

THE LONGSHIP



LEIF ERIKSON - 1971



THE LONGSHIP

Volume II, No. 8

The Newsletter of the Vikings M.C.

Boston, Massachusetts

This issue is dedicated to the third annual LEIF ERICSON RUN.
May it prove to be as successful as it has in the past.

MEETINGS FOR AUGUST

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| August 1 (Sunday) | Place: Wellsley, Mass.
Your Hosts: Jim & Ted
Time: 1:30 P.M. |
| August 15 (Sunday) | Time and place to be
determined later. |
| August 29 (Sunday)
(Unofficial) | Time and place to be
determined later. |

VMC DRINKING SONG

Lift up your steins, Men:
It is the time, Men,
To drink a toast to brother hood.
Get on the Longship:
We'll take a great trip.
We want it clearly understood
When Vikings sail forth
We're on the right course:
We're doing fine and life is good.
So join us in a toast
To what we cherish most--
It's the spirit of brotherhood.

Music and Lyrics furnished by Woody B. and Sean O.



.....GLEANINGS FROM A RUN PLANNER'S THINK TANK.....

By Woody B.....

What is a run?...an imperfection in a woman's stocking?...a track meet?...a quick trip to the bathroom?...a political happening?...Yes, it's also a happening where bike enthusiasts get together to have a groove. It is a place where they can get their enjoys in the company of like-minded guys who want a chance to be themselves--their real selves without the sham that society has imposed in other facets of their lives. At a run the people are tolerant. Your bag may not be my bag, but you are comfortable in the knowledge that I won't dislike you for it, or point an accusing finger at you for it. Is a run just uninhibited fun?

Our common bond is enough to somehow override whatever stupid prejudices (social, racial, religious, sexual) that have polluted today's thinking to the point where the real joys of life are so hard to surface--buried as they are beneath all the prejudice crap the average citizen has allowed himself to develop. How many places can you find today--how many social groups can you join--that the major part of the conversation is not of a negative, depressing nature? Think about it for a minute.

A run is one of those few places we can retreat to in order to escape from this unpleasantness that permeates modern society. The guys are there to have fun--to throw care to the winds--relax--and clean out the cobwebs of negativenss that poisons their minds in the everyday, workaday world. It's a great happening. Is a run then a cathartic? Is it therapeutic?

A run offers the opportunity for the concept of brotherhood to be really tested. Lief Erikson, as it finally emerges, will be the product of assent and dissent, democracy and autocracy when each is called for, leadership and followship, a brainstorming of ideas from 28 different minds, bodies and characters combined to form one integrated whole that hopefully blends to bring satiation to the appetites of persons, many of whom have now become connoisseurs of runs. Will it work? Will the guys like it? Will we give them their money's worth? Is there a way we could do it better? Differently?

"It won't work." "It will work." "It will work if..."
"It's right." "It's wrong." "It will be all right if..."
"We can't do it." "We can do it." "We can do it if..."

Yes, no, and finally compromise! A strong word, a stronger retort and finally an arm-in-arm compromise. And brotherhood has scored another triumph. Brotherhood is the ability to disagree and leave the friendship untarnished. Run planning presents many opportunities for disagreement. Is a run a commune?

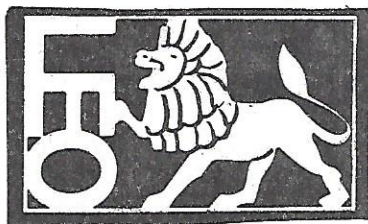
A run is hard work, but fun when working toward something you really believe in and with persons who share your work load with the attendant laughs and tears, aching muscles and beered bellies. Work is no long a four-letter word when the results are satisfying. And nothing, but nothing can bring a club so close together as a successful run.

Well, this is how we get ourselves into these things called runs. Months of planing, discussing, drawing, building. We have been sorking on Lief Erikson, as the Vikingsknow, since March. Will it be a success? Will our friends be able to have the all-out, no-holds-barred experiences we had hoped for? Will they get their enjoys in the way our compromises visualized? Will we receive for the club the benefits that are potential in the undertaking? Only time will tell. Of one thing all can be sure, a hell of a lot of real dedication has gone into our dreams of having the best run ever.

