



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast since 1986

Club Updates

- Texas Day is celebrated this year in Barkeryd, Sweden on Sunday, August 2nd. Many of Barkeryd's citizens emigrated to Texas between 1836 and 1927.
- The Museum of Fine Arts Houston will present 3 showings of the Swedish Film Pigeon Sat on a Branch Reflecting on Existence August 14, 15, and 16. This film is billed as "A comedy as weird and wonderful as its title". For more information go to <http://www.swedishconsulate.org/events/>
- Join us on Saturday, September 26th at the Portofino Harbour Marina on the shores of Clear Lake as we reconnect with our seafaring roots. Information on cost and sailing times available can be obtained online at <http://www.swedishclub.org/component/forme/?fid=8>

In the News

- Crown Princess Victoria turned 38 on July 14th and celebrated with her family at the King's countryside residence Solliden on the island of Öland.
- Stockholm was chosen to host Eurovision 2016 at the Globe Arena (Globen) in the south of the city. The Eurovision Song contest is usually hosted by the country that won the previous contest. Lund native singer Måns Zelmerlöw won the 2015 Eurovision Song Contest
- Sweden's stock exchange has reportedly recovered from a dip some after the Greek vote earlier in July. Sweden does little business with Greece and its banks do not carry much of Greece's debt.

SWEDEN'S NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

June 6, 2015

Since the early 1900's June 6th had been celebrated as Swedish Flag Day, in 1983 the Swedish Parliament proclaimed this date as the Swedish National Day.

In Stockholm, many of the festivities are centered in Gamla Stan or Old Town. The Royal Court hosts the very popular Open Castle where the Royal Castle is opened up to the public free of charge including some rooms that are normally closed to tours. There are also numerous activities



planned at the Cathedral, some of

which have included tours of the church tour, lectures and musical performances, and one cannot miss the release of 50000 yellow and blue balloons from Skeppsbron.

In Houston, the Consulate General of Sweden, the Swedish Club of Houston, the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce, SWEA and IKEA hosted a gathering at the South Place clubhouse to celebrate Sweden's National Day with plenty of good Swedish food and camaraderie



Balloon photo by Frankie Fouganthin (WikipediaCommons)

Photos of Houston's Swedish Celebration courtesy of the Counselate General of Sweden



Anders Celsius and Measurement of Temperature

Season notwithstanding, whether cold or warm, humans enjoy sharing notes about the weather, in particular the temperature. Depending on where such conversations take place, temperature is expressed in units of either Fahrenheit, as in The United States, or elsewhere commonly in Celsius. The latter is also part of the metric system, and therefore used predominantly in science.

The name of the Celsius measure derives from the eighteenth century Swedish scientist Anders Celsius, born 1701 in Uppsala, home to Uppsala University, one of Europe's oldest universities, which was established in 1477. Following his studies at Uppsala University, Anders Celsius followed in the footsteps of his father, Nils Celsius, as a professor of astronomy from 1730 until his death in 1744. During his tenure, he participated with English and French colleagues in investigating the actual shape of the earth, with detailed measurements taken in Lapland and northern Sweden confirming Newton's theory of the flattening of the earth at the poles. He is also considered to be the first astronomer to analyze the changes of the earth's magnetic field at the time of the northern lights and to assess the brightness of stars.

However most know Anders Celsius through the temperature measure bearing his name. At Uppsala University, Celsius favored the division of the temperature scale of a mercury thermometer at air pressure of 760mm of mercury into 100°C, where 100 was taken as the boiling point and 0 as the freezing point of water. Due to its convenient decimal partitioning this approach was deemed more precise than that of Fahrenheit and Reaumur. "Degree Celsius", or °C, the unit of temperature interval, was named after this brilliant scientist.

Many of us, especially newcomers to the United States have had to learn to quickly how to convert Degrees Fahrenheit to Degrees C or vice versa, first using a formula, later through daily practice achieving unaided eyeball efficiency. The formulas below are for those who want to practice.

