

Norseman News

Leif Ericson Viking Ship *Norseman*

Vol. 12 No. 2

Summer 2004 Edition

www.vikingship.org

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LEVS Mission Statement

1. To educate Americans about Leif Ericson as the first European to discover and settle on the North American continent.
2. To promote knowledge and a realistic historic image of Viking people as merchants, navigators, shipbuilders, artists, explorers and warriors.
3. To provide sail training and practice in recreating the experience of traveling on water as Vikings did a thousand years ago.

Distributed 4 times a year

All Play and No Work Isn't Possible

Spring is a time of renewal; trees and plants burst into blossom, birds return to the area, and the grass gets green again. As the weather warms, many people clean up the effects of winter, and LEVS is no exception.

Much work goes into making the *Norseman* ready for her events. In late March, the LEVS crew began repairing the damages brought on by the previous season's events.

"In our last work party, we sanded down the spars and mast in preparation for recoating them with polyurethane. Some areas on them had worn down to the wood - you can't have that exposed to water for any length of time without it getting damaged." said Dave Segermark, the work party coordinator.

In addition to those items, the crew also worked on repainting the shields and sanding and oiling the oars. Steve Clarke fixed the oar's blades, reshaping them to the appropriate angle. Steve explained, "It's very important that the blades have the right shape to them; otherwise you don't get as much draw to the oars."

The crew will be working many Saturdays until the work is done. Their goal is to complete any basic maintenance on the ship before the Symposium; however, there is also work to be done in and around the shed and grounds where the *Norseman* is stored. The group plans to run



Dave Segermark and Joe Jeantet straightened up items in the Norseman.

electricity out to the ship shed so they can use their power tools more easily than they do now.

Dave planned many work party events so that various people could work the day into their schedule. Sometimes only one or two people are able to come, which limits the type of work that can be done. Crew member Karen Johnson commented, "If we could have twenty people come down for one work party, we could probably get all of the work done in one day!"

That isn't to say that the work party events are not well organized. "We have a wish-list of tasks we'd like to get done" said Dave, "as well as some items we'd love to get for the ship. The

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All Play/No Work

Continued from Page 1

tasks and items have been prioritized - a new sail would be ideal, but getting the current sail repaired will work for now.” (For more information about how you could help, please see the “Wish List” sidebar.)

The Saturdays are not all work, however. Throughout the day, visitors stopped by to ask about the *Norseman* and the organization. The crew were happy to stop what they were doing and meet new people. The crew always takes a break around lunch to head to the Up the Creek restaurant, a well-hidden place that has quick and tasty food and friendly waitresses.

If you would like to help out, please check out the work party schedule at www.vikingship.org under the Calendar link, or contact Dave Segermark directly at info@vikingship.org or 410-275-8516.

Everyone is welcome!



Marlyse sanded the oars.



Gene painted the shields.

LEVS “Wish List”

Norseman

- A donation of \$1500 to purchase a new sail. **See note below!**
- That we obtain enough events for the year to rebuild our treasury.
- That more people decide to join the crew, so that we have enough crew to work on her, sail her and bask in the glory of the *Norseman*.

Trailer

- A donation of \$1000 or so to have the trailer sandblasted and painted.

Truck

- We're pretty happy with this vehicle. We need to take care of it, though.

Ship shed

- A donation of about \$500 to install stone under shed to keep weeds from growing and to make it look better.

Tool shed

- A \$1000 or more donation for a larger, nicer tool shed to be installed at the end of the ship shed. We need to have storage for our tools as well as storage for our merchandise.

Address Corrections Requested!

We received a large number of returned Spring Edition newsletters, partly due to a mistake made while printing the labels. We apologize for any inconvenience to you.

A downloadable copy of the Spring Edition of the *Norseman News* is available through our site at www.vikingship.org/LEVSfiles.html. If you would prefer to receive a paper copy, please email the editor at NNeditor@vikingship.org or send your request via our mailing address shown on the cover page.