Let's hope our many friends from other clubs will come to Boston and be a witness to our successes and (I hate to even mention the word) mistakes.....will join us in our laughs and our kicks.....will open their minds, blow out the negativeness that society has planted there, and have a real groove over the long Laoor Day weekend.

Peace!

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WHAT THE STARS FORETELL - LEO
July 23 to August 22

The Leo born are good natured, generous with noble dispositions. They are frank, independent impulsive and foreceful in manner. Their nature is electric and they

have great hope, faith and fortitude. They are energetic and lavish when their sympathy or interest is aroused. In affection they are ardent, sincere and passionate. They are usually very popular in a social sphere. They are usually good-tempered, though high strung and quick to anger, yet are very forgiving and do not hold a grudge for long. They receive and grant favors readily and are usually fortunate in the long run. They succeed best where they have authority or hold some responsible position in managing or executive departments. The Leo generally makes a good lover but never forgets that he is King Of Beasts and most often demands his own way. Leo is ruled by the Sun.

Dick N. is a Leo

THUNDERINGS FROM THOR.....

Now that I have recuperated somewhat from my short but very active vacation I will try to pen some of the high points of the last few days. Dave and I headed out of the "hub" a few days prior to the beginning of the Spartan's Marathon. We visited with friends in New York and D.C. Those couple of days really put us in the mood to enjoy Marathon to the fullest.

We were the first Vikings to arrive at the run site Friday but soon there were many more arrivals. As some of you know many people had to be turned away from this function and it is easy to see why. The Marathon has to be one of the finest runs on the East Coast. There was in excess of 180 people in attendance and from what I observed they all had a great time.

The planned activities were at a minimum which gave us a lot of time for rapping with old and new friends. The "poker run" was well laid out and proved very profitable for the winners. In addition there were bike trials, swimming and plenty of good food and cold beer. What one did not expect, however, was the arrival of a red velvet, victorian sofa which was situated on a very colorful oriental carpet. This unusual display of comfort made up part of the S.M.C.L.A. pavilion. Another touch of elegance was the arrival of a genuine crystal chandelier to grace the U.Y.A. tent.

In all fairness I must admit that I cannot report on all the happenings of the run (Ric T. take note) as a result of the cocktail party given by the S.M.C.L.A. I retired early after a couple of cups of Ding Ding P___. The final day presentations were made and I was very proud to note that the Vikings were second place in over all club participation. This is the second year in a row that we have captured second spot. Maybe next year we can reach first place and return with one of those handsome Spartan trophies. Thanks again to the Spartans for a wonderful weekend.

We took our time coming back, stopping off in New York at the Tool Box, for a much appreciated supper, thanks to Wheels M.C. and the bar management. Later on that evening we were treated to drinks at the Eagles Nest, where we decided to call an end to the weeks activities.

Thanks again to all the people who made Dave and I feel so welcome. We hope to be able to do the same for you in the very near future.

Thor

ATTENTION MOVIE BUFFS AND CYCLIST !!!!

We are planning to go as a group to see ON ANY SUNDAY. Anyone interested in going along should contact the Road Captain.

**" 'ON ANY SUNDAY'
HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE! "**

- Don Cragin, Herald Traveler

**" YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF BRAKING THE
FLOOR OR LEANING OUT OF YOUR SEAT
MORE THAN ONCE! "**

- Ed Driscoll, Boston Globe

**"... PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT THAT IS
SYNONYMOUS WITH SERIOUS COMPETITION."**

- John Koch, B.A.D.



BRUCE BROWN'S

ON ANY SUNDAY

by the man who made 'Endless Summer' from Cinema 5 Rated G



A WALTER READE THEATRE

Charles CINEMA
IN GOVT CENTER NEXT TO THE
HOLIDAY INN, BOSTON 227-2832

Reduced Rate Parking in Garage Under

COMFORTABLY AIR CONDITIONED

Shown at:
2, 4, 6, 8, 10

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 8 - 9 V.M.C. New Hampshire
Outing (Sold Out)

6 - 8 Centaurs "Olympia
I" Run in Virginia

21-22 Vanguards Charity
Affair

Sept. 3 - 6 OUR OWN "LEIF
ERICSON"

Spearhead Rodeo Roundup
in Toronto 3 - 6

24-26 Cycle M.C. "Bass
River Run" By invitation
only. Note: If you are
not on the list see Carl.

