



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

Kräftskiva

SWEDISH CRAYFISH PARTY -

FRIDAY, April 2nd

Monument Inn near the San Jacinto Monument.
4406 Battleground Rd (Texas 134), La Porte
(.The same place that did so well the last 3 years).

Menu is crawfish with the Swedish traditional seasoning of sea salt and dill plus fried fish and fried chicken with potatoes, corn, soft drinks and beer. All for the advance price of \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. **At the door, the prices will be \$25 and \$15.**



Doors open at 6:30, bring a group & come get a table. Don't forget your Party Hat. Swedish-style Crayfish, plus Fish, and Chicken served at 7:15

Come out to the park earlier to visit the San Jacinto Monument or the Battleship Texas.



Reservations need to arrive by Wednesday March 31st so mail your check in now using the form on page 9. Please make check payable to Swedish Club of Houston and mail to Swedish Club c/o John Stavinoha, 807 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire, TX 77401.



To get to the Monument Inn the easy way, take the West Beltway 8 to TX225. Take TX225 towards Deer Park and La Porte. Turn North on TX 134 and go past the San Jacinto Monument. The Inn is on your right just before you get to the Lynchburg Ferry. (An alternate is to go on IH10 way East of Houston to Exit 787 and take TX134 South across the Lynchburg Ferry.) See map on page 9

For further details call the
Swedish Club Events Line at 713.774.2739

See all the pictures in color with active internet links on the Swedish Club website's News page
<http://www.swedishclub.org/scnews.htm>

Introducing Swedish Club President – Pelle Fisk

In His Own Words



I was born in Sweden thirty-eight years ago and am the oldest of three brothers. With almost half of the Swedish populations name ending with -son you might wonder where I got my name. My great grandfather was a soldier and as a soldier back then you had the right to “take” your own name. He wanted something different and picked Fisk which means fish in Swedish.

I grew up in a little town called Lindesberg with a population of about seven thousand people. It is located two hours by car west of Stockholm in the beautiful region of Bergslagen. I did all my schooling there and got my engineering degree in Örebro, a nearby college town. My mandatory military service was done as an artillery officer. I had always wanted to fly airplanes and was accepted to a flight school in Conway, SC, USA. On short notice I left my whole family and all my friends back home. This was definitely one of my scariest decisions in life: To pack up and leave everything, not knowing what to expect of a new career, a new language and a new country. It all worked out okay.

I have made a lot of friends following my different jobs around. I used to be able to fit all my belongings in my car and that was good since in nine years I lived in: San Juan, PR; San Diego and Los Angeles, CA; Naples, FL; Akron and Toledo, OH; Farmington, NM and Dallas, TX.

It took a Texas girl to finally make me settle down. Her name is Mary Lynn. In 1998 we moved to Kingwood, just north east of Houston. We have a four and a half year old son, Adrian, and a two year old daughter, Nina. I have been Mr. Mom home with them since July last year when United Airlines furloughed me. This time has been challenging but extremely rewarding.

I have been a member in the Swedish Club of Houston for five years and on the board for the last two. It is with some surprise that I was nominated and elected, as President and I feel honored to the position. In closing I would like to thank the outgoing president Leif Mauritzson, as well as the rest of the board that is leaving for their time and their hard work. We will miss you all.



Pelle (Far Left), His Mother(far right) and wife Mary Lynn (2nd from right) enjoying the Annual Meeting with Swedish Club Friends.

CONTACT PELLE AT
PelleFisk@bigfoot.com

2004 DUES are due by April 1 to be in the new club directory or to receive the Newsletter. \$35 for families, \$25 for individuals, and \$10 for students is a small fee to help support Swedish Traditions and Culture in Houston. Please make check payable to Swedish Club of Houston and mail to John Stavinoha, 807 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire TX 77401.

CORRECTION: The Homily at the Lucia Service was given by Rev. Donn Williams.

SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS

SACC EVENTS

March (date to be set) Presentation by a group of students from Lund University, Sweden. Working at NASA.

May 11. Scandinavian Golf Tournament at Augusta Pines Golf Course in Spring
Sponsored By: Scandinavina Airlines & Swedish American Chamber of Commerce (SACC) & Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce

Contact the SACC office or
astrid.marklund@asmdevelopment.com

SWEDISH CLUB EVENTS

Crawfish Party

Enjoyable party for Swedes and Friends. See Page 1 for details of meal of Swedish Flavored Crayfish.

National Day

June 6th. Consulate is planning this event with all local Swedish organizations involved. If you want to volunteer contact Maria Andersson at
houston@consulateofsweden.org

Picnic

Late August. Jay Flusche will arrange this event as he has the last 3 years. Plans are to cook hamburgers and hotdogs this year or bring your own.

Smorgasbord

Oct. 23rd or 30th.

St. Lucia

Dec. 11th.

Viking Fest 17 -18 April 2004 Waco TX

Great opportunity to see Vikings in action and visit with Scandinavians from all of Texas as well as visitors from all over. See next column..

Annual Meeting

Jan. 22, 2005.

VIKING FEST TO SET SAIL IN WACO ON April 17 & 18th, 2004



The festival is held in celebration of Nordic culture and heritage in Texas through music, dance, food, games, folkdress, arts and crafts.

The festival will kick-off on April 17, 2004 with a parade down Austin Ave. The parade will begin at 9:30 am and will lead to the Waco Convention Center where opening ceremonies will begin at 10 am. Highlights during the festival include a Viking Ship asail on the Brazos River, a Viking encampment, a Midsummer celebration with Maypole, and entertainment from around the world on several stages. Festival vendors will sell ethnic foods, arts and crafts.

During the festival scholarships will be awarded, and several contests will take place. Two \$500 scholarships will be given to winners of an essay contest. In addition to the scholarship, these winners will serve as King and Queen of Viking Fest.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about and share in the Nordic culture,.

For more information contact:

Lori Jarvis, Waco Convention & Visitors Bureau,
254-662-3291 or see VikingFest Website:
<http://www.vikingfest.com/index.html>

Introducing Swedish Club Director Lois Betz

In Her Own Words



that always provided us with the true Scandinavian hospitality of delicious smorgasbords.

This will be the third year that I have been a member of the Swedish Club of Houston and I hope to take an active part of the Club, doing whatever needs to be done. I hope, that by being on the Board of the Swedish Club of Houston, that I will help in fostering an interest in the Swedish-Americans traditions so that we will continue to pass on to the younger generations a vital connection with Sweden.

I 'immigrated' to Houston seven years ago, coming from the cold Northern state of Iowa. I work for a large international law firm, converting all our paper forms into electronic forms. I have four children and two grandchildren. My children currently live in the Houston area, although one daughter is attending college in Minnesota.

I am very proud of my Swedish heritage. My family celebrated being Swedish and it was an important part of our life. My great grandparents immigrated to America as young adults from Vasterdalaven & Smaland, Sweden during the 1880s, settled in Minnesota where they met and married. The family name that I am most familiar with is Goranson, although my real great grandfather was killed in a dynamite accident and my great grandmother remarried into the Goranson family. The genealogy of our Goranson connection is very well researched, but little is known about my real great grandfather. His Swedish Bible has been passed down to us, with his name and certain identifying dates and towns so I plan on doing research on him.

My mother spoke Swedish until she started school, and did not know English at all. She learned quickly but still speaks Swedish well. She married my father, whose mother immigrated from Norway and father immigrated from Denmark, and they often spoke to each other in Norwegian and Swedish and were able to converse quite well. I was raised with Swedish traditions, interwoven throughout my life, and enjoyed visiting relatives



Lois Betz Sharing Pea Soup and Pancakea at the Annual Meeting with Daughter and Granddaughter.

