

June 2016

Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter

Happy Father's Day!

Father's Day in Sweden is celebrated on
Sunday, November 13, 2016

Upcoming Events

MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL

Sunday, June 26, 2016

Raising of the Maypole, Dancing, Singing, Children's Games,
Pool/Waterslide.

Introduction of the 2016 Midsummer Queen and her Court.

For information, contact LeRoy Anderson
at 562.923.5828

VIKING VILLAGE

June 26th - July 1, 2016: A camp for children and grand-
children of VASA Order of America members ages 8-14
years old.

For information, contact Ann Heinstedt at e-mail:
ann@vasapark.org or call 661.297.3507 (Vasa Members only)

AUTUMNFEST AND MARKNAD

September 18, 2016

Come and enjoy our Pool/Waterslide, Petting Zoo, Children's
Games, Folk Dancing, Singing, etc.

For information, contact Linda Kosvic at
951.654.8396

Next meeting: Thursday, June 9, 2016

Golden Valley Dinner Committee for 2016

June Gertie Lingström

Sept. Jason Bloom

Oct Delphine Trowbridge and Dorothy Burns

Nov Ann & Lars Heinstedt and Jason Trowbridge

Dec Maidie Pizza and Salad

Golden Valley Dinners for 2017

Jan Steve & Katarina Holstein

Feb

March

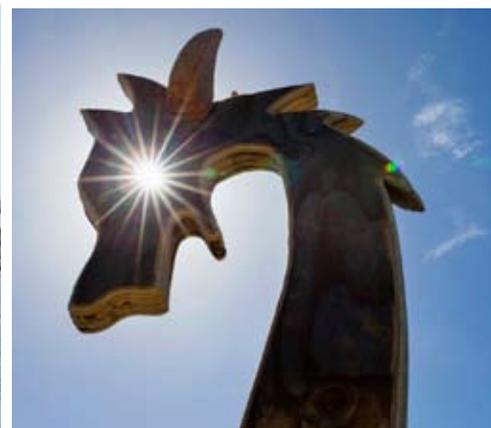
April

May

June

Viking Ship Project

Vasa Park Association's \$200 donation funded life jackets for this Viking Ship Project!



The dragon head was placed on Marina High's newly built Viking ship Oct. 1. Teacher Bob Meade and a number of students at the school have been working on a fairly authentic reproduction of a Viking boat for the past year.

FOSTER SNELL, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

HUNTINGTON HARBOR – The Sons of Norway were on hand, waving Norwegian flags. A score of students and teachers with Valhalla T-shirts could be seen. And Marina High School Assistant Principal Joseph Powers was there in full Viking regalia.

They were all assembled Friday afternoon at Sunset Aquatic Marina to see the launch and maiden voyage of Valhalla, a 30-foot re-creation of a Viking ship called a knarr – complete with towering dragon head – built over two years by students from Marina High and the Coastline Regional Occupation Program, under the supervision of wood shop teacher Bob Meade.

Among the inaugural crew of 20 rowers were senior twins Maxwell and Roman Marvin. “I’ve been anxious for this day all year long,” said Roman Marvin, who was so into the project he worked on it even though he was not taking a class with Meade.

Both brothers were thrilled to be part of the vessel’s inaugural crew. “We put in blood, sweat and tears, literally,” said Roman Marvin. “Mostly tears,” his brother joked.

After a ceremony honoring donors and participants, the Valhalla was christened with the smashing of a bottle, supplied by the theater arts department and made of sugar. Then she was launched, 21st-century Viking style – backed by pick-up truck and trailer down the launch ramp. After the crew boarded, with the crowd onshore cheering, the Valhalla was pushed off from the dock and soon was moving away smoothly, with Powers at the bow chanting stroke commands. Toward the end of the approximately half-hour voyage, the crew took charge, calling out, “One, two, stroke,” in unison.

The vessel is no mere model or float, but a seaworthy sailing and rowing craft – “about 80 percent authentic,” Meade said. The planks overlap and are riveted in the traditional clinker-built method.

Modern marine plywood replaced Norwegian oak, and galvanized hardware and epoxy sealing were used. A little duct tape was applied where a small hole was punched in the hull.

However, the look and design hew close to what is known about Viking ships. The dragon’s head and shields, which on the port side spell out Marina, are adornments based on tradition.

About 5 feet were sliced off the originally planned length of the boat for maneuvering and transport. Meade said he and his students worked “pretty much every day,” to finish the craft and make sure it was able to pass a marine safety inspection.

The Marvin brothers were joined on the maiden voyage by students Kayla Corpuz, Matt Wautlet, Isaac Wright and helmswoman Jordan Gustafson, who put in many hours on the final construction.

Powers was delighted that the school was out in force to celebrate the event. “We have our AP students and academic aces, and then we have kids trying to find their way,” Powers said. “I wanted the kids who did this to know it mattered this much.”

