



SONS OF  
NORWAY

January, February, 2008

# NEWSLETTER *Service*

Dear Lodge/District Editors:

We are pleased to provide the latest edition of the Newsletter Service. Throughout this year, you will begin to see changes to the Newsletter Service as we strive to make this resource even more valuable.

This complimentary service is printed six times each year and may be used as a supplement to your lodge newsletter. The Newsletter Service provides a variety of information, including current news and culture related articles. The Newsletter Service is also available in pdf format on the Web at [www.sonsofnorway.com](http://www.sonsofnorway.com), under the "Members Only" section. Using Adobe Acrobat PDF Reader, you can copy and paste text from this document by utilizing the "select text" function. If you don't have the latest version of this program, you can download it for free by going to <http://www.adobe.com/products/reader/> and scroll to the bottom of the page.

Also, we recently changed our mailing list to better serve you. From now on, lodges with both an editor position and publicity director position will only receive one copy of the newsletter service mailed to the editor. If the publicity director from your lodge would still like to receive the newsletter service, please contact Jessica Gleason at 612-821-4636 or [jgleason@sofn.com](mailto:jgleason@sofn.com) to be included on the list.

We hope you enjoy this issue and find its content to be beneficial. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve the Newsletter Service, please call or e-mail Jessica.

Fraternally,

Eivind J. Heiberg  
Fraternal Director

*A Little in English...*

## 940,000 Norwegians on Facebook

The internet society Facebook.com has now more than 938,000 Norwegian users, according to the website's own numbers. Norway is the fifth largest Facebook-country in the world after the US, Great Britain, Canada and Australia. In relation to total population this makes Norway the world's most Facebook-crazy country.

Facebook is a social networking site where the users communicate with friends by setting up their own profiles where they can write about themselves, post pictures and send messages to other users. Facebook was originally made for university students and employees in the US, but has since spread to other areas of use, including friends, schools and geographic areas. The service is financed by advertising, and free for the user.

Facebook is more than three years old, but in Norway the interest around Facebook increased dramatically in the first half of 2007. Around the New Year 2006-2007 there were 3000 registered Norwegian users, and in October of the same year the number had increased to something closer to 940,000. The site is especially popular among students.

"It's almost social suicide not to be on Facebook right now," said one student to Forbruker.no.

*-from dagblad.no*



*Litt på norsk...*

## 940.000 nordmenn på Facebook

Nettsamfunnet Facebook.com har nå mer enn 938.000 norske brukere, ifølge nettstedets egne tall. Norge er det femte største Facebook-landet i verden etter USA, Storbritannia, Canada og Australia. I forhold til folketall gjør dette Norge til verdens mest Facebook-gale land.

Facebook er et sosialt nettverk hvor brukerne kommuniserer med venner ved å opprette sin egen profil der de kan skrive om seg selv, poste bilder og sende beskjerer til andre brukere. Facebook var opprinnelig laget for universitetsstudenter og -ansatte i USA, men har siden spredt seg til andre bruksområder, inkludert venner, skoler og geografiske områder. Tjenesten er reklamefinansiert, og gratis for brukeren.

Facebook er mer enn tre år gammelt, men i Norge økte interessen rundt Facebook drastisk i første halvdel av 2007. Rundt årskiftet 2006-2007 var det registrert 3000 norske brukere, og i oktober samme året var tallet steget til et sted rundt 940.000. Nettsamfunnet er særlig populær blant studenter.

- Det er jo nærmest sosialt selvmord ikke å være på Facebook for tiden, sa en student til Forbruker.no.

*-fra dagblad.no*



## Språk og kultur / language and culture

### Lodge Names, part 1

In the earliest years of Sons of Norway, Norwegian was the first language of the vast majority of members. The organization, then known as Sønner af Norge, chose Norwegian names for its lodges which reflected the hopes and dreams of the membership, many of whom had left their homeland behind to begin a new life. As the years went on and the organization became more Americanized, the connection to Norwegian culture and language remained strong. In this edition of Språk og kultur we will take a look at some interesting lodge names and what they mean.

