

# LAND OF THE VIKINGS

Third District  
Sons of Norway



# LODGE MANUAL

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# introduction

Land of the Vikings belongs to all members of Sons of Norway, District Three. Located in the tiny village of Sherman, PA, 8 miles south of Deposit, NY, and 25 miles south of Binghamton, NY, it has served as a Norwegian Cultural and Recreational Center for over 25 years.

The intent of this handbook is threefold: first, to encourage individual members to take on the task of chairing an event, and to assist in making it a successful one; second, to describe the property and its surroundings in an effort to inform, and, hopefully, tempt members who have yet to visit; and third, to give everyone some interesting reading on the history of Land of the Vikings and the surrounding area. The book's content is not final, and ideas for additions can be submitted to the LOV Operating Board.

Not included in this book is variable information such as schedules and rates. This is listed on the Sons of Norway 3/D website at <http://3districtsonofnorway.org/LOV.htm>, and it is suggested that it be printed out and added to the book as it becomes available. Updates on this book's contents will also be listed, and will have the revised date in the bottom right corner of the page.

The first LOV Handbook was published in 1981 by the LOV Operating Group. The LOV Marketing and Promotion Committee wrote an expanded edition in 1988, and much of that material has been kept intact here. The chapter on LOV History has been supplemented with information from Einar Bredland's Sons of Norway – Third District Lodge History. Bob Carlsen's suggestions for indoor games remain mostly intact, and Harry Kuell, Evelyn Karpack, Doris Beck, and Barbara Berntsen have all shared their ideas for group activities. Finally, as in earlier editions, all information concerning Land of the Vikings has been prepared in close cooperation with the Managers and the LOV Operating Group.

Welcome to Land of the Vikings!

# history of LAND OF THE VIKINGS

The idea of a recreational retreat for Third District members originally surfaced in 1972. Financial reasons postponed any action until the Third District Convention in 1978, when President Bjarne Eikevik appointed a Long Range Planning Committee. The committee, chaired by John Kaare Hagen, was given specific requirements in their search for what had come to be called "The Wilderness Project": a vision for the future, a Third District Cultural and Recreational Center.

Late in July the same year, the District received word that Big Valley Ranch in Sherman, PA, was available, but at a price considered too high. Committee Chairman John Kaare Hagen, along with committee members Charles Gardner and Egil Olsen, met with the owners, and a deal was reached.

The International Convention in Fargo followed, and Third District delegates developed a plan for financing the purchase. A second committee was formed, chaired by Sandy Ginsberg, and given the task of raising the necessary funds. In true fraternal spirit, loans and outright donations surfaced, far exceeding the goal set by the Third District.

On November 17, 1978, the title transfer took place, and Land of the Vikings was born. Two corporations were formed: S/N 3/D Ltd., owners and titleholders of the property; and Sons of Norway, Land of the Vikings, Ltd., the operating corporation responsible for day-to-day operations.

The buildings and grounds were much in need of repair, and, over the years, 3/D members have donated hundreds of hours of skills, energy, and time. Each room was upgraded and given a private bath, roofs have been repaired, windows replaced, and new heating and septic systems installed. Rosemaling has been added to furniture and window cornices and, in 1986, a bar shaped like a Viking ship, built by 3/D member Bjarne Livolden, made a unique and beautiful addition to the lounge. The old and impractical kitchen was replaced in 1997 when an addition containing a large kitchen, library and offices, was completed. In 2005, the dining room floor was redone, and a room restoration project was begun.

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# history of the AREA

## I. DEPOSIT

The land between the two rivers now known as the Susquehanna and the Delaware, was first inhabited by Indians. They named it Koo Koose, meaning “the place of owls”. When the white man followed, he pronounced it “The Cook House”, and so it was named for many years.