Big Thank You!

The Leif Ericson Viking Ship organization would like to thank the members that have recently decided to support us with gifts of \$1,000 or more. Else Deichler, Bill Nyborg, and two other generous people are our first recorded “Leif” Members.

Two years ago, one of the members generously contributed to the purchase of our truck, and this year Mrs. Deichler and another member decided to increase their membership to \$1,000. Mr. Nyborg not only became a “Leif” member, but he also offered to replace our sail for the second time! He donated the sail that we are now using in memory of his deceased wife, Ruth. Last Leif Ericson Day he observed that it was looking worn out, and decided to help out again.

A hearty thanks to our new “Leif” Members!

Focus On: Dave "Wolf" Sutton

A WARRIOR for Truth About the Vikings

Dave "Wolf" Sutton looks the part of the Viking and has for over twenty years. When he is dressed in full Viking regalia, he is an imposing figure. Dave, however, is always willing to answer brave young visitors' questions, and will tone down his fierceness in the presence of a shy child.



Wolf, as he likes to be called, has a varied heritage: German, English, Dutch, Irish and even American Indian, but that doesn't dampen his enthusiasm when it comes to teaching others about the culture of the Vikings. He is often called to schools in the Philadelphia suburbs, where he discusses the tools and weapons used by the Vikings and gives the children a glimpse into what a Viking was like. (See the Spring edition of the *Norseman News* for an article about a recent school visit.) His favorite question during an event was "Is that a real fire, and do you eat that food that you say you are cooking?" Wolf is also very vocal about the fact that Leif arrived in North America 500 years before "the other guy".

Wolf thoroughly enjoys being on the crew and prefers the sailing events. That could be because he had previous boating experience - four years in the US Navy, plus boating in both Canada and the United States for fun. He decided to join the crew after a neighbor introduced him to Dave Segermark (a current captain of the *Norseman*). "It sounded like fun, and I like to sail, so I said 'Why not?'" Wolf reminisced.

Two ships and over twenty years later, he is still saying "Why not?" Wolf has been to Newfoundland with the organization and has also participated in a "Universal Soldier Weekend" camp out with the boat and some crewmembers. You can see him at most events - his "outside" job as a Driver's License Examiner gives him some leeway. If he had his say, the organization would have a sail and camp weekend event. "My least favorite aspect about being part of this organization is that we rarely have the money or time to do more." says Wolf. Maybe that is why, if event visitors seem interested in the organization, he is more than happy to try to recruit them!

On Leif Ericson Day in 2003, Wolf was honored with the Viking of the Year Award, for his many years of support of the organization and education of the "masses".

If you are brave enough, come meet Wolf at our next event!

What do the words below have in common?

Find the words in the grid. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions. There might be other words in the puzzle as well, but ignore them. When you are done, the unused letters in the grid will spell out a hidden message. Pick them out from left to right, top line to bottom line.

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H	E	B	A	L	F	T	L	H	B	E	Z	A	G	A
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S	O	E	O	H	K	M	O	C	A	R	P	N	O	L
B	O	A	Y	I	A	O	G	A	E	H	T	O	O	B
A	L	K	N	S	M	E	D	S	F	R	Y	A	T	W
N	S	D	L	R	L	D	I	I	G	E	N	L	E	A
D	L	L	C	S	E	A	E	A	R	G	F	K	G	L
E	A	O	S	C	R	B	R	K	G	N	C	I	I	U
C	S	F	L	L	F	D	I	A	O	A	R	A	N	D
Y	R	R	Y	U	H	E	B	R	R	O	T	A	S	K
E	A	E	E	B	O	T	L	E	T	U	R	I	E	T
I	F	C	K	L	W	O	L	K	H	G	C	L	G	
D	T	K	A	T	F	I	L	B	O	A	R	I	L	L
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- | | | |
|---------|----------|----------------|
| ANGER | DRAG | LIFT |
| BAG | EGG | LOAN |
| BAIT | FELLOW | LOOSE |
| BIRTH | FRECKLE | LOW |
| BLEAK | FRO | MEEK |
| BLOOM | GAUNTLET | OAF |
| BOOTH | GAZE | RAFT |
| BOTH | GEAR | RAISE |
| CAKE | GET | RID |
| CALL | HIT | ROOT |
| CARP | HUSBAND | RUG |
| CAST | ILL | SAME |
| CLUB | KID | SKY |
| COSY | KINDLE | SLY |
| CRAWL | KNIFE | TAKE |
| CROOKED | LAW | TILL |
| DIE | LEG | UGLY |

