



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston
Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

KRÄFTSKIVA

Swedish Crayfish Party

Saturday, March 31
6:00 p.m.



The popular Monument Inn, near the San Jacinto Monument, at 4406 Battleground Road (TX 134), La Porte, will again be the site of our annual *kräftskiva*, to be held this year on Saturday, March 31, at 6:00 p.m. As before, the menu will include crayfish with the traditional Swedish seasoning of sea salt and dill, plus fried fish and fried chicken with potatoes, corn, soft drinks, beer and aquavit.

Tickets purchased in advance are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. **At the door, tickets will be \$25 for adults and \$15 for children.** Advance reservations must be received by **Wednesday, March 28**, so mail your check (made payable to "Swedish Club of Houston") today, along with the form on page 11, to John Stavinoha, 807 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire, TX 77401.

We had a great turnout last year and look for even more this year. Invite your friends and join us at 6:00 p.m. for a wonderful evening of food and fellowship! Or come on out to the park earlier to visit the San Jacinto Monument and/or the Battleship Texas.

To get to Monument Inn, take West Beltway 8 to TX 225, then east on TX 225 toward Deer Park and La Porte. Turn north on TX 134 and go past the San Jacinto Monument. The Inn will be on your right just before you get to the Lynchburg Ferry. (An alternate route is to go east of Houston on IH 10 to Exit 787 and take TX 134 south across the Lynchburg Ferry, if the ferry is running that day.)

Don't forget! Make reservations *online* at www.swedishclub.org, or *by mail* using the form on page 11 (must be received by Wednesday, March 28th for advance price). **Please note:** Reservations are not confirmed until the check is received.

VALBORGSMÄSSOAFTON IN TEXAS!

Swedish Bonfire

and

Texas Barbecue

Saturday, May 5
3:00 p.m.



Make your plans now to welcome back spring at the Valborgsmässafton bonfire and barbecue on Saturday, May 5. Once again, Dr. Margit Winstrom has graciously opened up her ranch just west of Brenham for us, and we greatly appreciate her generous hospitality.

NOTE: Bring hot dogs, hamburgers or something else to grill for yourself, and one side dish for everyone to share.

We will start around 3 p.m. with Frisbee, volleyball, badminton, croquet and other customary Swedish games. Also on the agenda is a hayride across the large ranch and at sunset the long-awaited bonfire with traditional singing.

Follow these directions to the ranch:

- ▶ US 290 W toward Austin
- ▶ Turn left onto O'Malley Road (Comes up fast and is easy to miss. When 290W and 36N make the split with a sharp 270 degree right turn, drive 2.0 miles further on 290W, then make the left onto O'Malley Road. Watch for the balloons on the sign!)
- ▶ Turn left onto CR 29/Lange Lake Road
- ▶ Turn right onto CR 25/Old Mill Creek Road
- ▶ Turn left onto CR 2/Beckerman Road
- ▶ Turn right onto Peters Lane and stop at 3383
- ▶ Drive through the gate and up to parking by the ranch.

This event is **FREE**, but **please let us know by Thursday, May 3, that you are coming**, either on the SCH website, www.swedishclub.org, or by calling Pelle Fisk, 281-348-2584.



President's Column
by Margaret St.Clair

This time a year ago, I was just beginning my first term as president of The Swedish Club. What a year it was—a very interesting and satisfying one, as I learned what it takes to guide the club in fulfilling its goal of “Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast.” However, what I enjoyed the most were the friendships that I made. I had the opportunity to work with some great people and I look forward to more of the same by serving as your president again in 2007.

We began the New Year, as is our tradition, with the Annual Meeting combined with a Pea Soup and Pancake Supper. About 60 of us gathered at the cozy Buffalo Grille near Rice Village on Sunday evening, January 28. John Stavinotha coordinated the food preparation with the folks at the Grille. John displayed his culinary talents by preparing the delicious pea soup on-site. Sides of mustard, thyme, cheese and knäckebröd, plus Swedish pancakes, berry sauces, punsch and other drinks, completed the meal. Everyone appreciated a slide show of Swedish Club 2006 events prepared by Ken Nilsson and Dave St.Clair.

After the meal, I opened the meeting. Ken Nilsson gave the treasurer’s report which showed a balance, as of December 31, 2006, of \$12,098.30 in cash. Revenues from all sources totaled \$15,463.50. Expenses from all sources totaled \$15,349.77, resulting in a net gain of \$113.73 for the year ending December 31, 2006. John Stavinotha reported on the Language School, stating that it had been another successful year with about 35 students enrolled in classes at IKEA. John also reported on membership, which currently stands at about 120 members.

