



Polsnus

April 17, 2008
Vol 12, no. 1

Nordahl Grieg Leikarring
og Spelemannslag – NGLS

GM ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Spring General Meeting (GM) will be held on May 10, 2008 at the home of John Stubblebine and Meg Laycock. Their address is: 21491 Vai Avenue, Cupertino, CA 95014. Their phone number is 408-255-2111.

We will have a pot-luck dinner after the GM. Bring what you would most like to share with everybody. John and Meg will provide spaghetti and marinara sauce, with optional meatballs.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Board Meeting on the 30th of April at 6:30pm at the Masonic Hall in Mountain View

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

It's time again for our Spring General Meeting. We will gather on May 10th at Meg and John's home at 2:00pm. Potluck will follow. So far the agenda is short so it shouldn't take too long. Anyone with agenda items should let me know asap.

Don't know if anyone else has noticed but it seems that 2008 has already been a year of change, and it's only March. Changes regarding jobs, living situations, health, and responsibilities. Change can be very stressful because it takes us out of our comfort zone. It can be challenging and scary. It tests us, makes us dig deep to see what we're made of. But it can also be rewarding because through change comes growth and strength. So think about that the next time life throws you a curve.

Ellen

MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER:

From the Treasurer's Corner:

We were up at Alta, taking a break in the dance, when I noticed a photo posted on the bulletin board. It was a group photo taken in the mid-ninety's of Stevne attendees. I was taken aback, so many of those people have disappeared into the world; what is worse, they have not been replaced.

Their dues and contributions to the group have not been replaced either, and our costs of operation continue.

There is no question that our number is growing smaller, also no question that our organization requires an active membership to exist, so what shall we do about the decline in membership? We are now making a substantial collection from the active dancers at our meetings to pay the rent. This cannot go on forever; we must start looking for an alternate ("\$ free \$") place to

practice or bring in new members.

I know you have all thought about this, but the time for action is passing us more quickly than we want to realize. The group needs to make a bold step in some direction to encourage new members and spend energy and time promoting membership and we need to do it soon.

A few options to consider:

1. Become a "Scandinavian Dance Group" rather than a Norwegian Leikarring, including Finish and Swedish dances in our repertoire, this will widen our appeal to other dancers in the area.
2. Start a beginning dance class in Scandinavian dance open to the public.
3. Have a monthly public dance where we will not be rehearsing for a performance, perhaps with guest musicians.
4. Move our meetings to other regions of the bay area; perhaps host dances at the SON, Finnish Brotherhood and VASA's social evenings.
5. (insert your option here)

The availability of options are declining with our membership, so we must decide on a course of action soon.

Hope to see you at our

General Meeting, let's talk about membership and make a decision which will benefit the NGL&S.

Respectfully, Mike Block,
treasurer.

Respectfully,

Mike Block, Treasurer

Barneleikarring News

The NGLS Barneleikarring continues to meet every second Sunday of each month at Nordahl Hall between 1:30pm and 3:30pm. We have a new group of youngsters as well as continuing dancers. We had a workshop in January and Tom Sears and Meg Laycock, the Leikarring's Artistic Directors came and showed rhythmic steps and patterns as well as going through the Norwegian version of the "Farmer in the Dell." The children are learning waltz steps and we are practicing for the Norway Day Festival. Meg Laycock and Mette Hellested continue to provide support for this group.

Ginny Hansen, Director-at-Large-Barneleikarring

News from Norway

Tom visits Røros, Norway in February – again.

Greetings from Røros Folkedanslag to Nordahl Grieg Leikarring og Spelmanslag and other friends in California!

Røros, Norway and the Rorosvidda, the mountain... plateau, are in snow and ice just now. At over 700 meters over the ocean, the air can be -20 Celsius and dry. The snow and glittering hoarfrost on the bare birch trees are spectacles. This high plateau, the Rorosvidda, is near the Swedish border. Below the mountains, the network of lakes freezes annually into a superhighway system for sleds. For this week in midwinter, the drivers in their horse-drawn sleds and sleighs have come from many villages in Sweden to the Winter Market, Martnan, in Røros. Farmers, horse-breeders, musicians and traders are thankful for the sturdy horses that have brought them and they have kept many of their traditions related to the care of their horsepower. The trip is planned with evening stops where farmers have space for people and barns for stock. Respectfully for the horses, the return trip home is in horse trailers with the sleighs packed on top.

These travelers have agreed to wear their old-fashioned outerwear of furs and woolens for the opening ceremony of the Market on the next to last Tuesday in February at noon. After introductory speeches, pols dancing and church bell-ringing, it is the sound of many Mora bells on the horses that signal to the crowd that the parade has begun. The line of sleighs fill the Røros Mining Museum Plaza, called the Malmplassen, as the horses trot down between the snow-camouflaged slagheaps, drum-roll across the wooden bridge, pass the front of the restored smelting house and on up to cross another bridge to the hill behind the Smelthuset to their display and parking area.