Despite the willing workforce, including student volunteers, and his experience building watercraft, Meade wasn’t entirely sure he could pull it off, saying he kept it under wraps “because we didn’t know how it would turn out.”

Although Meade admits building a replica Viking warship, or longship, would have been great in theory, considerations for space and safety made the knarr, which is shorter, wider and more stable, the sensible choice.

The boat weighs about 2,000 pounds and cost about \$4,200 in materials, raised from donations from groups like the Sons of Norway, as well as booster groups and from sale of wares made in wood shop.

After docking, Meade was ecstatic. “Big projects like this are exactly what these kids need,” he said.

To contact the writer: gmellen@ocregister.com

May Meeting Pictures: We were visited by the Pastor from the Swedish Church

Photos provided by Kerstin Wendt



Pastor Steffan Eklund from the Swedish Church in San Pedro was invited to our May lodge meeting. We enjoyed hearing him talk about the history of the Church of Sweden, the mass immigration of the 1800's and the church as it is today. He encouraged people to read Vilhelm Moberg's *The Emigrant* novels. Ingela Sorensson talked about how the Church is helping in the community.



Midsummer

One of the very nicest things about this time of year is the Midsummer celebration. If you are fortunate enough to make it to Vasa Park in Agoura on June 26, 2016, you will probably have a warm, fun-filled, wonderful day with your family and friends! Our park has experienced some beautifully implemented upgrades to comply with water saving needs.

Here are some facts about the Midsummer celebration to 'enlighten you!'

Swedish Midsummer – the Origins

In agrarian times, Midsummer celebrations in Sweden were held to welcome summertime and the season of fertility. In some areas people dressed up as 'green men', clad in ferns. They also decorated their houses and farm tools with foliage, and raised tall, leafy maypoles to dance around, probably as early as the 1500s. Midsummer was primarily an occasion for young people, but it was also celebrated in the industrial communities of central Sweden, where all mill employees were given a wonderful feast of pickled herring, beer and of course schnapps. It was not until the 1900s, however, that this became the most Swedish of all traditional festivities.

Ever since the 6th century AD, Midsummer bonfires have been lit around Europe. In Sweden, they were mainly found in the southern part of the country. Young people also liked to visit holy springs, where they drank the healing water and amused themselves with games and dancing. These visits were a reminder of how John the Baptist baptised Christ in the River Jordan.

Midsummer Night is the lightest of the year and was long considered a magical night, as it was the best time for telling people's futures. Girls ate salted porridge so that their future husbands might bring water to them in their dreams to quench their thirst. You could also discover treasures, for example by studying how moonbeams fell.

Also that night, it was said, water was turned into wine and ferns into flowers. Many of the local plants acquired healing powers on that one night of the year.

Legend has it that the night before Midsummer's Day is a magical time for love. On their way home from the Midsummer celebration, girls and young women are supposed to pick seven different species of flowers and lay them under their pillows. In their dreams that night, their future husbands will appear to them.

The VIKINGS are back!

By RUTH STYLES and MARTHA CLIFF
PUBLISHED: 06:43 EST, 14 May 2014 | UPDATED:
04:12 EST, 26 June 2014

Viking life: King Bjorn (centre) and the other Vikings live and work in the village 24 hours a day, 365 days a year



- Meet King Björn, ruler of Sweden's modern day berserkers who live just as their ancestors did (but luckily raiding is banned)
- Björn Jakobsen is the ruler of a band of modern-day Swedish Vikings
- Lives in a small village and lives exactly as a Viking would have done
- He and other villagers live Viking lives 24hrs a day, 365 days a year
- Says he has no plans to return to modern life and loves the peace
- Sadly for Björn, Vikings can no longer go on raids so UK coast is safe

They were a race of ferocious warriors, famous for their terrifying seaborne attacks and incredible shipbuilding abilities. But if you thought the age of the Vikings was past, Björn Jakobsen, 66, king of a band of modern-day warriors from Malmö in Sweden, is living proof that for some, they never really went away.

Part of a community living and working in the Viking town Foteviken on the southern Swedish coast, Björn says the life of a Viking is a fascinating one and adds he has no plans to return to modern life.

'It's a mysterious lifestyle,' he elaborates. 'Of course I can go into modern times as soon as I step outside the village.'

'I could just go and watch the TV but when I do come back to the village after [venturing out], I realise how beautiful [living like a Viking] is.'

For King Björn and his band of Viking warriors, daily life in Foteviken includes making time to work the surrounding fields and feasting on porridge, although as king, Björn doesn't have to work if he doesn't feel like it.

'I just declared it,' he says of the moment he was crowned king of the Viking village. 'I said OK I am king. It was my decision. We have people visiting the village every day and I spend time communicating with them,' he adds.

THE BEAR-SKIN CLAD WARRIORS WHO MENACED BRITAIN

Fiery portents, a dragon seen streaking across the Northumbrian sky and whirlwinds lashing the coast could mean only one thing to the fearful Anglo-Saxons watching the heavens in 793 - doom was imminent.

