



# Norseman News

Leif Ericson Viking Ship Norseman

Vol. 14 No. 1

Spring 2006 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 3 times a year

## A Message from the President

It is with great pleasure I write this message to all the readers of the newsletter. We wish to announce a transition in the business arrangements of both LEVS and the Leif Ericson Society International (LESI). A "Statement" is given below that reflects a new relationship that is now in place between LEVS and LESI. Ivar Christensen has requested that LEVS take on the responsibility of continuing the goals and business arrangements of LESI. Ivar will continue to advise the LEVS Board of

Directors on addressing the many events and actions that LESI wishes to emphasize regarding the history of Leif Ericson.

Since members of LEVS share the same appreciation of our Scandinavian Heritage with particular emphasis on the exploits and accomplishments of Leif Ericson, we are proud to assist Ivar and thereby carry out our joint mission. Therefore, we will proceed with this new association of LEVS and LESI by publishing the following statement:

*The Leif Ericson Viking Ship, Inc. considers it a privilege to carry on the goals of the Leif Ericson Society International (LESI) with the continued guidance of Ivar Christensen. As you may know Ivar is an ex officio member of the BOARD of DIRECTORS of the Leif Ericson Viking Ship, Inc. (LEVS); and the two organizations share a common interest in educating the public with the fact that Leif Ericson landed in North America c.1003 at L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland, Canada. Unfortunately Ivar Christensen is now limited in his physical ability and therefore wishes LEVS to carry on the celebration of the courageous events surrounding the "first landing" by Leif Ericson.*

*To this end and in keeping with LEVS normal promotion of its mission it is the intent of LEVS to produce a somewhat larger than life bronze statue of Leif Ericson to be displayed in an appropriate size and location on or near the Delaware River shoreline. LEVS has already made progress in the design of the statue but, of course, LEVS realizes that the actual production cannot start until we have funds to cover the expected large costs involved. Since this project will be many months in the making, we do need to get started soon. We depend on financial help from our many friends and supporters. Contributors should designate their donations to the "Leif Ericson Statue Fund" and send them directly to the Leif Ericson Viking Ship, Inc. LEVS will perform the active leadership necessary to complete this very worthwhile project. Contributions do qualify as a Federal tax deduction.*

*We at LEVS including Ivar Christensen cannot thank you enough for your generosity and support in our promotion of "Leif Landed First."*

We look forward to a long, warm and fruitful affiliation wherein we can accentuate the celebration of the early achievements of Leif Ericson.

Afterall, "LEIF DID LAND FIRST!"

Best regards to all

**Marty Martinson**

President

## LEVS Norseman News

The *Norseman News* is distributed 3 times a year through mailings, our web site, and handouts at events. Our readers consist of mainly Scandinavian-Americans including members, friends and others who have shown interest in our mission, Vikings and Leif Ericson.

Reproduction of the *Norseman News* is prohibited without prior written permission.

### Newsletter Editor

Karen Johnson  
neditor@vikingship.org  
If you would be interested in downloading current issues of the *Norseman News* from the website after an email notification, please email the editor.

### **The *Norseman News* is now accepting ads!**

Advertising rates are:  
Insert, supplied by advertiser ...\$300/issue (8.5x11" 1 or 2 sides)  
Full page ad .....\$200 (7.5"x10")  
Half page .....\$125 (7.5"x5")  
Quarter page .....\$75 (3.65"x5")  
Business card ad .....\$25 (3.5"x2.5" or 2.5x3.5")

Paper submissions of artwork will not be accepted. All artwork must be grayscale or black and white. Please submit electronically as a BMP, TIF, EPS, or JPG to the newsletter editor. For layout services, add 50 percent.

We reserve the right to reject any advertising at our sole discretion. Deadlines for submission are Jan. 15 (Spring Issue out in Feb.), Apr. 15 (Summer Issue out in May), Jul. 15 (Fall issue out in late Aug.).