Winning Essays from West Bradford & Honey Brook Elementary Schools

Students from West Bradford and Honey Brook Elementary Schools, in Chester County Pennsylvania, wrote essays that they submitted to our organization. The first prize winners from each school won a ride on the *Norseman*, a “Leif Landed First” t-shirt, and their essay is published below. Second and third prize winners each will receive a “Leif Landed First” t-shirt. The choices were difficult to make - each student had a different perspective on what they learned. We enjoyed reading all of them!

West Bradford Winners	Honey Brook Winners
1st Place: Selina March	1st Place: Jessica Welsh
2nd Place: Ryan McNelis	2nd Place: Carlee Miller
3rd Place: Hanna Ward	3rd Place: Jackie Corse
Honorable Mention: Kyle Wilson	Honorable Mention: Kyle Roberts

The Vikings by Jessica Welsh

The Vikings were very interesting people. They played neat board games and they played cool sports. Music and songs were an important part of their life. The Vikings wore different clothes. There are lots of things we should know about the women. The most interesting fact about the Vikings is that they built and sailed their own ships. There is so much to learn about the Vikings.

The Vikings were very interesting adventurers. They were from Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. They also spread through Europe and the North Atlantic. They were known as the raiders and were traders, explorers and settlers. The Vikings came to America before Columbus did. The Vikings lived in Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland a long time ago but still people are learning about them every day.

The Vikings had different kinds of games. They played board games kind of like Chess. Board games were popular in the Viking homelands of Scandinavia as early as 400 AD. Occasionally referred to in manuscripts, the game was called Hnefnatafl, that means “kings table”. The game developed over the centuries and different versions of the board have been found from Ireland to the Ukraine by archaeologists. It’s decline began in the 11th century as chess grew popular. Soon it lingered on only in remote country districts. Hnefnatafi was last recorded as being played in Whales in 1587 and also in Lapland in 1723.

They didn’t just have board games, they had sports also. Man against man competitions were normal forms of sports to the Vikings. In this kind of competition, there would usually be a champion and a challenger. The most popular sports were archery, javelin, knattleikr, skiing, swimming, and wrestling. The Vikings did some games that we do today.

There are a few things cool about Viking ships. The ships had a flexible hull, a keel, and a sail. The ships both long ship and the merchant ship or “Knorr”, could equally well handle the ocean voyages across the Atlantic. Neither needed a harbor, but could still land on beaches or river banks anywhere. The Vikings not only needed a good ship to be able to travel far, they needed to navigate to find their way to their destination.

There are lots of things about the women. The wife would be

Vikings at West Bradford by Selina March

When Mr. Sutton and two members of his crew, Marlyse and Stephen, came to West Bradford they taught us lots of interesting things about the Vikings. Some of the things they taught us were about boys and men. He told us that the job of the boys and men were to fight and to hunt. The men, when at battle or hunting, carried many different kinds of spears. For example, there were a couple of spears that went right through you and some that didn’t. The spears that didn’t go through you had a metal piece jutting out from the bottom of the tip to stop it from going through. Other weapons that the men carried were a throwing ax and a battle ax. Boys also carried an ax to protect themselves from enemies and wild animals. They also told us that men who stayed at home and didn’t fight or hunt were called “coal biters.” You definitely didn’t want to be a “coal biter.” Marlyse, Stephen, and Mr. Sutton also taught us about women, armor and many other interesting facts about the Vikings. They told us that women were the head of the house. Women carried a ring of keys on their dress that unlocked important doors. I also learned that all women wore brooches. The material of their brooch told others how wealthy they were. Very wealthy women wore brooches made of gold, and then came silver, then copper, then metal. Women also wore other jewelry if they were very wealthy. I thought it was cool that the women were the ruler of the house.

