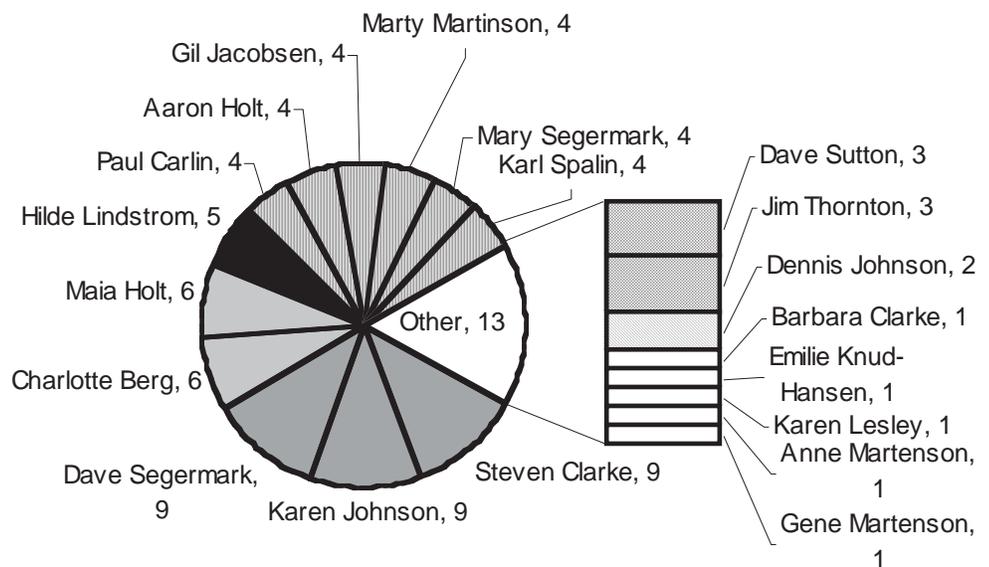
A model of the proposed Leif Ericson statue.

Marty Martinson, President, LEVS

A Big Thanks to the Active Norseman Crew

We would like to thank those volunteer crew members who have taken time out of their busy lives to assist the Leif Ericson Viking Ship organization in its mission of teaching the public about Viking culture. The chart below shows the top 20 volunteers (out of 50 or so folks) that are on our "crew members" list. Some of these names will be familiar to you - you read about them in the newsletter, or in the emails that Dave sends out, and see their names listed in the photo gallery on the website. Next time you see these folks (hopefully at our Leif Ericson Day event, or any other event), please say thanks as well!

Top 20 Crew Volunteers in 2006



If you've never been a part of the crew, but would like to get more involved, contact Dave at info@vikingship.org. He'd be happy to supply you with information regarding our events, how/where to get a costume, and more!

Future LEVS Events Through 2006 - Dave Segermark

We have a last minute request from the Kalmar Nyckel folks to set up for their "New Sweden Day" on **Saturday and Sunday, September 2nd & 3rd** at the shipyard. So far Charlotte Berg and Steven Clarke have signed on for both days, while Gil Jacobsen, Gene and Anne Martenson will help on Saturday and Dale & Mary Jean Clark will assist on Sunday! As not much travel or movement of the Norseman is required, they should be able to handle it. We look forward to another great event at our shipyard!

On **Saturday and Sunday, September 9th & 10th**, Steven & Barbara Clarke has arranged with an acquaintance of theirs to have the Norseman "land on his beach" on the Sassafras River, upriver from the Segermark's! This will be a fun crew event for training and practice! At the moment we have a bare crew and are hoping that more will join in the fun. We will launch around 10 am Saturday from Dave's community, load the crew and supplies and proceed up the Sassafras River to the "secret location" near Georgetown's yachting center! Those who are so inclined may sleep overnight in Steven's tent, others may come back to Dave's.



The next day those who wish to go may bring the Norseman back to Dave's for retrieval in the early pm. Details will follow.

Then, after a break to get kids back to school, we travel to Budd Lake, NJ for the Vasa Park's "Leif Ericson Day" festival on **Saturday, September 30th!** This is a really fun event, with a lot of Scandinavian food and festivities, singing and dancing, food and festivities! You get what I mean, don't you? We could still use a couple of people to man the ship and the sales tent, so call me if you want to get involved... we would like to see you!