And doom duly came in the shape of the Vikings, who between 793 and 1066 were a hazardous part of life for the Anglo-Saxons. Most came from Denmark, although Norwegian Vikings were also known to have had a taste for British gold. Either way, following the Lindisfarne attack, Viking power and influence grew until by 849, the year King Alfred the Great was born, they held much of the

north and east. Although he managed to halt their advance, raids didn't cease until after the Norman Conquest. And while the Vikings may be gone from British shores, their influence does live on in the English language. Berserk, which means murderous rage, comes from the Anglo-Saxon 'beserker' or clad in bear-skin - an early term used to describe the Vikings.

'All the other Vikings will be out working in the fields and working on the farm but I can spend my time just looking around, or sailing or enjoying a chat or playing a game.' But while Björn ensures life in the Viking village is as authentic as possible, there's one part of Viking life that he's not allowed to recreate.

'Really, it depends what you mean by raids,' he muses. 'We have friends in [other Viking communities] in Europe and we visit each other and each other's markets.'

'We swap Viking tools. We travel all over the place because there are Vikings all over Europe.'

While raids on the British coast might be out of the question, there are still some other forms of entertainment available to Björn and his band of modern-day Vikings.

Most exciting of all are the feast days when Björn and his cohorts get to swap their daily fare for a meat-heavy feast.



'Everyone thinks it was meat and meat and meat,' he explains of his Viking forebears. 'But it wasn't, they ate with their hands and it was berries and pork. They eat porridge and bread every day along with a very light beer. If they kill an animal they don't waste it, they eat it.' He adds: 'If a Viking has done well like pulling in a ship then they get a strong beer and meat as a reward - as a celebration of what they've done.'

Björn, who says his family - all of whom do normal jobs and live in modern homes - come to stay with him in the village in the summer, is also keen to rehabilitate the reput-

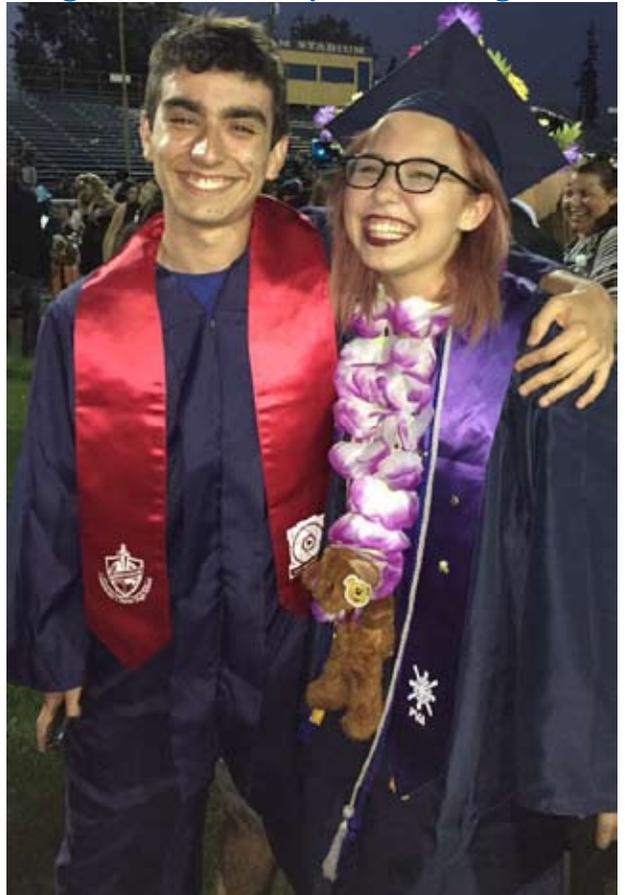
Continued: Vikings

ation of the Vikings. They weren't, he says, just ferocious warriors and they most certainly didn't live in furs and horned helmets - for some of the time at least. 'Everyone thinks that Vikings have horns,' he complains. 'They don't. They wore clothes made from silk and linen and had a bow and a spear for killing. 'Some Vikings had helmets to protect themselves and some might have had pieces of metal sticking out but not horns. 'You can't have horns because if you think about it, if you are fighting with horns, someone could grab those horns and drag you down - it's very dangerous.'

Happily for Björn, there's not much fighting to be done when you're a modern-day Viking and he says he wouldn't have it any other way. 'Modern day life is so rushed with all this modern technology,' he explains. 'Here you can relax and look at the sea and see the sunset. You can sit still.'

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-2627358/The-VIKINGS-Meet-King-Bjorn-ruler-Swedens-modern-day-beserkers-live-just-ancestors-did-luckily-raiding-banned.html#ixzz4A9pMyzkI>

Jason Trowbridge and Natalie Taylor Graduated from Birmingham Community Charter High School



Golden Valley Lodge, #616
Vasa Order of America
c/o 6373 Balcom Avenue
Encino, CA 91316