



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

“BEING SWEDISH IS COOL”

So said my 37 years old son, David, after his children and nieces participated in the SC-H Lucia/Christmas traditions. If you missed it, you missed a lot of fun and fellowship along with the Swedish Culture. Thanks to all for making this worthwhile for my family too. See the Lucia Wrap-up on page 3 for pictures and details.

SOMETHING NEW AT ANNUAL MEETING

A forum on what you want our club to do and how you want to pay for it. Our statement above “Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast” can mean a lot of things. So far the club has been VERY GOOD at what it does making the educational opportunity fun for our spouses and children. But what else should we be doing?

My father taught me that the Swedes were the ones who taught the proverbial Scotsman to be tight with their money. He never really explained that one but I have come to believe it had something to do with the Vikings readjusting the Scot’s income.

Our Club may need a readjustment on its own finances, especially if we want to do more and consider reducing costs on specialty or educational events. (See page 4 for more)

STORIES

We would like to hear more about our member’s trips to Sweden or to Swedish American events. (See the articles on pages 7 & 8.)

We would also like to hear from you on:

Accomplishments or heritages reports (How we got to Houston).

Business people-- please tell us what you have going in Houston.

PEA SOUP AND PANCAKES ANNUAL MEETING January 26th

The **Annual Meeting** this year will be held at Inwood Forrest Country Club on Saturday, January 26th. The meeting will be held in conjunction with a pea soup and pancake supper. Please see menu below and reservation form/map on page 9 to **RSVP** for this event by January 17th.

AGENDA:

Treasurer’s Report
Membership Report
Nomination & Election of Officers & Directors
(See nominees-page 10)
Tentative Calendar of Events for 2002
Open Forum on Fundraisers and Club Activities

- ideas
- feasibility
- volunteers
- action items/deadlines

PLEASE COME TO THE MEETING. It is not often that we bring up issues directly related to the viability of the club. We will do so this year. **We need your input.**

MENU:

Pea soup with sides of mustard, thyme and marjoram
Knackebrod and cheeses
Swedish Pancakes with fresh berry sauces of blueberries, strawberries and red raspberries.
Also syrup and powdered sugar
Swedish Punch
A cash bar will be available.

PRESIDENT's CORNER – Jan 02

Someone said, “don't ever look back”. Well, last year will be hard to forget.

The events on September 11 will always be with us. I was unfortunate to have a front row seat during some of these events. Sometimes I still wonder if what I saw really happened.

Looking back at some positive events during 2001, I have to think about the events hosted by the Swedish Club.

In January we had our annual meeting and Pea soup dinner at Inwood Country Club.

Chuck Nelson and John Stavinoha were in charge of this event. From the superb taste of the Soup and the pancakes, you know that these gentlemen spend some long and hard hours to make it all work.

In early spring we had the combined Crawfish /Hoedown Party. The food and entertainment was absolutely outstanding. John Stavinoha did a great job, teaching the cooks how to boil Crawfish “in Swedish”. They were actually just as good if not better than what you get in Sweden.

The entertainer, Ben Olander, since he performed for us, had several hits on both the Swedish and Danish Charts.

Liz Cadwallader, Ingrid Melrose, Tracey Mingle, Howard Phillips, Chuck Nelson, and Rod Anderson put together a very successful event

Howard Phillips organized our participation in The International Festival. If you had a chance to come by our booth, you would have realized that this was not put together over night. Howard with the help of Jay Flusche and Ingrid Melrose turned this event into a great promotion for our club. Several of our members helped in manning the booth and deserve a big thank you.

Jay Flusche arranged our newest event, the Picnic. Through Jay's hard work this event was well attended and was a great success and here to stay.

The annual Smörgåsbord was served in the fall. Again it was our own gourmet John Stavinoh that organized this event at the Brae Burn Country Club.

This years Smörgåsbord had a very low attendance, but probably the best food we have ever had at any of our annual Smörgåsbord. September 11 probably played a big roll in this low attendance.

The price of \$30.00 was very modest for this feast. I have been to Smörgåsbord in Chicago, New York and in Sweden, paid double and got half the quality and amount of food.

