



# Midnight Sun

Ride, ride ranke!  
Hesten heter Planke!  
Hesten heter ikke så:  
Hesten heter Abildgrå,  
Sitter liten junker på.  
Hvor skal junker'n ri'e?  
Til kongsgården og frie.  
Der er ingen annen  
hjemme  
Enn to små hunder  
Som ligger under  
benken  
Og gnager på lenken.  
Den ene sier:  
Vovvovvov!  
Den an sier:  
Voff, Voff, Voff!



Ride, ride Rankel!  
The horse's name is  
Planke!  
The horse's name is no  
such thing:  
The horse's name is  
Abildgrå [apple tree  
grey]  
Little knight sits astride.  
Where's the knight  
riding?  
To the King's castle to  
propose.  
There's nobody at home  
But two little dogs  
Lying under the bench  
Gnawing at their leash.  
One says:  
Wowwowwow!  
The other says:  
Woff, woff, woff!



## Theme: Nordic Music

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## *Ride, Ride Ranke / Rida, Rida Ranka*



When asking Nordic descendants on the prairies about what they remember of heritage music from when they grew up, the song of "Ride, Ride Ranke" inevitably emerges as a strong memory: Sitting on an adult's lap, riding the horse "Ranke", laughing and listening to the well-known words.



Queen Blanka; Painting by Axel Edelfeldt  
1877

Whereas all our Old Countries have nursery rhymes and children's songs about riding horses, variations of this particular song/rhyme are well known in Danish, Norwegian and Swedish. The horse may be called Blanke, Planke, Blanca etc.

Tradition has it that the name refers to Queen Blanka, princess from Namur (present Belgium), married to Magnus Eriksson (1316-1374), king of Norway and Sweden. She would play with her little son Håkon who later became king of Norway.

The *Ride, Ride Ranke* version which we bring you in the left hand margin of this page, is a nursery rhyme. Another version is a song with four or more verses; the text varies from one district to the other. It is about riding the horse Ranke / Ranka to visit grandparents (and other relatives), not forgetting to greet them properly.

## Happy New Year!

## From the SCoR Board

### Poster Contest

We are challenging SCoR artists to create a poster for promoting SCoR throughout the community. The contest is open to members, and the best poster will net the designer a prize of \$50 cash. We would like the design to include a representation of our five countries. The winner will be presented at the AGM in April 2012. The designs will be judged by the executive at our March meeting. We ask all designs to be submitted by 29 Feb., 2012.

Text to be included in the poster:

The Scandinavian Club of Regina welcomes all who are interested in Scandinavian Culture.

Please contact Kelly or Larry to get more information about club membership.

Kelly Nelson at 306-584-2562 or e-mail at [kndn83@gmail.com](mailto:kndn83@gmail.com)

Larry Bristol at 306-586-1799 or e-mail at [l.bristol@sasktel.net](mailto:l.bristol@sasktel.net)

Please submit posters to:

P.O. Box 37182  
Regina, SK.  
S4S 7K4

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# Members' Matters

## Salmon Supper

The Salmon Supper on October 30th was another successful SCoR event! Eighty-some participants enjoyed good food and drink, and after the meal 'Time Of Our Lives' provided music enjoyed by both listeners and dancers.

The silent auction brought in well over \$ 400.00!



## 2011 Christmas Party



**T**he Christmas Party was well attended by 50 adults and 9 children. We had a special visitor before the dessert buffet — that's right! Santa came by to give presents to the good children. Jon Gillies took pictures of the party and had set up a portable studio for more formal family pictures. There were



costumes for the children so they could have some fun with the photos. Christmas carols were sung and many desserts were enjoyed, no one went home hungry. It was great to see our members enjoying this event. We will see you next year!

Kim Gillies

You'll find more event pictures at the SCoR Facebook page and website!



SCoR Website <http://www.scandinavianclubregina.com/>

## President's Corner

Hello Fellow Scandinavians,  
2011 was a great year for the club!

Our membership number is the highest it has been in years. We welcomed some new members and reunited with some past members. This is great news, considering that clubs all across Canada are in decline. We have come together to promote our club throughout the community and we are seeing the benefit of our actions. Our club served our community well in the time after the tragic events in Norway, Regina looked to us for leadership and our club came together to honour those who were taken from us. I want to thank all those who helped with this undertaking.

