



# THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

*Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986*

## Club Updates



- Save the date: April 6 is our Crawfish fest in LaPorte. Sign-up and more details on page 2.
- Say hello to Spring and your fellow SCH members during our Valborg celebration at Dr. Winstrom's ranch. Details on page 2.
- New board members were elected in January. Find out who and read about club happenings in a letter from SCH President Erich Wolz on page 6 and 7.

## In the News



- Swedish Tech is a hot trend:  
<http://bit.ly/SweTech>
- Do you let your cell phone calls go to voicemail first? You're in good company: <http://bit.ly/3voicemails>
- Ten things to know before visiting Sweden, according to CNN:  
<http://travel.cnn.com/10-things-about-sweden-256186>

## SCH Annual Crawfish Party

Crawfish with traditional Swedish seasoning of sea salt and dill

Fried fish and fried chicken

Potatoes, corn, soft drinks and beer

**Saturday, Apr. 6, 2013, 6:00 PM**

**at the Monument Inn**

**[4406 Independence Pkwy S \(Texas 134\), La Porte](#)**

**(near the San Jacinto Monument)**

**Seating is limited, and reservations are required**

Register at <http://bit.ly/crawfish13> to submit your reservation online



## Valborg in Brenham

The festivities begin at 3:00 PM on April 27. There will be games, singing, grilling, and more during our annual Valborg celebration!

Who: Swedish Club Members and their guests

What: Valborg Bonfire and BBQ to welcome spring

When: Saturday, April ?? at 3:00 PM

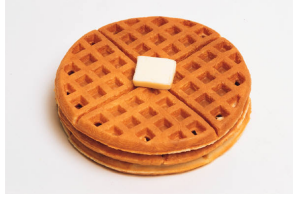
Where: [3833 Peters Lane, Brenham, TX](#)

Please bring one item to grill, such as hotdogs or hamburgers for each member of your family, plus one side dish (Swedish, if possible) to share with everyone.

Register at <http://bit.ly/valborg13> to let us know you're coming (there's no charge for this event; this is just for planning purposes)!



## Waffle Day



Mark your calendars for Waffle Day! It happens every year on March 25. Why eat waffles on this particular day? In the church calendar, March 25 is called *Vårfrudagen* in Sweden, which means "Our Lady's Day" (also known as Annunciation, the day Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to Jesus). The holiday has nothing to do with waffles, you say. And you're right! Unless you know that the word for waffle in Swedish is *Våfflar*, which can sometimes sound like *Vårfru*. So, Our Lady's Day came to be jokingly called Waffle Day in everyday vernacular. The play on words stuck and many Swedes happily feast on waffles to mark the day each year.

### ***Galveston's Elissa - The Tall Ship of Texas***

Galveston is home to Elissa, an iron-hulled sailing ship from 1877. Elissa was built in Scotland and sailed first in England. In 1897, the ship was sold to a company in Norway where it was renamed Fjeld. There, Fjeld sailed for many years until it was sold to new owners in Sweden. The Swedish owners christened the boat to Gustaf where it sailed the Baltic and surrounding areas for 19 years until it was sold to Finnish owners and converted to a schooner. In the 1960s, Gustaf was sent to Greece and renamed Christophoros. In the 70s, the ship was nearly scrapped until the Galveston Historical Society stepped in, purchased the ship and restored it to its former glory. Learn more about this amazing ship's

journey and restoration:  
<http://bit.ly/GalElissa>

### **A spectacular scenic tour through Scandinavia & Journey to the NORTH CAPE:**



Discover Copenhagen, Stockholm, Helsinki & Oslo, cross the Arctic Circle - visit Lapland - see the Norwegian Fjords - witness sunshine at midnight at Europe's most Northerly point, & much more...JUNE 16-JULY 2ND 2013...17 DAY TOUR ONLY: \$3995.00 per person sharing. (Land package, does not include air, insurance, & tips ) [Tour Europe Direct/ DM Tours](#)

For complete itinerary contact: Cheri Carey  
(928) 713-3299 or [chericarey@msn.com](mailto:chericarey@msn.com)  
<http://www.facebook.com/toureurop>

DM TOURS a division of O'Hanrahan Travel Ltd.,  
O'Duffy Centre, Carrickmacross, Co.

**Monaghan Licence # TA0520**

*advertisement*

## Historical Events

### ***March and April***



#### **New Sweden**

On March 29, 1638 Sweden established its first colony in the New World. Almost 600 Swedes and Finns would settle in the area. The colony was located along the border of Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania (including Philadelphia). Several forts were built during the years, including Fort Christina, Fort Nya Elfsborg, and Nya Gothenborg. In 1655, the Dutch moved in their army and took over the forts. The Swedes and Finns kept their autonomy under the Dutch. That all ended in 1664 when the English took over the New Netherlands colony. Historian H. Arnold Barton noted that while the colony was short lived, it sparked a long and ongoing interest in North America from Sweden. The American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia is host to many artifacts from the New Sweden colony and several churches from the colony's time still stand today.



#### **Swedish Recognition of the United States**

On April 3, 1783, Sweden became the first neutral nation to recognize the United States. Benjamin Franklin, who was given a diplomatic role to Sweden and King Gustav III in 1782, and the Swedish ambassador to the court of France, Count Gustav Philip Creutz, formally signed the treaty of Amity and Commerce between the two nations in Paris. The first provision of the treaty established peace and friendship between the United States and Sweden. Further provisions established rules regarding shipping, cargo, land ownership, mutual assistance, and maritime activity between the two nations.