In my “State of the Club” report, I described the events and successes of 2006. (For a written recap, see my column in the January/February 2007 newsletter.) The meeting continued with the

election of the Board of Directors and Officers for 2007. They are as follows:

President:	Margaret St.Clair
Vice President:	Nancy Webb
Treasurer:	Ken Nilsson
Secretary:	Diana Rodionov
Director:	Dina Jo Colburn
Membership and Language School:	John Stavinotha
Director:	Ingrid Philipson
Director:	Mark Swanson
Newsletter Editor:	Laura Millikan
Director:	David Bash
Webmaster:	Erich Wolz
Director:	Karen Wolz

We said farewell to two board members, Pelle Fisk and Eric Condon. Pelle served on the board for six years; two of those he was president. Eric was a board member for two years. We thanked them both for their outstanding contributions and dedication to the club. We will miss them but hope to see them at all of our functions!

We added two new directors, David Bash and Karen Wolz, and thanked them for agreeing to serve. We look forward to their input and fresh ideas.

So went the Annual Meeting, our first event for 2007. Now I look forward to our spring events, Kräftskivan (theCrayfish Party) on March 31st and Valborgsmässoafton (Swedish Bonfire) on May 5th. Both of these events are not to be missed! Please see further details in this newsletter. If you want to volunteer to help with either event, please call me at 281-493-4978.

See you at Kräftskivan on March 31st, and bring your friends!

Margaret

Introducing New SCH Board Members (in their own words) . . .

David Bash, Director

It seems silly to think that the decision of a stranger, who lived in a small town halfway around the world, could have such a large impact on my life. But that is exactly what happened when my now close friend, Johan Lund, decided to be an exchange student in America. As fate would have it, he landed at my high school in Midland, Texas. Before meeting him I honestly did not know much about Europe and especially



Sweden. I have no Swedish ancestors that I am aware of, and at the time had no real connection to the country. But that soon changed, when I became instant friends with "The Swede." Over the course of the year I must have asked him a million questions about the country and the people and was intrigued from the very start. I often dreamed of what it would be like to visit, and little did I know that five years later I would be living there for a full year.

After high school I attended college at the University of Texas in Austin and studied in the business school with a major in Management Information Systems. Several years into school I made the decision to study abroad. The influence of my friend Johan became quite apparent when I came upon the decision to go to Sweden instantly and without any hesitation. It was quite a surprise to my friends, but for me, I had known for years that I wanted to go, and this was my golden opportunity. And as it turned out UT not only has a great exchange program with Uppsala University, but they also offered a Swedish language course. Studying and learning the language became a very large part of my experience.

A year later I found myself in Uppsala, Sweden, taking part in a one year exchange program that would end up changing my life. The whole experience was magical and is a year that I will never forget. I made lifetime friends, had countless new experiences, and learned more than I could have ever imagined. To top it all off, my friend Johan was also starting his first year of university at the same school. The circle was now complete.

I moved to Houston in 2002 and began working as a software developer/database administrator for a company named CourthouseDirect.com, which sells public property information over the internet. It turned out to be a great opportunity for me, and I am still with the company today. After several years of living here, I finally discovered the Swedish Club and have found it to be a great avenue to meet others who share a similar enthusiasm for the country and its culture. Last year I became involved in the language courses as I assisted Eva Sellman in teaching the beginners class, and this year I am teaching the class by myself. I am

excited about the opportunity to serve on the board, and look forward to participating in future events.

Karen Wolz, Director

I am a native Houstonian, married to Erich Wolz, our SCH webmaster, and am the mother of two sons, Erich and Christian. We have been members of the Swedish Club for a number of years now and have enjoyed the various activities they have to offer throughout the year. It was through the Swedish Club that my kids had their first taste of crayfish and absolutely loved it. I'll always remember how my



very chatty younger son, once he learned the ropes on how to eat crayfish, did not utter a word for at least the next hour, but instead kept refilling his plate with crayfish. Must be that Swedish blood!

My Swedish connection comes through my mother's father, Nils Persson, who was born on the island of Gotland. His parents actually lived in New Jersey, but were not planning to stay and wanted all their children to be Swedish citizens. My great-grandmother would take the long trip by sea to Sweden to give birth to her children on Swedish soil. At the time of my grandfather's birth, they were staying with his grandmother who happened to be the music teacher for the children of the royal family who had a summer home on the island. As a young child, my grandfather was a member of the first Vasa organization in the United States and had the opportunity as a member of the Vasa Barnen to tour Sweden for two months performing folkdances and singing folk songs.