**Please make checks payable to LEVS, Inc. and mail to the address listed on the cover.**

## Renew Your Membership! (and perhaps join the crew?)

It is that time of year when we must ask all those interested in the Leif Ericson Viking Ship program to renew their membership. First, we would like to thank you for your past support - because of your previous generosity, in 2005 we were able to go to five schools (mostly in the local area) and nine events (Scandinavian, multi-cultural and/or charitable events and a sail training day for crewmembers). Your membership dues helped us to keep our costs as low as possible so we could offer our knowledge, our crew, and the *Norseman* to the public so that folks could learn about Viking culture.

However, we don't automatically renew your membership. We remind you each year, and hope that you decide to once again sponsor our organization and our mission.

This year, with increasing gasoline costs as well as new insurance fees, we need your help more than ever! We are in a catch-22 situation. To reach more people, we need to go to more events, but to go to more events, we need more crewmembers, and to get more crewmembers, we need to have more active members, and so on...

So, if you can give your time this year, please join as a crewmember. We'll teach you what you need to know and help you with costuming. If you have the time and talent to work "behind the scenes", we'd be happy to have you contact us! If you want to help offset our costs, please give what you can. You can renew or join using the form at the bottom of the catalog, or go online to [www.vikingship.org/files/LEVSMemberShipForm.pdf](http://www.vikingship.org/files/LEVSMemberShipForm.pdf).

## New Board of Directors and Officers Voted in for 2006

At the luncheon on Leif Ericson Day, the following Officers and Board members were voted in. Thanks to the nomination committee (Gene Martenson, Dennis Johnson, and Jim Thornton) for their assistance. For the Secretarial position, Erik Hinrichsen had been voted in during our LE Day meeting, but that due to other obligations was unable to fill that position, so Maia Holt (a new officer) filled that position. However, due to a job change, Maia is moving out of the area, so the position has been re-opened.

### Officers

#### **President:**

Marty Martinson (2006)

#### **VP Property:**

Steven A. Clarke (2006)

#### **VP Operations:**

Dave Segermark

#### **Secretary: TBD**

#### **Treasurer:**

James Thornton (2006)

#### **Skippers:**

Dave Segermark (2007)  
Dave "Wolf" Sutton (2008)

### Board Members

Charlotte Berg (2008)

Harold Graden (2007)

Erik Hinrichsen (2006)

Maia Holt (2008)

Gil Jacobsen (2007)

Joseph Jeantet (2007)

Karen Johnson (2007)

Karen Lesley (2008)

Marlyse Lindblad (2006)

Gene Martenson (2008)

### Ex-Officio

### Board Members

Ivar Christensen

Len Gustafsson

Dennis Johnson

"Nipser" Mackey



### **From the Editor**

**First of all, I would like to apologize to our members and readers for the late arrival of the newsletter. LEVS is maintained by volunteers, and as editor, I let the normal deadline slip by while working... That being said, we made a decision to only print our newsletters three times a year instead of four times a year in another effort to conserve our funds. The new schedule will be the same as our current schedule (February, May and late August) with no Winter Issue.**

# Leif Ericson Day 2005 Review

**L**eif Ericson Day began with a wonderful luncheon, hosted at the Holiday Inn in Claymont, Delaware. Dignitaries, special guests, crew, members and friends all mingled and got caught up with each other's lives.

After the main courses were served, Joe Jeantet, the Chairman of the Leif Ericson Day event, introduced Osmo Lipponen, the Ambassador from the Finnish Consulate in New York, to speak. The audience heard a wonderful message about the Finnish and American relations that stretches from the Viking era to the present day.

The LEVS organization also tended to a few yearly details, namely voting in the Board of Directors and naming our Viking of the Year. This year's winner was Jim Thornton, who has contributed much of his time and talents to the organization.

Last minute hopefuls at the luncheon added their raffle tickets to the pot, then the winners were picked. The 2005 raffle ticket winners were:  
**1st place - two Icelandair airline**



**tickets:** John Keegan of Landenberg, PA; **2nd place - Ekornes leather chair & ottoman from Dane Decor:** Tove Berberick of Warminster, PA; and **3rd place - iitalla crystal vase from Finlandia of Swarthmore:** Kaye Fitzgibbons of Wallingford, PA.