Over the past year we were blessed with good weather for our summer picnics, and saw great numbers of people supporting those events. There has also been a cooking class startup in the past year and we look forward to seeing that grow, and I can't forget to mention the language class which helps to promote our culture in the community. Our club is growing not just in numbers but in the way we promote our culture and learn from each other. I have been a part of the club for a little over four years and I have seen this growth, I hope it will continue for years to come. The club has launched a new website. It contains the club's contact information, club documents, newsletters, and other stuff. Please take a few minutes to check it out at <http://www.scandinavianclubregina.com/>

Personally I would like to thank all those who



Images By Gillies

serve on the Board and the Executive who give of their time. As anyone who has had these positions in the past knows a lot of work goes into creating events and maintaining the club, so again I say thank you. I also would be remiss to not give a special thanks to our editor for her work on our newsletter; the whole club appreciates your work.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Kim Gillies



### Longer than you think...

In a new report released by Statens Kartverk (the Norwegian Mapping Authority), the Norwegian coastline is 18,000 kilometers (approx. 11,185 miles) longer than previously calculated. Norway's total coastline is 103,000 kilometers, compared to the former official figure of 85,000 kilometers.

"Norway has not actually grown, but we have more detailed information available, [—] says director Nils Karbø of Statens Kartverk.

Over the past two years, the Norwegian Mapping Authority has combined data from charts and local maps, studied aerial photographs and compared these with the existing official map. "Among other things, we recorded all the 240,000 islands that have not previously been included in the official cartography, and that alone makes the coastline much longer," added Karbø.

Only one country has a longer coastline than Norway, and that is Canada with its 244,000 kilometers.

From Norway News



## Editorial

Happy New Year, all Scandinavian Club of Regina readers! - and thanks for all your constructive contribution and feedback in 2011. We have been allowed to look into your own stories, your own cultural experiences and to try out your own recipes. A newsletter does not write itself, and 'Midnight Sun' has developed over the last few years into being perhaps a journal more than a newsletter. Input from the

membership has been valuable in that development, and we would like to continue along those lines.

Starting in no. 2 of 2012, we will feature one country per issue: Facts from today's life in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, perhaps interspersed with experiences you remember from before you emigrated

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# Interview with Kjersten Hordern

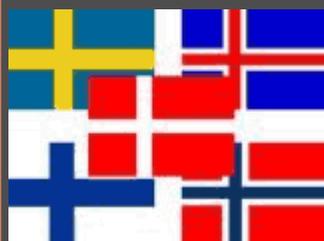
## A Musical Mystery?

Midnight Sun asked members about their memories or experiences of heritage music. We also asked Dianne Swanson of Cobb Swanson Sheet Music & Books on 13th Avenue whether they get any requests for this kind of materials. She says:



"I occasionally get asked for 'heritage' type music. I typically have books of French, Italian, German and Irish/Scottish [---] but Scandinavian is seldom asked for and may not be easy to find. [---]"

This seems strange, given that there are more than 100,000 people in Saskatchewan of true Scandinavian heritage! Dianne wants to look closer into the matter.



Many SCoR members have enjoyed Kjersten's Norwegian singing on different occasions. She attended Voss Folkehøgskule in Voss, Hordaland, Norway during the school year 1993-1994. - It doesn't seem like that long ago..., says Kjersten.



"Folkehøgskule", what is that, Kjersten?

- Folkehøgskuler are one year schools that students aged 18-25 attend, usually after completing high school (Videregående skole). The goal of a Folkehøgskule is not academic credit, but the opportunity to spend a year learning, exploring your interests, and getting to know yourself in a way that helps prepare you for life rather than for your career. Learning traditional skills and culture is also emphasized.

Most schools have 80-120 students. They live in school dormitories, and being part of such a close community is an essential part of the experience. Most schools are in smaller towns or cities, and have students from all over Norway, and often a few international students too.



How did you get the idea of going abroad to spend a year like this?

- I was looking for something interesting to do for a year between high school and university, and John Nilson told me about these schools. I applied to several schools, and eventually chose Voss.

That sounds like a school with

interesting subjects?

- At Voss, there were four main subjects: Music, Handwork and Crafts, Media (photography and film-making), and Sports & Outdoor Life. There were also elective classes, and on Saturdays we would do a special class in something practical, like how to make a sod roof.

I studied music as my main subject. After I got there, I found out about Voss' rich folk music tradition, and kveding became my main focus.

That's a new word. What exactly is "kveding"?

- Kveding is a traditional type of unaccompanied folk singing that includes rich ornamentation and blue notes and sounds quite different from other styles of singing. There are stev, which are short songs with four-line stanzas, and ballader (ballads), which are much longer. Many stev and ballader go back to at least the middle ages, and some find their roots in Old

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# Nordic Folk Music



**Folk Music or Traditional Music** may be what we first think of when there is talk about music from our countries of origin. There are many similarities between music originating from the five countries, but also differences – and Sámi music from the aboriginal people in Northern Norway, Sweden and Finland stands out as something completely unique.