They also taught us a few facts about armor. When at battle men wore what was called chain mail. A helmet with chain mail weighed around 9.5 pounds. I wonder how they can keep their head up under that weight. Another thing I learned is that a suit of chain mail weighed about 60 pounds. Wow, that’s heavy!

Some other things I learned from Stephen, Mr. Sutton and Marlyse is that the Vikings were excellent sailors and ship makers. People who didn’t have money usually became Vikings because Vikings raided towns to get their money. I think the most interesting thing I learned, however, is that it wasn’t Christopher Columbus that discovered North America, it was the Vikings. That’s what I learned when the Vikings came to West Bradford.

Celebrate the 4th of July in Philadelphia with LEVS and the ASTA Tall Ships!

The *Norseman* will be landing in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for the Fourth of July festivities! From Thursday, July 1st through Saturday the 4th, Penn's Landing in Philadelphia along with the Camden waterfront in New Jersey will be celebrating America's independence with a spectacular fleet of Tall Ships from Europe, Asia, and the Americas - including the *Norseman*.

The activities will vary - at times the *Norseman* will be sailing on the Delaware River, but you will be able to get a closer look at the ship when it is docked.

There will also be other city-sponsored events since the ASTA Tall Ships event coincides with Philadelphia's "Welcome America!" event. Penn's Landing is located on Columbus Boulevard, between Market and Walnut Streets. In New Jersey, Camden will have activities planned near the New Jersey Aquarium.

The *Norseman* is considered the "smallest tall ship" in the ASTA registry. The Leif Ericson Viking Ship organization joined ASTA in the early 1990's.

LEVS is still finalizing the details, so please visit www.vikingship.org or www.2cities1waterfront.com for more information.



Ashville Viking Festival

Memorial Day Weekend, May 29th & 30th



The Leif Ericson Viking Ship organization is excited about taking part in a new (to us) event! The Village of Ashville (located thirty minutes south of downtown Columbus, Ohio) will be the gathering place for various Living History groups from the Ohio area and beyond. This family-oriented event focuses on the 10th Century Viking.

The event organizers are working on enabling us to sail the ship in downtown Columbus on the Scioto River on Friday, May 28th. We are hoping that this will generate some publicity in the area. Come visit us at the event on May 29th and 30th!

The Symposium Was a Success!

On April 24 of this year, the Leif Ericson Viking Ship organization, in conjunction with the American Swedish Historical Museum, hosted a symposium devoted to all things Viking



The Norseman on display

(see the Spring 2004 edition of the *Norseman News* for more information.) The *Norseman* was displayed in front of the Independence Seaport Museum, and caused many questions from the locals and tourists who were out enjoying the beautiful weather.

Inside the Museum's theater, the participants enjoyed the lectures. The "speakers were top notch - knowledgeable and very interesting with great delivery," mentioned Sally Christensen, a member of the Leif Ericson Society International, in a letter to the LEVS organization. "You are all to be congratulated on a stellar effort. It was worthwhile in every way."

LEVS would like to thank the Symposium organizers for their two years of effort in planning this event, as well as the American Swedish Historical Museum, the Independence Seaport Museum, the speakers, and the participants for making this day such a success!

If you have any comments regarding the Symposium, please contact LEVS at events@vikingship.org or at the address listed on the front cover.