After the luncheon, the crew made their way to the launching site, while other members and guests made their way to the Market Square Memorial Park in Marcus Hook, PA. From the ship, the crowds seemed much larger than in previous years - two hundred or more onlookers including about 40 children from area schools. This was most likely our largest turnout ever!

The crew stormed the beach, then took their spot as "guards" to the stage. The crowd hung around to listen to the ceremonies. Congressman Curt Weldon, a former mayor of Marcus Hook, joined the dignitaries on the stage. Joe Jeantet opened the ceremony, LEVS President Marty Martinson introduced the guard, then both Congressman Curt Weldon and Osmo Lipponen spoke.

LEVS tradition for this ceremony is to lay a wreath of grapevines at the feet of a Viking statue, to symbolize Leif Ericson's arrival at the New World. Our previous venue had a statue of Thorfin Karlsefni; this year the organization unveiled its plans to raise funds to have a statue of Leif Ericson built, and so this year the wreath was laid at the feet of a poster depicting the planned statue.

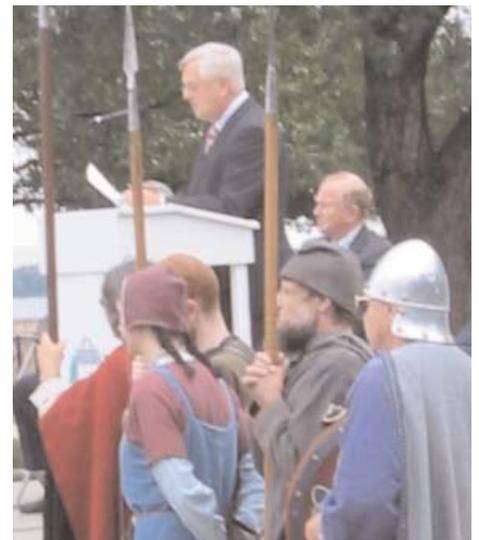
This year's event was a success, thanks to Joe Jeantet for his hard work on the luncheon and ceremony, the crew for their display of the *Norseman*, and the town of Marcus Hook for its wonderful venue!



*A guest adds her raffle into the "pot" for a chance to win one of the three prizes donated to us by Finlandia, Dane Decor and Icelandair.*



*Crewmen Aaron Holt and Steven Clark pose with Ivar Christensen, who founded Leif Ericson Society International, and helped start LEVS.*



*Congressman Curt Weldon speaks to the crowd as the "guard" stand watch.*

# Viking Era Clothing - by Maia Holt

For the most part, Scandinavian Viking age clothing was consistent with the clothing of mainland Europe; that is, tunic and trousers for the men and dresses for the women. Of course, each culture has its own styles and preferences, which differ from region to region, but overall I've found these conditions similar:

1. clothing was worn for warmth (or cool) and ease of wear,
2. fabrics and dye colors depended on regional plants and arable land.
3. higher classes wore better quality clothing and more accessories.

Cuts and styles of clothing depended on the culture - Scandinavian women wore long ankle length dresses and apron dresses (which vary in style from source to source, but we'll get into that later), Finnish women wore a dress, *peplos* and an apron, Norman and Saxon women wore shin length dresses, and eastern European women wore dresses and some form of apron. Now, let's get into the details.

## The Fabrics

The most predominant fabric used was wool, due to the fact that in many areas of Scandinavia the climate and the land would not support the large quantities of plants necessary for fabric production. Sheep, on the other hand, can roam and graze over large areas of rocky and otherwise non-farmable land and subsist in colder climates. It has even been suggested that earlier breeds of sheep didn't need to be sheared; the wool could be collected off the ground when they shed in the spring, which would have been an easy job for children.

This wool was cleaned, spun and woven into cloth. The



quality and weight of the cloth depended on the wool and the skill of spinner/weaver. Also, if not washed but just brushed, the wool could be waterproof. Wool felt was also produced and used for items such as socks, hats, gloves and more and even large sheets were produced.

Linen was also a common fabric, but not as common as wool. Linen is made from the flax plant and needs fertile soil and warmer climates. Large quantities of flax are needed to make linen since only the strong inner fibers of the plant are used for spinning/weaving (think celery).