In 1790, Captain Nathan Dean from Taunton, Massachusetts, lashed two canoes together, loaded his family and goods, and floated down the river to the Cook House. He found an empty log house, and lived there until he could build another for his family. He did this on a 200-acre lot, covering part of what is now Deposit, making him the first permanent settler. On April 5, 1811, the village, consisting of twelve houses surrounded by 156 acres of land, was incorporated and given the name Deposit.

Lumber was the main industry in the area. Logs were hauled by sleighs during the winter and deposited in great piles along the banks of the Delaware River, hence the name “Deposit”. The lumber was then put on huge rafts and floated down the river to as far away as Philadelphia.

These were prosperous times for Deposit. The Erie Railroad, coming through in 1835, made it possible to transport milk and cheese to New York City from the many dairy farms. The lumber industry created large mills and, later, paper and printing presses.

Around 1900, the only bank in Deposit went under, dragging with it the fortunes of private citizens and businesses. Years later, the depression contributed further to the decline of Deposit. And the town never recovered. Today, with a population of 1,936, only one of the printing press plants and one sawmill remain. Other industry has settled in the area, and the Erie-Lackawanna Railroad is still going through the village, but conditions are far from what they once were.

For more information on Deposit, see <http://www.depositchamber.com>.

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## II. SHERMAN

Driving through the little town of Sherman on the way to Land of the Vikings, it is hard to imagine that it once was a busy center for several industries.

The woods and streams provided early settlers with food, mill power, and materials for their livelihoods, trades, and industries. By 1870, the population of the village, then called New Baltimore, reached 300. In 1885, there were two grocery stores, a millinery shop, a post office, a turning mill and cabinet shop, one sleigh and wagon repairing shop, two churches, one schoolhouse, one hotel, two chemical factories, a birch oil factory, several stone quarries, and “shoemakers too numerous to mention”.

One of the earliest, and maybe most important, industries was the stone quarries. Eventually many blocks of New York City streets were paved with blue flagstone from the Sherman quarries. Skilled stonemasons settled in the area and built, among other things, numerous stone arch bridges, many of which are still intact today, more than 100 years after their construction.

On July 13, 1889, a severe rainstorm flooded and devastated Sherman. In two-and-a-half hours, more than six inches of rain fell. Dams burst open and flooded the village with five feet of water. Bridges were washed out, and lost manufactured goods were found all along the road to Hale Eddy.

After the flood disaster, many people moved away. For those remaining, dairy farming became the main occupation. And, like Deposit, Sherman never returned to its role as a busy industrial center.

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# LAND OF THE VIKINGS: PROPERTY AND SURROUNDINGS

Land of the Vikings consists of 150 acres located in a quiet valley and surrounded by 5,000 acres of state game land. The many buildings on the property bear witness to its former existence as a dude ranch.

The main lodge consists of bedrooms, all with private baths, dining room, kitchen, front lobby, a lounge area with a circular fireplace and a bar in the shape of a Viking ship, a game room, a library, and offices.

A variety of plans have surfaced over the years regarding the use of the large barn which is currently is used for storage. There is a managers' house on the property as well as smaller buildings which contain sports equipment, an emergency generator, the Viking Butikk, and two additional bedrooms. Behind the main building is the pool and a small pond used for boating, fishing, and skating. There is an outdoor shuffleboard area, a former tennis court converted into a parking lot, and a soccer field. In recent years, two gazebos have been added.

In memory of former LOV Manager Jens Kristiansen, funds were collected to construct a playground for children in the shape of a Viking ship. This is now located on the lawn between the main building and the pond.

The hills surrounding the lodge are wooded and suitable for hiking in the summer and cross-country skiing in the winter. Logging trails criss-cross the game land and a network of snowmobile trails covers the general area.