Make a commitment, plan ahead and try it for yourself this year, you will not go away disappointed.

Our Lucia Celebration was held at Immanuel Lutheran Church this year. Ingrid, Liz, Jay and Rod made the 2001 Lucia Celebration very special. There was just one flaw. Your President had the wrong date.

I guess it would not have been to big a deal if he did not show, but he had also told his wife the wrong date and she is the one that bakes the Lucia buns and the pepparkakor and brings the coffee.

I cannot even start telling you how I felt when Liz called me and asked: “where are you?”

I, without a clue, answer: “I'm in Denver, why”, and Liz with an icy voice replies “so we will not have any Lucia buns or pepparkakor today...”

This is the part where your face turns white and a little old lady asks, “Are you all right young man, should I call for an ambulance or just find you a bathroom”.

I hope you enjoyed the events last year and we wish to continue with them.

Reading this article, you will see the same names mentioned over and over again.

These people are some of the most dedicated and hard working individuals I have ever worked with.

We do not want them to become burned out and leave the club. They need and will welcome the help from you, the members.

We also need input and ideas from you, on how to improve the club.

Please try to think about an area where you would like to help out and where your expertise could be used. Let us know at the annual meeting or give anyone of us a call.

After all this is YOUR club, the board is here for you.

”Jag önskar er alla en god fortsättning på det nya året.”

LEIF

< *"I wish you all a good continuation on the new year"*>

WRAP-UP Christmas Traditions and Lucia Day

Article submitted by Ingrid Melrose

In spite of the soggy and dreary weather, the 2001 Christmas Traditions and Lucia Day program was beautiful. The church and fellowship hall looked great, we had quite a good turnout and it seemed as though everyone was enjoying themselves.



This year's Lucia is Allana Clarke, a senior at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. She is an Art History major and she is hoping to take a combination Swedish language/Art History class in Sweden this summer. Her parents are Allan and Carol Clarke, of Katy, Texas. She handled herself beautifully and I know she will represent the club well in Barkeryd.



We had a record number of 24 attendants this year! It was nice to see the renewed interest in our club and its' activities. Tracey Mingle is single handedly responsible for adding the lion's share of new members and participants this year. She has been, and continues to be, an amazing ambassador for the club. I also have to thank Tracey for helping to organize and dress the children who participated.

Immanuel Lutheran Church very graciously opened their doors to us, and their pastor, Rev. Timothy Steckling was kind enough to perform the service. Rod and Jackie Anderson and their children did a great job with the bazaar, and they were also responsible for arranging for the location. In addition to the aforementioned jobs, they also came early and stayed late and helped in the decorating of the hall. Many thanks!

Liz and Les Cadwallader went the extra mile, as usual. They also came early and stayed late to help with the decorating, as well as providing most of the table decorations. Les helped in a variety of ways, and Liz was kind enough to wear her Swedish folk costume and present our Lucia during the ceremony.

Jay Flusche and his daughter, Athena, brought the tree and trimmings, and it was a beauty. Athena participated in the procession and then joined her dad in folk dress and danced with the Gulf Coast Scandinavian Dancers afterwards.



A big thank you goes out to all of the dancers who came in costume, as this year we were fortuitous enough to have a photographer from Texas Highways magazine attend our event and he was particularly interested in photographing the dancers, our food table, and the Christmas tree. If we "make" the article, it won't be published until next year's December issue, but it will be great publicity for our club.

We also had a photographer from the Houston Chronicle attend, and she took several pictures of the children. Hopefully one of those will make it into the paper, which will also be excellent publicity for the club.

Speaking of photographers, Arvid Johanson, has become the "unofficial" historian for the Swedish Club and he is doing an excellent job documenting our activities. He has taken on the responsibility of answering the guest book entries on the web site and producing the newsletter. This issue is the second one he has published, and I have heard many compliments about his work. Thanks, Arvid!

The club would also like to thank Patricia Tibbits, Sally Hoffercker, Ann Chadwick and Joyce Calderon for providing the music.

