



# Norseman News

Leif Ericson Viking Ship *Norseman*

Vol. 15 No. 1

Summer 2007 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 3 times a year

## A Message from our New President

**A**s the new President of Leif Ericson Viking Ship, Inc., I have been asked to write a few words for the *Norseman News*. First, I would like to say how honored I am to be included in such a great bunch of people in the LEVS board. Next, I would like to acknowledge that I have a hard act to follow after President Marty Martinson. Nonetheless, I look forward to contributing to the continued success of LEVS.



*Membership is open to anyone with an interest in the Viking Age ... I should perhaps share my story...*

For the edification of those who might think that, in order to become involved in LEVS, one must have a direct Scandinavian connection, I want to explain... Just as the United States is the great melting pot, just as the people of the Nordic countries are a historically liberal-minded group, and just as one looks in vain for bigoted or prejudiced opinions in the Viking sagas, LEVS is not an exclusionary organization.

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in the Viking Age and who likes to row and recreate that exciting period of history which led to the first European discovery of North America. (In addition, you get to hang out with some pretty nice folks!)

As an individual with the surname Clarke, I should perhaps share my

story. The Clarkes came to Calvert's Colony, Maryland, at a time when Catholics were no longer welcome in England. But my *mormor*, Gertude, nee Hughes, used to drag me around Philadelphia once a year from Elfreth's Alley and the historical district over to Old Swedes' Church and then down the Broad Street subway to the Swedish Museum on Pattison Avenue ("Philadelphia's Jewel Box" as it was called). "Never forget

that one of your ancestors came over to New Sweden" she would say. It turns out that Jakob Budde did indeed come over on the Kalmar Nyckel, circa 1640. He was a "Forest Finn", under sentence for "cutting in the King's forest", who chose indenture in the New World over prison in the Old.

Finally I would urge all those who are involved in presenting the *Norseman* and the life and time of Leif Ericson to the public to educate themselves about the Viking Age. Our "audience" looks to us as informed individuals. With the proliferation of information about the Viking Age provided by Discovery television, it behooves us to all to keep abreast of developments in our field. Mark Twain pointed out, "There is no difference between someone who doesn't read and someone who can't." *Steve Clarke*

## 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

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.).

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

## 2007 Events: Past, Present and Future

For the most part, our event schedule has a tendency to be "same-old, same old", however this year we have had some changes and additions to our schedule (some good, some bad). Below is a mix of reviews of past engagements, plus some information on some upcoming events that we're looking forward to.

In **February**, crew members attended a **school presentation in Westtown, PA** and gave a presentation without the ship for the **Kalevala Day at the Swedish Museum in Philadelphia, PA**.

In **April**, we assisted **Dane Decor** in Downingtown, PA with their Grand Reopening - basically we were there to draw in crowds, and that we did! Later that April we travelled to Ashville, OH for our third time at the **Ashville Vikingfest**. There, we were able to sail all day on a local reservoir, and then participated in a dry land display at the festival. Many visitors to the event said that the pictures in the local papers (of our ship with some local Vikings) is what drew them to the event.

In May we participated in the **Boy Scout Jamboree** in Greenlane, PA. (You can read more about that event from one of the crew members that attended on page 3.) Unfortunately, due to a shortage of able-bodied volunteers, we were unable to attend **Brooklyn's 17th of May Festival and Parade**. We hope that we will be invited again next year, as we greatly enjoy that event.

June was a quiet month - we actually had no events, giving us time to get ready for our upcoming events...

In **July**, we are on display at the **Kalmar Nyckel Tugboat Festival** being held July 6-8. We have nothing to do with tugboats, but the Shipyard is where we house our ship, so we were invited to participate. We are also heading up to the **Scandinavian Folk Festival in**

**Jamestown, NY** from July 20-22nd.

**August 10-12**, we are returning to the quaint town of **Mt. Jewett, PA** for their **Swedish Festival**. We were a novelty last year, having never attended that event, but we've been invited back again, and we're looking forward to seeing new and old faces.

Later in August all crew members are invited to the **Sassafras River, MD** on **August 25-26**, for a fun time learning new skills and polishing old skills. There will be food, drink and activity for all (and maybe a campout)! Contact Dave at 410-275-8516 to indicate interest.

On **September 15**, we have another new event called the **Riverfront Ramble** on the Delaware River in **Delaware County, PA**. For this event, we will be on the water all day. Also this month, member/director Len Gustafsson, as President of the **Princeton Rotary Club**, has invited us to display our ship and our Viking Culture at their annual family picnic at the Pine Creek Grounds in **Amwell, NJ** on **September 30!**

And, of course, we always round off our season with our own celebration - **Leif Ericson Day**, which we are having on **October 7th at Marcus Hook, PA**.