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# ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

## I: ON THE PREMISES

- Swimming
- Horseshoes
- Soccer
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Fishing
- Shuffleboard – indoor/outdoor
- Hiking
- Hunting (in season)
- Cross-country skiing. Some rental equipment available.
- Tobogganing
- Indoor games (check with managers)
- Table tennis
- Dancing
- TV with satellite reception and VCR
- Piano
- Shopping in the Viking Butikk
- Children's playground

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## II: WITHIN EASY DRIVING DISTANCE

### GOLF

<i>Name</i>	<i># of Holes</i>	<i>Directions:</i>
Golden Oak Golf Club Windsor, NY	18	Rte. 17E to Exit 80, Windsor. Rte. 79S. Follow signs.
Afton Golf Club Afton, NY	18	Rte. 17E to Rte. 41N to Afton, ca. 30 miles.
Panorama Golf Club Crystal Lake, PA	18	PA370 to Forest City, PA ca. 45 miles
Scottish Glen Golf Course Crystal Lake, PA	9	Rte. 247
Hancock Golf Course Hancock, NY	9	Rte. 17E to Hancock, ca. 12 miles.
French Woods Golf & Country Club Hancock, NY	18	
Scott's Oquaga Golf Club Deposit, NY	9	River Road to Oquaga Road, goes by golf course.
Dimmock Hill Golf Course Binghamton, NY	9	
Ely Park Golf Course Binghamton, NY	18	

For the location of other area golf courses, look at  
<http://www.thegolfcourses.net/golfcourses/PA/Pennsylvania.htm>.

### CANOEING

Land of the Vikings has its own canoes. Canoes can also be rented at Jeff Smith, Smith's Colonial Motel, Hancock, NY (607-637-2989). The Delaware River is suitable for all ages and levels of experience.

### HORSEBACK RIDING

Trail riding is no longer available in the LOV vicinity. However, individual horseback riding lessons in an indoor arena are offered by Pat Cammer at Cat Hollow Farm, 235 Gillette Road, Deposit, NY (607-467-3276).

## FISHING/HUNTING

For license and other information on fishing and hunting in the area, check the PA Fish & Boat Commission website listed at the end of this section.

### QUAGA CREEK STATE PARK

This is a spacious state park, offering a 55-acre lake with a large, sandy beach for swimming and boating. There is also a playground, picnic area, a snack bar, and campground. The park, which is usually not crowded, even in the middle of the summer, is located eight miles north of Deposit.

### ADDITIONAL HIKING TRAILS

Hawkins Pond is a County nature area, approximately a 30-minute drive from Land of the Vikings. It has various trails, both for hiking and cross-country skiing. There is a lean-to with beautiful stone fireplaces, and a couple of grills for fixing hot meals. Running water and modern bathrooms are also available.

### THE LUMBERJACK FESTIVAL

This annual event is held the third week in July in Deposit, and is an unusual and inexpensive treat for the whole family. It includes sidewalk sales, rafting on the Delaware, traditional lumberjack contests, a parade, fireworks, antique car show, dances, games, and rides.

### THE STARUCCA HOUSE

In Susquehanna, only a few miles from Land of the Vikings, one can find what is said to be the oldest brick railroad station still in use in the United States. Completed in 1865, this Gothic revival brick station hotel welcomed the weary travelers. It closed in 1969 and was largely neglected until 1980, when restoration began. Today the Starucca House is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and recognized by the Smithsonian Institution as an “outstanding architectural work”. A restaurant has opened as part of the Starucca House.

### SHOPPING

In Deposit, you will find the basic necessities. For more serious shopping, the Binghamton area (ca. 35 miles from LOV) offers a wide variety of stores. The Oakdale Mall is the largest mall in the area, and is located along Rte. 17, a couple of miles west of Binghamton.

### ROLLER SKATING

For a real change, you may want to try roller skating. “Skateworld” on Rte. 17 in Windsor, NY is available. Owner Mike Vickey can be reached at 607-775-3949.

