



Upcoming Activities

There will be no regular meetings until further notice. We will listen to the state and county suggestions as well as waiting for Sons of Norway International's recommendations. There is some slight possibility we may be able to have some gatherings – the usual summer list is the St Hans' Aften picnic in June, the lodge picnic in July, and the ice cream social and game night in August – we will certainly let everyone know if we put any of those on our calendar .

District 2 has indicated that they are going ahead with plans for the Steak Fry in July. Sol-Land offered last fall to host the Horseshoe and Kubb Tournament.

Planning for this fall is underway – if you have requests or suggestions for programs, classes, etc., please contact a board member. Celebrations, holidays, sports medal and cultural medal contests.... Because lodges have not been having meetings and events, the D2 publicity director needs more photos to send in to the Viking magazine. If you have any photos showing lodge members enjoying “Norwegian” activities, please let Nancy Holter know. (sol.land.lodge@gmail.com, 509-375-019)

How will Sol-Land celebrate Mai 17th?

It is unfortunate that we cannot celebrate together right now. We will have to plan a belated celebration for the fall, like Oslo and other communities are. If you'd like to be part of the planning group, please contact someone on the board.

But as individuals we can celebrate. If you have CDs of Norwegian music, or can find some online, play and sing some good songs. Maybe dig out a Scandinavian video to watch. Have a *pølse og is* (hot dogs and ice cream) picnic with your family. Play Kubb or Mølkky if you have a set. If not, you can purchase them, or even make your own (<https://www.thisoldhouse.com/yards/21016500/how-to-make-a-kubb-aka-viking-chess-game-set>). Dig out some [Nordic Noir](#), or whatever your favorite type of mystery is.

If you are looking for a more active day, you could participate in the Virtual Marathon that is being held throughout Norway. The BMW Oslo Marathon has races of 3, 10, 21, 42, and 73 km (1 7/8, 6 1/4, 13+, 26 1/8, and 45 3/8 miles). You decide where and when you want to run - as long as it's on May 17th.

If you are interested in a further understanding of Constitution day, you can read quite a good one here:

<https://www.tnp.no/norway/exclusive/2280-norway-more-than-a-national-day-understanding-may-17th>

There are many ways you can celebrate – wear your bunader and your sweaters. Take pictures and share them!



NORWEGIAN
CONSTITUTION
DAY

"SYTTENDE MAI"

Sol-Land Lodge holds a monthly meeting on the third Friday of the month. We have a potluck dinner beginning at 6:30pm. Guests are not expected to bring food, just to come and enjoy themselves! The cultural program begins about 7:30. We meet at Kennewick First Lutheran Church on the corner of HWY 395 and Yelm. We have a board meeting on the last Monday of the month, beginning at 7:00pm, also at Kennewick First Lutheran.

If you wish to come to a meeting, but do not have transportation, please contact us and we will arrange it for you. If you are interested in a membership, give one of us a call; we can tell you what we are all about and how to go about becoming a member. You can also visit our lodge website at www.sol-land.org.



Storyteller; Teller of tall tales from around the world.

Thomas is a professional storyteller based in Sweden (sorry, but it is the truth). He works at Fotevikens Museum in southern Sweden, a living viking village, and has his own freelance company. He spends his days telling stories and crafting new stories, and putting them up for our enjoyment.

A partial list of his videos:

Thor's Fishing Trip

The Battle of Foteviken

The World is Born! Norse Mythology Part 1

Idunn & the Golden Apples

Loki & the Wall of Valhalla

The Boy Who had an Eating Contest with a Troll

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_2_a-p42Fmf7hal2jp9CJg/videos

Syttende Mai Trivia

Can you answer these questions about Norway's Constitution Day?

1. What year was the Norwegian Constitution written?
2. With what country did Norway enter into union the year the Constitution was written?
3. What city hosts the barnetoget, or Children's Parade, that marches past the Royal Family as they wave to onlookers?
4. What are the secondary school graduates called that have their own march in Norwegian towns on May 17?

Answers: 1) 1814 2) Sweden 3) Oslo 4) Russ

Syttende Mai During the War

Since May 8, 2020 was the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Norway from the Germans, let's look at how Mai 17th was celebrated during the war.