Harald and Maud Witt of IKEA donated a beautiful gift basket for our raffle. It was filled with lots of goodies from the food section of the store. The Witts have been very generous to the Swedish Club so please return the favor by patronizing their establishment.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank my husband, Greg, and my daughter, Karin, for helping out that day. They pitched in and helped wherever they were needed and they will never know how much we all appreciated it.

Where Do My Dues Go?

Annual Dues are due in January. (See Page 9 for form.) Here are a few ways in which your dues work to "Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast"

- 1) Your subscription to Sweden & America Magazine
- 2) Printing & distributing the newsletter
- 3) Printing and distributing promotional material (club flyers & membership brochures)
- 4) Hosting the Events Line 713.774.2739
- 5) Hosting the Web site www.swedishclub.org
- 6) Underwriting the language school
- 7) Underwriting the Christmas Traditions/Lucia program (this is a free event)

Regarding Fundraisers

Over the past few years, the Swedish Club has presented a variety of events. Most of the events, while a lot of fun, ended up costing the club money. This past year, we have tried to stem the flow of red ink by taking a closer look at what we do, and how we finance our operations.

It has become quite clear to the board of directors that there is a price ceiling for events where, if you go above that ceiling, attendance drops off dramatically. So, we found ourselves in a bind. On one hand, we want to present nice events that are rather special. The price of the location, menu, & entertainment often put us above the hypothetical ceiling of what we can reasonably charge. An organization cannot continue to exist if it is constantly losing money.

What are the alternatives?

Here are two possible solutions:

- 1) scale down the events and keep them within a tighter budget
- 2) continue with the events as they are but subsidize the cost with funds from the club

Both solutions are viable.

The first solution involves the risk of disappointment among the club members. I know that I have gotten spoiled over the past few years with the nice locations and awesome menu selections that we have at our events. Could we continue to have quality events if we did more of the work ourselves rather than hiring out to have it done?

Take the Smorgasbord as an example. Yes, we probably have some folks in the club who could prepare traditional food at a lower cost. The problem is in finding enough people to prepare the different foods, and to coordinate the menu through a dozen or two dozen folks. The demographics of the club have changed. Most members have full time jobs during the day and even fuller lives with children & hobbies in the evening. It is my opinion that it isn't realistic to think that we could pull something like that off. Or, if we did, then it would be the only event of the year. Folks are just too busy to devote a whole lot of time to staging events.

The second solution has the same inherent risk of members not having enough time to devote to helping with a fundraiser. However, if we plan an annual fundraiser, perhaps we can get enough of the club membership to pitch in and help make it successful. It is a once a year thing, and if we can make the fundraiser interesting, it can be a lot of fun as well. We would use proceeds from the fundraiser to subsidize the events that we put on throughout the year.

Fund Raising Strategies

With a limited membership, it seems like we need to go for the home run in our fund raising effort. Yes, we could do garage sales or sell a recipe book, but the monetary return on those ventures is limited.

Unfortunately, we would spend a whole lot of time and effort, and only enjoy modest results.

I would like to suggest a risk, but potentially lucrative fund raising idea: selling traditional Swedish food at the Houston International Festival. We had an information booth at the festival this past year. We gained some members, we had a good time, and we got to meet a lot of different folks. It was a fun experience.

If we can get commitments from 20-30 club members to help with the preparation and sale of food, we can make a potentially sizable profit. However, that is the rub. Can we do it? Do we want to do it? Are there other alternatives?

I don't know the answers. I barely know the questions. We will be discussing this issue at the annual meeting on Saturday January 26th at Inwood Country Club. Please come prepared with some ideas, opinions and alternatives.

JAY

IKEA'S SOUL.

It isn't hard to produce fine, expensive furniture when money is no object. It's like farming. When the soil is rich, the farmer's job is a pleasure.

IKEA's home is in Sweden's province of Småland. The soil of Småland is poor and rocky, and Småland's farmers have broken their backs to cultivate their soil. Like the farmers, IKEA's nature is rooted in Småland. We began here 50-odd years ago, and our head offices are still here in the small town of Älmhult. Our goal has been to produce and sell beautiful and functional Scandinavian furniture at prices that ordinary people can afford. And we've succeeded.