*"Children wore what their parent wore, possibly not as embellished, since we all know how quickly children grow. And I'm sure the mothers had all sorts of clever ideas to make it easier!"*

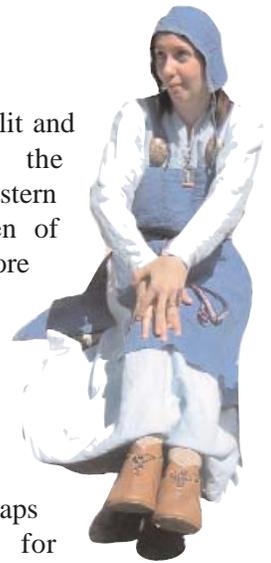
Linen is a remarkable fabric; it can absorb up to 80% of its content in water and still feel cool and dry. This makes it an ideal fabric for warm weather. However it is somewhat difficult to dye, and only the most skilled dyers can achieve really vibrant colors.

Silk was also used, but in smaller amounts due to the cost and rarity of import. It was used mostly in cloth form as edgings on clothing and as veils, etc. In thread/string form, it was used for embroidery and band weaving.

## The Clothing

Men's clothing was fairly basic, depending on the season and region: long and short-sleeved tunics of hip to knee length, trousers or *hosen*, cloaks, and jackets or coats (made

like a tunic but split and overlapped up the center). In the eastern region, "Rus" men of higher classes wore trousers of several yards of fabric that were very full, and gathered at the knee. In some regions *puttees* or leg wraps were used for protection of lower legs.



Women's fashions have been always been controversial. Although they did wear dresses, the apron dress has several versions. Some prefer the two panel "tea towel" style, some like the wrap around "bath towel" style and some the completely closed "jumper dress" style, each with or without a belt. Belts have been debated since few belt fittings have been found in women's burials. The apron dress, whichever style is chosen, is always supported by a pair of matched brooches. Women's outerwear was much the same as mens with the addition of the *mantle*, which is a shawl.

Children wore what their parent wore, possibly not as embellished, since we all know how quickly children grow. And I'm sure the mothers had all sorts of clever ideas to make it easier!

For the most part, everyone wore a belt (see above) and shoes if available. Shoes were made of leather and coated with various animal fats for water proofing and stuffed with moss, wool or grasses in wet weather. Socks, *naalbinded* (knitted) or made of felt were worn as well as gloves, hats and scarves. Normally, when possible, an undertunic or underdress was worn as a

Continued on Page 5

## Viking Clothing

Continued from page 5

first layer. A very important phrase to remember is "layer, layer, layer" since the layering of clothing is one of the ways to keep warm in the winter. Underwear, as we know it did not exist.

### The Accessories

Clothing in general, was heavily decorated with embroidery or tablet weavings and/or ornaments and rarely cut on the bias. Vikings loved color (more color equalled better /richer), so it was always dyed; only the poorest classes wore undyed clothing.

Accessories depended on the class. Most people wore some kind jewelry - necklaces, bracelets, etc. Women would wear beads or amulets strung between their brooches. Rings, earrings, belt fittings, and hair accessories have all been found in burials. The higher your status, the more ornamented you would be. It has been suggested, however, that many accessories were worn for holidays, ceremonial, and special events only, as they were too valuable to wear on a day to day basis

Since the costumes of Scandinavia come in several varieties, exact interpretation should be left up to personal preference and group guidelines. You must remember that safety, ease of use (as mentioned above), desired historical accuracy and practicality should always be considered when representing the Viking age.

# Leif Ericson Statue - Overview

By Joe Jeantet,  
Committee Chairman

The progress of our Leif Ericson statue is well under way, and our long-awaited dream is now a big step closer to becoming a reality. After many years of impromptu talks about the possibility of creating a symbol to compliment our **mission**, we have finally seen it all come together.

As many of you are already aware, our annual Leif Ericson Day events were previously held in Philadelphia for many years along the Schuylkill River and in front of a statue of a Viking. Not the correct Viking, but an acceptable substitute nonetheless.