Rune Scratchings



Traces of the Viking age continue to be found in various parts of Europe. On the Isle of Man (where the hull of *Norseman* was built), a hoard of silver coins, ingots, and an arm-ring was discovered recently, with the help of a metal detector, in the west part of the island. The field where it was found was unplowed since the 1950's and will now be explored further by archeologists.



The town of Norway, Michigan, has a Viking ship in the highway median at either end of town to welcome visitors. Norway (pop. 2910) is on highway 2 in the Upper Peninsula. The village was laid out in 1879 by Anton Odell, a Norwegian, and was originally called Ingolsdorf. This name was soon changed to Norway.



Newly found remains of a Viking village were discovered near Vintrosa, Sweden, as a result of highway excavation. Vintrosa is in central Sweden, Örebro District. The remains appear to be a farm village and have been carbon dated to about 1050. Investigations will continue of this find, said to be the earliest in this area.



At least ten Viking-age houses have been identified as a result of excavations in Cork, County Kerry, Ireland. These remains and various other artifacts prove a 1000-year-old Viking settlement in that city. Until this discovery, only Dublin and Waterford in Ireland were proven to have had Viking settlement.



For those traveling in Minnesota, you can visit the Cozy Viking Diner in the small village of Viking. This town is in northwest Minnesota, about 16 miles northwest of Thief River Falls. The Cozy Viking is the social hub of Viking (pop. 129) and the surrounding area, with great homemade food and hospitality.



A Swedish family living on the island of Gotland recently removed a tree from their garden and found a treasure of some 280 silver coins from the early 11th century. The coins, mostly from Germany, are thought to have originated from a trade journey of Gotlanders to the river Elbe in Germany, about 1050 A.D.



The Vikings by Jessica Welsh

Continued from Page 4

the lady of the household and had to see to it that the food lasted during the long, dark winter. The women would make butter, cheese, dried and smoked meat and fish and would put it up for storage. They were expected to know and use herbs for making medicine and use it for the sick and wounded. The farm animals were also the women's job even when the men went trading or hunting. In rich families the women would have servants and slaves to help her with the chores. The girls were married at the age of 12-15. They were expected to run the household after they were married. The marriage was agreed on between the families and the two families worked together for help and protection. The bride had little to say about the marriage. If the women's husband mistreated her and the children, or he was too lazy to be a good provider, or he insulted her family, the woman could divorce him. To do it, she would call some witnesses. Then at the couples bed declared herself divorced from her husband. That is what we should know about Vikings.

The Vikings wore different clothes than we do today. The men first put on long woolen shirt and then long cloth trousers. On top of this was worn a sleeved jerkin or a three-quarter coat with a belt around it. On their feet they would wear socks and soft leather shoes or a pair of long leather boots. When in battle they wore an iron helmet and a mail-chain to protect them. The women wore a long linen dress. It could be plain or pleated. Over the dress they wore a long woolen tunic, kind of like an apron. It was held up by a pair of brooches. Over the tunic they sometimes wore a shawl. Women's legs and feet were covered with thick woolly socks and soft leather shoes. Both men and women wore fur or woolen hats and cloaks in the winter.

There is more things about the Vikings that we can learn. The children started to work when they were only five years old! Their shields were made out of wood. They had weapons also. They were the first to find America, but got killed by the natives. That was about 500 years ago before Christopher Columbus. If they did something majorly bad, they would have to go out of the town. If they did something worse, they had to go out of the country. The Vikings a lot to do and a lot to learn.

The Vikings were very fascinating people. They played cool board games and they played neat sports. Music and songs were an necessary part of their life. The Vikings wore unusual clothes. There are lots of things we learned about the women. The most coolest fact about the Vikings is that they built and sailed their own ships. There is so much more to know about the Vikings. I'm glad that I could learn about them.



A Recipe Fit for a King... or a Fisherman

One of our readers submitted the following wonderful story and recipe. Enjoy!

On Thursday nights in Sweden, during the cooler months of the year - and there are a lot of these - Ärt Soppa is the traditional meal. It goes back to pre-Martin Luther days when Friday was observed as a strict fast day.