We've found new ways

You cannot farm a rocky piece of land in the same way as a fertile field. It takes toil and sweat to clear the obstacles and solve the problems. Likewise, assembled furniture is bulky. Expensive to transport, expensive to store, difficult to handle. IKEA has found ingenious ways to "flat-pack" nearly all of our furniture.

It saves us time and money at every stage ... savings which are reflected in our low prices. And you assemble the furniture yourself, but are well-compensated for your work!

IKEA leaves you to shop in peace. You make wise decisions based on the information attached to every item in our showroom. Materials, measurements, and consumer testing results are all clearly stated. And you'll always find help at our information desks. You pick out the furniture yourself, take it to the check-out counter, and take it home in, or on, your car.

We save money. You save money.

You don't have to be rich. Just smart.

Some assembly may be required.

We manufacture differently

All furniture used to be manufactured in furniture factories from start to finish.

IKEA changed that. We create furniture with simplified elements that can be efficiently produced by specialized factories. Unfinished pine shelves are made right at the saw mills. Cabinet doors are produced by door factories. Metal frames are made in machine workshops. Cushions come directly from textile mills.

Our over 100 million customers per year demand a lot and we've found ways to supply them with high quality at bargain prices.

Nothing is impossible

For example, we've designed the "fastest pin-back chair" in the west, or east. You can assemble it yourself in 5 minutes, thanks to a clever little screw attachment we invented. This special screw allows us to "flat-pack" the chair, and sell it cheaper than any other pin-back chair on the market.

We have also created a new cabinet system for kitchens, bathrooms, wardrobes, etc., which is sturdy and attractive at a fraction of the price you would normally pay for comparable quality.

IKEA's soul

IKEA's soul is in the right place. Like Småland's farmers, our values are down-to-earth. Scandinavian design and quality you can afford. That's IKEA.

7810 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX



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This Ad space provided as a "thank you" to the Witt Family and IKEA for their fantastic support providing space for language school & board meetings as well as gifts for the Lucia raffle, etc.



A typical 2001 Board Meeting on second Wednesdays at IKEA

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, January 26th: Pea Soup Supper & Annual Meeting: Inwood Country Club. Chuck Nelson -Host

March: Crawfish Party- Date and Time to be decided.

April 20-21 & 27-28: The club will sponsor a booth at the Houston International Festival-Downtown.

April 27-28: An all Texas Scandinavian event: The Viking Fest in Georgetown TX.

<http://www.vikingfest.com/>

The Spring Dance is normally the latter part of April, but we may move it into either May or June since April is so busy.

SVENSKA CHARACTERS ÅÄÖåäö EASILY IN MS WORD.
USING MICROSOFT WORD AND TIMES NEW
ROMAN TRUE TYPE FONT
(Numbers may vary in other fonts)

Standard Numerical Code

TURN "NUMLOCK" ON

TYPE ALT + # below. Please note that the character will not appear until you release the Alt key.

Å=0197 å=0229

Ä=0196 ä=0228 Ö=0214 ö=0246

To find out the numbers, drop down INSERT Menu to SYMBOL Dialogue Box. Scroll the Font Window in that box to Normal Text. When you click on a letter it enlarges so you can really see it and the number appears on the bottom of the screen.

SHORTCUT

If you do a lot of typing or use a keyboard without an easy NUMLOCK (Laptop) you could use the Shortcut Keys before each letter.

Å å are formed by holding down Ctrl+Shift+@ at the same time and release before typing the letter in its proper case.)

Ä ä Ö ö are formed by holding down Ctrl+Shift+: at the same time and release before typing the letter in its proper case.)

[This is easier for me to remember than the numbers. Since @ & : (Colon Mark) are upper case characters - you just have to remember ctrl+@ for circle and ctrl + : (Colon Mark) for double dots.]

TRIVIA: What and where is this?



