



From The President:

Hi everyone,

Welcome to February! Now, beyond Valentine's Day, most folks would say, "What is so good about February? Here, in Minnesota, cabin fever is setting in big time! The snow that we so badly wanted for the holidays is now dirty, your holiday lights are now frozen to your bushes and gutters, you barely see the light of day due to the gloomy weather and early sunsets and, of course, there are the cold temperatures! We need to change our attitude about February! February is really exciting if you think about all the fun things to do outside or enjoy from your easy chair! The holidays are over, which gives us time for other distractions! Here are some February happenings to watch for. This year's number one event for Minnesotans could have been the Super Bowl. (I can't believe that the Vikes haven't been to the Super Bowl since I graduated from High School! I am not going to tell you the exact year but I can tell you that it is a long time ago!). Ground Hog's Day is just around the corner, Mardi Gras celebrations are in full force and the Daytona 500 will be run in Florida. Did you know that the Westminster Dog show, held during the second weekend in February, is the second longest continuously running sporting event in the United States? The oldest is the Kentucky Derby! (I love watching all the pooches getting first class treatment in all the swanky New York hotels!) Locally, the St. Paul Winter Carnival runs through the first week in February when the Vulcans finally become victorious and run King Boreus and the winter wind and snow out of town! We also celebrate President's Day, which gives some of us a great three-day weekend to have winter fun. For me, though, the biggest event of February 2010 will be the Winter Olympics from Vancouver! (Many of you know that I am a certified Winter Olympics junkie!) What a great reason to pull up the easy chair and watch 17 days of sporting events that even in your youthful prime you would have never attempted. The whole world is coming together to enjoy the ice and snow! If the Jamaican Bobsled team can get excited about February, so should we.

Hail to February!

~shirley

In This Issue:

Northern Lights' House Hop Report.....	p2
February's Meeting	p3
Treasurer's Report.....	p3
Ole & Sven.....	p4
Chicken & Brocoli	p5
Note From Editor	p6

Note From Editor	p6
Birthdays	p6
Notes From Web Sites.....	p7

Dates to Remember:

February 7th: next regular club meeting

A Hopping We Did Go!

On January 9th, members of the Northern Lights Collectors Club and some family and friends got together for our annual Holiday House Hop. The day turned out to be cold but crystal clear, which made the journey easier than most years. To shake things up, our organizers, Deb and Kathy, started the Hop at Kathy's house in Scandia. Breakfast was great and, as usual, Kathy's village display was awesome. I think her three season porch keeps growing year by year. It was really nice to go to Kathy's house first to see what it looks like way out there in the daylight. The snowy lake setting was really beautiful.

Our second stop of the day was at Deb's. Her Alpine Village is always spectacular and it is really great to see that it is surviving her two grandchildren! Each of our hosts had a game for us to play involving their village. Deb's game was in German. I wasted plenty of time thinking that I was looking for a church when I was supposed to be counting dogs. I believe the answer turned out to be 13 or 14 dogs in the village, although I had a hard time telling whether some of them were wolves.

Our stop at Lori and Fred's did not disappoint. Fred and Lori had several collectable displays up for the holidays, including a beautiful Christmas tree. I think the game at this stop was the hardest. We had to count the candles in the house, which included all those in the collectible displays, count the wreaths including those in the outdoor displays and take a guess at how much the electric bill increased due to all the outside displays! We really loved the little egg rolls and Greek spinach pies!

We made a surprise stop when Kris Lanie invited the group to her house as we were on the way to Dee's. That meant two beautiful stops in Loretto. Kris had two beautiful North Pole displays upstairs and more in the lower level. She even provided some great snacks as well.

Dee's North Pole Village seems to grow each year, along with her group of animals. This year Lynn told us about the challenges of rebuilding the main part of the North Pole Village. He had to make it strong enough to hold someone up to get to the back part of the displays. Their kitties had also been enjoying the display during the holidays. Dee's game had us looking for a miniature cat (that matches their two real cats) with its tail held high. This was a challenge, as there were more than a couple of cats in her display--not even counting the live ones!