A popular assumption is that folk music was formed by the land, the people who lived there and the resources they had for making musical instruments – but also by the links with the outside world. Most of the countries have some kind of (wood)wind instrument, and string instruments are very popular. You find the Jew's Harp everywhere, and later came harmonicas and accordions, from the simplest to the more intricate.

Central is the song, both individual and in groups, on its own or as accompaniment to dancing; the SCoR has seen and performed both in their midst over the years. In Norway we find the typical "kveding", a special way of singing with many ornaments and melodious embellishments.



Group of "Viking maidens" performing *Vikivaka* at Icelandic fair

Starting from the West we come upon the dance songs of the **Icelanders**. Their *vikivakakvæði* go back to the Middle Ages and have been used for different purposes, in churches as well as in popular celebrations. They have numerous verses, performed by a lead singer who knows all the verses, and a choir (that means everybody else) joining in for the refrain. *Vikivakakvæði* have inspired contemporary musicians of many genres.

The **Sámi** drum (runebomme) started as an accompaniment to the shaman's

chanting and to the traditional *joik* singing of the Sámi, aboriginal peoples of the *Nordkalotten*—Cap of the North, covering Norway, Sweden and Finland.



In **Norway**, the one expression known by most as typical for the folk tradition must be the *hardingfele* (Hardanger fiddle) music. It is being used in most districts, not only in Hardanger, and is very special with its four understrings, resonating with the main strings. Most valleys and fjord districts have (had) their great fiddlers. Traditionally one musician taught others, and the music does not have a known composer — it emerged out of the past.



There is no typically **Danish** folk music instrument, but the many beautiful traditional songs are examples of different intonations and expressions of Danish dialects. Their folk dances are often ring dances or square dances, music



performed on e.g. fiddles or accordions. The six *bronze lures* discovered in Brudevælte in 1797, have been used for ceremonial purposes only.

**Sweden** has a rich tradition of folk music in



every valley and district of the country. There are numerous song dances being performed at festive occasions, and traditional music has been a great inspiration to composers of classical as well as contemporary music, and to modern performers in genres like jazz and pop. Their national string instrument *nyckelharpa* is structurally related to a *hurdy-gurdy*, but played with a bow.

Compared to the other countries of "our" area, **Finnish** traditional music has more links to the east and across the Baltic Sea. Elements from Karelian music are prominent, but in the western part of the country, we find more mainstream Nordic folk music traditions. The



*kantele*, a traditional plucked-string instrument, has a distinctive bell-like sound.



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(Continued from page 4)

**...Interview with Kjersten**

Norse poetry. At the same time, new texts are written, so it is a living tradition.

*How is this traditional way of singing being kept alive?*

- The traditional way to learn *kveding* is in person, without written music, and in this way the traditions are carefully passed on through the generations and centuries. *Kveding* and folk music in general are quite popular in Norway. There are many festivals and several successful recording artists whose works are readily available. You don't need a formal education to be an expert, but there are academies, colleges and universities that teach folk music. Norwegian folk music is also constantly evolving, inspiring collaboration with jazz artists and folk musicians from other countries.

*When in Voss, where you able to meet local musicians?*

- Yes, I met several local musicians. I was fortunate to end up in a place with such a rich music tradition, home to the Ole Bull Academy. Our class was able to take a course there and learn a great deal about folk music from well-known musicians from different areas of Norway.

*Have you met other singers or musicians pursuing Scandinavian folk music here in Saskatchewan?*

- I would love to get in touch with anybody in Saskatchewan who is interested in Scandinavian folk music! I would also be very glad to share music or online links with anybody who would like to hear some *kveding*.



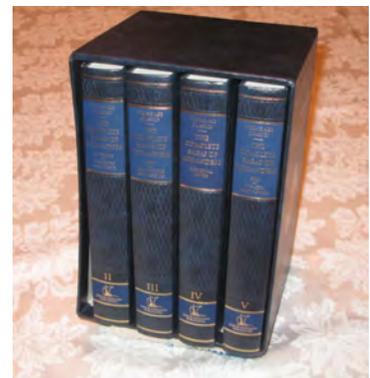
**Good news —  
Bad news**

The good news is that the SCoR owns *The Complete Sagas of Icelanders* - an epic historical treasure -



- the bad news is that we are actually left with an incomplete collection of *The Complete Sagas of Icelanders*. Volume no.1 is missing! - the volume which makes reference to Vinland and Greenland, Poets and Warriors. We really, Really, REALLY hope to have Volume no.1 returned to complete the collection. Did you borrow it — and then forget about it? (Happens all the time with library books...) We thank you for storing it safely, and you may contact any member of the SCoR board (see p. 8) — we will pick it up!