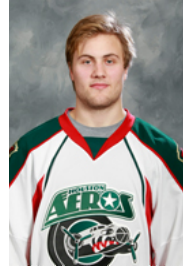
Info summarized from wikipedia.org

## Houston Aeros Hockey

by Cathy Wahren



Jonas Brodin



Johan Larsson

Did you know that the Houston Aeros recruited two Swedish players for the 2012/2013 season? Johan Larsson and Jonas Brodin arrived in Houston last year in October to play on our local AHL team. Our intrepid editor, Sara, wrangled an invitation to interview the men and assigned me to the task. Not having much experience with ice hockey myself, I took my Dad, Uno, along to help with the color commentary. He enjoys attending a game now and then and of course played bandy as a kid. We met at the team's practice rink inside the Ice and Sports Center in Sugar Land.

Jonas is the younger of the two, and was actually the youngest on the team at the time, though not by much. He's from Karlstad on Vänneren, which is one of the largest inland lakes in the world. He previously played in the Swedish Elite League for the team Färjestad, joining them in 2009. Färjestad ended the 10/11 season at the Swedish Championships with a +6 rating. Jonas' team made it to the 2011 World Championship in 2011, claimed a silver medal at the Under 18 World Championships and won gold at the World Junior Championships.

Johan is from Gotland, the larger island off Sweden's East Coast in the Baltic Sea. He likewise played in the Swedish Elite League with Brynäs, joining in 2008. Brynäs claimed the silver medal at the World Under 18 Championship in 09/10. They made the World Junior Championships in 10/11 winning the gold medal and making it to the Swedish Championships, with Johan serving as team captain and earning the league's Rookie Of The Year award. These are obviously talented athletes!

I wish that I had taken a bit longer to ask more questions of their experiences in Houston and in Sweden, but I didn't want to take up too much of their time - and it was getting cold in the practice rink! We did take the opportunity, though, to invite them to see Sofia Talvik at the Stag's Head on January 24th and also extended an invitation to connect with club members via Facebook or by visiting our website. But it was not to be. Shortly after our meeting, Jonas was "recalled" by the Aeros' parent organization, the Minnesota Wild, to play in St. Paul. His countryman, Johan, followed a month later. The 12/13 Aeros season will run through mid-April at the Toyota Center.

## President's Letter

A little over one year ago, I was elected to my first term as President of the Swedish Club, and what an exciting year it has been! As I reported at our Annual Meeting this past January, the club continued its tradition of hosting five major events in 2012: the Pea Soup and Pancake Supper / Annual Meeting on 1/28 (attended by approx. 60), the Crawfish Party on 3/24 featuring Swedish singer/songwriter Sofia Talvik (attended by approx. 70), the Valborgsmässoafton on 4/28 (attended by approx. 40), the Smörgåsbord on 10/19 (attended by approx. 70), and the Lucia Celebration on 12/8 (attended by approx. 220).

The club also participated in several other events in 2012 as well: a Rotary Friendship Exchange reception for a half dozen or so visiting Swedish Rotarians, a Swedish Consulate Open House / Christmas Party, and even a Glögg booth at the German Saturday School's Christkindlmarkt! Our last event of 2012 (really our first event of 2013) was a nice intimate concert in the Oak Room at the Stag's Head Pub, where we heard Sofia talk about her "Drivin' & Dreaming" tour that has taken her through 37 states during the year.

The Board also came up with some ideas for other events to (possibly) add to our calendar, and we'd love to hear from you as to which one(s) you are most interested in: a Swedish Movie Night (let us know if happen to belong to a neighborhood civic association which has a club house we could use) or a Shrimp Boil (let us know if you have access to a beach or lake house) or a Children's Choir (let us know if you are a Swedish speaker who also happens to be musically inclined) or perhaps you have another idea. Let your voice be heard by answering the poll question at <http://swedishclub.org/>

At this year's Annual Meeting, the following officers and directors were elected for 2013:

President	Erich Wolz
Vice President	Dina Jo Colburn
Secretary	Marie Teahen
Treasurer	Karen Wolz
At-Large 1	David Bash
At-Large 2	Joakim Cederlund
At-Large 3	Elisse Karlsson
At-Large 4	Fredrik Rehnmark
At-Large 5	Liane Soukup
At-Large 6	John Stavino
At-Large 7	Cathy Wahren
At-Large 8	Sara West
At-Large 9	Bert Sheldon

Finally, I would like to mention the Club's Lucia program, which has since 1987 provided a wonderful way for our Lucias to travel and learn about their Swedish ancestry and our Texas connection with Barkeryd, Sweden. With the merger of Continental Airlines and United Airlines, we've lost our source for Lucia's airfare to Sweden... but not our desire to maintain this long-standing tradition of the Club! Soon we will be announcing (via our web site) a sponsorship program which is intended to fund future Lucias' travel to Sweden to continue to represent our Club at Barkeryd's Texas Day celebration. Meanwhile, I look forward to seeing you at our next event -- the Kräftskiva (Crawfish Party) on Saturday 4/6 at the Monument Inn!



## THE 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, and your favorite Swedish shops, products or resources.*

Please send your news to [newsletter@swedishclub.org](mailto:newsletter@swedishclub.org) or by post to the return address

below

## THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

c/o Sara West

4023 Sherwood West

Kingwood TX 77339-1037

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Upcoming Club Events:

**Crayfish**

**April 6, 2013**

**Valborg**

**April 27, 2013**