

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the NGLS will occur on September 10, 2005 beginning at 2:00PM.

Ann Huberman and Greg Goodhue will host at their home:

1345 Fairway Entrance Drive.
San Jose, CA 95131
408-259-9959

Traditionally we have had a Pot-Luck dinner after the AGM. Please RSVP and coordinate your contribution with Ann and Greg.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

This proposed change to the NGLS Bylaws will be voted upon at the AGM.

Proposed Change:

Existing Article 2:

"Purpose

To learn, enjoy, perform, and maintain the traditional dances, music and songs of

Norway"
Proposed Article 2:

"Purpose

To learn, enjoy, perform, promote and maintain the traditional dances, music and songs of Norway"

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Note from Ellen:

This has been a busy summer filled with travel, dance and music. All of a sudden it's time to prepare for our Annual General Meeting.

There will be an NGLS Board Meeting on Wed. August 31, 2005 @ 6pm @ Masonic Hall.

The AGM is Saturday, September 10, 2005 at Anne & Greg's house at 2pm.

Reminder to all committees, directors: reports will be due at the AGM.

1. Membership committee: Zena C, Bill L, & Tom S

2. Nominating committee for slate of officers: Anna L, Anne H, & Meg
3. Auditors: Bill L & Michael G
4. Marketing: Mike B & John S, Anne H
5. Property: Zena C
6. Artistic Directors: Meg L & Tom S
7. Music Director: Bill L
8. Barneleikarring: Ginny H
9. Business Managers: Anne H & Greg G
10. Treasurer: Mike B

Directors of NGLS please submit your requested budgets to Mike B by Aug. 31, so he can integrate them into a consolidated sheet.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again!

Ellen

ANNOUNCEMENT:

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

2005 NGLS Tour to Landskappeiken in Røros, Norway and West Coast trip to Ålesund in the Sunnmore region

By Tom Sears

The Nordahl Grieg Leikarring og Spelemannslag has enjoyed 14 days of music and dance in Norway with friends in Røros, Sør-Trondelag, and Ålesund, More og Romsdal.

The annual National Norwegian Folk Music and Folk Dance festival called Landskappleiken was held in Røros, Norway this year. The NGLS entered 16 participants in seven events for representation in the team dance (7 couples), 3 couple dances to fiddle accompaniment, 2 couple dances to Hardanger fiddle accompaniment and 2 musical performances, 1 each in Hardanger fiddle and button accordion. The audience received us warmly in each performance.

Recognizing the dissolution of the Union of Norway and Sweden in 1905, the festival included a Swedish dance team that performed well in the team dance. In addition, Swedish performers from

Jamtland were included in the Kulturkveld.

With gratitude we acknowledge our hosts, the Rørosfolkedanslag, who welcomed the NGLS and the Swedish dance team as members in the Rørosfolkedanslag for this special 100th anniversary. As a condition of performing in the event sponsored by Landslaget for Spelemenn (LFS), we also became individual members of the LFS. We have kindly been invited to continue our LFS membership in 2006.

In advance of the 5-day event hosting Norwegians from countrywide, we agreed to volunteer to help on the staff. Seven of us were scheduled for 41 hours and all 20 of us provided another 72 hours of unscheduled services to prepare for the event and to complete the put-away on the final day.

For the first few days in Røros, we had daily meetings until people were oriented to the resources and people available who could answer their questions, assist in translation, and explain how the Landskappleiken schedule and events might best be enjoyed. A variety of living situations were balanced by group dinners or meeting for a delicious meal

in the food tent with new friends and old, from Sweden, Røros and all over Norway.

We invited the Rørosfolkedanslag to join us for a pols party on the Monday following the event. As tired as they were after this 2-year preparation and hosting, they joined us in dance and song, brought drinks, pizza, and home-made desserts for us, and enjoyed meeting their new membership. We presented and served bottles of home-made 2002 merlot wine labeled especially for this celebration by vintner John Stubblebine. The 20th anniversary of the NGLS has been celebrated in Røros along with the 30th anniversary of the Rørosfolkedanslag.

As one person expressed, "my favorite part of Landskappleiken was the privilege to help behind the scenes in the production of this special event." Our goals for the week were to participate; meet and make friends; enjoy the music, dance, costumes and evening dances; and to explore the town of Røros. It was a pleasure to accomplish these goals.