We encourage club members to borrow these historical volumes to read - please contact Kelly at 584-2562.



(Continued from page 3)

### ...Editorial

— or from when you have visited the Old Country.

Members' initiative has also created a Cooking Class which may become a club activity. It looks like John Edwardson's wish from when he took

up his presidency in 2009 may come true: The Scandinavian Club of Regina will again be part of *Mosaic*; not this year, but perhaps from 2013? There seems to be enough enthusiastic spirit among the membership to support the idea—and the hard work that will be necessary to pursue it. Keep it up!

## AGM coming up in April!

**SCoR Bylaws** state that the notice period for the AGM is 2 weeks.

Article IV, **Chapter 4.01** gives the fixed Agenda for the AGM. Members can influence a number of these items, e.g.:

Item 3. Business arising from the minutes. By consulting the minutes from the 2010 AGM you can comment, ask questions or move motions.

Items 3.-5. concern elections. You can suggest candidates for the different posts.

Item 7. Other business. Any member can move one or more motion(s).

**Chapter 4.03** is about Quorum, stating that "a quorum shall be 15 Members". Any matters passed at an AGM will be more highly esteemed by the membership if as many as possible have been

participating in discussion and voting.

In **Chapter 4.04** Motions it is stated that "Motions to a general meeting shall not be considered unless there is a seconder in each case." If you want to move a motion, it might be wise to secure support by a seconder who will be present at the AGM.

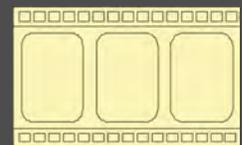
Article X, **Chapter 10.01** concerns Amendments. Amendments of the Bylaws may be made [---] at the AGM. Motions for amendments must be submitted (to the Board of Directors) at least 21 days in advance. Any amendment to be accepted must be passed by a vote of 2/3 of the members present.

The Bylaws are available at our webpage under **Club Documents**.

## Correction

### October 2011 issue:

P.5: In Donna Holbrow's recipe for *Chicken in Gjetost Sauce* the measure for shredded gjetost cheese should be **1 cup**.



### Picture credits

P.1: (Jew's harp) [Rebecca Egland](#); (Queen Blanka) Wikimedia Commons; (Horse) lobelia.no

P.2: (Salmon Supper) K.Mitchell

(Christmas Party) J.Gillies;

P. 3: (Kim Gillies) J.Gillies

P.5: (Vikivaka) Davíð Davíðsson; (Folk instruments) Wikimedia Commons

P.6: (Books) K. Nelson

P.7: (Baking Class) M.Mitchell

Other: Public domain



## Christmas Baking Class



Mildred Ihlen was one of the teachers when several SCoR members with guests participated in a Christmas Baking session arranged by the Cooking Class initiated by Greg Swanson. Here are some photos of the productive event.



## Please observe

We would like to remind our members that guest numbers for catered events must be submitted one week in advance. The caterer will order the food and SCoR will be charged accordingly. If you are unable to attend an event after you have been included in the final numbers, the club will have to bill you for your meal.

Thank you for your understanding

## Aquavit Tasting

SCoR members will be invited to a tasting event on Wednesday April 25th 6:00 pm. at **Table10**. Reserve the evening! Details later.

# Upcoming Events

## Bowling Event

**Sunday March 4th; 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. with a meal to follow.**

**Venue: Nortown Lanes, 6831 Rochdale Blvd.**

**Tickets (including shoe rental plus meal): Members \$22.00; members' guests \$25.00; children 7-12 \$12.00.**

**Register by Feb. 26th!**



## AGM

**Monday April 2nd; doors open at 6:30 p.m., meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. Dessert potluck! See also p. 7.**

**Details in booklet (to be distributed) and on Facebook and Web pages!**



## May 17th Celebration

**Thursday May 17th; 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

**Venue: 2047 Rae Street. Details in Midnight Sun no. 2**

**Bring family and friends to SCoR events!**



Midnight Sun Issue 1 January 2012

Quarterly Newsletter for the Scandinavian Club of Regina

### 2011-2012 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT	Kim Gillies	531-9794
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PAST PRESIDENT	John Edwardson	584-2246
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	Larry Bristol	586-1799
	Lylah Gess	586-0406
	Lauren Smith	525-5183



SCANDINAVIAN CLUB OF REGINA  
P.O.Box 37182, Regina, SK S4S 7K4

### Membership Fees

Family membership \$ 30

Single membership \$ 20

Membership starts January 1, expires December 31.

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**Any views expressed in individual articles do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Scandinavian Club of Regina.**