For more information on available activities in the region, check the following websites:

[www.depositchamber.com](http://www.depositchamber.com) (Deposit Chamber of Commerce)

[www.hancockareachamber.com](http://www.hancockareachamber.com) (Hancock Chamber of Commerce)

[www.pgc.state.pa.us](http://www.pgc.state.pa.us) (Pennsylvania Game Commission)

[www.state.pa.us](http://www.state.pa.us) (PA Fish & Boat Commission)

[www.theoutdoorshop.state.pa.us](http://www.theoutdoorshop.state.pa.us) (purchase fishing and hunting licenses on-line)

[www.roundthebend.com/central](http://www.roundthebend.com/central) (Golfing, camping, etc.)

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# FOR AN EVENT CHAIRPERSON

It is recommended that every weekend/event have a Chairperson. If the event generates revenue equivalent to thirteen (13) rooms double occupancy for two (2) nights and five (5) meals, the Chairperson will receive free room and board, while the spouse or companion pays for meals only. Below are some guidelines for a successful Chairperson, as well as suggestions on how to organize a weekend. (Schedule courtesy of Nor-Bu Lodge.)

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

### A Chairperson should:

- *Prepare promotional material for the event, and send to 3/D Publicity Director to be included in Third District Today*
- *Coordinate room arrangements with LOV Managers*
- *Bring the supplies, posters, prizes, etc., needed for events*
- *Plan, organize and supervise activities each day*
- *Include activities for young children*
- *Announce at mealtime: "What's On the Agenda"*
- *Ensure that guests return all sports and game equipment borrowed for the day*
- *Arrange with LOV managers for an entertainment fee for visiting musicians, DJ's, etc.*
- *Become familiar with the LOV Reservation Policy.*

## MISCELLANEOUS IDEAS

### THEMES

Creating a theme for a weekend or a special event may attract more interest. Successful weekend themes in the past have been dancing (folk/square), rosemaling, woodcarving, Norwegian Christmas preparations, sporting events, Mystery Weekends, the 50's, Oktoberfest, Sankt Hans, etc. Individual events have been a Hawaiian Luau, Woodstock, Your Valentine, Your Favorite Athlete, cartoon characters, the beach, pig roast, treasure hunt, and masquerade parties. But any skill, hobby, or activity is a potential theme that may change a humdrum weekend into a success.

### AT MEALTIME

To include as many as possible in your activities, it is a good idea to do presentations and other smaller events during meals. These can be announcements of the day's activities, simple games, awards ceremonies, and introductions. Also remember to come equipped with alternate plans in case of inclement weather.

## AWARDS

The most popular part of an event is often the awards ceremony. The Chairperson should bring a supply of inexpensive prizes and/or diplomas suited for the age and composition of the group. Awards can also be humorous and given for non-competitive reasons, such as “The Person Who Got Most Lost Coming to LOV”, “The Person Who Fell Most Often On Skis”, “The Person Who Took the Most Naps During the Day”, etc. Get assistance from other people to create these awards.

## SCHEDULE

The schedule on page 16 is a suggestion for how a weekend may be organized. The content should be adjusted for age and activity level of the group attending, but a structured schedule will, in most cases, produce a more active group. A similar schedule can easily be created for the variety of summer activities available at Land of the Vikings.

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## DIRECTIONS FOR INDOOR GAMES

### HORSERACING

*Props: 1 die, sheets of paper*

Tape squares on the dining room floor. One square works as one step. Make one person in charge of betting, if desired. Line 5 - 6 participants up at the starting line and give each a number and name relating to Norwegian cities, e.g., Mandal Mule, Stavanger Stud, Arendal Ass, etc., pinned to their backs. Roll the die, and the "horse" with the corresponding number moves one step, until the winner crosses the finish line. Have an announcer relate the progress to the spectators.

### POTATO IN THE PAIL

*Props: 2 buckets, 2 potatoes*

Line up two teams to work in relay. Place a bucket at the opposite end of the room. One person from each team places a potato between his thighs, and when told to start, walks to the bucket without losing the potato, drops it in the bucket (without the use of hands), picks it up and brings it to the next person in line. The potato may be dropped or miss the bucket three times. After the third miss, the next person on the team goes. The first team to have everybody drop the potato in the bucket is the winner.