This past October 9th we made a bold move and changed the venue by relocating to Marcus Hook, PA, a site unlike the former, which actually has some Scandinavian history. As a highlight of that very successful event, we also unveiled our plans for a statue of Leif Ericson to be cast and dedicated.

After many months of drawings, design changes, and careful attention to historical facts, the concept of the finished statue shown on this page has evolved from a 12 inch maquette, into a 34 inch mock-up, which will be finished as a 6 to 8 foot bronze statue, on a base of indigenous materials. Working closely with artist and sculptor Jim Ponter of Sewell, NJ, and Laran Bronze Foundry of Chester, PA has been a wonderful and enlightening experience for me, and has been widely accepted and encouraged by our board of directors.

The collaborative idea for the design was to imagine Leif Ericson standing in the bow of his ship looking off in the distance at a place he called Vinland. Dressed in traditional Viking garb and windswept from his long journey, the expression on his face says it all. We have arrived!!

Although the exact location for the statue has not been finalized, negotiations are under way. As this project could take as long as 18 months and cost nearly \$75,000.00 in total, our plans are to immediately begin a fund raising effort to set the wheels in motion.

We are very excited about this project, and we hope that the members, friends and associates from both the **Leif Ericson Viking Ship Inc.** and **Leif Ericson Society International** groups, will be generous in support of this project. Please stay tuned as we share updates of progress in future issues of this newsletter.



*This picture shows the Leif Ericson statue mock-ups as designed by sculptor Jim Ponter.*

# Rune Scratchings

by Dennis Johnson, "The Old Swedish Viking"

Advances in DNA research techniques are beginning to appear in studies of Viking history, migrations, and populations. A recent study of residents of the Orkney and Shetland Islands have revealed that a high proportion are descended from Norwegians, who settled the Islands during the Viking age. This has shed some light on the fate of the original population of these Islands, the Picts, who are now felt to have been largely displaced by Vikings.

The above study has also indicated that the Viking populations settling in the Shetland Islands consisted of a greater proportion of women than had originally been thought, suggesting that women accompanied Viking raiders and settlers from Scandinavia in greater numbers than previously believed



had only two weeks before defeated his brother, allied with Viking King Harold Hardrada, at the Battle of Stamford Bridge north of London. Harold was defeated and killed in the battle of Hastings, and William of Normandy became King of England.



Watch the schedules for IMAX theatres in the US as you travel this year. A newly released Viking film is now circulating among IMAX theatres, telling the history and culture of the Vikings. This film includes how and why they colonized

and explored lands to the west and follows Leif Ericson on his voyage to North America. This film is currently listed as playing at the Myrtle Beach IMAX Theater.



*Norseman's* sailing companions *Viking Plym* and *Krampmacken* met and sailed at Slite, on Gotland, last July 5 (2005). The two ships sailed as part of a filming by a Japanese camera team from TBS Vision, showing Viking ships meeting and sailing eastward from Sweden in the Baltic Sea. *Krampmacken* was captained by Stig Dotes and *Viking Plym* by old friend Carl (Bråvalla) Norberg. *Plym* is the oldest Viking ship replica afloat, having been built in 1912. During the winter, *Plym* is berthed in a submarine pen outside of Stockholm.



This year will bring a re-enactment of the 1066 battle of Hastings, on October 14-15 at the site of the original battle in England. Re-enactors are invited from all over the world for the encampment and to participate. A website is now available with all the details for attending this event, at [www.hastings.vikingsonline.org.uk](http://www.hastings.vikingsonline.org.uk) This great battle took place 940 years ago, between Duke William of Normandy and Harold Godwinson, King of England. William of Normandy was a 5th generation descendant of Vikings who had invaded and settled Normandy in France. King Harold



If you have a copy of the book *Follow the Vikings*, edited by Dan Carlsson and Olwyn Owen and published in 1996, a new book about Viking routes has just been published. Titled *Living History, around the Baltic Sea*, presents living history museums and text about Viking trade and commerce in and among five countries; Russia, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, and Norway. See [www.hgo.se/viking](http://www.hgo.se/viking) for further information or to order a copy.



