



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

Club Updates



- The crayfish are almost ready! Get the details about our upcoming party on page five.
- April means Valborg, our welcoming party for Spring. Learn more about the event on page five.
- Photos from our most recent gatherings and events can be found on the club's Facebook page: http://bit.ly/SCH_Club
- Find out how you might be able to help 17 year old Lukas Larsson find a bone marrow match on page four.

In the News



- The Swedish Council of America is meeting in Austin this spring. More info here: <http://bit.ly/SCAAustin>
- Spend your summer at the Scandia Camp in California this June. Folk dance, music, and fun. Details here: <http://bit.ly/Scandia14>
- A new Swedish royal was recently born in New York. Find out who: <http://bit.ly/newprincess>
- Texas gets its very own Absolut flavor this March: <http://bit.ly/AbsolutTexas>

President's Letter by Erich Wolz

With a new year comes a new Executive Board; at our Annual Meeting in January, four new directors were elected. Thanks to Laura Campbell, Thor Gudmundsson, Helena Hippard, and Robert Young for stepping forward to help us preserve Swedish culture and customs. In addition, Jill Garde (who was appointed last year to fill Bert Sheldon's unexpired term) was elected to a full term. I am looking forward to working with everyone on this year's board! I would also like to extend a heartfelt "Tack så mycket" to our outgoing Directors Fredrik Rehnmark, Cathy Wahren, and David Bash; their participation on the board will be missed.

Speaking of Swedish customs a new one (for us), that we believe will become another annual favorite, is the celebration of Sweden's food holidays (Semmel- and Våffeldagen). This event was held on 3/1 at the Norwegian Seamen's Church in Pasadena. If you weren't there, you missed Semmel excellently prepared by Jill Garde and Våffel made to order by Marie Teahen!

Several activities are scheduled for this year. Be sure to reserve the following dates on your calendar:

- **Sat 3/29** - Kräftskiva @ Monument Inn. This event will again be held at the Monument Inn in La Porte (more information can be found elsewhere in this newsletter). Seating is limited, and reservations are required; submit your reservations online at <http://swedishclub.org> (do it now, before you forget)!
- **Sat 4/26** - Valborgmässoafton @ Dr. Margit Winstrom-Riley's Ranch in Brenham. Last year we had mostly clear skies and light breezes (perfect picnic weather); much nicer than the hailstorm we had in Houston!
- **Sat 5/31** - Movie Night at Stag's Head, Last year was our first-ever Movie Night (at least, the first one within memory), and it was successful, so we're doing it again!
- **Sat 9/27** - "Reconnecting with our Seafaring Roots" Galveston sailing cruise. This was another first-ever event last year.
- **Fri 10/24** – Smörgåsbord @ BraeBurn CC
- **Sat 12/6** - Lucia @ CtK (Date still tentative)

Are there any activities the club is not currently doing that you would like to see? Is there anything we are doing that you would like to see changed? If you don't tell us, we'll never know! We are always looking for your input, ideas and participation -- after all, this is YOUR club.

If you haven't yet paid your 2014 dues, they are now (over)due. A Membership Renewal Form can be found at <http://www.swedishclub.org/join-us> (\$35 Family, \$25 Individual, \$10 Student).

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the Crawfish Party! - Erich

Historic Events

March and April



Carl Broberg

March

On March 13, 1886, Carl Broberg published a poem, “O Store Gud”, in the Mönsterås newspaper. Two years later, the poem was first matched to a Swedish folk melody and performed in a church. The poem and song become one of the most well known hymns throughout the world. “How Great Thou Art”, as it is known in English, has been translated into many languages including Japanese, Maori, Romanian, Vietnamese, Polish, Greek, and even Esperanto. Over 1,700 recordings of the song exist. The inspiration for the words came to Broberg after returning home from a church service and seeing a sudden thunderstorm arise and dissipate. He returned home to hear ringing church bells and see a rainbow. That night, he sat down and pinned the words to one of the most well known hymns of all time.