Oct. 8 -10 2nd City M.C. "2
Becomes 6" in Chicago

9 -10 Empire City M.C.
and Pratorian Anniver-
saries in New York

15-17 Vanguards M.C.
"Oktoberfest" in Phila.

30 9 Plus Halloween
Party in New York

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN.....

Al - An article not sent will never see print!! Woo Woo

A Viking anthem, now a Viking drinking song. What next a
Viking symphary?

What member was seen playing Statue of Liberty at a recent
run?

Fig E. is alive and well and living in Chicago. (We now have
the address) And he's not alone!

Sam believe it or not we really did miss you at the meetings.
Welcome home.

24 July 1971

TO: Nomination Committee

R E: Pledge for Membership

Gentlemen:

I am writing to inform you about a recent decision of mine. As you may know, I have been giving considerable thought to the idea of pledging for membership to one of Boston's three major cycle organizations. This has not been an easy decision on my part.

Each organization has its strengths, weaknesses, advantages, and disadvantages. I have found sincerity and have formed a genuine friendship with a number of members in all three fraternities. My reasons for not pledging two of these organizations is neither based on any aversion to members already in the fraternity nor their stated organizational goals - rather - it is a personal preference based on the premise that with my interests and life suay, there is nothing substantial that I personally would be able to contribute to those respective fraternities.

This brings me to the question: Why pledge the Vikings? What mutual benefit can be derrived from association with Vikings that is elusive in the other fraternities? The answer for me lies within two realms, the objective and the emotional. Over the past several months I have observed from a distance Viking members on a number of occasions; be it formally at a meeting, informally at social events, socially at one of the local pubs, ad nauseam, conducting themselves in an open and friendly manner with others while at all times maintaining a gentle but masculine dignity.

My first impression was one of quiet respect. Having had the opportunity to gradually come into contact with several members over a period of time, this respect has increased rather than decrease. Intellectually, (and by this I mean not only acquired knowledge but also native intellect), the Viking calibre is high - very high, and this also is very gratifying.

But all of this is nothing unless there is a bond - an emotional bond of fellowship among members. I have found this to be true with Vikings. This bond is more important than first perceived. If a stress situation arises, it seems to me that one Viking will have no hesitation in asking another or other Vikings for assistance. And the feedback from the first member reinforces that bond of brotherhood even more than ever. This is good and this is important.

One final point: vis-a-vis one phrase of Mr. Wakefield's written statement of several weeks ago. He successfully pointed out how one does not lose his individuality and identity if he is a member of a particular primary group, if both the individual and the group inter-act within a flexible framework of understanding. This struck me as singularly important. Everyone must maintain a semblance of personal identity throughout their life, and it is heartening to see that this is the case with the Vikings.

I will be proud to pledge myself to this team.

Respectfully submitted,

David Ez.

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A FEW MORE WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT.....

Monday evening saw a nearly exhausted president call the meeting to order. I am very happy, however, that I made it back for that one. I would like to commend the club for an excellent turnout and for one of the best meetings I have had the honor to preside over. It just proves what great results can be obtained when officer and member alike contribute their best.

It was my further pleasure to welcome into the club, as probationary members, Barry B., Danny S., Bob C. and Dave Ez..

The meeting was followed by a "most entertaining" birthday party for Dick N. The club is now once again reaching full strength so there should be plenty of good minds, available hands and strong backs for the work we have ahead of us. We are expecting a heavy turnout for LEIF ERICSON, so to new and old members alike, let's show our guests that a Viking run is second to none.



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A FEW QUOTABLE QUOTES.....

"And yet I am sure man will never renounce real suffering, that is, destruction and chaos. Why, after all, suffering is the sole origin of consciousness." - Fyodor Dostoevsky -

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however, measured or far away." - Henry Thoreau -