North America's Largest Scandinavian Festival will take place again this year in Minot North Dakota on October 14 through 16. The Festival uses the entire North Dakota Fairgrounds in Minot, with a separate but connected Pavilion for each of five Scandinavian groups, Icelandic, Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, and Finnish. Entertainment, exhibits, and foods abound, with well known names at evening shows, including Paul Anka, Merle Haggard, Bjoro Haaland, and many others. Book early if you need hotel/motel reservations. There are excellent facilities for RV's with plenty of room, reservations not needed. For further information, see [www.hostfest.com](http://www.hostfest.com).

**Directions:**

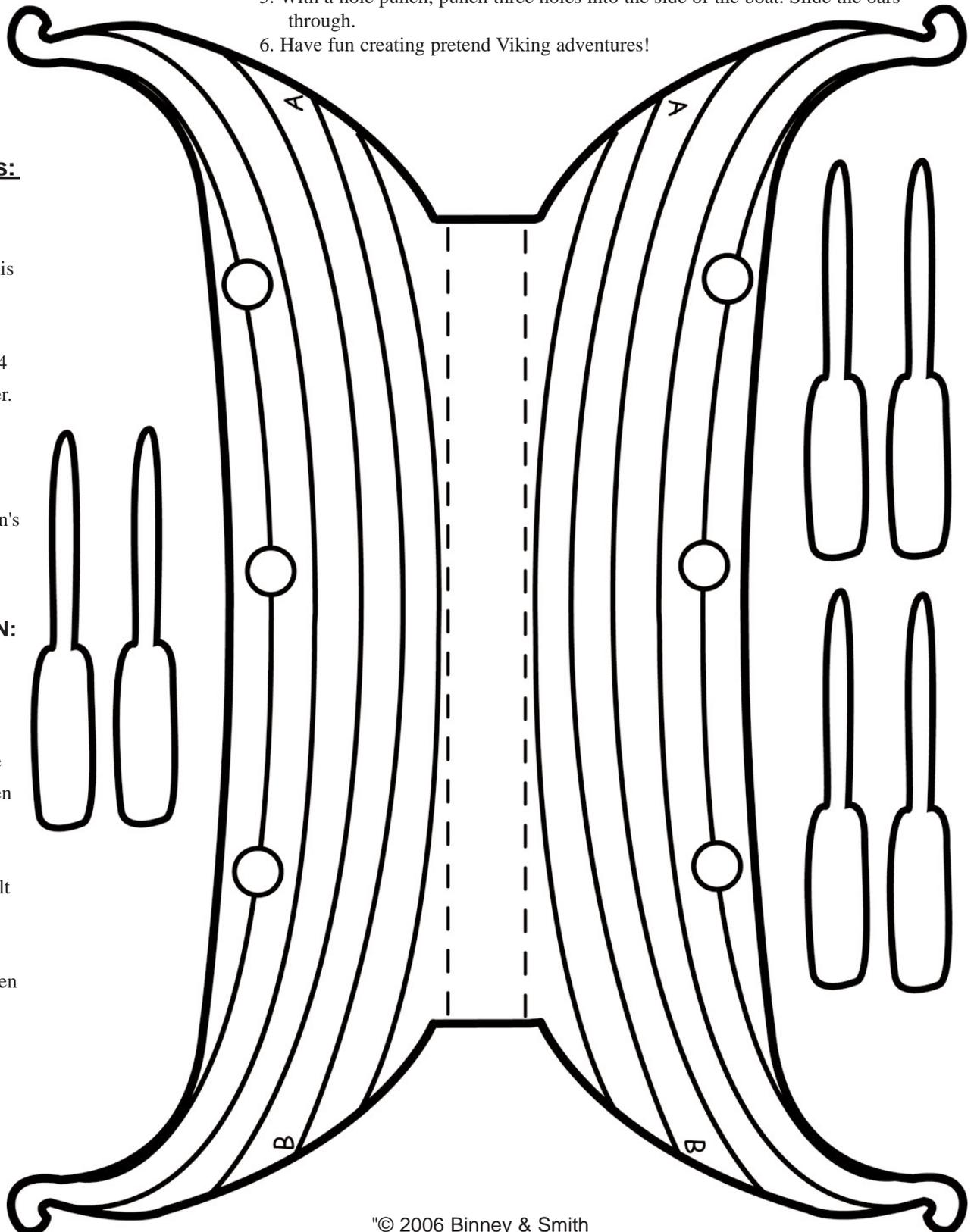
1. Decorate the ship and oars with Crayola® crayons or markers.
2. Glue the page to a piece of thin cardboard, such as a recycled file folder.
3. Cut out the ship and oars.
4. Flip the ship over so that the colored side is on the bottom. Fold the sides up along the dotted lines. Tape letter A to A and B to B.
5. With a hole punch, punch three holes into the side of the boat. Slide the oars through.
6. Have fun creating pretend Viking adventures!