The vast majority of Sons of Norway's first members were recent immigrants. Throughout the 19th century, when the majority of immigrants came to America, Norway was in the midst of a national romantic movement. Norwegian history, literature, folk art and language were being explored and celebrated after many years under foreign rule. Many Norwegians took this with them when they came to America, and the influence of the national romantic movement can be seen in many lodge names.

**Ivar Aasen** Over the years, there have been several lodges named for Ivar Aasen, the self-taught linguist who founded Nynorsk, the "New Norwegian" written language, based on rural dialects.

**Arne Garborg** There have also been several lodges named after Arne Garborg, an author and political activist who figured prominently in Norwegian politics in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

**Bjørgvin** (1-10) The Old Norse name for Bergen, which linguistic reformists wanted to restore, much as Christiania had been changed to Oslo.

**Heimsyn** (1-15) A Nynorsk word that describes the act of looking at or around one's new home; also, an obscure book by Ivar Aasen.

**Henrik Ibsen** There have been about 9 lodges named for Henrik Ibsen, Norway's greatest playwright.

**Leif Erikson** Every district has had at least one lodge named for Leif Erikson, the legendary Norse discoverer of America. Erikson and the Vikings were heroes to the early Norwegian immigrants, who wanted to prove to native-born Americans that they too had a claim to their new country.

**Mjølner** (2-34) Mjølner was the name of Thor's magical hammer, from Norse mythology.

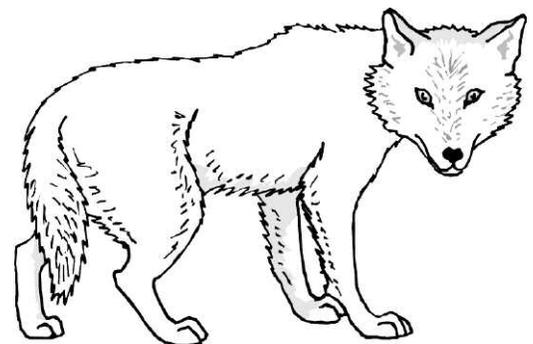
## Wolf population stable again

Researchers have found traces of 40-50 wolves in Norwegian territory during the winter of 2006-2007, and the population in the region appears stable. Half of the animals traced did not stray outside of Norway, while the other half roamed to areas in Sweden, according to the status report from research project Skandulv.

The conclusion drawn are that there were at least 136 and at most 169 wolves in Norway, Sweden and Finland during the winter season, with measurements taken from Oct. 1, 2006 to Feb. 28, 2007.

In the same period the year before there were between 141 and 160 wolves in the region, leading to the conclusion that the population is "stable or in extremely limited growth".

-from *aftenposten.no*



*A Little in English...*

## Norway is the place for an adrenaline-vacation

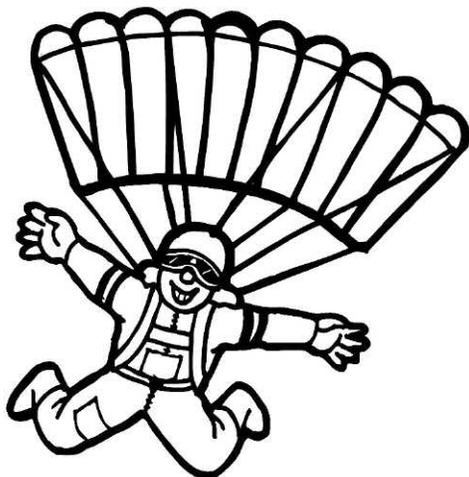
The travel guide Lonely Planet's Blue List has been a big success since the first edition was released two years ago. Now the third book is here. This time several Norwegian tourist attractions are included in the prestigious book. Adrenaline seekers have good reason to plan a vacation to Norway, if we are to believe Blue List.

Under the section "Risky Pursuits" two of ten attractions are Norwegian: killer whale safari in Tysfjord and base-jumping in Voss. The killer-whale experience was one of five reasons to travel to Norway in last year's book, while base-jumping and Extreme Sports Week in Voss is included for the first time this year. The week was arranged for the tenth time this summer with 20,000 visitors and 1,200 participants from 20 different nations.