ANSWER: See page 10

If you can't join us on the 26th maybe you would like to make your own dinner.

Thank Liz Cadwallader for the recipes

Swedish Pancakes Recipe

3 eggs, slightly beaten

1 cup milk

½ cup flour, sifted

2 Tablespoons sugar

2 Tablespoons oil

Dash of salt

Mix well. Pour about two tablespoons of butter onto a heated frying pan. Tip and swirl the pan around so that the batter makes one thin pancake about five or six inches across.

Turn once. Pancake should be barely browned and floppy. Roll up while hot and serve with butter and powdered sugar or berries.

Makes about 12 pancakes.

Pea Soup Recipe

32 oz green split peas, dry

1 medium onion, minced

1 carrot, minced

3 TBS margarine for sautéing

1 cup minced ham

1 Tbs salt (more or less to taste)

2 teaspoons black pepper

4 quarts water

Sort peas, cover with water and soak overnight.

In a large soup kettle sauté onion and ham, in three tablespoons of margarine until the onion is transparent. Add minced carrots and 4 quarts of water. Drain and rinse the soaked peas and add to the kettle.

Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer until peas turn to a pulp. (about one and a half to two hours). Add more salt and pepper to taste.

This soup freezes and reheats well. Makes about 4 ½ quarts.

Members Trips to Sweden

Swedish Club Members provide "reinforcements from US" for worlds largest Accordion Fest

Swedish Club members Mario Pedone and Peter Widmark spent some time in Sweden this summer attending the world's largest accordion meet at Ransäter in Värmland, Sweden. Here is the story in Peter's words and Mario's pictures.

On July 4th Mario and I headed west for Ransäter. We stopped in Örebro to pick up a relative of mine, Nils-Gunnar Widmark, who actually is the musical director for Garphyttans Accordion Club. Garphyttans were one of the 200 bands invited to perform on the different stages

We arrived in Ransäter, approximately 60 kilometers north of Karlstad in Värmland, mid afternoon. We pulled out our accordions and started what we love to do the most, play. There were probably about 1000 tents and trailers there already, soon to be approximately 10,000. I have never seen so many campers and accordions in my life. Every tent and camper had at least one accordion player. It was unbelievable.



Peter and Mario upfront with other band members

As we all started to play (jam), Nils-Gunnar stopped playing and dropped his jaw in awe when he heard Mario let loose. I have been playing with Mario for ten years so I know what an accomplished virtuoso he is. I kept on playing with him. As we played, neighboring campers came to our campsite and within a few minutes there were at least 50 or so accordion enthusiasts also in awe. I put down my accordion and Mario continued playing Latin songs. Mario had an audience of accordion lovers who really appreciated his enormous talent.

They couldn't believe that an accordion could sound so good. Ransäter lies next to the "Klarälven", which is a large river. One in the audience, after hearing Mario play, said he was going to throw his accordion in the river. There were 10 from the band and Mario and I were called the "reinforcements from USA". We played all night. During the next 4 days Mario became a legend. He signed more autographs and sold close to 200 CDs. People were gathering around him in

the hundreds where ever he played.



Mario and an appreciative audience

Mario was interviewed by Swedish and Norwegian radio and TV. The Swedish accordion magazine, DRAGSPELS NYTT and the Norwegian counterpart TREKKSPILL NYTT had lengthy interviews with both Mario and me and there were nice write-ups about the two Americans in Ransäter.

Mario performed in front of an audience of over 2000 on the large stage. As he was introduced and walked on to the large stage, blond Swedish girls clad in angel dresses danced around him with a Broadway tune in the back ground. After his performance he got a standing ovation and after that people were talking about Mario everywhere. "there is that American, look there he is", people even wanted to touch Mario and have his autograph. We made many new friends and we were invited back for next year's event. Mario out played every one and became a star over night. All in all, Mario was in seventh heaven during his visit in Sweden amidst 20,000 accordionists who appreciate his talents.

"Dragspelsstämman i Ransäter" also referred to as "Bälgspel vid landsvägskanten" started 30 years ago. There are between 30 to 50 thousand peoples attending the 4 day event. Each band has a following of dancers so there were many people from Garphyttan and Örebro there.