Of course, we also have our own Leif Ericson Day on **Sunday, October 8th** in Marcus Hook. There is more information about the event within this newsletter, and please call me if you would like to be on crew for this event!

Finally, on **Friday, October 20th**, we will be travelling to Lancaster, PA to a Sons of Norway group meeting to talk to them about Viking ships.

Diary of a Modern Viking...

Continued from Page 1

the event. The Sheldon House is an incredible Bed and Breakfast owned by the Jamestown Community College. It is full of wonderful homey touches, and Gene the caretaker and Sue the cook took such incredible care of us last year that I think that is why we had such a large turnout of crew for this year's event.

We met up with Aaron and Maia, who had driven directly from their home, dropped off our gear in our respective rooms, then wandered around until we found a place to eat. We arrived late, and closed down the restaurant (this became a recurring theme).

Finally, we headed back to our "home" and got right to sleep - we had a long day ahead of us...

Day 2 - Thursday, July 27th: All Kinds of Lessons Learned

Today, we all woke up relatively early, got a wonderful breakfast from Sue, then headed to the Rodger's School to put on "Living History" show for the local K-4th grade children that were in summer school. We filed into the auditorium where the children were waiting, then gave a short presentation then asked for questions. In general, the children ask some great and surprising questions, ranging from "What did Viking children wear?" and "Why did they fight?" to "Did they have pets"? or "Did they wear glasses?" One little girl, upon seeing my polished toenails, asked me what Vikings used for nail polish... I sheepishly told her that I had forgotten to take it off before our trip.

After the kids saw the ship, we headed out to Long Point Beach to launch the ship for our water portion of the trip. Steve and his wife Barbara arrived after driving overnight, and our Cleveland crew member Emilie met up with us at



Emilie, relaxing on the ship ride to the Salty Fisherman (before our "adventure" began).

Long Point, so our crew was ready to roll... I mean sail! We were taking on passengers from Long Point to Bemus Point as a favor to the organizer of the event, so as we sailed (and motored) to Bemus, we chatted with them, telling them a little bit about our group, and what we do.

When we arrived at the Italian Fisherman Restaurant (talk about irony) in Bemus Point, there was a HUGE crowd waiting for us at the floating stage! What a welcome! Captain Dave even got flowers from the

local folks. We answered questions, posed for pictures, and tried to make it to the restaurant to eat. (Dad was waylaid by local news crew for both a TV spot and the paper). We enjoyed a very hearty meal there, and were even showered with gifts - Italian Fisherman potato chips and an "IF" sweatshirt for Dad (to which we plan to add "LE").

We took off after lunch with different passengers this time - a guest speaker, a young man, and a mother, her four kids plus two friends/cousins (ranging from 4th grade to 16 years old). The sailing was good, as the wind picked up, but the reasons for it were NOT good - a storm was coming in. We were heading from Bemus Point up to Chautauqua Institute, which under good weather would normally have been a two hour (or so) trip. However, less than halfway up the route the heavens opened up, and it started to pour. Just as we were resigning ourselves to having an annoying, wet sail (and we crew members were joking about being wimpy Vikings), we heard and saw lightning, and the wind got dangerously strong. So, we did what any good Vikings would have done - we landed at the nearest safe harbor, and got the heck off of the ship!! The mom and her kids decided that they had had enough, and called for transportation home. (Unfortunately, we never saw them again, so we have no idea if they saw past the frightening moments to enjoy their "Viking Adventure".) The rest of us hearty Vikings found and raided the campground trading post while we waited for the storm to let up. By the time it did, we had



Aaron "raids" the campground trading post while we waited for the storm to pass.

...Our Trip to Jamestown, NY. Continued from previous page.



Aaron, Maia and Steve talk to visitors at the event.

completely missed any schedule we were supposed to meet, so the Captains decided to sail back to Long Point and pull the boat out of the water. (Of course, the sun started shining again as soon as we got the boat out. Go figure.)

We went back to the Sheldon House to dry off, get changed, and head back to Bemus Point, where we were supposed to have been sailing back to after Chautauqua Institute and the Viking Lodge. Although folks were disappointed to not see us in the water, they were still excited to see the ship, so we answered questions for a brief time and then descended on the restaurant for dinner.

Days 2 thru 4 - Friday - Sunday, July 28th - 30th: Let's Get This Party Started...