Our final stop of the day was at Tom's where we enjoyed all of his wonderful displays as well as our potluck dinner. After dinner we split into groups to play cards. I have to thank Kathy for teaching me the game and watching over me or I would have made a complete fool of myself. It was interesting to see which of our club members have that really competitive spirit. As for me, pass the eggnog around again please!

What a journey it was; I don't know the official mileage amount but I am sure someone at our next meeting will have an estimate. This House Hop was one of our best and included all the essential ingredients: great display, delicious food, challenging games and, most important, family and friends!

A big Thank You to Kathy and Deb for their terrific organization!

Our February 4th Meeting!

It's time to get back to our regular meetings by Robin Lee's. Stop in and see what is new at the store!

We will begin the meeting by catching up on D-56 happenings since our last regular meeting and take some time to discuss our plans for the next couple of months. The officers have met and have come up with some ideas but we need everyone's help! What would you like to do, where would you like to go and when? These will be the topics for the beginning of our meeting.

During our February meeting we will also be celebrating President's Day! We will have a Presidential Trivia Contest and a display building activity! We will be building a display using pieces of Tom's American Pride Collection. **Bring along any items you have that will help create a patriotic scene, such as Village Memorial pieces, flags on poles, marching bands, park benches, ground covers, etc.** We will see what our imaginations can put together with the items at hand!

Northern Lights Treasury Report – February 2010 By Tom Iacoviello

Balance	12/1/2009			\$1,936.90
Revenue:				
	<u>Received From</u>		<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Total Revenue				\$0.00
Expenses:				
	<u>Paid To</u>	<u>Ck No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	Robin Lee's Hallmark	3147	December Gift	\$ 25.00
	Dee Yetter	3140	Certificate Reversal of Lost Check # 3140	\$ (31.35)
	Dee Yetter	3148	Replacement of Lost Check # 3140	\$ 31.35
	Tom Iacoviello	3149	Christmas Party Stipends - 9 members @ \$10	\$ 90.00
Total Expenses				\$115.00
Balance	12/31/2009			\$1,821.90

Ole and Sven died in a snowmobiling accident, drunker than skunks, and went to Hell. The Devil observes that they are really enjoying themselves. He says to them, 'Doesn't the heat and smoke bother you?'

Ole replies, 'Vell, ya know, ve're from norderm Minnesoota, da land of snow an ice, an ve're yust happy fer a chance ta varm up a little bit, ya know.'

The devil decides that these two aren't miserable enough and turns up the heat even more. When he returns to the room of the two guys from Minnesota, the devil finds them in light jackets and hats, grilling Walleye and drinking beer.

The devil is astonished and exclaims, 'Everyone down here is in abject misery, and you two seem to be enjoying yourselves?'

Sven replies, 'Vell, ya know, ve don't git too much varm veather up dere at da Falls, so ve've yust got ta haff a fish fry vhen da veather's dis nice.'