My mother made a simple but filling one-pot meal with a ham bone (hopefully there was some meat left on it), dried yellow peas, onions and spices.

No matter whether you're dining with the Royal Family or with a lowly fisherman's family, you're going to have Ärt Soppa on Thursday night.

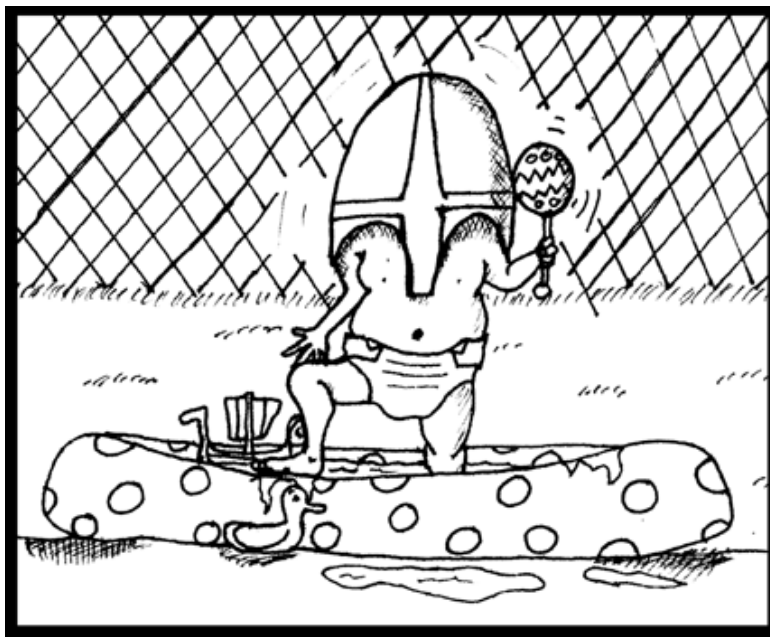
As you can see from the recipe, making Ärt Soppa is a "stirring experience". The usual accompaniments are a good cheese - cheddar or Swedish Fontina and lots of Knäckebröd and smör (butter). Add a dessert and coffee and you have a meal fit for a king... or a fisherman.

Submitted by Kalle Andersson from the "Friends of the Swedish Cabin" 610-623-1650

If you would like to submit a recipe, please contact Editor@vikingship.org or mail the recipe to the address given on the cover page.

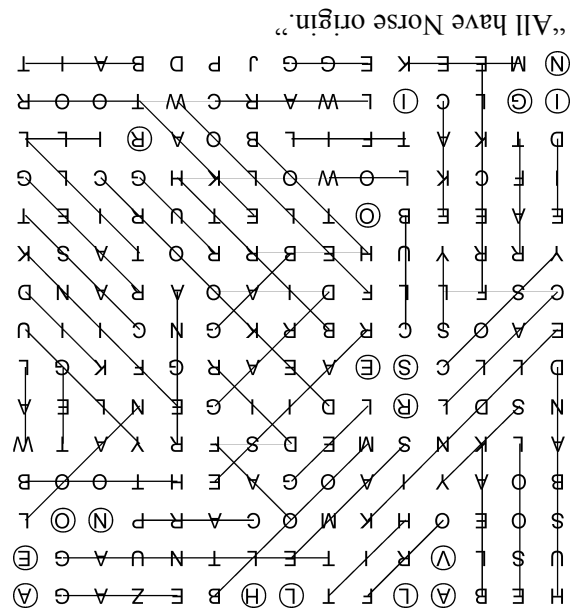
Ärt Soppa (Yellow Pea Soup)

