



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

Club Updates



- Thank you to John Stavinoha for organizing the Crayfish event! It was a big hit! Pictures can be viewed on the [Facebook page](#) and the [SCH site](#).
- Tack Dr. Winstrom for your hospitality during the Valborg celebration! Read more about the Valborg event in the President's Newsletter on page 3.
- A movie night is in the works. More info about the event will follow. Suggestions? Please send them to the club at newsletter@swedishclub.org
- There are no SCH events in May and June, but other events are happening around town like SACC's Eurovision party and IKEA's Midsummer event.

In the News



- Swedish music stars may finally have their own museum. Plans are being drawn up for a music museum in Stockholm that will spotlight over 400 Swedish music acts. Read more: http://bit.ly/music_museum
- Vad? H vad? Hva? A survey shows the biggest language difficulties between Scandinavian countries. Read more: http://bit.ly/language_survey
- Is money history in Sweden? It could become a reality in the not so distant future. Read more: http://bit.ly/cashless_Sweden

Eurovision Song Contest Viewing Party



The [Swedish American Chamber Of Commerce](#) is holding a Eurovision viewing party right here in Houston on May 26! The cost is \$10, which includes two drink tickets and lighter snacks. There will be special prices on drinks and appetizers during the event.

360 Sports Lounge
4601 Washington Ave
1:30 PM (Contest begins at 2:00 PM)

Register by **May 24** at the SACC website:
<http://www.sacctx.com>

or follow the shortcut below for the direct link:
http://bit.ly/Eurovision_Party

If you've never heard of Eurovision, here's a little background:

The Eurovision Song Contest started in 1956 as a way to unify the continent through song.

Most European countries send one song to the contest every year. Songs are chosen in various ways. Some entries are chosen in a nationwide contest (as is the case in Sweden), while other entries are picked by an expert jury. The singers compete head to head with their chosen songs to crown a winner. ABBA is one well-known winner of the contest. Their performance of Waterloo in 1974 introduced the group to the rest of the world.

The music styles range from pop to rock to dance to folk and beyond. Artists can sing in their native language or in English and each song must be 3 minutes or less.

Last year, Sweden came in third. This year, Sweden is the [odds on favorite](#) to win it all! Enjoy some good company and cheer on the blue and yellow for the top spot!

President's Corner

by Erich Wolz



Club members flying kites at Dr. Winstrom's ranch during Valborg

If you missed our Kräftskiva at the Monument Inn this past March, you missed some excellent crawfish (expertly prepared Swedish style, of course) and a wonderful performance by Swedish singer/songwriter Sofia Talvik. There was lots of food (in addition to crawfish, we had fried chicken, fried fish, potatoes, corn on the cob, crisp bread, and a variety of cheeses), soft drinks, and cold beer available; if anyone left hungry and/or thirsty, it was their own fault! Thanks to John Stavinotha for organizing this event; I'm already looking forward to next year. The only "down side" was that attendance was slightly lower than last year. Photos of this year's event are at <http://swedishclub.org/gallery>

We ended April with our traditional picnic and Valborgsmässoafton at Dr. Margit Winstrom's ranch in Brenham. Several dozen members and guests came out and enjoyed splendid weather, lots of different side dishes and desserts, and a hayride afterwards. With all the rain we had earlier this year, the burn ban was lifted and we were able to enjoy an actual bonfire (and not be forced to content ourselves with just staring at a pile of dry wood)! Special thanks to Dr. Winstrom for hosting the event, and to Marie Teahen for organizing the kid's games!

In recent years, the club hasn't put on very many activities during the summer months. This year, the board is planning on trying something new: Swedish movie nights (at a venue to be determined). Details will be posted at <http://swedishclub.org/> as they become known.

Stay cool this summer -- or go to Sweden (and if you do go to Sweden, let us know about your trip)!

Erich

Meet Hans Cederlund

Our newest Board Member

I am a Swedish citizen who moved with my family to the US last year after having won the Green Card lottery. I have a lot of relatives here in America whose great-great grandparents emigrated from Sweden in the end of the 19th century. Some of my relatives live in Texas, and that is mainly the reason why my family and I chose to live here. My wife and I have two children, Johan and Rebecka.

I am a building- and construction engineer with a marketing degree. I also have some experience working in different countries, i.e. China and Chile. As a Board Member I hope I will contribute to market the club and make it widely known to anyone that has a relation to Sweden. My Swedish name is Joakim, but since so many people in this country have a hard time pronouncing it, I call myself Hans (which is my middle name).

Midsummer at IKEA

The [Houston Press](#) has this to say about the Summer celebration at the Katy location:

“**IKEA** is featuring another of its popular food festivals. On Friday, June 15, the store's second-story restaurant will host a traditional Midsummer Swedish buffet in celebration of *Midsommar*, a Swedish summer festival. Diners will enjoy a traditional Swedish spread of new potatoes boiled in dill served with assorted varieties of herring, smoked and poached salmon, assorted Swedish cheeses, Swedish ham, Prinskorv sausage, Swedish meatballs, cucumber and fruit salads, ice cream and assorted desserts and more from 6 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$9.99 for adults and \$2.49 for children.”

For information straight from IKEA's home page, direct your browser to : <http://www.ikeahouston.com/event/swedish-midsummer-smorgasbord>



flickr photo credit: ktpupp

Around Swedish America in 548 Days

suggested by Club Member Arvid Johanson



Take a tour of Swedish America from the comfort of home. Nordic Way, a Swedish-American website and magazine, has cataloged nearly 550 Sweden-related stopovers in the US.

Find the tour at <http://www.nordicway.com/tour/>

Texas has 20 stops listed on the tour. Each stop includes a page of information about the location and its Swedish connection. The site is a rich resource for Swedish-American history. Don't miss it!

image from nordicway.com website

Your Favorite Memories

Writers wax poetic about it. Musicians sing melodies extolling its virtues. Movie storylines feature the excitement of its arrival, and Swedes are madly in love with it. What is it? Why, it's Summer, of course! If you know just a few facts about Sweden, you can't escape the looming presence of Summer in the psyche of many Swedes.

Share your summer memories with us (Swedish or otherwise) and we'll gather them together for publication in the next newsletter. Finish this line, "My favorite summer memory is..." and send it to newsletter@swedishclub.org (or via mail to the address on the back page).





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*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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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Events of Interest:

Eurovision Party:
May 26, 2012

IKEA Midsummer:
June 15, 2012