

Promoting the Oftebro Family Reunion in California 2010

In May 2009 1-4-1-4-1 Deborah and John Oftebro once more took the trip to Norway. As so often before they wanted to visit their many relatives in the Old Country. But this time they also brought an important message. They wanted to discuss and promote an Oftebro Family Reunion in California in 2010.



From the visit in Mandal Photo: Deborah Oftebro



From the visit in Lyngdal Photo: Deborah Oftebro



From the visit in Mandal Photo: John Oftebro

They approached their task thoroughly and were met with a gathering with the Seland families in Lyngdal and another family gathering in Mandal, where 3-6-2-3-2

Patricia and Lars Tore Hellenen opened their home for all the “Oftebros” there. The joy of meeting Deborah and John again was great, and so was the curiosity for what the guests from Seattle could tell about the family reunion coming up next year.



Meeting with the family committee
Photo: Grethe Oftebro



Meeting with the family committee
Photo: Grethe Oftebro

From Mandal Deborah and John headed on for Lier, in the Oslo region, in their new Volvo. 3-6-2-4 Grethe and Torstein Oftebro together with 3-6-2-4-2 Kjetil Hald Oftebro and his



The guests gather at Indre Gulliksrud

Photo: John Oftebro

girlfriend Kristin Nordrum arranged a grand family gathering at Kjetil's small farm at Lierskogen. Kjetil runs, on a part-time basis, an "event-business" on his farm, where his smithy has been altered into a barbeque hut, and where his large workshop serves as a function room for his business. Outdoor he has erected a tower, 10 m high, with a wall for climbing. He also offers a series of other activities.



Antique motorbikes cause interest Photo: John Oftebro

In the function room tables were set for the 50 guests from the Oslo region that were gathering this nice day. The season, it was May 16th, was marked with green birch leaf decorations and Norwegian flags by the dozens. The atmosphere was uplifted and the activity was on top.



The tables are set

Photo: John Oftebro



Torstein is stirring the stew

Photo: John Oftebro

3-2-1-11-1 Kari and Arnfinn Beisland responded on our request and entertained us with singing. Arnfinn's presentation of the Norwegian folksong "Eg rodde meg ut på seiegrunnen" (I rowed out on the fishing ground) is a masterpiece, when he, with half his mouth (so to speak) sings the Norwegian words, while the rest of his mouth simultaneously translates the words into English. Grand ovation!



Gathering in the function room

Photo: Grethe Oftebro



John let us into the plans for the Reunion in California

Photo: Deborah Oftebro

John gave us a thorough and exciting grounding in the current plans for the Reunion, and managed to lit a spark and inspire us with enthusiasm for attending the upcoming reunion in Pleasanton, California next year. We really look forward to reunite there.



Photo: John Oftebro



Kari and Arnfinn singing duet

Photo: John Oftebro

While visiting Norway Deborah and John, on their own request, met the Norwegian permanent family committee, where the plans for the reunion were subject for discussion, of course.



Reunited good friends



Great atmosphere in the barbeque hut. Photo: John Oftebro



Building a pile 20 boxes high



Building the pile too high Photo: John Oftebro



Photo: John Oftebro

The gathering is over.....



Photo: Deborah Oftebro

When you are a tourist from abroad in Norway in May, experiencing the celebration of the constitutional day, May 17th in Oslo, is a must. Deborah and John saw the point, and with 3-6-2-5-1 Olav Erik Maage Areklett and family as their cicerones, they took part both in hoisting the flag, listening to the memorial speech for Norwegian departed cultural celebrities, and watching the huge schoolchildren parade at the Karl Johan street towards the Royal castle. And what could be greater joy for a republican than experiencing the Royal family at the balcony of the Royal castle?



Current information on the reunion arrangements is being presented in the specific column on this website for the Family Reunion in California.