- ☞ Degree F to Degree C: Subtract 32, then Divide by 1.8
- ☞ Degree C to Degree F: Multiply by 1.8, then Add 32

i.e. 86 Degrees F = 30 Degrees Celsius and
20 Degrees C = 68 Degrees Fahrenheit

Source: <http://www.famousscientists.org/anders-celsius/>



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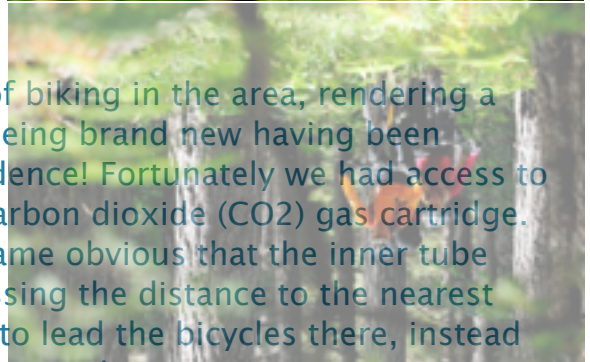
Biking Adventure in The Woodlands

by Tor Palmgren

This is about a recent bicycle journey through some lush and canopied bike paths in The Woodlands. While initially planned as a routine fifteen to twenty mile leisurely ride to lunch in the center of town the trip was punctuated by a flat tire half way through. The events that followed, initiated by a flat tire, while ultimately leading to a successful end, presented a challenge giving special spice and fulfillment to the experience.



For me the puncture was a first in seven years of biking in the area, rendering a false sense of security, especially with the tire being brand new having been replaced only the day before. Talk about coincidence! Fortunately we had access to a repair kit, replete with spare inner tube and carbon dioxide (CO2) gas cartridge. While able to quickly inflate the tire it soon became obvious that the inner tube was seriously torn up and beyond repair. Assessing the distance to the nearest bicycle repair shop as relatively short we opted to lead the bicycles there, instead of changing the tube right there at the site of the incident.



However, that was only the beginning, luckily a passer-by walking his dog helped us locate the nearest bike store using his smart phone. Not only that, but recognizing our predicament he also provided us a ride in his vehicle to the bike store having arranged with his wife to meet us at a nearby cross-section. Due to the kindness and thoughtfulness of this gentleman we reached the bike shop, where a spare tube was quickly and expertly installed. While in the bike store we decide

to stock up on CO2 cartridges for future use. Here one might want to add a plug for the usefulness of mobile phones when biking or exercising or generally when away, even when it might not seem necessary. Yes, nothing new in that, we have all become more or less dependent on these very neat and compact devices. Needless to say both our phones had purposely been left behind by justification of reduced weight and storage space while biking on close and familiar paths. In the aftermath, taking at least one phone would have been a sound choice. The other side, having had a cell phone on hand may not have led to us reaching out and communicating with this gentleman, who ended up going the extra mile providing the assistance.

continued ...

Arriving at the destination with less than one hour's delay, we began to ponder as to how likely one would be able to reciprocate in assisting someone else facing a similar challenge, and the probability of it happening any time soon, if ever. Lo and behold such an opportunity presented itself, much earlier than expected, a couple of hours later on the return trip where we encountered a person leading his bicycle with flat rear tire. To our shared satisfaction and delight we were able to put our fresh experience to practice, swiftly inflate the tire with one of the CO2 cartridges, enabling our fellow-biker to get back on his way.

The tales of the tires were only a small part of our mostly leisurely excursion enjoying the varied network of trails of The Woodlands, meandering through frequently tree-covered paths, at times in relative closeness to streets and neighborhoods, at other times seemingly in the midst of nature, navigating along brooks, creeks and small lakes close to pristine forest vegetation and wildlife. Amongst species observed were egrets, mallards, as well as less common ducks, such as the flashy Muscovy Duck, Mexican in origin and feral in Texas.



In closing the adventure was a truly pleasant and memorable one, matters turning out well, in spite of the incident with the tire, which in the end seemed a mere trifle due to the quick fix. As a take home message, always remember to bring a functioning repair kit and at least one mobile or smart phone, and even so consider striking up conversations with passers by for possible further guidance and enlightenment.

Further information about the bike trails and amenities of the Woodlands, can be obtained by contacting The Woodlands Township Recreation Center, 5310 Research Forest Drive, The Woodlands, TX 77381, at 281-210-3950.





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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.

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