

### Scandinavian Club Contacts

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# RESERVATION FOR FEBRUARY

Walbridge Park Shelterhouse, Friday, February 24, 2012.

Number of people: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: **SCANDINAVIAN CLUB OF TOLEDO** and mail to:  
**KRIS JOHNSON, PO Box 355, WILLISTON, OH 43468**  
Reservations with Checks must be in by **Wednesday, Feb. 22nd.**

## Norwegian Royals Honored

Norway's government is holding several exhibitions to mark the occasion of TRH King Harald and Queen Sonja's 75th birthdays.

"The royal collections show the Norwegian people highly value their monarchs," said Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg. "They contain gifts from the people — artifacts from whole communities. At the same time, they bear witness to important dates and developments in the country's history."

Amongst the collection is the grand carriage (shown at right) ordered in 1905 for the occasion of King Haakon VII's and Queen Maud's Coronation on 22 June 1906.

There are also two paintings: 'Hardt Alee' ('Hardt le') by Christian Krohg from 1882, and Danish Vilhelm Arnesen's 'The Norwegian Royal Family's Departure from Copenhagen 23 November 1905' ('Den norske kongefamiliens avreise fra København 23. november 1905') from 1906. This was a gift from the Danish people for the Coronation.

The showings will take place in Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim and Tromsø. There will also be exhibitions that travel the country between 2012 and 2014. The first exhibition to be presented before the Royal Family is on the 15th of February, in Oslo.

—text & image from <http://theforeigner.no/>



The Royal Coronation Carriage, 1906  
Photo: Jan Haug/Det kongelige hoff  
theforeigner.no

**FIT FOR A  
KING  
and QUEEN**



## REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS

FOR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

MAP SHOWS PRESS FREEDOM BY COUNTRY. BLACK IS MOST OPPRESSIVE, FOLLOWED BY RED, ORANGE, YELLOW AND THEN WHITE IS MOST FREE. SCANDINAVIA LEADS CONSISTANTLY IN PRESS FREEDOM.

### PRESS FREEDOM INDEX 2011/2012

#### For year 2010:

- 1 Finland
- 2 Iceland
- 3 Norway
- 4 Netherlands
- 5 Sweden
- 11 Denmark
- 20 USA

#### For year 2011:

- 1 Finland
- 2 Norway (up from 3rd)
- 3 Estonia
- 4 Netherlands
- 5 Austria
- 6 Iceland (down from 2nd)
- 11 Denmark
- 12 Sweden (down from 5th)
- 47 USA (down from 20th)

"This year's index sees many changes in the rankings, changes that reflect a year that was incredibly rich in developments, especially in the Arab world," Reporters Without Borders said as it released its 10th annual press freedom index. "Many media paid dearly for their coverage of democratic aspirations or opposition movements. Control of news and information continued to tempt governments and to be a question of survival for totalitarian and repressive regimes. The past year also highlighted the leading role played by netizens in producing and disseminating news.

"Crackdown was the word of

the year in 2011. Never has freedom of information been so closely associated with democracy. Never have journalists, through their reporting, vexed the enemies of freedom so much. Never have acts of censorship and physical attacks on journalists seemed so numerous. The equation is simple: the absence or suppression of civil liberties leads necessarily to the suppression of media freedom. Dictatorships fear and ban information, especially when it may undermine them.

The United States (47th) also owed its fall of 27 places to the many arrests of journalist covering Occupy Wall Street protests.

Within the European Union, the index reflects a continuation of the very marked distinction between countries such as Finland and Netherlands that have always had a good evaluation, and countries such as Bulgaria (80th), Greece (70th) and Italy (61st) that fail to address the issue of their media freedom violations, above all because of a lack of political will. Media freedom is a challenge that needs addressing more than ever in the Balkans, which want to join the European Union but are suffering the negative effects of the economic crisis.

—map & text from <http://en.rsf.org/press-freedom-index-2011-2012,1043.html>

### NORWAY DISCOVERED

In 1432, an Italian ship was blown way off course ending up in Norway, and discovered that the people living there were not barbarians. It turned out that Norwegians were the ones that were supplying Europe with their dried cod stocks, but no one knew where it came from.

—from New Scandinavian Cooking show on PBS. 1-27-2012.

### ECONOMIC STABILITY

Finland maintained its AAA rating, on Jan. 13, as nine other European countries were downgraded from AAA to AA+ by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services.

—from NPR News, 1-13-2012