

Hvite Fjell Nyheter

Volume 18 Number 1 January 2010 December 25, 2009

Lodge Calendar

January 5, 2010 Meetings

6:00 Board Meeting

7:00 Social Meeting

The highlight of the general meeting will be a presentation by Erica and Sydney Root about their experiences at Skogfjorden last summer. Skogfjorden is the Concordia College's Summer Norwegian Camp in Minnesota. All of the Root children attended Language Camp at Camp Norge and now the girls have attended the Concordia Camp.

We will also have the installation of the 2010 officers.

The hosts for January will be arranged..

February 2, 2010 Meetings

6:00 Board Meeting

7:00 Social Meeting

Dessert and Program -
The program and the hosts will be announced in the February Nyheter.

God Bedring Get Well Soon

Ellen Hoel Ruth Stousland

Billie Watne Alf Stousland

Svalbard, Norway

Svalbard and the Spitsbergen Treaty

Svalbard was discovered in 1596 by the Dutch navigator Willem Barentsz; since the 1600s people of different nationalities have carried out various activities on Svalbard, e.g. hunting, trapping, research, mining and tourism. In the first half of the seventeenth century the right to catch whales in Svalbard was in dispute between several European nations, with conflicts occasionally resulting in bloodshed. Denmark-Norway and England both claimed sovereignty over the region; but as neither permanently settled the region, it remained a terra nullius.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the development of the mining industry created the need for change: it was important to have sole ownership of land and mineral deposits, and there was a need for legislation and courts to settle disputes, such as those between mining companies and their workers. Only with the Versailles treaty, ending the First World War, was an agreement reached in the form of the Spitsbergen Treaty, signed February 9, 1920. This made Svalbard part of the kingdom of Norway, but allowed citizens of other signing nations equal rights to residence, property, commercial activities and research. As a result, people from many nations live on

Svalbard today.

The Longyearbyen American period

The largest of the Svalbard communities is the Norwegian community on Longyearbyen. During the summer of 1900, businessmen from Trondheim formed Kulkompagniet Trondhjem-Spitsbergen (English: The Trondheim-Spitsbergen Coal Company) and occupied the coal mines in Longyearbyen. The company looked for foreign buyers, and in 1905 a deal was made with two American businessmen, John Munroe Longyear and Frederick Ayer; they established The Arctic Coal Company (ACC) in Boston, which developed the mining operation in what was called Longyear City, later the Norwegian Longyearbyen (byen being the Norwegian for the city).

The period 1906-1915 (during which ACC ran the mines) is known as The American period. A couple of hundred miners were working in Longyearbyen every year; most came from Norway or Sweden, while the management was British or American. This pioneer period saw discontent and strikes. The workers' living conditions were primitive: they were quartered in large 32- or 64-man barracks, in stalls for 4. Hygiene and food were poor due to limited supply, and the workers probably stayed due to the good wages, compared to those in the mines and construction sites on the mainland.

Lodge Contact Information

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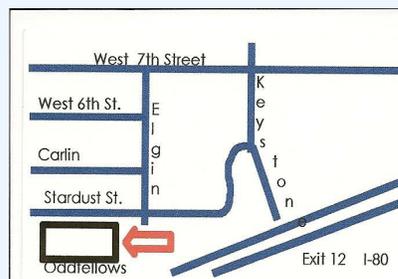
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The official web-site of Hvite Fjell Lodge is www.hvitefjell.com.



Hvite Fjell Lodge meets at the Oddfellows Hall in Reno at 7:00pm the first Tue of every month except for July, October and December. Visitors are welcome.

Hvite Fjell's telephone number is

(775) 746-1200

The Norwegian Period

In 1916, ACC and the American properties were sold to the Norwegian Det Norske Spitsbergensyndikat. The syndicate also bought the coal field in Grønfjorden, and in November 1916 Store Norske Spitsbergen Kullkompani AS (SNSK) was founded. During the winter of 1917-1918, around 180 men and 34 women and children overwintered. By 1920 the number had increased to 289, out of which 37 were women and children.