CONTACT LOIS AT
lois_betz@yahoo.com

Editor's Note: Lois is the person who taught the editor how to use the active links in the Adobe Acrobat Electronic Newsletter Format. IF you like the convenience, THANK LOIS, not the editor.

Introducing Director Margaret St. Clair

In Her Own Words



My name is Margaret St.Clair and I am one of the newest members of The Swedish Club of Houston's board of directors. Originally from Illinois, I have lived in Houston with my husband Dave for 29 years. We became "empty nesters" recently: our son, Mike, lives in Los Angeles and our daughter, Cathy, lives in East Lansing, Michigan.

I am a former high school home economics teacher. I spent many years as a PTA volunteer in my children's schools working mostly with the Drug Awareness program at the elementary level and serving as president of The International Club for Stratford High School parents. Over the years, I have also volunteered extensively in neighborhood organizations and at our church, where I currently play in the handbell choir, serve on the board of the day school program and help in the church office.

I became a member of The Swedish Club in the fall of 1995 after I returned from my first trip to Sweden. I was highly motivated to learn to speak Swedish, so I enrolled in the club's language program and have been a student ever since! I'm not exactly fluent, but I have certainly enjoyed the classes---meeting other people and studying the language and culture of Sweden. Because I was able to speak and read a little Swedish, the classes really enhanced my subsequent trips to Sweden in 1998 and 2003.

My Swedish roots are with my maternal grandfather, Gottfrid Jacobsson, who was born in Orlunda (near Vadstena) and later moved to Norrköping. In 1911 he emigrated to the U.S. and settled in the Swedish community of Galva, Illinois, which is just a few miles from Bishop Hill,

the well-known Swedish colony. Gottfrid left family behind in Sweden, but we never knew them until one day in 1994 when my mother received a phone call from her nephew in Sweden. That call was truly life changing for my family and it set in motion a flurry of correspondence, which led to my traveling to Sweden to meet my newly found family.

Besides the language school, I am also interested in the Lucia program. As some of you may recall, our daughter, Cathy, was the club's 2002 Lucia and represented the club at Barkeryd's Texas-Swedish heritage festival last August. It was Cathy's first trip to Sweden and it was an unforgettable experience for her and for Dave and me. We made new friends in Barkeryd and learned the story of Swedish emigration to America. In addition to Barkeryd, we also traveled by car and by train, seeing much of the beautiful countryside between Malmö and Stockholm, and stopping to visit family and friends along the way. With the help of Inga Lisa Calissendorff, we also went to Orlunda, so Cathy could see for herself where her great-grandfather was born. The Lucia program is an excellent opportunity for club members to learn more about their Swedish-American heritage. More girls should take advantage of it.

As a new board member, I look forward to learning what I can do to help The Swedish Club.



*David and Margaret St.Clair at Texas Day
in Barkereryd, Sweden*

Contact Margaret at
margestclair@hotmail.com

GOING EAST? SWEDES IN PENNSYLVANIA, DELAWARE, and NEW JERSEY

Anyone going to the East Coast might want to take a little more time to research and visit the old Swedish area near the mouth of the Delaware River that started in 1638. Swedes 'owned' the Delaware River almost all the way up to Philadelphia until the Dutch came down from New York in 1655 and captured the Swedish Colony. Eleanor and I got to see the Pennsylvania and Delaware sites through thoughtfulness of a friend sending us new articles when he knew we were going to Philadelphia on business. But, that is a story for another edition. Info about the newest effort in NJ came to use through an email from the local Swedish activist, Aleasa Hogate, so I'll cover that this time.

New Jersey

As part of the 365th Jubilee of the New Sweden Colony, founded in 1638, a historic monument is being erected in Riverview Beach Park in Pennsville, NJ. The dedication is scheduled for June 6th, 2004, Sweden's National Day.