Tuesday early on June 28, we joined our local bus

driver and invited guests to begin our tour of western Norway in More og Romsdal. We traveled via Dombås to Trollveggen in the Romsdal district and past the fjords and Sunnmore Alps to Ålesund to meet our hosts, members of the Ålesund Spelemannslag. They graciously invited us into their homes after their similar trip to California in 2001. For the next five days, we were treated with daily schedules of tours and performances that enabled us to see the Geiranger Fjord, the Ekornes furniture factory (makers of the famous Stressless Chair), and the Devold sweater outlet store, where a tourist ship passed by. The captain honked the ship's horn to return the call of the birch trumpet "lur" from the shore.

Each day we toured in the region we were hosted by different groups for dinner and dancing. The Ivar Aasen group prepared a delicious BBQ at their hytte with home-made desserts. After dinner, we performed and then we danced together to their musicians and some of our spelemannslag.

In Sykkelven, their barneleikarring performance began the evening. Then we danced our North American dance performance for them. Following that we led them

in our American dances, and then we all danced Norwegian turdans together. This was followed by a Baccalao fish dinner, which is famous in Europe. It uses the dried cod of Norway's coast. Of course, home-made desserts and coffee were also enjoyed after dinner.

In addition to coordinating the ferry reservations needed for some days, and city tours of Ålesund, our hosts also planned for shopping time. By having the bus, we were able to invite our hosts along to the outlying villages and enjoy the trip together with them. We began and ended our visit to Ålesund at the Sunnmore Museum with the Ålesund Spelemannslag. On our last day, we enjoyed performances by the barneleikarring and leikarring in Sunnmore costume as they might perform for a tourist ship in town. We participated in lessons in Sunnmore Springdans to hardingfele music and invited our friends to try our western and Canadian dances from our North American suite of performance dances. We so enjoyed the evening that we dispensed with formal speeches for this closing of our stay.

Each person had a unique experience of this region staying with a different

family and seeing beautiful sights during especially fine and sunny weather. With great difficulty on July 3rd, we said farewell and returned with the bus toward Trondheim. On the bus trip we had a picture stop at Trollveggen, a lunch stop in Dombås, and at the end of the day we enjoyed the hospitality of friends in Trondheim at a garden party for juice, coffee and home-made desserts. We added more friends to the trip as others parted. After a check-in stop at the youth hostel, we met again for a final dinner together in the revolving Egon restaurant in the TV/radio Tower.

Our trip exceeded expectations for a schedule that was both fulfilling and relaxed. Although lack of sleep and busy days impressed us, we had very little friction and as hoped for, we were able to find resolution to the needs people expressed. Thanks to our Ålesund hosts for reminding us to relax and that they had the schedule for us.

Shall we dance a pols? Let's talk, dance and see each other again. Have a good one!

Ska vi ta en pols neste gang?
Vi ses, vi snakkes, vi danses.
Ha det bra!

Visit to the Bjerkem Farm and Conference Center

By Meg Laycock

The day after our Norway tour formally ended in Trondheim, several of us had a lovely drive out to the farm where Johan Einar and Torunn Bjerkem live. They were our teachers at the Spring 2004 teachers' training workshop and Folkedans Stevne. Gerd and Leif Syrstad and Gerd's brother Sigmund and sister-in-law Gunhild were our gracious companions (and chauffeurs) on the trip.

Torunn was unfortunately in Oslo teaching a course, but Johan Einar greeted us warmly and showed us around their farm and developing conference center. Johan Einar's father Jakob farms the land (along with a second family farm), and Johan Einar and Torunn are converting most of the buildings for use as a conference center. In a setting that emphasizes traditional Norwegian culture, the Bjerkes offer meeting space and "team-building" activities for businesses and groups. At the time we visited, they also had a gallery showing of paintings from a local artist. We had a very nice luncheon

(with luscious desserts—seemingly a theme of our entire trip), followed by a "mini-concert" from Geir Egil Larsen, who had placed first in the Andre Eldre Folkemusikkinstrument Senior competition at Landskappleiken. He demonstrated several very old instruments, including the bukkehorn (ram's horn).

Johan Einar's mother, Berit Bjerkem, has been researching the traditional clothing of the Nord Trøndelag region for many years, and her shop and display rooms are in one of the farm buildings. She makes reconstruction drakt, different from the "officially sanctioned" bunader that are available in standardized colors and decoration for each region. Berit's husband Jakob (whose English is stronger) explained a bit of the history behind the "romantic-nationalistic" costumes that we have come to know as bunads. There is growing interest in (and controversy about) creating regional costumes that more realistically represent the variety of real people's clothing. We were quite intrigued by the finished costumes on display and the lovely fabrics and laces waiting to be fashioned into garments.