The festival started at three in the afternoon on Friday, so we took our time getting ready, then got to the site late morning, and by the official start time, we had already been "on duty" for a few hours. We had a great mix of talents among our crew - near Steve's Viking tent, Maia and Barbara demonstrated spinning wool with drop spindles, Aaron played his Swedish bagpipes or his lyre, and Steve was whittling or carving wood. Charlotte, Emilie and I were the "shop keepers" at the merchandise tent, and Dad and Marty would sit or stand out by the ship and answer questions. One of our first visitors was "Wild Bill", a longstanding crew member from Jamestown. We answered loads of questions, talked visitors ears off, posed for pictures until dusk, then put away our merchandise (and Steve's display items) for the evening, and went to the music tent to relax a bit before going back to the house. Steve and Barbara danced with the crowds while the rest of us listened

to the music.

Saturday and Sunday were more of a blur... Each of us had opportunities to wander the festival, and we went shopping among the vendors, ate the delicious Scandinavian fair food (Korv burgers anyone?), and hung out with the SCA Viking Village folks.

On Sunday, we packed up our gear and headed back to the Sheldon House for a quick shower and change before heading to Chautauqua Institute for dinner at Gene Martenson's house. Some of our crew hadn't been there before, so we got a tour of the town by way of one of the tram drivers. (The town is a pedestrian town, so if you want to get from one end to the other you either walk, bike, or take the trams.) After the tour was complete, we had a lovely and delicious dinner provided by the Martenson's, and got a chance to chat with their family. Finally, we had to leave, since we were getting up early to head home.

Day 5 - Monday, August 1st: Leaving Odie Behind

Dave, Charlotte, Marty and I left early on Monday morning, leaving the others to head home at a more civilized time. We were actually dropping off the ship part-way home, because we were coming back up this way to Mt. Jewett in two weeks, and wanted to try to save money on gas, and also reduce the wear and tear on the truck, trailer and ship. So, we headed to the town of St. Mary's, where the local airport allowed us to store the ship for the two weeks. We then left for home, sans ship.

It's funny - we get so used to the attention we get from towing the ship behind us that when we no longer had the ship, we actually got a little bit disappointed... No one was asking us what it was, or where we were going; we were just normal people again. Until the next trip, that is.

For more pictures of this event and others, go to <http://www.vikingship.org/gallery/albums.php>.



The crew and Martenson family after dinner.

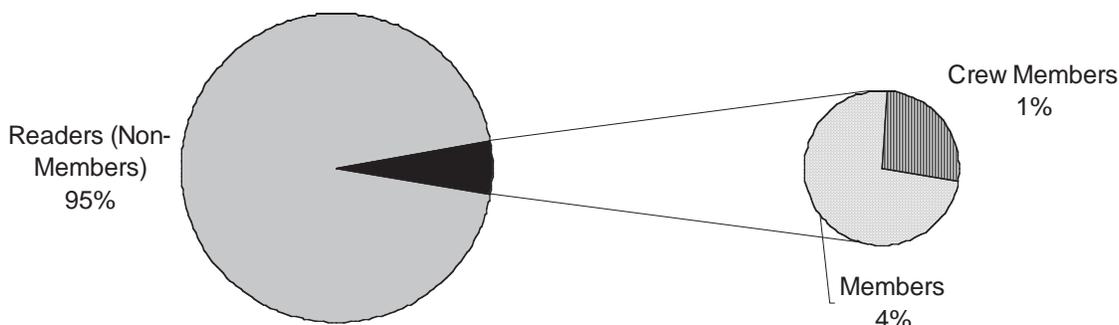
A Note from our New Membership Director

Somehow our members have dwindled over the years... YOU ARE MISSED! We send out more than ten times the number of newsletters than we have actual paying members... Come back to the fold.

Also, if you have friends or family (spouses, siblings, kids or grandkids) that might be interested in learning more about Vikings, spread the word about our organization. Come back and help us educate everyone to the fact that "Leif Landed First"! Don't let the knowledge of our cultural heritage disappear with our generation.

You can rejoin so easily by going to <http://www.vikingship.org/LEVSfiles.html>, getting a

Newsletter Distribution Breakout



membership form and sending it to the address on the form.

- Hilde Lindstrom

New Merchandise Item!

We recently found a new item which we are excited to stock - it's called **Hnefatafl** (nev - a - tah - full) which means "King's Table". Steve has a variation of this game, which we've displayed (and played) during events, and we finally found a manufacturer.