Mayor Carol Wooten recently broke ground for the monument dedicated to New Jersey's early Swedish and Finnish settlers. The site has a panoramic view of New Castle, Wilmington and the Delaware Memorial Twin Bridges, the world's longest twin span suspension bridge.

Aleasa Hogate, who initiated this grassroots undertaking, received the 2003 Cultural Scholarship Award given by the New Jersey Swedish Women's Educational Association. She is using this award to create one of two bronze

plaques for the monument with an original motif. Dedication of the completed monument is planned for May, 2004.

This project is being funded with private donations managed by the Pennsville Township Historical Society, a 501-3c organization. The monument will be engraved with the names of sponsors contributing \$500 or more. Among these are the following organizations: the Pennsville Township Historical Society, the New Sweden Centre, the Delaware Valley Finnish-American Society and the Pennsville Women's Club.

Current Status of the monument The walkway and base have been completed for the five-ton monolith serpentine rock, donated by Penn-Maryland Quarry to be mounted soon. Two bronze bas relief plaques will be mounted on the rock and two granite panels, engraved with history text and acknowledgement of sponsors who have supported the monument, will be mounted on the base.

Additional sponsors and private donations are welcome. For additional information contact: Swedish Heritage Committee co-chairmen Martha Rogers 856-678-5994 or Aleasa Hogate 856-678-5511. Or e-mail to goaleasa@juno.com .

See more related items on Aleasa's website <http://swedishheritage.us> or the multistate website <http://www.colonialswedes.org/History/History.html>

LINKS TO DEL & PENN SITES

(Look for more in the next edition of SCNews)

Holy Trinity (old Swedes Church)
Wilmington, Delaware
<http://www.oldsvedes.org/>

Kalmar Nyckel (Working Immigrant Ship)
Wilmington, Delaware
<http://www.kalnyc.org/>

American Swedish Historical Museum
1900 Pattison Avenue (inside FDR Park)
Philadelphia, Penn
<http://www.americanswedish.org/>

2004 ANNUAL MEETING – PEA SOUP and PANCAKE DINNER

As is our traditions, the Annual Meeting of the Swedish Club of Houston combined the legal aspects of the Annual Meeting with a delicious Pea Soup and Swedish Pancake Supper. The legal aspects of the meeting were easy as we elected the Officers and Board of Directors listed on the last page of this newsletter, approved the Treasurer's Report, and informed the Club of a bylaws change that was approved by the Board. Note the bylaws allows for changes of the bylaws by the Board but require the Club to vote on changes to the constitution. The change approved removed the requirement for the President to have served as a Board member.

Former President Leif Mauritzson gave a "state of the Club" short talk and Ingalisa Calissendorf updated us on she and Gusten's adventure of having two Home Countries (Sweden and Texas). They now live in Sweden near kinfolks, but the come HOME to TEXAS every year.



Editor's Note: There were SO many smiling faces, I had to add another page of pictures –see page 8

2004 ANNUAL MEETING – PEA SOUP and PANCAKE DINNER



The 2004 Swedish Club of Houston Board



Rod Anderson, Pelle Fisk, Gunhild Jansson, Margaret St. Clair, Lois Betz, Diana Rodionov, Dina Colburn, and Arvid Johanson. Missing from the picture: John Stavinoha, and Erich Wolz

RESERVATION FORM
 (Must be received by Wednesday March 31st)