It was an unbelievable experience and we are going back in July for our next visit.



So says Tracey Mingle of her trip “home” to Sweden this past summer. She had never been to Sweden before & Tracey, a native of Jamestown, New York, wanted to become more connected with her roots & heritage. Tracey’s Gammal Mormor had emigrated to the US but had always tried to keep the Swedish traditions alive in the home.

Tracey arrived in Copenhagen on June 19. Next was a 2 ½ hour train ride to Nässjö where a small family reunion took place with her cousins Gun, Britt & Jan. I had moose for dinner” Tracey explained (not the average meat in Texas) “It was delicious!”.



Next-- Tracey visited Leksand for the midsummer festival, where she took part in many of the local traditions associated with the summer solstice: raising of the pole, local food & drink, & seeing the beautiful attire of the men, women, & children.



A trip to Stockholm to see her cousin Beyron, the captain of the Swedish Army and a member of the Royal Life Dragon, gave Tracey the opportunity to have coffee in the Kings’ Palace, an honor & event she will always remember.

Other highlights & sightseeing tours for Tracey included a tour of the archipelago; the Stockholm Zoo; a ride in a royal carriage; a visit to the Line Factory; & the Dala Hast factory.

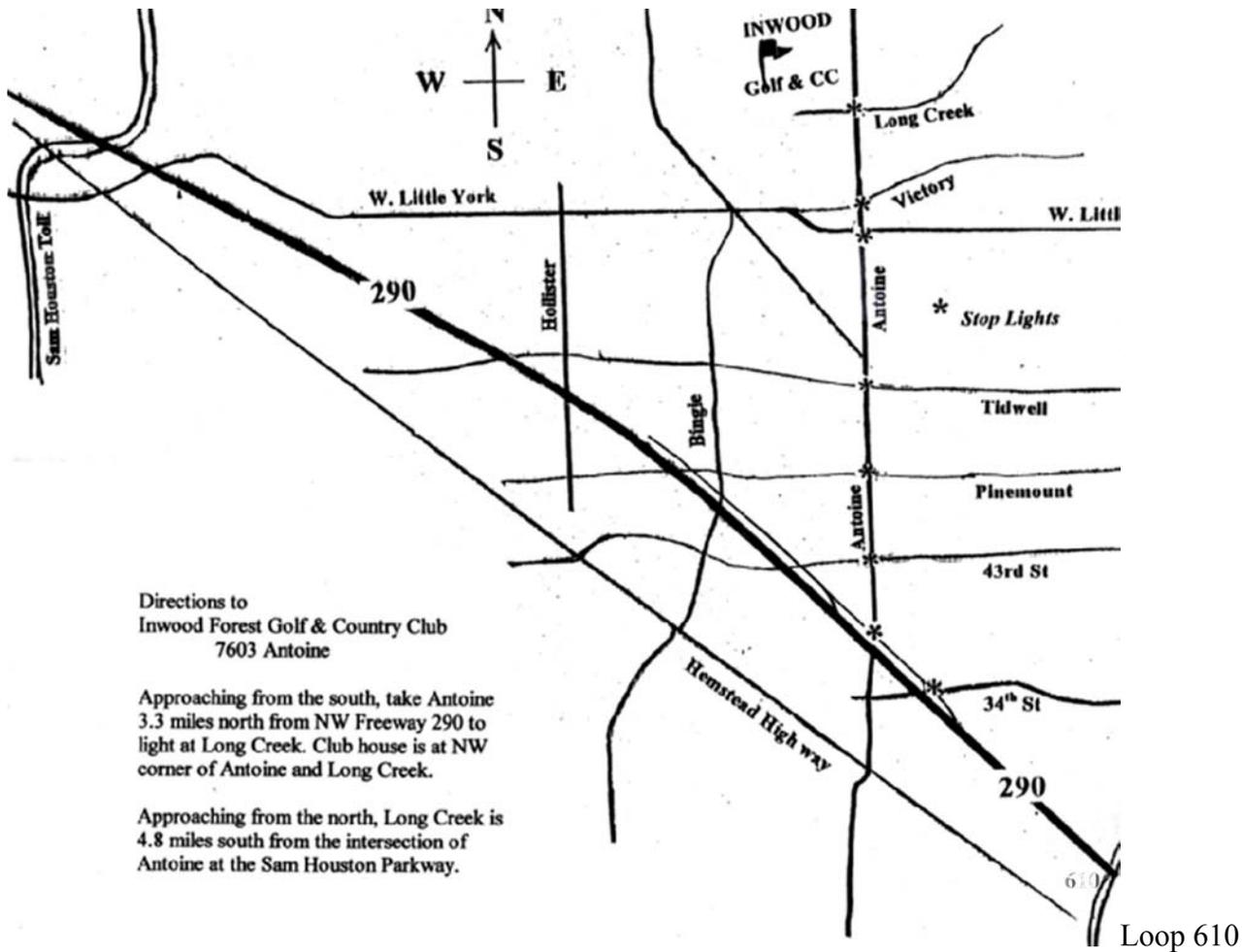
Perhaps the most rewarding & touching part of the journey to Sweden for Tracey was her return to Vetlanda, the family’s home, to see the graves of the relatives her Marmor had left behind. Seeing the family cemetery reminded Tracey of the sacrifices her ancestors made by staying in Sweden during the hard times & the adventure her Marmor had as the family made the decision to leave for the “New World”.