The Svalbard Treaty then gave Norway sovereignty over Svalbard. This had a minimal effect on the community in Longyearbyen, which was run as a private company town by SNSK.

World War II

Communication equipment from the WWII conflicts on Svalbard, exhibited in the Svalbard Museum in Longyearbyen During World War II,



both Norwegian and German soldiers were stationed on Svalbard. There was little military action, the soldier's duty being that of collecting weather data, which would be useful for other military operations further south. British convoys sailed from England to the Soviet Union with allied supplies (the so-called Murmansk convoys), passing through the waters between Svalbard and Norway, which (together with the working coal mines) turned Svalbard into a strategic military location.

In the autumn of 1941, the year the Germans established the first weather stations, the whole population of Svalbard was evacuated, a decision of the Norwegian Exile Government (in

London) with the Allied Forces. In 1942 a small Allied force arrived in Svalbard on the ships Isbjørn and Selis, hoping to hold position in the Isfjorden area. The boats were bombed and sunk by the Germans in Grønfjorden, and the survivors moved to Barentsburg. The Germans then sent the battleships Tirpitz and Scharnhorst to Svalbard in 1943. These ships' crews shelled and burned Barentsburg, Grumant and Longyearbyen; later, a German submarine destroyed Svea and most houses in Van Mijenfjorden.

Modern Times

It was only in the 1960s that demand for modernization and normalization arose. Development rapidly increased in the 1970s, when the Norwegian authorities became actively engaged in Svalbard politics; their aim was that Longyearbyen should become a family community, as other towns in Norway.

The opening of the airport in 1975 ended the isolation during the winter months. In 1976 the Norwegian state took over the shares in SNSK and hence control of the development of Longyearbyen. Until the early 1990s the coal mining industry was the major employer in Longyearbyen, and the daily life circled only around the mining business.

Today, the community offers a wide range of activities and facilities: there is a swimming hall, a climbing wall, a big sports hall, a grocery store, three pubs, three hotels, one church, several tourist shops, a cinema (Sundays), one night club, and a squash court. There is also the University Centre in Svalbard, which represents four Norwegian universities and provides university-level education in Arctic studies.

At the end of 2007, Longyearbyen had around 2060 inhabitants. 500 people (or 25% of the current population) moved in Longyearbyen during 2007. About 300 people, or 15% of the population, are non-Norwegian nationals, with Thailand, Sweden, Russia and Ukraine being the most highly-represented nationalities.

Geography

Longyearbyen is in polar night from

November 14 to January 29, and in polar day from April 19 to August 23.. Longyearbyen has an Arctic tundra climate.

In the 1930s it was discovered that bodies buried in the town's graveyard were not decomposing, because the permafrost was preserving them. People may not be buried there, and so those who fall gravely ill must be taken to another part of Norway, where they can be buried if they die.

Contemporary Longyearbyen

Mining still plays a major role in the community. The Norwegian mining company, Store Norske Spitsbergen Kullkompani, runs two coal mines in Longyearbyen and Svea, and coal mining employs about half the residents.

In 1993, the University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS) was opened; it is a cooperation of all four Norwegian universities, providing lectures in geophysics, arctic biology, geology and Arctic technology as well as bachelor, master and PhD positions. The faculty consists of 20 full-time professors, 21 assistant professors and 120 guest lecturers. English is the official language of work, and currently about 350 international students take at least one course per year at UNIS. The student body consists of 50% Norwegian and 50% international students; there are no tuition fees, and most students live in six renovated mining barracks in Nybyen.

Research also includes ionospheric and magnetospheric facilities in regard to the EISCAT radar, the Auroral observatory and a magnetometer belonging to the IMAGE chain.

Nicknamed "Doomsday Vault", the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, an Arctic safe capable of storing millions of crop seeds, is located near Longyearbyen. Global Crop Diversity Trust administers the facility. The safe has been designed to protect against natural and human disasters, including global warming, floods and fires, and nuclear holocaust. The site was chosen for both its remoteness and ambient temperature of the permafrost.

Christmas Dinner

The Christmas dinner held at the Senior Citizen Center along with

the Daughters of Norway was a sparkling success. There were approximately 160 people in attendance from the two lodges with their guests.