- Simmer a ham butt (or smoked picnic) in one gallon of water for an hour or so. Remove the ham and save!
- Rinse two pounds of yellow split peas in cold water. Drain well and add to ham stock and return to a simmer.
- Stir often! While soup is simmering take a large onion, peel, and dice it into ¼ inch pieces. In a skillet, sauté the onion in a tablespoon of margarine for 3-5 minutes. Add this to the soup. Stir!
- In a small saucepan, "make a tea" with one cup boiling water and two teaspoons each of thyme and marjoram. Simmer for 5 minutes. Pour into the soup through a strainer. Stir!
- Add one-half teaspoon of sugar and one-quarter teaspoon of white pepper.
- Simmer, stirring often for one hour or so. Peas will begin to soften.
- Add hot water, as required, to bring the volume up to one gallon.
- If a smoked picnic is used, you may slice it and serve on the side with the soup, or you may dice it and add it back to the soup. If a ham butt is used, dice it and return it to the soup.
- Taste! Add salt as needed. Keep hot for service.



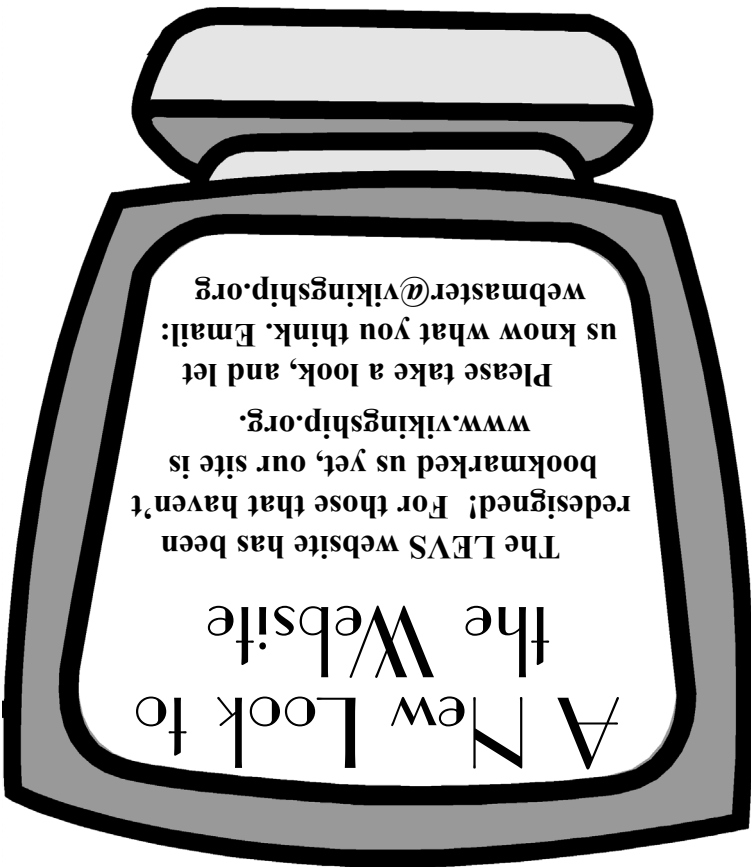
Created by Hinsel for LEVS <http://www.hinsel.com>

A Viking has to start somewhere!



The puzzle is found on page 3

Puzzle Solution



Looking Ahead: 2004 Events & Projects

May

Sat, May 8th Work party

Sat - Mon, May 15th - 17th

Brooklyn, NY Viking Festival,

and 17th of May Parade

Wed, May 19th Board Meeting

Sat, May 22nd Sail Training Day

Sat - Sun, May 29th - 30th (MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND)

Viking Festival/Living History Event! Ashville, OH

June

Sat, June 5th Swedish American Historical Society (SAHS)

Festival in Madison, NJ

Sun, June 6th Monument Dedication in Pennsville, NJ

Wed, June 16th Board Meeting

July

Thurs. - Sun, July 1st - 4th (4th OF JULY!!!)

ASTA Tall Ships Challenge; Philadelphia, PA

Wed, July 21st Board Meeting

*Work parties might be used as sail training days.
See the website for the most current listings and contact info.*



Norseman News

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Summer 2004 Edition!