This year I remembered the opening in pictures. I stayed one day longer in Petaluma to enjoy the Telemark course at Scandia Festival and the practice of the fine points of Telespringar and Telegangar. Meeting Olav Sem again in Martnan at the midday dances was unremarkable, like meeting a friend in Vegas, but good fun.

The Turlock extravaganza reminded me of the annual festival in Røros as it included a parade, music and dance, and vendors from all

over. However Martnan combines the feeling of a county/state fair as evidenced by tractor and farm equipment displays next to steaming demo spas and the Tomas Tivoli midway rides.

This year, I did buy some fine smoked salmon and a gjedde (fish) burger. I stopped by Margot's Husfliden frequently to see who is in town and has visited Margot in her shop. I can only dance with Margot evenings, but days I danced with different friends at the midday dances depending on who took the train into town that day. My Swedish and Danish friends take apartments a year in advance to ensure a place in town. Others come by bus and train as the town can't handle the weekly 70,000 visitors all staying overnight! The bands are fantastic, day and evening and one late night dance after midnight Thursday. As a member of Røros Folkedanslaget, I am expected to help (serve soup) at this late night fundraiser for the team.

Småviltlaget, Glamos and Brekken Spelmanslags are my favorite bands, but sometimes Dalakopa has come as well. On Saturday night the high school sports hall is finally available and the locals come for the best

dancing of the week with Brekken Spelmanslag and invited guests for their intermissions (This year it was Sondre Trondheim's Spelmanslag).

During the next week, we prepared with Margot for her move from Tronsmyra in Harsjoen outside town, to 12, Stormoveien, 7374 Røros, Norway, and neighbor to John and Marit Danielsen. As no rental vans are available, a good friend agreed to have a tractor-trailer available for the move day on Tuesday. The first team of friends arrived by midday to have all the furniture removed to the barn by 4 pm. At 3:30, we enjoyed our success by having a coffee break. 4-5pm, we loaded the van. We met the second team in town at 6pm and unloaded the truck in 50 minutes, complete with taking the freezer, clothes washer and dryer down the narrow stairs to the basement! Margot still has about 100 boxes to unpack, but she is happy to do so in the house that she has been painting and renovating for many months, by adding a second WC on the ground floor, new electrical, flooring, and all new interior paint.

On the weekend of Winterfestspill, we saw about 8 concerts together

with friends from Trondheim. The classical music was fantastic in the Zur, Røros' main church, and at many other venues throughout the town. The quality of sound and musicianship of the artists was well worth the extension of my trip this late into March.

We also accomplished the installation of curtains, mirrors and furniture placement with Margot's interior design consultant from Trondheim, Lillian and Erling Erlingsen.

Svein Olav and Borghild, Mette, Kjetil and Emil, Roar and Yumiko and friends like Per Torre and Hilde came to celebrate different evenings or host us to dinner while all this was in process. The move was accomplished with fantastic support from friends and family, then the time evaporated and I was back on the train to Gardemoen, Oslo's Airport. I hope to return in June for Landskappleiken in Oppdal after Mendocino Camp.

Tom Sears

Norwegian Joke:

Ole and Sven grabbed their poles and headed out to do some ice fishing. As they

were augering a hole in the ice they heard a loud voice from above say, "There are no fish under the ice." Ole and Sven moved about 25 feet over and started to make another hole. The voice said a little stronger, "There are no fish under the ice." They both looked around and then looked up. Ole said in a humble voice, "Are you God?" The voice spoke back, "No ya idiots! I'm the ice rink attendant."

ANNOUNCEMENT:

There have been some updates to the NGLS web site, including this Polsnus, and the Alta Stevne Flyers. Look at: www.NGLS.net

Norwegian Joke:

Lars asked Ole, "Do ya know da difference between a Norwegian and a canoe?" "No, I don't," said Ole. "A canoe will sometimes tip," explained Lars.

Norwegian Joke:

Ole died. So Lena went to the local paper to put a notice in the obituaries. The gentleman at the counter, after offering his condolences, asked Lena

what she would like to say about Ole.

Lena replied, "You yust put 'Ole died'."

The gentleman, somewhat perplexed, said, "That's it? Just 'Ole died?' Surely, there must be something more you'd like to say about Ole. If its money you're concerned about, the first five words are free. We must say something more." So Lena pondered for a few minutes and finally said, "O.K. You put 'Ole died. Boat for sale.' "

Norwegian Joke:

Ole and Sven were taking a vacation in Sven's new camper. As usual, they'd become lost and were wandering around a strange town trying to find the highway. Sven was just starting down a grade to go under a bridge when he slams on the brakes.

Ole: Vat da heck you do dat for, Sven?

Sven: Dat sign dere says "Low Bridge. No Vehicles Over Twelve Feet High." Dis here camper is t'irteen feet!