**We hope to see you at any one (or more) of our future events! For more information, please check out our website, or contact Dave Segermark at info@vikingship.org or 410-275-8516.**

# An Ashville Trip Review - Dave Segermark

**A**fter an uneventful trip (the best kind!) out on Thursday, we rested up for a full day of sailing on O'Shaunnesy Reservoir in Dublin, OH near Columbus. and dock handlers! And no one died! A successful voyage!

We arrived at 7:00AM and had the Norseman set up by 8:00AM and waited until enough people arrived to make our first trip. We had difficulty starting the engine, so decided not to use it at all! The men of the Lost Viking Hoard were eager to row! Eager to go!

The only problem I had was getting them seated in the boat in a fashion to allow level rowing! These guys are huge! A couple of them are 6'5" and 300 pounds or better! After careful placement, we disembarked, rowing across the reservoir toward a bridge so we could set the sail and then sail past the docks to flashing cameras and cheering Vikings!

We sailed down the reservoir a bit, then rowed to the opposite shore again, turned the Norseman and then sailed back to the docks! It was perfect! Typically Norse weather... misty, grey, windy, cool, perfect!

We sailed leisurely back to the dock and right up to it, stopping with well placed lines to stop the motion of the Norseman perfectly! What a great Captain! What a great 1st mate! Fantastic crew



*The newspaper photo that drew crowds to the Viking Festival*

*We sailed leisurely back to the dock and right up to it, stopping with well placed lines to stop the motion of the Norseman perfectly!  
What a great Captain!  
What a great 1st mate!  
Fantastic crew and dock handlers! And no one died! A successful voyage!*

We continued in this fashion four times total, with breaks in between. The weather, while still not really bad, did deteriorate toward the afternoon where the rain showers came more frequently and the wind picked up slightly. Returning to the dock under sail became more and more interesting!

Of the four returns, three were more or less under control while one had to be salvaged from disaster but, again, no one died, so it was a successful voyage! All in all we had about 48 happy Vikings on the four voyages! They were quite appreciative!

On Saturday & Sunday, we had the Norseman on display in the park in a prime location, meeting and greeting people from Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio mainly, but there were some visitors from Texas and other parts of the country as well. Perhaps we will add a couple of new names to our membership roles. Who knows?

On Monday, after a long drive back, we arrived at the shipyard around 5:30PM and decided to go our separate ways again... until next time!

## If you can't make an event, join a work party!

You don't need a costume or even need to know anything about Vikings to help out the organization - just head on down to the **Kalmar Nyckel Shipyard** in Wilmington, DE on **July 26, July 29, or August 2** and be willing to help out with whatever project is

going on at the moment. We have the tools and the know-how, all we need are more willing people!

Volunteers can paint shields, clean the boat, count our merchandise inventory, work on our new shed, etc.. We generally meet around 9:00 AM and work

until 3:00 PM, with a lunch break in the middle at the "Up the Creek" restaurant. For directions, more information, and to "RSVP" to the work party (so that if we cancel due to weather, etc., we can warn you), contact Dave Segermark.



## A "Boatload" of Boy Scouts

The Leif Ericson Viking Ship Norseman was invited to partner with the Cradle of Liberty Boy Scouts Jamboree. The crew included Mary Jean Clark, Charlotte Berg, Steven Clarke and Gene Martenson. Eight thousand scouts and their families congregated at the Green Lane Reservoir in the Perkiomen Valley County Park. The weather was perfect and our location on a grassy knoll was outstanding. The boys had pertinent questions and our crew answered them as we do at school classes.

There were events for future careers, sports, construction, aviation, archery, science labs, hot-air balloons, fire-works, music and lots of food. We had the opportunity to see parents with the boys and participating as a family. The parents are learning from our mission as well. We hope to see them at our future dates.

This successful event was unforgettable indeed. We were honored to be included.

*Charlotte Berg*

## Tugboats, Pirates & Vikings? Oh My!

On Friday July 6th, Wilmington, Delaware was overrun by Tugboats of all ages, Pirates (of all ages), and of course our Norseman Viking ship (and crew members of all ages) at the Kalmar Nyckel's Tugboat Festival that lasted through Sunday, July 8th.

What do the Norseman and LEVS have to do with tugboats you might ask? Nothing, really, except that the shipyard asked if they could use the open air shed

where we store our ship, and so we drove .0008 miles to the center of their parking lot, and put the ship on display and set up our merchandise tent nearby.

Our ship was strategically placed so that as visitors arrived they would pass by, and many stopped to ask questions of our crew. We enjoy "generic" events like these in addition to the Scandinavian events we attend, because this way we reach those that sometimes have never even heard about Leif Ericson.

There were also activities for children, live sheep from a nearby colonial farm/museum, a sand sculptor, wandering pirates (including a Captain Jack Sparrow that had the moves and lingo down pat!), and plenty of fair food and vendors.