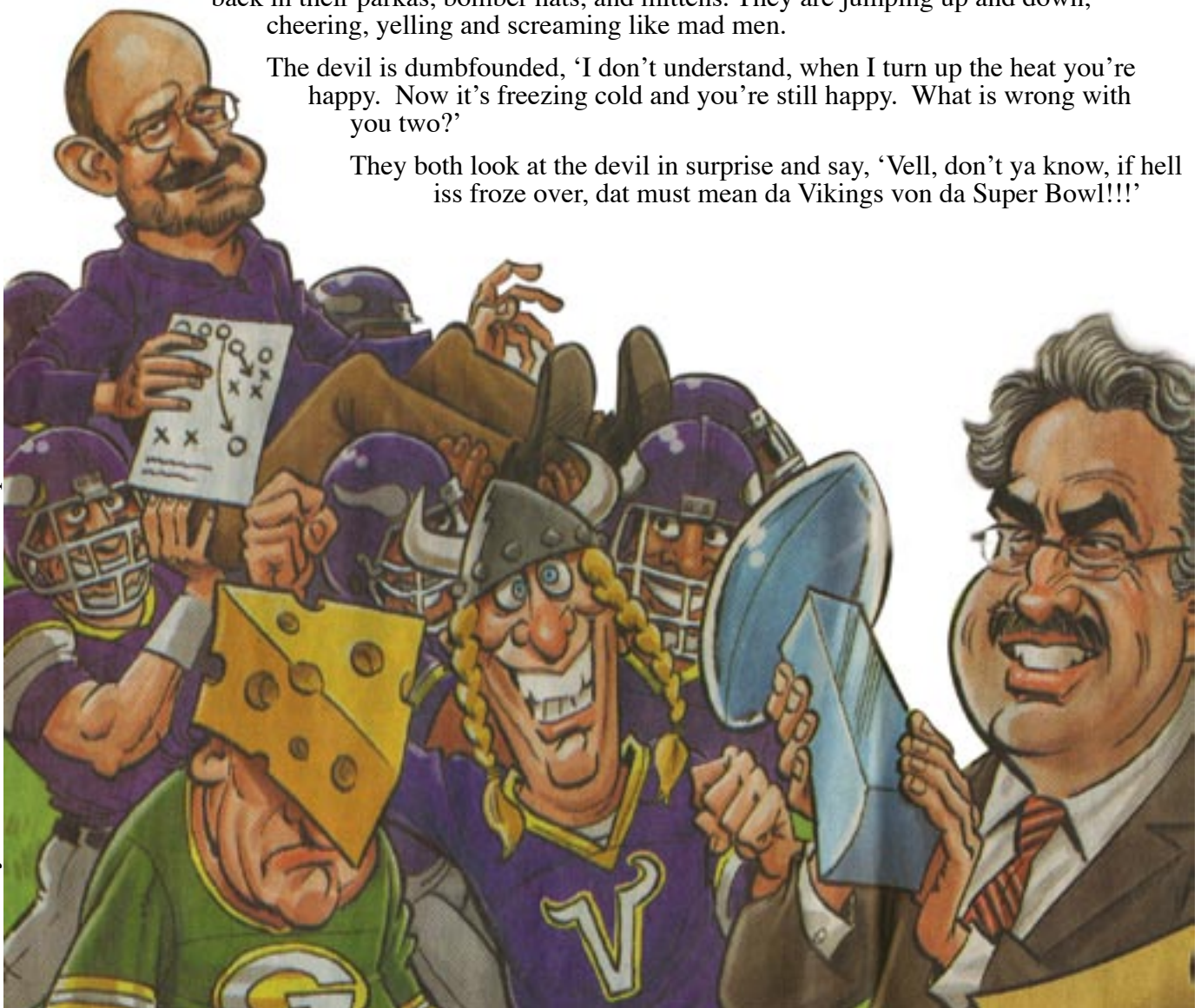
The devil is absolutely furious. He can hardly see straight. Finally he comes up with the answer. The two guys love the heat because they have been cold all their lives. The devil decides to turn all the heat off in Hell. The next morning, the temperature is 60 below zero, icicles are hanging everywhere, and people are shivering so bad that they are unable to wail, moan or gnash their teeth.

The devil smiles and heads for the room with Ole and Sven. He gets there and finds them back in their parkas, bomber hats, and mittens. They are jumping up and down, cheering, yelling and screaming like mad men.

The devil is dumbfounded, 'I don't understand, when I turn up the heat you're happy. Now it's freezing cold and you're still happy. What is wrong with you two?'

They both look at the devil in surprise and say, 'Vell, don't ya know, if hell iss froze over, dat must mean da Vikings von da Super Bowl!!!'

Illustration by Tom Richmond • Star Tribune • September 11, 2009



Tom's Chicken with Broccoli

Ingredients

4 – 5 lbs boneless/skinless chicken breasts
1 can (10 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz) condensed cream of mushroom soup
1 can (10 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz) condensed cream of chicken soup
16 oz sour cream
16 oz frozen chopped broccoli
Stove Top Stuffing or other herbed stuffing mix

Note: I've used other cream soups such as cream of celery or cream of broccoli in place of the cream of chicken soup with excellent results

Preparation

Remove all visible fat from chicken breasts. Boil until cooked reserving resulting chicken broth. Let cool. Cut into $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ inch cubes. Place into appropriate baking pan (I use 13" x 9" x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "). Pan should be approximately three fourths full.

Cook broccoli according to package directions.

Combine soups and sour cream in medium bowl until well incorporated. Gently fold in broccoli. Add mixture to chicken.

Fill baking pan with a layer of stuffing mix. Pour reserved chicken broth over stuffing until softened.