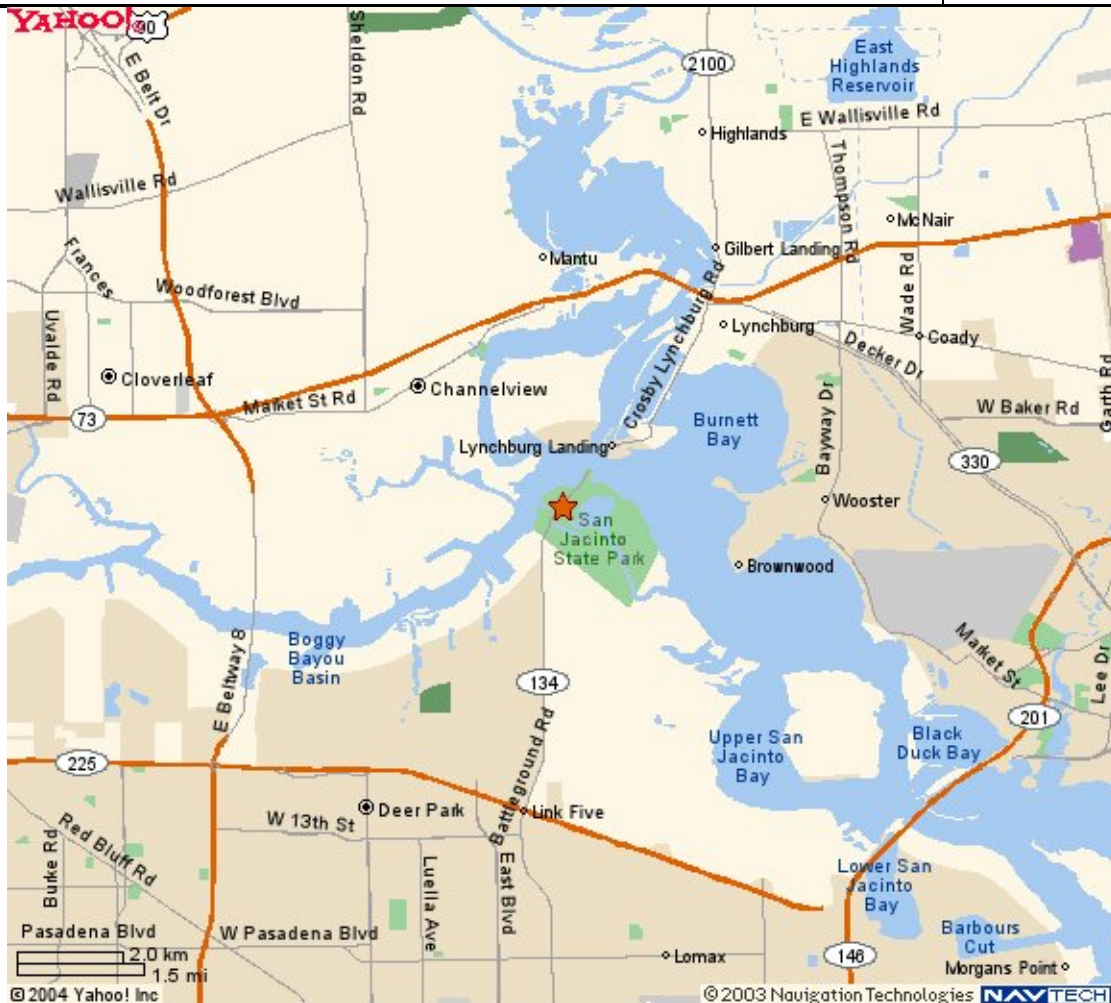
Kräftskiva

SWEDISH CRAYFISH PARTY- Friday April 2nd 2004

Doors open at 6:30, bring a group & come get a table..
 Don't forget your Hat Swedish-style Crawfish at 7:15

**Please make check payable to Swedish Club of Houston and
 mail to John Stavino, 807 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire TX 77401**

Name:		Phone Number	
Other Attending			
Adults Attending Crayfish Party		@ \$20 per attendee	
Children 12 and Under Attending Party		@ \$10 per attendee	
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 **YOUR NEWS** by email to arvid@johanson.us or when necessary by post to the return address below

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

Business Card	\$ 20.00
1/4 Page	\$ 40.00
½ Page	\$ 80.00
Full Page	\$120.00

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Swedish Club News
www.swedishclub.org

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EventsLine = 713.774.2739



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