Uppsala Students paddling down Fyris river / photo from flickr user: eimoberg

April

While there is no record of the first Valborg celebration, we do know it has been celebrated since the Middle Ages. It takes place at the end of April and is seen as a chance to enjoy the arrival of spring. Celebrations in Sweden include bonfires, singing, and general revelry. It is a popular event for college students. The biggest celebration is in Uppsala. One of the biggest events is rafting down the Fyris river, which started as a bet and has been going since 1975. Astronaut Christer Fugelsang used styrofoam and beer bottles in 1977 to stay afloat on his journey down the river. Students and citizens in Gothenburg enjoy a parade called The Cortege, which has been around since 1909. About 250,000 people attend the event every year. In other parts of the country, bonfires are built, songs are sung, and good food is eaten.

Read more about Valborg here:

<http://sweden.se/traditions/walpurgis-eve-%E2%88%92-and-1-may/>

Info summarized from wikipedia.org

Welcome New Board Member: Laura Campbell

Laura Campbell was born in Texas City, Texas and grew up in Victoria, Texas. Campbell has one older sibling Justin, mother Lisa and father Bill. Her father's family lives in Sugarland, Texas, and mother's side in Tennessee, Colorado, and California. Throughout her childhood she traveled to many countries in Europe, and became fascinated with the continent.

Campbell initially chose to go to Arcadia University in Glenside, Pennsylvania. Whilst there she studied international business in the honors program and during her spring semester participated in a First Year Study Abroad program in London. Campbell transferred to Trinity University, where her brother Justin was attending and finished out her degree in San Antonio. At Trinity she was lucky enough to study abroad again in Seville, Spain for a semester, followed by a summer internship program in Madrid. During her time in Spain she first traveled to Sweden to visit friends and fell in love with the country.

Campbell graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Business Administration with a focus in International Business, and a minor in Spanish. After months of reflection and job searching, Campbell decided to go back to school to obtain pre-requisites in order to apply for the accelerated bachelors of science in Nursing program at Texas Tech. Campbell hopes to pursue a Ph.D in public health nursing.

In her free time Campbell enjoys cooking, hiking, listening to music, traveling, learning Swedish, and taking care of her two geriatric Jack Russell Terriers. She hopes to one day have a decent command of the Swedish language, climb the Kungsleden in the North of Sweden, and travel to all seven continents.

National Blood Drive

Lukas Larsson is 17 years old and lives in Castle Pines North, Colorado. He loves to ski and is passionate about soccer. Lukas has been diagnosed with pediatric myelofibrosis, a rare blood disease. There are only 50 documented cases in the world. Now Lukas needs a bone marrow transplant, but no matching donor has been found on the registry. His greatest chance at a match is with an ethnic match. His dad is Swedish and everyone feels that his Swedish ethnicity is his best chance to find a match. Several blood drives have been organized in Sweden on his behalf, however it is not as easy to organize large drives there as it is here in the States.

A blood drive is quite easy to organize through deletebloodcancer.org. This organization will allow ages 18-55 to register to be a bone marrow donor. If you go to their website it will direct you on how to organize a blood drive and offers a simple video to train people on how to collect the necessary DNA samples. This is so important not only for Lukas but many other people anxiously awaiting a marrow match. Thank you so much for taking the time to read this and I hope that you will please consider a bone marrow list drive for Lukas.

Sincerely,
Melinda Heiner

(Read more online: bit.ly/PhPhQN)

Crayfish Party

Saturday, March 29, 2014, 6:00 PM

at the

Monument Inn

4406 Independence Pkwy S (Texas 134), La Porte

(near the San Jacinto Monument)

\$25 Members

\$30 Non-members

\$10 Youth (12 and under)

Seating is limited, and reservations are required.

Submit your [reservation online](#) by Saturday March 22nd:

<http://swedishclub.org/component/forme/?fid=2>

Valborg

Welcome spring back to Texas with Swedish flair. Join us for the Valborg Bonfire and BBQ at Dr. Margit Winstrom's ranch in Brenham.

The festivities begin at **3:00 PM on April 26**. 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 26 at 3:00 PM

Where: 3383 Peters Lane, Brenham, TX

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

[Click here](#) by Friday April 25 to let us know you're coming
(there's no charge for this event; this is just for planning purposes)!



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.

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c/o Sara West

4023 Sherwood West

Kingwood TX 77339-1037

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SCH Events:

Crayfish Party

March 29th

Valborg

April 26th