Cover pan with aluminum foil.

Baking

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees. Bake for 45 minutes to 1 hour until bubbly. Gently mix stuffing layer with chicken layer prior to serving.

Just a Note From the Editor:

While on the house hop, I found myself wanting to get into displaying my D56 pieces. As some of you may know, I was never much of the display person in my household; that honor fell to B.J. She was oodles better than I at coming up with imaginative, charming displays. Somehow, I always felt I'd be in her way and contented myself with just offering ideas. (For those who remember the North Pole display in the once tiny dining room, the "Elf-O-Matic Turbo Lift", and Mount ElfMore were my ideas.)

So, after thinking it over briefly, I've volunteered to have Mel and I to host one of the stops on the next house hop. After all, the club really hasn't been in the house for years—B.J. has been gone for four years now—and the house was remodeled a couple of years before that and the club hasn't been here to see it. Why not have everyone over?

Where to begin with this? Well, I realized that some D56 vignettes and small groupings have been up since 2004. The joke around here was that dust was actually "patina" and should not be disturbed; especially, one should not write in it! I knew that the time had come to take everything down, dust it all, then inventory the whole works.

Looks like the club needs to work with Dave Erickson on updating our club's page on the web site. If you check out page 7 of this newsletter, you'll see our page features an old photo and links to images from the 2003 and 2004 house hops. Hmmm... some of those same displays have been sitting around this house like that since 2004, too. Oooops. Looks like some freshening up is due, not only for the club's page, but for village set up here, too!

Okay, everyone, stay tuned for further developments!

Diane

And I just know I'm going to hear about the Sven and Ole joke and the Illustration, too. No, I'm not mean. Honestly, I understand Viking fan frustration. Mel and I have Gopher football season tickets, and I've been following them since I was just a tyke. Now, THAT'S a team with a real drought going. The last time they had even a share of the Big Ten title, Tony Dungy was the quarterback and the year was 1967!!!!

Happy Birthday in February to:

Darlene Seppman, February 3rd

From the Web Sites:

Northern Lights Collectors Club



Minnesota Clubs open house at Department 56, August 2004

Meetings
First Thursday
Robin Lee's
Hallmark
Village North
Shopping
Center
Bass Lake Rd and
West Broadway,
Crystal, MN
(763) 533-4507



Club Pin

Club Address
PO Box 23092
Minneapolis, MN
55423

Documents
Membership
Application

Bylaws

Reimbursement

Fundraiser Order

2004 Displays

**Tom's 2004
Village Album**

**Dee's 2004
Village Album**

**Debbie's 2004
Village Album**

**Pat & Milt's 2004
Village Album**

We welcome new members!

The Northern Lights Collectors' Club meets monthly to promote an interest in, to learn, and to share information about collectibles primarily made by Department 56. The monthly meetings consist of a brief business meeting during which the officers and activity chairpersons provide reports of past and upcoming events and activities. At each meeting there are drawings for several door prizes. The remainder of the meeting includes guest speakers, make-and-takes, display contests, etc. The Club hosts several tours and trips throughout the year. A Club favorite is the annual House Hop where we tour member houses to view their Village displays.

Please feel free to come to a meeting as our guest.

Robin Lee's Hallmark
Crystal Shopping Center
345 Willow Bend
(1/2 block west of Bass Lake Rd and West Broadway)
Crystal, MN
763-533-4507

Officers
President/
Program
Tom
Iacoviello

Secretary/
Newsletter
Shirley
Willis

Treasure/
Membership
Laura
Weikum

NCC Rep
Allen
Jorgenson

For Sale



Club Pin

Northern Lights Collectors' Club
% Robin Lee's Hallmark
345 Willow Bend
Crystal, MN 55428 - 3969



D56 Collector Web Sites

Minnesota Clubs

<http://www.minnesota56clubs.com>

Get up-to-date information about the activities of various Minnesota D56 Clubs

Department 56

<http://www.department56.com>

Official Department 56 site with the latest D56 product information.

Department 56 Webring

<http://i.webring.com/hub?ring=dept56>

Links to web sites of collectors, retailers, and anything else related to Department 56 collecting.

National Council of 56 Clubs

<http://www.ncc56.com/>

News and information from the NCC.