The general rules are simple: all pieces use the same movement, and capture by surrounding an opponent on two sides. The object of the game is for the defenders to get the king to one of the corner squares; OR for the attacker to stop him through capture. A simple as this sounds, the strategy can be complex, and for two experienced players can become a contest of wits!

Each package includes:

- 38 glass drop counters
 - a hand cast, lead free pewter king piece
 - a playing board, hand screen printed on durable canvas
 - rule sheet (in English and French), with historical notes
 - all contained in a sturdy canvas drawstring bag
- The Viking Game is suitable for ages 10 to adult.



Steve talks to guests at our event at Mt. Jewett. Notice the beautiful mural behind the tent.

All About Iceland

Iceland is our featured country for our Leif Ericson Day celebration this year. We've compiled a bit of information about this country from the CIA World Factbook and Visit Iceland websites.

Iceland's General Background:

Settled by Norwegian and Celtic (Scottish and Irish) immigrants during the late 9th and 10th centuries A.D., Iceland boasts the world's oldest functioning legislative assembly, the Althing, established in 930. Independent for over 300 years, Iceland was subsequently ruled by Norway and Denmark. Fallout from the Askja volcano of 1875 devastated the Icelandic economy and caused widespread famine. Over the next quarter century, 20% of the island's population emigrated, mostly to Canada and the US. Limited home rule from Denmark was granted in 1874 and complete independence attained in 1944. Literacy, longevity, income, and social cohesion are first-rate by world standards. Comparative area: Iceland is slightly smaller than Kentucky.

European or American:

Is Iceland in Europe or America?

Iceland lies on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the mainly underwater border where the tectonic plates of America and Eurasia are slowly spreading apart. A huge rift runs through the country from southwest to northeast, disappearing and surfacing by turns, where the plates are heading in different directions. So although Iceland is geographically and culturally part of Europe, half of it lies on the American plate, and is moving westwards at an estimated 1-2 cm a year. At the ancient parliament site of Thingvellir, which lies on this rift, you can stand on the edge of America (geologically speaking) and see all the way to Europe, 10 km away.

Ice and fire: Glaciers and volcanoes side by side

Contrasting forces of ice and fire exist side by side in Iceland. Some 11% of the country's surface is covered with glaciers and about 30% is lava fields. On average, a volcano erupts every five years, but fortunately only rarely where anyone lives. Vatnajökull glacier, measuring 8,400 km², is the largest ice cap in Europe in fact it is larger than all the other glaciers in Europe combined. But rather like the character of the Icelanders themselves, there's fire beneath the icy surface. In 1996 and 1998, volcanoes erupted under



the ice of Vatnajökull, pushing up new mountains and causing huge meltwater floods along the uninhabited south coast.

Ancient Viking language:

On speaking terms with the Vikings

The Vikings who settled Iceland in the ninth and tenth centuries brought with them their language which has remained basically unchanged ever since. Literacy has been widespread ever since the first sagas were written down in the thirteenth century, and people today can still read them without difficulty. Unlike most western cultures, there are no real dialects and the best language tends to be spoken in the countryside rather than the big city. One strange feature of Icelandic is that it refuses to accept foreign words, but almost always coins new words from ancient Viking roots for even the most complex technological concepts. A classic example is the word for computer: tölva, a hybrid formed from old words for number and prophethess.

Current Languages Spoken

Icelandic, English, Nordic languages, German widely spoken



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Fall 2006 Edition!

Please Note: we are updating our membership list. Please note the information next to your name on the address label. If it is incorrect, please contact us.

You are Invited to Celebrate Leif Ericson's Day with Us!

- What:** Leif Ericson Day Luncheon and Ceremony
- When:** **Sunday, October 8th.** The luncheon and programming begins at 11:30 AM and at 3:00 PM the ceremony will kick off at Market Square Memorial Park in Marcus Hook, PA, as our replica Viking Ship *Norseman* and her crew land on the banks of the Delaware River.
- Where:** The luncheon will be held at the Holiday Inn Select (formerly the Hilton) in Claymont, Delaware and the Ceremony will be held in Marcus Hook, PA.
- Cost:** The luncheon will cost \$29.00. You will have a choice between Sliced Sirloin of Beef or Crumb Crusted Cod Fish. The ceremony in Marcus Hook is free.



The Viking Guard with Ivar in 2005

For more information, please go to our website (www.vikingship.org).