### BALLOON DANCE

*Props: Big balloons*

Get couples on the dance floor. Place a big balloon between a couple, face to face. Move balloon down from chest to stomach, thighs, knees and ankles. Start with slow music. As the balloon is moved, increase the tempo of the music. If the balloon is dropped, or popped, the couple is out of the game. If couples are still left on the floor, move the balloon rear end to rear end. Couples try to bump each other. The last couple remaining on the floor is the winner.

### TREASURE HUNT

*Props: Assorted objects*

Make teams: family versus family, children versus adults, etc. Hide objects indoors or out. Give the teams written clues as to the whereabouts of the first object, which will contain clues to the next, etc. The first team to find all the objects has won. Instead of objects, each post can contain questions to be answered, commands to find assorted objects from nature, etc. Points can be given, and the team with the most points wins.

### FOIL ART

*Props: Aluminum foil*

This is good for activating children as well as adults. Select a theme and create an art show of items made by aluminum foil. Make it into a competition with judging if desired.

## PICTIONARY

*Props: Paper, pencils*

List 15 things from a theme, e.g., circus: elephants, clowns, etc. A representative from each team comes up to get the answer, which he, in turn, has to draw for his team to interpret. The person on the team who guesses the right answer goes up for the next clue, which he has to draw for the team, etc. The first team to guess all 15 clues is the winner.

## FEELINGS OF LOV

*Props: Assorted objects, plastic garbage bag*

This can be played by all ages. Select different odd-shaped objects, put them in the plastic garbage bag, and make the contestants guess what they are.

## GOLFING, LOV STYLE

*Props: Long nylon stockings, golf balls, 2 belts*

Put one golf ball in each stocking. Tie stocking to the middle of the belt. The first contestant puts the belt on in such a way that the stocking with the golf ball falls down from the back of the waist to the ground. Swinging the stocking (no hands), he has to hit a golf ball on the ground a previously determined distance, then return it the same way, so the next in line can take over. The first team to successfully bring the ball back has won. This game can be played outdoors or indoors. If indoors, a "goal" should be created by another belt shaped as an open horseshoe, to be placed by the wall for the contestants to shoot the ball into.

## TRIVIA

*Props: Pen and paper*

Post trivia questions all over LOV, (don't forget the bathrooms!) and make people look for them. Give points for correct answers. Most points wins.

## COUNT THE PEANUTS

*Props: Jar with peanuts*

Fill a jar with peanuts and have people guess how many it contains. Winner gets the peanuts.

## MUMMY RACE

*Props: Rolls of toilet paper*

Two teams made up of couples. Two couples play at a time. Women are each given a roll of toilet paper and have to wrap up their partners mummy-style with the toilet paper. The whole roll has to be used. When one couple is done, the next one starts. The first team to finish wins.

## BRAIN PUZZLES

*Props: Cryptoquotes, "unscramble the letters", word puzzles, etc.*

Teams of four. Leave the puzzles available all day, and the participants will try to get as many answers as possible. The team with the most correct answers wins.

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## SUGGESTED WINTER SCHEDULE