The drive to and from the farm was through marvelous, rolling countryside. Among other important landmarks, we saw the town where Gerd and Leif lived as young marrieds, and the factory where Leif first worked. Our day finished with more strolling through Trondheim, and a spectacular "sunset" at midnight.

Spelemannslag Director's News:

An all instruments workshop is planned for Friday evening September 2 with Steinar Johansen. Time and location details will be forthcoming soon.

The Spelemannslag will have an open rehearsal from 2 to 4 pm on Sunday October 2 at Common Ground Garden Supply in Palo Alto. People are welcome to come and listen or bring instruments and join us. We'd like to have a good turnout to support Don Larson, who works at Common Ground.

The new CD's have sold well. At this point we've sold or given away about 275 CD's, leaving 725 remaining. CD's are available to members for \$10 each (\$15 for non-members).

Bill Likens

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Fall Stevne weekend followed by Teacher Training week!

The Folkedans Stevne flyer that is available on the NGLS web site (<http://www.NGLS.net>). It provides the details of this Fall's Camp Norge Folkedans Stevne. Music instruction is available too.

The Norwegian folk dance weekend workshop will be from Friday, October 28th, to Sunday October 30th. As usual, the workshop will be held at Alta, California. For details, please see the flyer.

This time, we have the second installment of the very special teacher training, which will happen during the week following the Stevne, from October 30th to Sunday November 6th. Details of this unique event are in the Teacher Training flyer, which is also available on the NGLS web site.

Both the weekend Stevne and the week long Teacher Training class will feature Torunn Hernes Bjerkem and Johan Einer Bjerkem from Norway as the teachers.

Hope to see you there!

Greg Goodhue & Anne Huberman
Business Directors, Nordahl Grieg Leikarring og Spelemannslag

Adventures with Norwegian Appliances (Can You Say "Incinerate"?)

Because most buildings in central Røros are very old and made of logs, the apartments we stayed in had a high-tech fire alarm system with linked smoke alarms in all the units and automatic notification of the fire department. Early arrivals had received instructions about some of the apartments' features. Tom pointed out the laminated instruction card for the fire alarm system (på Norsk, of course) and the master unit in the hallway, and told us that, should the alarm sound, we had two minutes (or something like that) to respond at the master unit. Before the week ended, we found an opportunity to beta-test the fire alarm system.

It all started when John wanted a piece of toast one morning. (Mike and Ellen, our housemates, had already gone out.) John discovered that the toaster seemed to have settings of Dark, Darker, and His toast

was perhaps a bit carbonized, but minor scraping took care of that. John didn't notice the crumb that apparently lodged against the heating element.

And so the next morning, roommate Mike popped in a slice of bread. As the crumb ignited, he commented "What's this thing set on, Incinerate?" (um, well....) Seeing smoke rise from the toaster's innards, Mike immediately unplugged the toaster and pulled out the bread, but not before the alarm on the living room ceiling began shrieking. And, as we discovered, the alarms in all the other apartments also went off. For the next several minutes (way more than two), all the apartment residents were scurrying around, pulling down the screaming alarms, looking for a shutoff or reset button, trying to smother the alarms under pillows (the universal response in all apartments), and trying to decipher the laminated instruction card, which said we should push a button on the master unit.

We sought translation help from Jon Anders in the upstairs apartment. He came down and pushed the button. A voice from the unit said something in Norwegian. (Only Jon Anders understood). Jon Anders

shrugged and went back upstairs. (Meanwhile, in four apartments, smoke alarms under pillows and duvets continued to shriek. Residents continued to shout at each other, “How do you make it stop?”

Soon two very polite men arrived from the fire department. They did something that caused the alarms to stop shrieking and listened to the multiple explanations of what had happened. One of them

observed, “I can see that these instructions also need to be in English.” (We nodded.) He explained that, in fact, we had (sort of) done the correct thing. When the alarm sounds, you’re supposed to go to the master unit, press the button, and wait for the master unit to say something in Norwegian. (That was his actual explanation.) In our case, apparently what the master unit said was equivalent to “You waited too long to press the button. The fire

department is on its way.” Jon Anders, knowing that experts would soon arrive to make the noise stop, had sensibly returned upstairs to reduce the hallway population.

Tom later told us that last year’s initial test of the alarm system failed. We can take pride in one more NGLS contribution to the community of Røros. Now they know that the system works.

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

To: Name
Address
City, State, Zip