The family home (now a sommarhuset) is set on three acres & dates from the mid-16th century. “The cottage” Tracey says “is a picture perfect Swedish country home.” Still in its original state, the house has no running water, no electricity, & has its original tile fireplace.



Tracey’s final thoughts about her trip says it all: “I can’t encourage you enough to go experience Sweden for yourself!”

MAP AND RESERVATION FORM FOR ANNUAL MEETING AND DIRECTORY



RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY January 17th for the Peas Soup and Pancake Dinner for \$11 per person

Please make check payable to Swedish Club of Houston and
mail to Rodney Anderson, 1311 Seaspray Ct. Houston TX 77008-5134

**SAVE TIME – MAKE YOUR RESERVATION, RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP and UPDATE
YOUR DIRECTORY INFORMATION WITH THE SAME CHECK, FORM, and STAMP**

(See Page 4 for info on your dues at work)

Last Name:		Given/Preferred Name		Spouse's Name	
Address:			City:		State/Country
Home Phone: ()			Home Email		
Other Information & Family Names					
					Subtotals
# attending Dinner		@ \$11 per attendee			
Single Membership		@ \$25 per year OR			
Family Membership		@ \$35 per year			
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 the news by email to arvid@johanson.net or when necessary by post to Arvid Johanson, 2010 Dowling Drive, Richmond TX 77469-5114.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

Business Card	\$10.00
1/4 Page	\$20.00
1/2 Page	\$40.00
Full Page	\$60.00

Trivia Answer: A Yankee Doodle Dala Horse in Little Sweden (Lindsborg KS)
www.lindsborg.org/

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

2001-2002 Officers

President - Leif Mauritzson
Vice-President - Ingrid Melrose
Secretary - Jay Flusche
Treasurer - Rod Anderson

2001 Directors

Liz Cadwallader	Chuck Nelson
Howard Phillips	Erich Wolz
Rod Anderson	Pelle Fisk
Tracy Mingle	

Advisors to the Board

Jan Dryselius, Finance Don Turbyfill, Legal

2002 Nominees for Directors from Nominating Committee:

Liz Cadwallader	Erich Wolz
Pelle Fisk	John Stavinoha
Tracey Mingle	Donald Jansen
Marita Vilson	Lars Westerberg
Arvid Johanson	Julie Bomono
Eleanor Johanson	

IN THE NEXT EDITION OF SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

Election Results
Vikingfest Info
YOUR ARTICLE AND PHOTOS

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c/o Arvid Johanson
2010 Dowling Drive
Richmond TX 77469-5114