Dave Segermark, Steve Clarke, Hilde Lindstrom, Charlotte Berg, Mary Jean and Dale Clarke, Karen Johnson, and one of our newest members Victor (Charlotte's grandson) volunteered over the course of the three days. When the crowds were light on Sunday, Karen and Victor got a chance to try out our newest product - the Viking Game. It's a fun, chess-like game where the object of the defenders is to get the king to the corner, while the "attackers" try to surround the defenders and capture the king. The tables can turn quickly, as Karen was close to losing both games until a stroke of luck (and a bit of skill) helped her to win both games!



*Captain Jack Sparrow poses with crewmember Karen Johnson*

Check out our website - [www.vikingship.org](http://www.vikingship.org)

# Have a question? We Have the Answers.

We get questions from across the WORLD about Viking life, from school children to adults. Below is just a small representation of the questions and responses - these are in the Viking Lodging section. If you have a question you'd like to see answered, please email a "live viking" through our website.

## How long would it take to build lodging?

Houses could probably be built in a fairly short time, as they worked with extended families aiding in the building process. For a permanent building it might have taken a week to gather the material and another week to build the house. When they were traveling they used tents which could be set up in minutes. These could also be set up on their ships for protection from sun & weather. As to how many men it took to build a Viking age house, like today's homes, it could be built by one man, but would take a long time. The more men (or women) able to help build, the faster the house would go up.

## What materials did Vikings use for their homes?

Vikings, as others of their time, had to be resourceful in using materials at hand, so they built their homes of whatever they could find in the area that they wanted to settle. That meant learning how to build with stone, sticks (wood), or turf (dirt). Most always, they had a turf roof, as it was good insulation from the cold area that they inhabited. Grass would grow on the roof and sometimes goats would climb up and eat the grass. The walls were made of wood posts all around to carry roof beams and rafters. Between the posts the spaces were filled in with what is called "wattle and daub" construction. That is woven from small flexible branches and plastered on both sides with mud which dried something like stucco or plaster. Some longhouses would have livestock pens to keep their cattle, sheep and horses in. There was usually only one low door, where you had to bend over to enter and only one could enter at a time. This made the house easier to defend against intruders.

## What did the Vikings have in windows?

When a family was rich enough to have window in their house they were usually covered by either shutters or by thinly scraped animal hides so as to let the light in. In fact, the word window comes from the Old Norse language, "Vind Oga", or "eye of the wind".

## How big were Viking houses?

The size of the house depended on the size of the family. Each home owner built his own house; he made it large enough to suit his needs (and the needs of the family).

## Who lived in the longhouse?

The house would be big enough for the whole family plus sometimes grandparents, servants, and slaves. In the coldest weather sometimes cows or sheep would be brought inside to add warmth to the house.

## How were the longhouses kept warm/cool?

In the center of the longhouse was a fire pit ringed with stones and covered with sand for a fire and for cooking. Over the fire hung a cooking pot suspended by either a tripod or hung from the ceiling beams. Above the fire pit was a hole in the roof to let the smoke out. (The chimney had not yet been invented). Down each side of the house were a row of benches for sitting and for sleeping at night. The Vikings slept usually two to a bed under fur skins for warmth. The most important persons usually claimed the area closest to the fires, with less important being farther away in the colder areas. Small windows with leather covers were made to let in light, and could be closed at night and in cold weather.

## What furniture did Vikings have?

There are many different kinds of furniture that the Vikings used, which depended on how rich or poor they were and how much room they had in their homes. For the most part, they would have chairs and tables for eating and for doing home crafts. Most of the time a wealthy landowner would have several long benches and tables in their hall for feasting. These were usually decoratively carved like many other things made from wood during the time period. In rare cases the wealthy would have bed closets to sleep in, which was basically a bed with doors on it that you could close. In general, people during the Viking Age didn't spend much time indoors so furniture wasn't too important.

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## Summer 2007 Edition!

### Don't Throw Out Your Friendly Reminder! Renew Your Membership Now!

The plea that went out in our last edition of the Norseman News regarding renewing memberships didn't go unheard! Thanks to Hilde Lindstrom's tireless efforts, memberships are being renewed, and we even have two new members from the next generation of proud Vikings!

Membership to the Leif Ericson Viking Ship organization is renewed on an annual basis. When you receive your membership renewal postcard, don't forget to send it back in! Hilde is sending the postcards a month or two before your membership expires. We don't want your membership to lapse. If you would prefer to not renew your membership, please indicate that somewhere on the postcard, and send it back in, so that we know not to bother you with secondary reminders.

If you would like to join for the first time, want to get a jump on renewing your membership, or you would like to add a member of your family or friends to OUR family, we've included the form in this newsletter - or go to <http://www.vikingship.org/LEVSfiles.html>, click on the membership form, print it out, fill it out and send it to the address on the form.

