



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast Since 1986

Club Updates



- The Blue Marlin boat tour is about to leave port. Join us on September 28th in Kemah for a seafaring adventure! You'll find the details on page two.
- Want to learn Swedish weaving? Visit First Colony Library in August: <http://bit.ly/swedishweaving>
- IKEA is holding a Crayfish party August 16th. \$9.99 for IKEA Family members (\$12.99 otherwise). Contact the store for tickets and other details.

In the News



- Siggis filmjöl is now at World Market. Not close enough? Print a flyer from Siggis: <http://bit.ly/siggis> Bring it your grocery store and they might be able to stock it for you.
- What draws tourists to Sweden and what might make them reconsider their choice? http://bit.ly/sw_tourists
- Enjoy Swedish music? Swedish band Icona Pop (#11 on the charts with "I Love It"), will be playing in Houston at Fitzgerald's on August 21st.

Blue Marlin Boat Tour

Many Swedes (indeed, many Scandinavians in general) have deep seafaring roots. What better way to reconnect with your seafaring roots than by joining the Swedish Club of Houston for a 3-hour sail aboard the Blue Marlin, a 38' sailboat berthed in Kemah, on Saturday September 28!



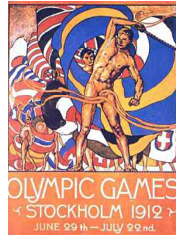
Two time slots are available; either 2 pm or 5:30 pm (times will be confirmed as the date gets closer). The price is \$35 per person, and there is a limit of 12 persons per cruise -- so if one time slot fills up faster than the other, some folks will be asked to switch time slots.

Reserve online at swedishclub.org (reservations are not confirmed until payment is received in full).



Historic Events

July and August



July

The fifth annual Summer Olympic Games were held in Stockholm, Sweden in July 1912. King Gustav V opened the ceremonies on July 6th. Boxing was normally a part of the Olympics, but the sport was taken out of the line-up because it was unappealing to many Swedes. This year saw the introduction of art competitions in several fields: literature, sculpture, painting, architecture and music. Tug of war was also instituted in 1912. Several competing teams failed to show, which put Sweden and Britain in the final for the first and last tug of war competition of the Olympics. Both teams were made up of police forces from London and Stockholm. The Swedes beat the Brits 2-0 to win the gold, which were solid gold. 1912 was the last year for this tradition.

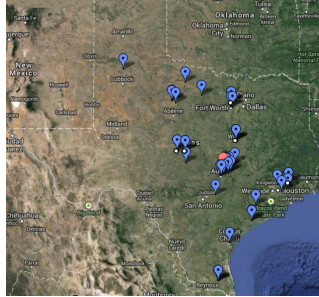


August

Jean-Baptiste Bernadotte, Marshal of France, was elected Crown Prince of Sweden on August 21, 1810. King Charles XIII had no heir, so a member of the royal court suggested Bernadotte, a strong military commander, as a way to continue the Swedish line of royalty. Bernadotte accepted and was given the title Charles XIV John, or Karl Johan. He ascended to the throne in 1818 and forged the union between Sweden and Norway. He passed away in 1844 but the House of Bernadotte continues today through Crown Princess Victoria.

Info summarized from wikipedia.org

Summer Travels - Texas Roadside Markers



Did you know there are over 40 roadside markers in Texas with a Swedish American connection? If you're out traveling this summer, why not stop by? Find out about any historical marker in the state by visiting <http://www.9key.com/markers/> Search the keywords Swedish and Sweden for details on each marker and where you can find them.

If you visit any markers this summer, take a photo and send it in for future newsletters!

Swedish American Hotspots

Traveling to other states this summer? Why not plan a pit stop at these Sweden-related places:

- American Swedish Historical Museum | 1900 Pattison Ave. | Philadelphia, PA 19145 | www.americanswedish.org
- American Swedish Institute | 2600 Park Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55407 | www.americanswedishinst.org
- Nordic Heritage Museum | 3014 NW 67th Street | Seattle, WA 98117 | www.nordicmuseum.org
- Scandinavia House | 58 Park Avenue @ 38th Street | New York, NY 10016 | www.scandinaviahouse.org
- Swedish American Museum | 5211 N. Clark St. | Chicago, IL 60640 | www.swedishamericanmuseum.org

Vilhelm Moberg and His Emigrants



You've certainly heard about or read books from the Emigrant series. Anyone who is interested in Swedish and Swedish American history has come across this work at least once or twice. But, do you know about the man behind the story of Kristina and Karl-Oskar and the people of Duvemåla?

Vilhelm Moberg was born in 1898 in a little town in Småland and was the fourth of seven children. Despite only seven years of schooling, Moberg was an insatiable learner and reader. He loaned books from friends, family, and nearby neighbors. He even entered a writing contest at 13 years of age and received a small prize for his work.

In 1916, he almost followed in the footsteps of many close relatives. Several relatives had immigrated to the US and Moberg had been given money for a ticket to do the same. His mom had difficulty with losing yet another family member to the US, so Moberg decided to stay. As a condition, he asked to go back to school and it was granted. He was ready to take the final exam but came down with the Spanish flu in 1918. Instead, he turned to journalism, something he had dabbled in since he was 17.

Later, Moberg tried his hand at writing books. In 1941, his book *Ride this night!* became a hit. In 1949, an even bigger hit was on his hands. The title book in *The Emigrants* series was published. This came about after four years in America, first in Minnesota and then in California where he did most of the writing. It took Moberg 12 years to finish the series, (*The Emigrants*, *Unto a Good Land*, *The Settlers*, and *Last Letter Home*). More than 2 million copies have been sold in Sweden and is considered a modern classic.

Moberg had also planned a four book set about Swedish history, but the set went unfinished, with only two books published. Moberg passed away in Sweden in August 1973 after drowning in a lake just outside Stockholm in an apparent suicide.



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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

Local Events:

IKEA Crayfish Party

August 16

Blue Marlin Boat Tour

September 28