The love of music and folkdance is something I too grew up with as my parents were very involved with teaching and performing folkdances with the Gulf Coast Scandinavian Folk Dance group. My love of the many traditions, music, and dances of Sweden continues today and I hope that I have passed on some of this to my own children. My husband and I have had the chance to attend a Scandinavian Folk Dance camp for a few summers and I am amazed at the variety of music and dance styles which Scandinavia has to offer. My two sons even had the chance to attend a Swedish fiddle workshop, and my youngest son had a week's worth of lessons on the Swedish nyckelharpa, which he absolutely loved. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to find a nyckelharpa instructor in Houston to continue his lessons!

I am happy to be a new member of the Swedish board and look forward to helping plan the coming year's events.


Tack så mycket!


The Club gratefully acknowledges the following donations:

Dr. James H. Steele gave a contribution in memory of his dear friend, Ulla Tullberg (1916-2006), who died on December 24, 2006. Dr. Steele wrote, "She was the widow of Kjell Tullberg, a public health colleague who first visited me to learn about advances in veterinary public health after World War II in 1946. Thereafter we visited in Sweden and America for 20 years or more. I last saw Ulla in 2001 in Zug, Switzerland, where she retired in 1970."

Christina Rathburn donated a copy of the book, *Arveti*, written by her brother, Joachim Lindberg. The book is Mr. Lindberg's debut novel and is in Swedish. Set in Skåne, it is a story of love, romance and murder. The book may be borrowed by contacting Margaret St.Clair by phone at 281-493-4978 or by email at margestclair@hotmail.com.

BITS & PIECES

 Frida Tyngdahl is giving **Swedish language lessons for children** on Tuesday evenings, 6:15-7:00 p.m., in the cafeteria at IKEA. Contact Ingrid Philipson by e-mail (yourdreamhomewithingrid@yahoo.com) or phone (832-423-8884) for more information.

 Ken Nilsson has graciously offered to put together a **scrapbook** of previous SCH events. If you have photos you would like to share, please contact Ken at 713-460-1726 or kennilsson88@msn.com.



Mark Your Calendar

Take note of the following dates and events for The Swedish Club, and make your plans now

to attend:

Saturday, March 31, 6:00 p.m. - Kräftskiva (Swedish Crayfish Party) at Monument Inn, La Porte

Saturday, May 5, 3:00 p.m. - Valborgsmässoafton bonfire and barbecue at Dr. Margit Winstrom's ranch, Brenham

Saturday, October 20 - Smörgåsbord at BraeBurn Country Club, Houston

Saturday, December 8 - Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration



Club members hosted a well-attended reception at Christ the King Lutheran Church, following the Organ Vesper played by Magnus Kjellson of Göteborg in January. Thank you, Nancy Webb, for setting such a beautiful table!

An Invitation to Dance . . .

*from Kathy Bjork, President,
Scandinavian Folk Dancers of Houston*

Do you ever watch "Dancing With the Stars" and think "That sure looks like fun!"? Well, why not try "Dancing With the Scandinavians?" We really do have a lot of fun, and we connect more deeply with our Scandinavian roots. You don't have to have a partner, and you don't have to be an accomplished dancer.

Our dances use basic polka, waltz, and schottis. We learn dances from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland. We perform at various venues, including the San Antonio Folklife Festival, State Fair (Dallas), Danevang celebrations, and the Lucia celebration in Houston. We have two upcoming performances: The Tomball German Heritage Festival, and the Queen's Birthday in Danevang. We practice most Mondays at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Rice Village. Please call ahead (Kathy Bjork, at 281-480-4163) to make sure we will be there. We are an independent club; you do not need to be a member of any other organization to join us.

. . . and a Belated Thank-you

from the Editor

Bill Wooten, the newest musician for the Scandinavian Folk Dancers of Houston, was inadvertently left off the list of musicians who played at the Christmas Traditions and Lucia Celebration in December. Our apologies, Bill, for the oversight! We really appreciate and enjoyed your participation!

GLAD PÅSK (Happy Easter)

Easter Twigs (*påskris*)

In Sweden, Lent is the season for gathering bare branches of birch and decorating them with dyed feathers. These adorned birch twigs are put into vases of water in order to force the growth of small leaves and buds. This is an annual ritual for hastening the onset of spring.

However, bare birch branches (minus the modern feathers), relate back to an older custom when, on Good Friday morning, the head of the household would give a few playful thrashes with birch twigs to the children and servants. This served to remind them, in a tangible way, of the sufferings of Christ on the road to Golgotha.

Easter Witches (*påskkäringar*)

An ancient Swedish legend was that witches were astir around Maundy Thursday (the Thursday before Easter). One had to keep doors and windows closed because the witches were looking for glowing embers for their fires and butter and coffee to take for their feasts with the devil on *Blåkulla* (Blue Mountain). Good law-abiding citizens would protect themselves from all this evil power by

lighting bonfires, firing guns and painting crosses on their doors.