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	PARTICIPANTS	LOCATION
Friday	7:00 p.m.	Dinner	Everyone	Dining room
	7:00-10:00	50/50 Raffle	18 & up	
	8:30 p.m.	Pictionary	18 & under	Dining room
Saturday	8:30 a.m.	Breakfast	Everyone	Dining room
	10:00 a.m.	Cross country ski race	Icicles (3-6) Frosties (7-10) Blizzards (11-13) Polar Bears (14-17)	Front of lodge
	11:00 a.m.	Snowman building contest	Everyone	Rear of lodge
	11:30 a.m.	Ice skating (individual)	Icicles, Frosties, Blizzards, Polar Bears	Pond
	11:30 a.m.	Kids hike & scavenger hunt		Meet in dining room
	11:30 a.m.	Ice skating (relay)		Pond
	noon	Lunch	Everyone	Dining room
	1:30 p.m.	Crafts		Dining room or library
	1:30 p.m.	Sled races (individual)		Sledding hill
	2:00 p.m.	Sled races (teams)		Sledding hill
	3:00 p.m.	Happy Hour	Adults	Bar
		Mixed games	Older kids	Game room
		Scavenger hunt	All kids	Dining room
		Coloring	Younger kids	Dining room
		Dinner	Everyone	Dining room
5:30 p.m.	Dinner	Everyone	Dining room	
	6:30 p.m.	Awards 50/50 raffle	Everyone 18 & up	Dining room
7:30 p.m.	Music & games		Dining room	
8:00-10:00	Pictionary	Any kids still awake	Dining room	
Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Brunch	Everyone	Dining room
	11:00 a.m.	Church service		Sherman

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## LOV RESERVATION POLICY

Reservations at Land of the Vikings are strictly on a first-come, first-served basis. Groups can hold a block of rooms at \$20 per room, with the balance due two months before the event. Individual room reservations require a \$40 deposit, with the balance due three weeks before the event. All deposits are fully refundable if cancellation notice is received by the Managers no later than three weeks before the event. After that, deposits will only be refunded if the room can be rented under the same package as it was originally sold.

The purchase of a LOV package, in any form, requires payment in full for the complete package, even if a meal interruption occurs on the part of the guest or the group. There will be no refunds for early departures or missed meals. All LOV packages include room and meal charges.

Please note that the following policy is set for the New Year's Eve holiday: No reservation will be taken before July 1<sup>st</sup>. Reservation must be made by mail, accompanied by a \$100 deposit. No refund will be given after November 1<sup>st</sup>, unless the room is sold.

Chairperson is entitled to free room and board if the event generates revenue equivalent to thirteen (13) rooms double occupancy for two (2) nights and five (5) meals. Spouse or companion sharing room with Chairperson pays for meals only.

The Managers will do room assignments based on needs. Special requests will be honored if possible.

Special dietary needs can be met in most cases with at least one week's notice.

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# DIRECTIONS TO LAND OF THE VIKINGS

## FROM NEW YORK CITY/NEW JERSEY:

Take Exit 16 on the New York State Thruway, and proceed west on Rte. 17, approximately 100 miles to Hale Eddy (between Hancock and Deposit). Make a left on River Road (directly across from the Timberline Motel) and cross the railroad tracks and bridge. Make a right after the bridge, a left at the first intersection and follow the signs to Sherman and Land of the Vikings, 4 ½ miles through the woods.

## FROM SOUTHERN PENNSYLVANIA:

Take Interstate 81N (or the PA Turnpike, NE Extension to Scranton, where you pick up 181N). Cross the border into NY and take Exit 2E (in the direction of New York City) to Route 17E. Drive 4 miles past Exit 84 (Deposit/Walton). Make a right turn at Hale Eddy and proceed as above.

## FROM NORTHERN NEW YORK:

Take Interstate 81S to Binghamton. Continue on Rte. 17E and proceed as above.

## FROM NEW ENGLAND:

Take the Mass. Pike to Rte. 84 (Exit 9). Take Rte. 84W to Rte. 17W (Exit 4W in New York State). Continue on Rte. 17W as from NY/NJ.

## LAND OF THE VIKINGS, GENERAL INFORMATION:

**Managers:** Beverly and Rick Budrick

**Address:** 461 Big Valley Road, Susquehanna, PA 18847

**Phone:** 570-461-3500

**FAX:** 570-461-7500

**E-mail:** [vikingland@tds.net](mailto:vikingland@tds.net)

**Web address:** <http://3districtsonsofnorway.org/LOV.htm>

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