For more than 150 years Syttende Mai has been celebrated as a salute to tolerance and national unity. The day is truly a declaration of love to Norway's most important values of peace, freedom and equality. But how was the day celebrated during the German occupation?

The German authorities were quite clear over what this democracy-oriented national holiday meant for Norwegian loyalists, and put in place measures to fight and punish any rabble-rousers.

On the first Syttende Mai after the German invasion, all celebration or display of the flag was banned by the Germans. The flag was used as a visual protest against the occupation, so the Germans kept issuing new orders to solve the problem. Singing the national song was forbidden and any flags had to be hidden away.

In 1941 Syttende Mai was declared to be a normal workday in Norway, but it was nonetheless decided to allow flags to be flown from poles...but not at half mast, as many Norwegians decided to do as an expression of the country's tragic situation under German rule. Afterwards the Germans instituted dozens of new restrictions on the flag. In effect, it became forbidden to carry or wear the flag or its colors. In larger cities this meant that Syttende Mai was most commonly commemorated indoors.

And so the situation persisted through the war. Next to the king's monogram the flag was among the most important symbols of a free Norway, and the Germans fought an endless war against the obstinacy of the Norwegians. As the Germans enacted more and more restrictions, people started using more subtle symbols, like paper clips and nisse hats.

It comes as no surprise then that the Syttende Mai celebration of 1945 – just a few days after the German surrender – became an explosion of joy in the national colors in those feverish spring days.



Drone Videos of Norway

Would you like to see Norway from the air? There are hundreds of drone videos for you to choose from here:

<https://www.airvuz.com/search?q=norway>

The quality and length vary from one to the next, but with scenery like Norway has, it is hard to believe they aren't gorgeous.

How Will Oslo Celebrate Constitution Day with Corona Virus Restrictions?

Norway's Constitution Day celebrations on May 17 are usually similar to our 4th of July celebrations. Parades, parties, picnics, wreath laying ceremonies, concerts, so many gatherings of so many people.

Not this year.

Under Norway's emergency measures brought in to limit the spread of the coronavirus, major events are banned at least until mid-June. "It will be a very different May 17 celebration," said Pia Farstad von Hall, chair of Oslo's May 17 committee. Instead there will be a variety of events that will be available to watch on TV and online. And to further diminish the crowds, they are not announcing in advance when/where they will be broadcasting the bands, laying of wreaths, choirs, halling dances, etc. from.

Farstad von Hall added that they want to create parties in homes across the capital, and that there will be opportunities to unite. "Here everyone has the opportunity to help create a party atmosphere. Following a cannon salute from Akershus Fortress, we will sing the national anthem together with the whole of Norway at 1pm," she explained.

National broadcaster NRK will show the cannon salute, after which Norwegians are encouraged to go on to their balconies or into the street to join in a nationwide rendition of the national anthem.

For more information on how they will be celebrating, at least in Oslo, you can check out the city's website: <https://www.oslo.kommune.no/17-mai/17-mai-program/>

With thanks to Forbes and the City of Oslo

<https://www.forbes.com/editors-picks/#6ca3166178bf>

Syttende Mai Word Find

Search for the Norwegian Word

K	Æ	D	H	L	P	T	X	B	A	N
O	H	P	T	R	E	S	L	Ø	P	A
N	O	R	G	E	F	M	Q	J	E	S
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Norsk

English Translation

<i>Frihet</i>	Independence
<i>Konstitusjon</i>	Constitution
<i>Bunad</i>	National Costume
<i>Is</i>	Ice Cream
<i>Pølser</i>	Hot dogs
<i>Taler</i>	Speeches
<i>Tog</i>	Parade
<i>Norge</i>	Norway
<i>Flagg</i>	Flag
<i>Eidsvoll</i>	Eidsvoll
<i>Nasjonalsang</i>	National Anthem





Dancing Together, Apart

Many groups have been putting together group events done “apart”. How about a “Polka in Quarantine”? A Finish dance group decided to celebrate International Dance Day, and at the same time brighten the day of people all around the world. It’s just over 3 minutes of high energy polka moves and lovely national costumes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csU0rTtdsMg>



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