Today in Sweden, the Easter witch has endured and is found on greeting cards, table decorations and in live performances by children. On Maundy Thursday, the children dress up as Easter witches with faces painted red, long skirts, kerchiefs and broomsticks, go from door to door with a coffee pot and shout, "*Glad påsk.*" In return, they receive small change and sweets.



Photo: www.imagebank.sweden.se © Jan Tham /Swedish Institute

(From: *Of Swedish Ways* by Lilly Lorenzen, Barnes and Noble Books, 1978; *Swedish Cultural Coloring Book* by Nancy Hedlund, 1976; and *Maypoles, Crayfish and Lucia: Swedish Holidays and Traditions* by Jan-Öjvind Swahn, The Swedish Institute, 1997).

Shrove Tuesday (or Lenten) Buns (*semlor*)

In Sweden it is customary to eat *semlor* (also called *fettisdagsbullar* or *fastlagsbullar*) as a dessert on Mondays or Tuesdays during Lent. The marzipan-filled bun is served in a bowl with hot full-cream milk and sprinkled with cinnamon. However, the buns may also be eaten as they are, without milk, during coffee breaks at offices and other workplaces.

1 package active dry yeast
¼ cup warm water (105 to 115 °F)
1 egg
⅔ cup milk, scalded and cooled
½ cup (1 stick) butter, softened
¼ cup sugar
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon freshly ground cardamom
2 ¾ to 3 cups flour
1 beaten egg, for glaze
8 ounces almond paste, cut into 16 pieces
½ cup heavy (whipping) cream, whipped
2 tablespoons powdered sugar
Additional powdered sugar, for dusting the buns
Hot milk, sugar, and cinnamon



In a large bowl, dissolve the yeast in water. Let stand for 5 minutes. Beat in the egg, milk, butter, sugar, salt, and cardamom. Stir in 2 cups flour. Beat until smooth. Add enough of the remaining flour to make a stiff dough.

Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured board, cover, and let rest for 15 minutes. Clean the bowl, then brush it lightly with vegetable oil. Knead the dough for 10 minutes, or until smooth and satiny. Place in the oiled bowl and turn over to coat. Cover with a cloth and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1 hour. Lightly grease or cover a large baking sheet with parchment paper. Preheat oven to 400 °F.

Turn dough out onto a lightly oiled board. Divide the dough into four portions. Divide each portion into another four parts. Shape each piece of dough into a round bun, about 1 inch high, and place on the baking sheet. Let rise until doubled, about 45 minutes. Brush with the beaten egg. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes, or until golden. Cool on rack.

About a third of the way down from the top of the bun, make a horizontal slit, leaving a "hinge" that keeps the top and bottom of the bun together. Open the bun and place a piece of almond paste and a spoonful of whipped cream inside. Dust with powdered sugar.

To serve, place a bun in a deep dessert bowl that is about one-fourth filled with hot milk. Sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon. Eat with a fork and spoon. Unfilled buns can be frozen. Thaw and fill just before serving.

Yield: 16 buns

From: *Scandinavian Feasts*, by Beatrice Ojakangas, 1992.

"House of Sweden" Opens in D.C.

Submitted by Sammie Munson

The "House of Sweden" opened in Washington, D.C., in 2006 and is probably the most famous and well-located embassy in our nation's capital. It is located on the Potomac River near the Kennedy Center and the famous Watergate Hotel.

The House of Sweden has been called by Swedish Ambassador Gunnar Lund as "more than an embassy, a place where Sweden and Europe meet in the Americas to exchange ideas and promote dialogue."

The building—constructed of blonde wood, glass and stone—is five stories tall and was designed by architects Gert Wingardh and Tomas Hansen, chosen by the Swedish National Property Board.

The embassy staff moved into the building in August and began a series of exhibitions, seminars and receptions to bring together Swedish and American personalities, along with Swedish art, merchandise and culture. The building also houses 19 corporate apartments with balconies overlooking the river.

An event center looks out over Rock Creek Park, available for seminars and exhibitions. If desired, participants can move outdoors to the rooftop terrace.

Nordic Fiddles and Feet 2007

Submitted by Erich Wolz



Nordic Fiddles and Feet, a week of Swedish and Norwegian music and dance, proudly announces its 2007 program, which will be held June 30 - July 7, 2007, at Buffalo Gap Camp, Capon Bridge, West Virginia.

Come for a full week of magical music and dance with some of the best Scandinavian folk musicians and dancers in the world! Immersion works best to improve your skills (and enjoyment), but if you can't make a full week, there is also a mini-camp June 30 - July 3. If you've been before, you know about camp (music and dance at all hours: the spectacular dance pavilion! the sauna!). If you're new, you get 10 percent off as a first-timer.