Norwegian: Did you ever eat lutefisk?
Dane: No.....but I think I step in some one time.

What do you get when you cross a Norwegian with a flower?
—A Blooming Idiot!

Two Norwegians went with a pair of young ladies for a ride in the country. An hour later as Lars and Ole were trudging back to town on foot, Lars remarked, "Next time ve tell some girls to either cooperate or get out and walk....ve better make sure ve got our own car.

Lady: (attending the Olympics) "Are you a pole vaulter?"
Norwegian: "No.....I'm Norwegian ... and my name ain't Valter.

The Norwegians have invented a new parachute. Opens on impact.

How do you hide money from a Norwegian? Place it under the soap dish.

Homemade Aquavit

By Melissa Clark

Flavored vodkas may be all the rage with the chocolate martini set, but aquavit – a traditional, spice-infused spirit from Scandinavia – is a far more sophisticated tippie with notes of fennel, caraway, and coriander. Although aquavit keeps well at room temperature, it's traditionally served chilled.

Yields 4 bottles of about 8 oz.

3 Tbs. whole coriander seeds

2 Tbs. whole fennel seeds

1 Tbs. caraway seeds

1 Tbs. dill seed

1 liter vodka (I like Stoll)

6 whole black peppercorns

2 whole cloves

With a mortar and pestle, lightly crush the coriander, fennel, caraway, and dill seeds.

In a large, airtight glass container, combine the vodka with the crushed spices, peppercorns, and cloves. Cover and let stand at room temperature for 2 weeks, gently shaking the jar every 2 or 3 days. Strain the vodka into 4 clean 8-oz. glass bottles. Discard the spices.

from Fine Cooking Oct 27, 2008
Enjoy!

On a recent charter plane trip from Minneapolis to Norway, the pilot was having difficulty maintaining the stability of his 747 jet. He learned from his co-pilot that a large bunch of Norwegians aboard and they were creating quite a ruckus . . . imbibing a few spirits and running around the plane. So the co-pilot volunteered to go back to see if he could quiet them down. Shortly, the pilot was pleased to note the plane had settled down smoothly and he was able to resume his course. When the co-pilot returned, the pilot asked how he managed to quiet down all those Norwegians. "It was easy," he said, "I just opened the rear hatch and told them there was free lutefisk in the basement.

A Norwegian took a trip to Fargo, North Dakota. While in a bar, a Chinaman on the next stool spoke to the Norwegian in a friendly manner. "Look," he said, "let's have a little game. I'll ask you a riddle. If you can answer it, I'll buy YOU a drink. If you can't then you buy ME one. OK?" "Yah, dat sounds purty good," said the Norwegian. Said the Chinaman, "My father and mother had one child. It wasn't my brother. It wasn't my sister. Who was it? The Norwegian scratched his head and finally said, "I give up. Who was it?" "It was ME," chortled the Chinaman. So the Norwegian paid for the drinks. Back in Sioux Falls the Norwegian went into a bar and spotted one of his old cronies, Sven. "Sven," he said, "I got a game. If you can answer a question, I'll buy YOU a drink. If you can't you buy ME vun. Fair enough?" "Fair enough." said Sven. "OK ...my father and mudder had vun child. It wasn't my brudder or sister. Who was it?" Search me," said Sven. "I give up. Who was it?" Said the Norwegian, "It was some Chinaman up in Fargo, North Dakota."

Gratulerer Med Dagen i januar

Kira Brown. januar 11
Luv ern Eklund. . . januar 13
Mel Gullickson. . . januar 15
John Hyliln. januar 28
Lance Maiss. januar 9
Craig Sande. januar 30
Harriet Uren. januar 30

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Assist. Secretary - Vacant
Treasurer - Perralina Palm
Financial Secretary - Trygve Loken
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Trustee 3 Years- John Hysin
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Youth Director - Jeni Root
Sports Director - Brian Root
Camp Norge Ambassadors - Brian/Jeni Root

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This review provides valuable information relevant to your current financial situation and also helps you plan effectively for the future no matter what