Killer whale safari is noted as an adrenaline kick in water, not least if you take the chance to heave yourself out in the water to swim with the killer whale school which can have as many as 50 animals. In Tysfjord in Nordland there have been arranged killer whale safaris since the early 1990s. The year's season starts November 1 and lasts until the middle of January.

"We are noticing a lot of inquiries and are almost fully booked for the season, says Arnhild Haraldsen at Tysfjord Tourist Center. And those that are booking are mainly foreigners.

*-from dagblad.no*



*Litt på norsk...*

## Norge er stedet for adrenalinferie

Reiseguiden Lonely Planets Blue List har vært en stor suksess siden den første utgaven ble gitt ut for to år siden. Nå er den tredje boka her. Denne gangen er flere norske turistattraksjoner bæret med en plass i denne prestisjetunge boka. De adrenalinsøkende har god grunn til å legge ferien til Norge, skal vi tro Blue List.

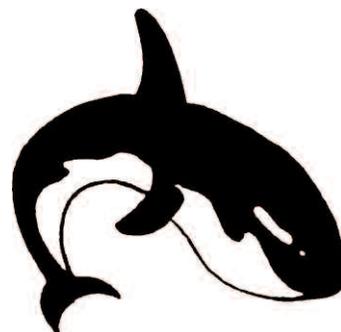
Under seksjonen «Risky Pursuits» er to av ti attraksjoner norske: Spekkhoggersafari i Tysfjord og basehopping i Voss. Spekkhoggeropplevelsen var én av fem grunner til å dra til Norge i fjorårets bok, mens basehopping og Ekstremsportveko på Voss er inne i varmen for første gang i år. Uka ble arrangert for tiende gang i sommer med 20 000 besøkende og 1200 utøvere fra 30 forskjellige nasjoner.

Spekkhoggersafari betegnes som et adrenalinkick i vann, ikke minst hvis du tar sjansen på å hive deg ut i vannet for å svømme sammen med spekkhoggerflokkene som kan være på opp mot 50 dyr. I Tysfjord i Nordland har det vært arrangert spekkhoggersafari siden tidlig på 1990-tallet. Årets sesong starter 1. november og varer til midten av januar.

- Vi merker stor etterspørsel og er nesten fullbooket for sesongen, sier Arnhild Haraldsen ved Tysfjord Turistsenter. Og de som bestiller er i hovedsak utlendinger.

Av andre risikoattraksjoner frister Blue List med et besøk til Tsjernobyl i Ukraina, stormjakt i USA og å kjøre ned verdens farligste vei, ofte kalt «Dødsveien», i Bolivia.

*-fra dagblad.no*



## New benefit for Sons of Norway Members

Sons of Norway is proud to announce a brand-new member benefit, Norwegian for Reading Comprehension. This unique online course focuses on reading Norwegian for general understanding. The program covers the many historical forms of the Norwegian language, and teaches innovative reading strategies for understanding anything from modern web pages to old immigrant letters.

This course is not quite like any other. Unlike traditional language-learning programs, this course will not teach you to understand spoken Norwegian, or to speak or write sentences of your own. Instead, the goal of this program is to help you read texts written in any form of Norwegian for basic comprehension. The intention is not to train you to translate every single word with total precision, but rather to identify the key concepts, and come to solid conclusions about what a text means.

To get started, sign in to the “Members Login” section of [www.sonsofnorway.com](http://www.sonsofnorway.com). Once you’re in, go to “Member Resources” and choose “Learn Norwegian.”



## Matlyst Monthly



## Barley Cakes



Ingredients:

1 1/4 cups pear barley

3 onions, minced

2 eggs

salt (to taste)

1/2 teaspoon nutmeg

ground allspice (to taste)

scant 1/2 cup whipping cream

1/2 cup ground nuts or breadcrumbs

Prepare the barley by soaking it in water over night. Cook barley in water until tender, around 20 -25 minutes. Set aside to cool.

Combine the barley with the remaining ingredients. Form the mixture into small patties and prepare a frying pan with butter. Brown on both sides and set on paper towels to cool. Serve with brown gravy, coleslaw, lingonberry jam, fried onions, or with your favorite soup or stew.