Dance classes include Swedish, Norwegian, and Basics and are designed for all levels of dancers. Dance basics is intended to give beginners an introduction to Scandinavian dancing while working on skills that help all levels of dancing. We change

partners often (you need not register with one). Evening parties are varied with gammaldans, mixers, bygdedans, dances taught during daily classes, and your special requests. We dance to live music at every session and party!

Music classes include multiple levels of Swedish fiddle, as well as hardingfele, and nyckelharpa. Classes are generally taught "by ear" although a syllabus will be available. To take a fiddle class you should be a competent fiddler in some tradition, but may be new to Scandinavian music. For basic hardingfele or nyckelharpa you need to have some musical background. The gammaldans band and allspel sessions are open to ALL instruments and singers. The music staff includes Toby Weinberg, who was the hardingfele player in Revels Houston's December 2006 production!

Crafts and cultural sessions will be presented by various members of the staff throughout the week.

The complete brochure with registration form is now available at www.NordicFiddlesandFeet.org.

For more information, call (865) 522-0515 or contact fiddlesandfeet@bellsouth.net.

FOR SALE—

Mary Beth Nolan wishes to sell a handmade girl's (size 10-12) Swedish national costume, (pictured at right) complete with shoes. Although she has not made the purse, she has all the fabric and appliques necessary to make it. For more information, you may contact Ms. Nolan at tambnolan@houston.rr.com.



Reminder: Membership Dues for 2007 are due

If you haven't already sent in your 2007 membership dues (\$25 for individuals, \$35 for families), please send your check to:

The Swedish Club
c/o John Stavinoha
807 Mulberry Lane
Bellaire, TX 77401

This original poem by Gusten Calissendorff, one of the founders of The Swedish Club of Houston, was featured at Valborgsmässoafton for many years.

Valborgsmässa i Lyckebo

I kväll skall vi försöka att fira en sed
Som ej vanligtvis firas här i västerled.
Den glöms kanske snart även i vårt gamla land
men till urminnes tider är den bunden med fasta band.

Vi försöker att bibehålla seder och gamla traditioner,
ära vårt gamla land, sjunga våra hemlands toner.
Så här går det till när i Sverige det våras,
elder brinner, och unga hjärtan kanske dåras.

Försök kära Ni, dröm Er tillbaka
till barndomens dagar, fick Ni något försaka?
Blev allt säkert glömt Valborgsmässokvällen,
när vårdkasarna tändes på Urbergshällen.

Allt får nytt liv när vårens vindar rista,
i träden som knoppas och i knoppar som brista.
Och själv får man en känsla av att blodet sjuder
när upp till en gammal dans man bjuder.

Så låt oss nu alla glädjas och sjunga
både vi som är gamla och Ni som är unga.
Vintern är över och våren är här,
Vi hälsar Dig välkommen, Du är oss så kär.

Gusten Calissendorff — April 29, 1982

* * * * *

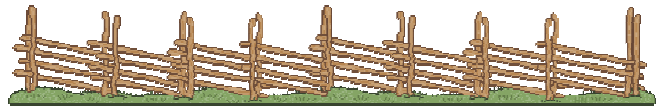
Tonight we celebrate with all our best
A custom uncommon to this part of the West.
In the old country, there's much to remind us
of such traditions and the ties that bind us.

But here the old customs we preserve with song,
and honor the country for which we oft' long.
For in springtime in Sweden, the fires are burning,
as young hearts inflame with the pangs of love's yearning.

Old friends, let your minds wander back tonight
to those Valborgsmässoaftons and the bonfires' light,
to spring winds blowing life into the trees and flowers,
and the life force you feel when you dance for hours.

So, let us be glad and dance and sing
for tonight we're *all* young, and it is spring!
Yes, the cold winter's gone and the spring is here—
We welcome its warmth which to *us* is quite dear.

English translation by Gunhild Jansson
and Catherine Jansson



The Clearing Ranch Project

www.theclearingranch.org
a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization

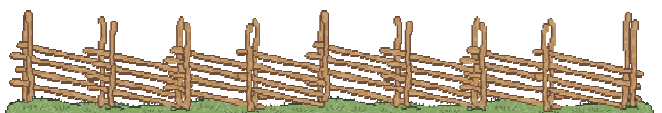
Again this year, we are very fortunate to have been invited to celebrate Valborgsmässoafton at Dr. Margit Winstrom's ranch (The Clearing) near Brenham. But much more is taking place at the ranch.

Dr. Winstrom writes that The Clearing Ranch Project “is the exciting transformation of our beautiful Texas ranch from a private family sanctuary (where God most assuredly dwells, as evidenced by saved marriages and saved lives) into a Clearing (a place for all possibilities) for His people. We started out with a mission to find the highest and best use for His land.” The current vision is for the faith-based, non-profit retreat and environmental resource center to focus on the preservation, strengthening and nurturing of marriages, while providing each guest with the experience of an educational and inspirational eco-adventure in a spiritually enriching environment.