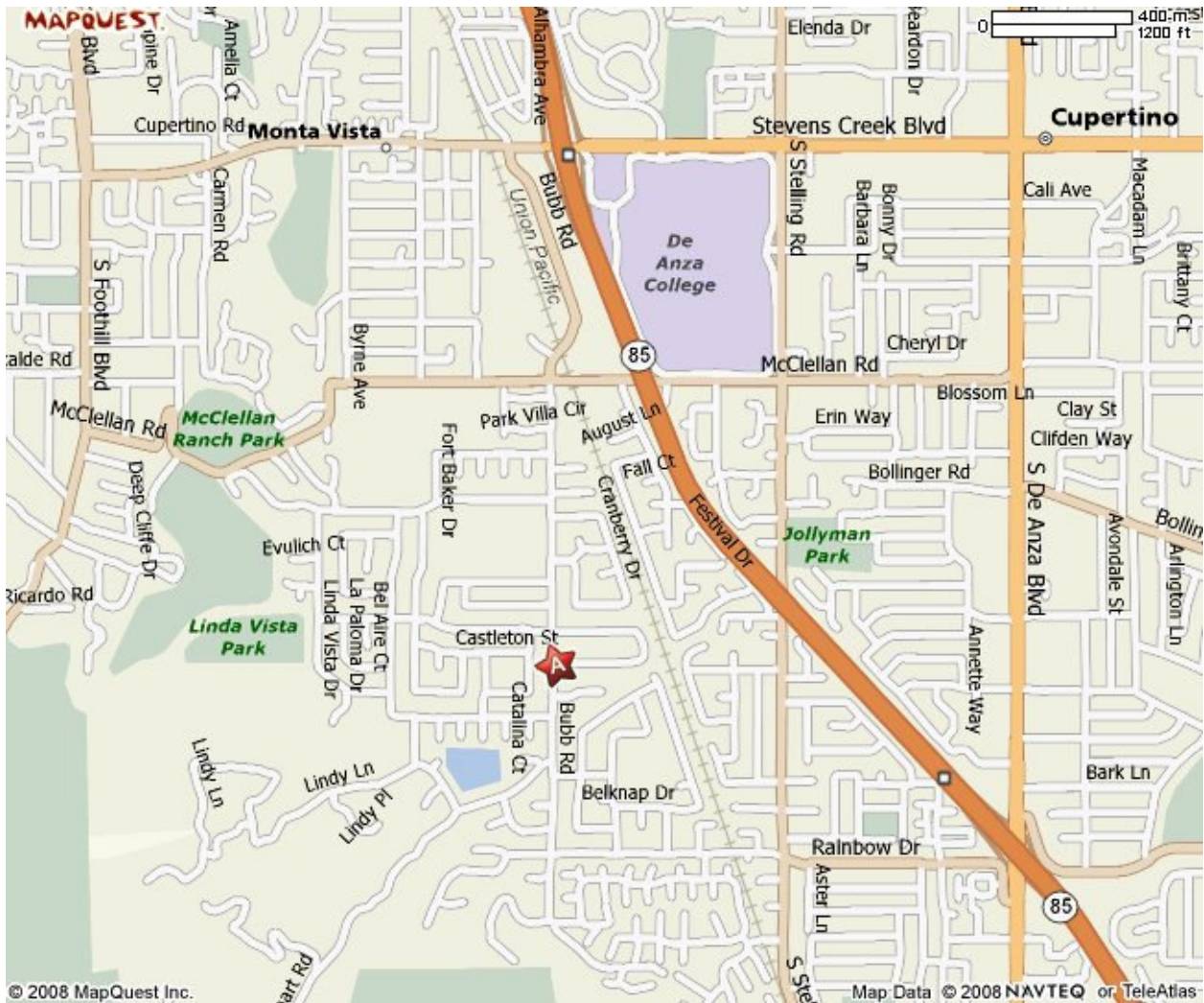
Ole: Cripes almighty Sven, dere ain't no cops around. Yust hit da gas pedal and go for it!

MAP TO GM:

John Stubblebine & Meg Laycock
21491 Vai Avenue
Cupertino, CA 95014
408-255-2111

From the North take Highway 85 to Cupertino: Exit on the Stevens Creek Blvd exit. Turn Right and then Left onto Bubb Rd. Follow Bubb Rd. to Vai Avenue.

From the South take Highway 85 to Cupertino: Exit on the De Anza Blvd exit. Turn Left, and then Right on Rainbow Drive. Follow Rainbow Dr. to Bubb Rd. Turn Right and proceed to Vai Avenue.



Words to the song in the middle of Figaro:

Allting i verdi eg såg eg gløymer, men gjentone gløymer eg aldri.



NGLS Polsnus
c/o John Stubblebine
21491 Vai Avenue
Cupertino, CA 95014

Place
Postage
Stamp
Here

To: Name
Address

City, State, Zip