



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

Club Updates



- Keep your calendar open on May 18th for our first ever **Film Night!** We will gather to enjoy a modern Swedish film (with subtitles), light snacks, and good company. Watch the club website and your email for further details.
- Valborg was a resounding success! Thank you Dr. Winstrom for providing such a wonderful place to celebrate! See page 2 for a photo collage by Marie Teahen.

In the News



- King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia will visit the US on May 11 to mark the 375th anniversary of the first Swedish settlers in the US:
http://bit.ly/375_years
- Swedish Soprano visits The Houston Grand Opera for May performances:
http://bit.ly/HGO_Stemme
- One American woman's thoughts on dual citizenship:
<http://bit.ly/SwCitizen>

Valborg 2013

by Marie Teaben.



Historic Events

May and June



Carl von Linné

Carl Linneaus was born on May 23, 1707. Linneaus was a botanist, physician, and zoologist and is considered the father of modern taxonomy. Linneaus was born in Småland and educated in Uppsala. He took journeys all around Sweden to collect plants and material for study and classification. Once he became a professor at Uppsala university, he helped students travel abroad to collect biological specimens from around the world. He published many books regarding his biological classification system. He was granted the status of noble in Sweden by King Adolf Frederick in 1757 and was given the name Carl von Linné.



Norwegian and Swedish Union Dissolved

On June 7, 1905 Norway formally broke away from its union with Sweden. The union began in 1814 after Sweden won a small but decisive military battle. Afterwards, all foreign relation matters regarding Norway were made exclusively by the king in Sweden. Norway was an independent sovereign state within the Union, having its own government and laws, but on June 7, 1905 Norway declared its full formal independence. The Swedish government initially saw the declaration as a rebellious act. Tensions among the two governments surfaced and both countries sent out a military presence to the border in September 1905. Norway voted on the measure, with 99.95% of men voting to dissolve the connection (women could not vote until 1913). Ordinary Swedish citizens also supported a free state for Norway. The Swedish government, however, did not officially recognize Norwegian independence until October 26, 1905.

Info summarized from wikipedia.org

Floorball in Houston



Jyri getting ready for the weekly floorball game

Houston has its first floorball club, thanks to a man named Jyri Koivisto. This native Finn decided he wanted to introduce the popular Nordic game to his new Houston home after moving here last November. He started by contacting a few friends and bringing his floorball gear to a local court. The new group began with this handful of players and himself in January. The club now boasts 25 members in a few short months - and Jyri hopes to recruit over 100 by the end of 2013.

More than 300,000 people play floorball in Finland in a country of around 5 million people. In Sweden, floorball (aka innebandy) is the third biggest sport behind soccer and golf. The game itself is similar to floor hockey. Players on each team use sticks to move a ball to each other and into the opposing goal while the goalies try to stop the advance. While floor hockey relies on strength and force, floorball relies more on speed and skill.

Tim, one of the club's inaugural players, describes himself as Jyri's co-conspirator in the club. He played hockey, so the game of floorball was a natural fit for his skills. Reine is another one of the club's current members. He is from Alingsås, Sweden and has played the game for many years. When he heard that floorball was being played in Houston, he was surprised and happy, "I talked to Tim and he said, 'Hey, we're playing floorball.' And I said, 'Are you kidding?! Hey, I'm in'." Reine has been faithfully showing up every week since, despite his long commute from Cyprus to northeast Houston.



Tim strategizing.



Reine advancing down the court.

FC Houston is expanding quickly and Jyri is working hard to make it expand even faster. He hopes to host league tournaments in Houston by the winter months. Tournaments are already being held in other Texas cities like Dallas and Austin, including one this June. For now, Jyri is busy searching for more places in the Houston area to expand into. He is talking to places like the YMCA, Lifetime Fitness, and local schools where he hopes to rent their indoor courts for play. His future vision for Houston also includes a youth league.

Whether you are an Innebandy pro or someone who wants to learn a popular Nordic sport, you are welcome to join. There are currently no dues for club membership and membership is open to anyone sixteen and older. “New players arrive each week”, Jyri says. Shortly after the interview, two new faces arrived, curious about the new sport in town. After a brief description of the game and the rules, the new recruits were immediately sent out to play on the court.

The club meets weekly every Wednesday at 8:30 PM at 12521 Will Clayton Parkway, Humble, Texas 77346. Bring a good pair of tennis shoes, a comfortable shirt, and gym shorts. Floorball sticks are available on site if you do not own one.

Check out the club’s Facebook page for the most up-to-date information:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/299854447845/>

(or search for **Floorball “Innebandy” in Houston**).

Friends of Lucia

As you probably know, Continental Airlines is no more (and, as a result, the Swedish Club of Houston has lost its sponsor of Lucia's airfare from Houston to Sweden). Thus, it becomes incumbent upon the members of the Club to step up and donate to support the long-standing tradition of the Club of Houston sending its Lucia to Sweden. A number of sponsorship levels are available.

The Swedish Club of Houston has been represented by its Lucia at the Texas Day celebration in Barkeryd, Sweden every year since 1988; the Club will be represented this August by our 2012 Lucia, Evan Wood. The Lucia program has provided a wonderful way for the members involved to travel and learn about our Swedish ancestry and our Texas connection with Barkeryd; a complete list of the Swedish Club of Houston's Lucias is at <http://swedishclub.org/lucia>.

Why is Barkeryd (a small parish near Nässjö in Småland) important to Texans? This small parish had half of the population emigrate to Texas between 1836 and 1927! The conditions were bad and the opportunity of settling in America was given to the people of Barkeryd. Around 1867 many young people left Barkeryd; S.M. Swenson and Svante Palm paid for their passage to come to work for them in Texas, where workers were needed to help on the farms. The immigrants worked off their passage in about 2 years. After the debt was paid off they were free to live and work for themselves. There are many Swedish communities around Central Texas which were settled by the Barkeryd immigrants. In their honor, the people of Barkeryd Sweden were proclaimed honorary citizens of Texas on May 27, 1975 by Gov. Dolph Briscoe.

Friends of Lucia Donations

If you would like to become a member of the Friends of Lucia and help support this long-standing tradition of the Club, you can either mail a check along with this form, or donate online via the link at <http://swedishclub.org>.

Yes, please list my name as a Friend of Lucia

No, I wish to remain anonymous

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Sponsorship Level:

\$500 – Speaker of the Riksdag

\$300 – Prime Minister

\$150 – Deputy Prime Minister

\$75 – Cabinet Minister

\$50 – Governor

\$30 – County Councilor

\$15 – Municipal Commissioner

Make check payable to: The Swedish Club of Houston
Mail to: Swedish Club of Houston, c/o Karen Wolz, 4526 Waynesboro Dr,
Houston, TX 77035



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 or by post to the return address below.

THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

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Kingwood TX 77339-1037

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Events:

SCH Movie Night

May 18

**Scandinavian
Folkdancers of Houston**

**June 8 & 9 (San
Antonio)**