The ranch will showcase renewable energy resources (solar, wind, geothermal and biomass), as well as sustainable building technologies (straw bale, cob, earth bags, rammed earth and living roofs). The whole site and its staff will model environmental stewardship through zero net energy, zero waste, total rainwater, large organic gardens and orchards for on-site meal service and a farmers' market for the community. It will also promote and teach eco-justice principles as they effect broader social justice issues, such as fair trade practices and support of local farmers.

This project is designed to meet a variety of needs, including providing “sanctuary” type green space, allowing city youth to have meaningful experiences with nature, serving as an evangelism tool for churches, and providing “hands on” education for people seeking to turn environmental protection concepts into life-style changes. It will also provide functioning examples for professionals and business people in building- and environmentally-related industries.

It is intended that The Clearing Ranch will be used 24/7 all year long, bringing people of diverse backgrounds and spiritual paths together to find common ground at least on the issue of the environment. For more information, or to learn how you can help, visit the web site, www.theclearingranch.org.



New Passport Application Procedures Introduced

Nya rutiner införs 2007 för säkrare pass

Under 2007 införs nya passrutiner på svenska ambassader och generalkonsulat för att göra resehandlingar såsom pass och nationella id-kort säkrare. Generalkonsulatet i New York planerar att införa de nya rutinerna den 1 mars 2007.

Det har blivit allt viktigare att våra resehandlingar är säkra. Som ett led i denna strävan kommer fotostationer att installeras successivt på alla ambassader och generalkonsulat under 2007, i enlighet med riksdagens beslut. Generalkonsulatet i New York planerar att börja med den nya hanteringen den 1 mars 2007.



De nya rutinerna innebär att den som söker ett nytt vanligt pass eller nationellt id-kort måste göra ett personligt besök på en utlandsmyndighet där fotostationer finns installerade. Utlandssvenskar kan även ansöka om pass i samband med ett besök i Sverige. Man vänder sig då till närmaste passmyndighet och kan normalt få

det färdiga passet eller id-kortet efter en vecka. Hanteringen av de provisoriska passen förändras inte och vid samtliga honorärkonsulat kan man fortfarande ansöka om ett provisoriskt pass.

Samtidigt som fotostationer installeras får generalkonsulatet i New York även den tekniska utrustningen för att ta fram underlag till pass och id-kort. Ansökan skickas elektroniskt till Sverige där resehandlingen tillverkas, vilket innebär en kortare väntetid för sökanden.

I takt med att utlandsmyndigheterna börjar använda fotostationer upphör honorärkonsulaten att vara passmyndigheter. De kan dock fortsätta att lämna ut pass och id-kort till dess Sverige inför fingeravtryck i resehandlingen. Detta planeras under 2008.

Generalkonsulatets hemsida innehåller ytterligare information om vad de nya rutinerna innebär:
www.swedennewyork.com/pass

En särskild telefonlinje kommer även att hållas öppen fr.o.m. den 15/2 t.o.m. den 15/3 2007 för att ta emot och besvara förfrågningar. Linjen är öppen måndag-torsdag mellan kl. 14.00 och 15.00. Numret är **212-583-2596**.

New Application Procedures for Increased Passport Security

Swedish embassies and consulates general will introduce new passport application procedures in 2007 in order to increase the security of travel documents such as passports and national identity cards. The Consulate General of Sweden in New York plans to introduce the new procedures on March 1, 2007.

It has become increasingly important that documents required to travel – passports and identity cards – are secure. For this reason, all Swedish embassies and consulates general will install photo stations during 2007, in accordance with a decision by the Swedish Riksdag. The Consulate General of Sweden in New York plans to introduce these new procedures on March 1, 2007.

According to the new procedures, an applicant for a regular passport or identity card must make a personal visit to a Swedish mission where photo stations have been installed. Swedes living abroad may also apply for a new passport while visiting Sweden. This can be done at any passport office with a normal wait time of one week. The procedures for emergency passports will remain unchanged and will still be handled by honorary consulates.

Along with photo stations, the Consulate General of Sweden in New York will also receive the technical equipment needed to produce the basis of passports and identity cards. The application information is sent electronically to Sweden, where the passport is manufactured, reducing the wait time for the applicant.

As Swedish missions abroad begin to use photo stations, honorary consulates will cease to act as passport offices. New passports and identity cards may still be picked up at honorary consulates until Sweden introduces fingerprints in travel documents, which is planned for 2008.