**Safety****Guidelines:**

Safety guidelines recommend this art project as suitable for children ages 4 years and older. Close adult supervision is required to ensure children's safety.

**ATTENTION:**

The cutting edges of scissors are sharp and care should be taken whenever cutting or handling. Adult supervision is recommended with all children



# Norseman News

Leif Ericson Viking Ship, Inc.  
P.O. Box 393  
Swarthmore, PA 19081-0393  
www.vikingship.org  
info@vikingship.org



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## Spring 2006 Edition!

## Tentative Event Schedule

Check out our schedule for 2006! Please note that this schedule could change, as we hope to add more events. Check our online schedule for the most up-to-date information.

### April

**April 29 - 30** ~ Viking Festival at Ashville, OH

### May

**May 20** ~ Viking Fest at Owl's Head Park, Brooklyn, NY

**May 21** ~17th Mai Parade, Brooklyn, NY

### June

**June 07** ~Fifer Middle School - Living History Presentation

**June 09 - 11** ~ Norfolk Harborfest at Norfolk, VA

### July

**July 28 - 30** ~ Scandinavian Festival at Jamestown, NY

### August

**August 10 - 14** ~ Swedish Festival at Mt. Jewett, PA

### September

**September 13 - 18** ~ Sail Lewes - 2006 at Lewes, DE

**September 30** ~ Leif Ericson Day, Vasa Park, Budd Lake, NJ

### October

**October 09** ~ Leif Ericson Day

**October 14 & 15** ~ Boys & Girls Clubs "Riverfest" at Wilmington, DE

**October 20** ~ Speaking about Viking Ships, Sons of Norway, Lancaster, PA

## Thanks for your help!

Thanks to those of you that responded to our plea to help save mailing expenses! As the new year begins, now is the time to renew your membership (or join if you've let your membership lapse). If anything, just send us a note or an email updating your information.

Don't forget, if you choose to receive the online newsletter, you'll be among the lucky that get to see full-color pictures! (And, you get the newsletter before anyone else!)

If you have any questions, contact the *Norseman News* editor at [nncditor@vikingship.org](mailto:nncditor@vikingship.org).



# Leif Ericson Viking Ship, Inc.: Membership Form

P.O. Box 393 Swarthmore, PA 19081-0393

Website: [www.vikingship.org](http://www.vikingship.org); e-mail: [info@vikingship.org](mailto:info@vikingship.org)

**Thank you for your interest in becoming a member. After completing the form, please mail it back to the address shown above.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Address line 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Address line 2: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Level of Membership (please check one)

- Leif (life) member ..... Dues \$1,000.00 per year
- Sustaining member ..... Dues \$500.00 per year
- Contributing member ..... Dues \$100.00 per year
- "Norstead" member ..... Dues \$50.00 per year
- Voting/Crew ..... Dues \$30.00 per year
- Friend of the Norseman..... Dues \$20.00 per year

This is a New  or Renewal  membership request

Other Family Members that would like to join (for a total of \$15 more per year):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

I would also like to make a donation toward the LEVS Operating Expenses \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in joining the crew.     I'd prefer to receive my copy of the Norseman News via email.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. (Checks, in US Dollars, should be payable to "Leif Ericson Viking Ship, Inc.")

## Thank you!