More information is available on the website of the Consulate General of Sweden in New York:
www.swedennewyork.com/passport

A special phone line will also be introduced to inform and take questions from the general public about the new passport application procedures. The phone line will be open from February 15 through March 15, Monday through Thursday, between 2 pm and 3 pm, at the following number: **212-583-2596**.

Annual Meeting/Pea Soup and Pancakes Dinner



Officers and Directors for 2007



A CHURCH-BOAT IN AMERICA

By Aleasa Hogate, the "Church-boat Lady"

There is finally a church-boat in America. It is likely the first one in the USA, even though it's not a full-size one. It is a beautifully crafted 41½" scale model of the Rättvikarn, the historical church-boat in Rättvik, Sweden, built in 1941.

Butch Bouiver, of Onowa, Iowa, built the model. Butch, known as "Mr. Keelboat," also built the models and full-size replicas of the Lewis and Clark keel boats at Lewis and Clark State Park. "Mr. Keelboat" met "Church-boat lady" through the

internet. He had never heard of a church-boat when we met, but my enthusiasm for the church-boats spilled over to this master boat builder. His very detailed model will serve to acquaint people with Sweden's church-boats and stimulate interest in additional research on Crane Hook, the 1699 church-boat on the Delaware River, and Swedish/Finnish heritage of the Delaware valley.

The model will be displayed in the new museum room that the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation's Senior Sawyers are renovating at the Shipyard in Wilmington, Delaware. The exhibit is being created by our New Sweden Centre, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization of volunteers dedicated to promoting New Sweden Heritage. As VP and Education Director, I am coordinating this "Experiencing Life in New Sweden" exhibit on a shoe string budget. Plans include a model of the 1638 Fort Christina, a "please touch" area, a collection of 15" historical figures depicting the lifestyle of these early settlers, and more. Our target date for the grand opening is the week-end of July 6-8.

My obsession with our Swedish Heritage and church-boats has taken me to maritime museums from Maine to Florida. Most Americans have never heard of a church-boat. Few are aware there was a church-boat that took the people from Penns Neck (in NJ) across the Delaware River and settlers from Crane Hook, New Castle area, to Holy Trinity Church on the Christina River (Delaware) in 1699 or ever heard of Crane Hook Church. I've researched in museums, surfed the web, and corresponded with maritime experts including Bruce Terrell of NOAA, in Washington, DC, Carl Cederlund in Sweden and other researchers for six years. I still have not found a description of this church-boat, referred to in Rev. Bjork's 1699 journal as a "canoe" or "ferry." Most maritime experts I consulted believe it

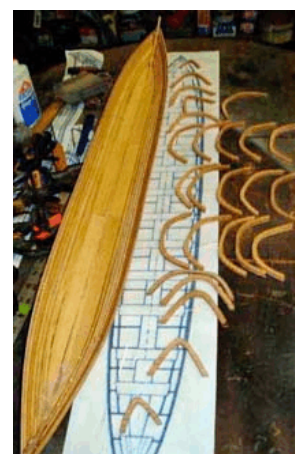


Butch Bouiver, with nearly finished model of the famous church-boat from Rättvik, built in 1941.

was most likely a plank boat similar to the church-boats used for generations in Sweden and Finland.

Visiting the area of Dalarna, renowned for preserving the Swedish church-boats, and museums in Sweden, Norway and Finland, I became even more enchanted with the traditional church-boats. With the help of friends in Sweden, Ami and Perake Berg, I learned about the 1941 book and film made by Albert Eskeröd on church-boats. With the assistance of Paer Stolpe and people at the Nordic Museum in Stockholm, I obtained a copy of an archival, silent, black and white documentary film of Anders Bondeson and others building a church-boat with hand tools. The skill of these master craftsmen with an axe is awesome. The film shows Anders chopping down a tree with the correct shape for the bow and stern, then building the boat and launching the boat as they had done for generations. This was the first of many church-boats built in Sweden after other forms of transportation made them obsolete in the late 1800's. We met Arne Hall, the son of Lars Hall shown in the film, who carries on his father's craft, building church-boats used for special events and church-boat races, a popular sport in Sweden. He gave me a copy of Eskeröd's book. We were also able to visit, photograph and video many church-boats in Sweden, including the 1941 historical boat shown in the film and book.

Many things have helped keep New Sweden history alive, including the ceremonies held annually at "the Rocks" where the Swedes landed, which is larger and more spectacular than Plymouth rock. The Carl Milles Monument is at this site on the Christina River in Wilmington, Delaware. In New Jersey, the New Sweden Heritage Monument, on the Delaware River, dedicated by Swedish Ambassador Jan Eliasson in 2004, pays homage to these Swedish and Finnish settlers and the Lenape, without whom they may not have survived. A 2005 event, "Pennsylvania before Penn," was the first event attended by the new Swedish Ambassador, Gunnar Lund, at Governor Printz Park in Tinicum, an event which reminded people the Swedes and Finns lived in the Delaware Valley before William Penn was even born. The beautiful Kalmar Nyckel ship spreads knowledge of our heritage everywhere she sails. The book



The Rättvikarn model is being made using the same methods shown in the drawings from *Kyrkbåtar och kyrkbåtsfärder* by Alber Eskeröd and the archival film made during the construction of the full-size reconstruction of the church-boat built by Anders Bondeson in 1941 at Solleröm, Sweden.

and film shown at lectures made a perfect guide for Butch Bouiver to recreate an authentic model of this famous Rättvik church-boat, using the same technique as those used to build a full-size church-boat. God provided funds through the generosity of family and friends to have a model made. It is my hope that someday we will find a description of the



Bow view of the Rättvik church-boat model.

1699 Delaware Valley church-boat and funding can be made available to build a full-size church-boat and boat house on the Delaware River. Until then, since I agree with the theory that the Delaware Valley church-boat was most likely similar to the plank church-boats, the model of this famous church-boat is an appropriate way to help educate people about this Swedish-Finnish maritime heritage.

For some info on church-boats, go to www.SwedishHeritage.us. If you would like to help sponsor this new exhibit, send a check made out to New Sweden Centre, PO Box 163, Yorklyn, DE 19736-0163. Any donation of \$100 or more will be included on a donors'

plaque that will be displayed in the new museum facility. NSC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Donations qualify as an itemized tax deduction. For additional information, contact Aleasa Hogate at 94 Sparks Ave., Pennsville, NJ, 08070 or 856-678-5511, or e-mail at goaleasa@juno.com or goaleasa@aol.com.

NOTE: - Aleasa Hogate sent the following message about needs for the new museum:

“Our space is so limited, I need space-saving wall units. There are some racks on the J&J Display website (<http://www.jjdisplay.com/products/steel/index.htm>) that would be perfect, but our budget is too limited to buy them. Perhaps one of your members may own a shop that sells posters or wallpaper that may have something similar that they would be getting rid of and would be willing to donate. Or possibly your club would be willing to donate so we could buy one of them new. (Prices range from \$380-\$975.)

If you are interested, we will definitely put the name of your group on the unit as sponsoring the display. What I plan to put on these racks is information about the Swedish landmarks, organizations, museums, etc., where visitors can learn more about our nearly forgotten Swedish heritage.

Who knows, maybe there is even a big Texas oil tycoon among your group who would even be interested in sponsoring a full-size church-boat in the future! Right now my focus is on getting this museum up and running by July. As a volunteer, this is a very big task.”

**RESERVATION FORM FOR
KRÄFTSKIVA - SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2007
(Must be received by Wednesday, March 28, for advance price)
Please make check payable to “Swedish Club of Houston” and
mail to: John Stavinotha, 807 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire TX 77401**

Name:		Phone Number:	
Name(s) of other(s) Attending:			
_____ Adults attending Crayfish Party		@ \$20 each (advance purchase)	_____
_____ Children (12 and under) attending		@ \$10 each (advance purchase)	_____
CHECK TOTAL			_____



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston
Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club News is published 6 times a year by the Swedish Club of Houston. Articles, photos, etc., are welcome. We would especially like personal news of our members, explanation of family traditions and Swedish culture, news of Swedes and of Sweden that is not in the general news, and your favorite Swedish shops, products or resources.

Please send **YOUR NEWS** to ljmillikan@sbcglobal.net
or by post to the return address below.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

Business Card\$20.00
1/4 Page\$40.00
1/2 Page\$80.00
Full Page\$120.00

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Margaret St.Clair	President	margestclair@hotmail.com
Nancy Webb	Vice President	nancy.webb@kelsey-seybold.com
Ken Nilsson	Treasurer	kennilsson88@msn.com
Diana Rodionov	Secretary	drodionov@houston.rr.com
David Bash	Director	dbash@alumni.utexas.net
Dina Colburn	Director	djcolburn@yahoo.com
Laura Millikan	Newsletter Editor	ljmillikan@sbcglobal.net
Ingrid Philipson	Director	yourdreamhomewithingrid@yahoo.com
Mark Swanson	Director	Mark.Swanson@lr.org
John Stavinoha	Membership & Language School	John.Stavinoha@memorialhermann.org
Erich Wolz	Webmaster	erich.wolz@sbcglobal.net
Karen Wolz	Director	kswolz@sbcglobal.net

Swedish Club News
www.swedishclub.org

Page 12

March/April 2007
Events Line = 713.774.2739



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

c/o Laura Millikan
6102 S. Sumac Drive
Pearland, TX 77584-8064