

The Nordic Club - Columbia, SC January 2008 Newsletter (Vol.6 no. 2)

February is here and we hope you will love this newsletter...!

You may have celebrated the Chinese New Year but it is clearly unlikely Scandinavians would celebrate the year of the rat. This week Scandinavians & Scanfans can enjoy romantic aspects of celebrating Valentine's Day in South Carolina!

We love to share good news with you! Your board was active this month and we are pleased to share with you the fruit of our efforts. We contacted various entities to pursue further sponsorship of our club. The following entities were contacted: Icelandair, Northwest Airlines, Continental Airlines, Arkus Produkter, Arla Foods, Ekornes, and Metso. We had a positive reply from Arla Foods, the makers of Danish butter, Lurpak and some other dairy products. Arla Foods has agreed to help sponsor our Danish mid-summer party and will provide samples and recipes for members attending the party!

We also heard back from the distributor of Ekornes in Columbia, The Bohemian, that they would make available a "Stressless" chair, The Kensington, for the Nordic Club exhibit at the International Festival in April as well as providing a chair at a very significant discount that the Nordic Club could use for a raffle! We also received an encouraging reply indicating that Metso would look into corporate membership!

Separately we were contacted by the publishers of Norway.com and they have agreed to provide our club with the latest issue of that publication at no cost. We will have these in time for distribution at the International Festival.

News About Our Members

Please join us in extending a welcome to new members of the Nordic Club! Roger Johansson of Sweden and his family were quite impressed by the Skta. Lucia event and decided to join in our fun. Also Jorgen Larsen from Denmark was convinced that it would be a way to meet more Scandinavians.

A belated welcome is also overdue to Richard Ekstrom with Swedish ties as well as Marlene Mackey and Runa Chandler both Linked to Finland!



This issue of The Nordic Club newsletter will be the first in what we hope will be a long series featuring stories about our members. Allow us to introduce you to Dr. Donald F. Wuori, a professor of Clinical Pediatrics with the University of South Carolina, School of Medicine with over 20 years of service to South Carolina.

We were introduced to his photography last year when he was kind enough to make some prints available for the Nordic Club 2006 Skta Lucia event and in 2007 for the stand at the International Festival. Don was kind enough to make available some photos for this issue....



These images are from 2006 visiting Oulu , Finland . The temperature was -20centigrade. Very cool indeed!



Don captured a sunset scene near Ivalo in the northern part of Finland.



Don and his wife Joanne enjoy their visits to Finland and moments like the sunset and sunrise that follows shortly thereafter. (above, right)

Don is also involved with the Carolina Nature Photographer's Association. The photo to the right is a woodpecker he photographed in Finland.



Don was the chief organizer of the 2006 party celebrating Finland's mid summer. He has been active with the club together with his wife.

Who will be featured next month... You can look forward to learning about another member!

Upcoming Events

Keep in mind that on March 2nd there is the Lake Murray Symphony Orchestra concert featuring Carl Nielsen.

Then April will need people to participate with the International Festival where we will have a splendid stand.

June will be dedicated to celebrating the Danish Mid Summer on June 22.

As mentioned above, members will have the opportunity to win an Ekornes Stressless chair! The Nordic Club and its members are most grateful to Ekornes & The Bohemian Home located on Devine Street. They are making available a Kensington chair at a very special discount. The chair will be part of a raffle to be held at our June event. Tickets will be sold for \$10 per ticket. Members up to date with their dues may purchase one or more tickets during the months of April and May. A chair will be on display at the Nordic Club stand during the international festival. Kathy Simmons, our treasurer has indicated she would prefer to receive checks from members wishing to purchase tickets for the chair drawing.

News from the Nordic Countries

The news from Iceland is in line with some of the photos taken in Finland in 2006, very cool...

DAILY NEWS

02/08/2008 | 11:35

Snowstorms Rage in Iceland, Roads Impassible

Snowstorms raged in most parts of the country yesterday and most highland roads were declared impassible. Meteorologists have issued a continued murky weather forecast for Iceland today and tomorrow.

Meteorologists expect temperatures to increase today, so snow could turn into rain and cause flooding. Sharp gusts of wind have been forecast as well and people are asked to keep an eye out for loose objects kept outside. Boat owners in south Iceland should prepare for high waves, ruv.is reports.

Winter King has apparently decided to celebrate the Reykjavik Winter Festival with full force, which began last night and lasts until Saturday.

The winter in Iceland has been cold and harsh since the beginning of January. Last weekend the frost dropped to -30.3°C degrees, approaching the 1918 record of -38°C.

You heard about the successful launch of the US rocket this week, but did you hear about the one in Sweden

Rocket launch to test seasick fish

Published: 8 Feb 08 08:33 CET

Online: <http://www.thelocal.se/9917/>

Live fish are to be placed in a rocket and shot into outer space next week from the Esrange Space Centre in Kiruna in northern Sweden. The aim of the experiment is to gain knowledge that can be used to counteract travel sickness. The spacebound fish, which will each be around the size of a thumb nail, have all been selected from the cichlid family.

Having been placed in aquarium-like containers, the fish will be strapped into an eight-metre long Texus rocket and blasted up to a height of 260-270 kilometres (162-168 miles).

During their journey into space the fish will find themselves in a weightless state for some six minutes.

“Quite simply, they are going to be seasick until they have managed to acclimatize,” said Esrange spokeswoman Johanna Bergström-Roos.

When the fish have come back down to earth, researchers will examine their otolith organs, which are structures used to sense gravity and acceleration.

The thesis put forward by the German researchers behind the project is that the shape of the otoliths may have a bearing on variations in sensitivity to travel sickness.

TT/The Local (news@thelocal.se/08 656 6518)

If you are contemplating some time on the slopes between now and May, think about Norwegian slopes...

Best ski conditions for Norway in 20 years

January was a fantastic month for downhill skiers, reports Skiinfo.no.

Trysil, Norway's largest alpine ski resort area, reports the best conditions since 1988, when there was 2.2 meters of snow on the ground. Last week, 40 centimeters of snow fell, and 65 slopes are open.

Meanwhile, Hemsedal, another top Scandinavian ski area, has never had as much snow in January as this year. It has eclipsed the record of 131.2 millimeters set 32 years ago. Exceptional conditions are expected to continue throughout the season, which ends on May 4.

Aftenposten English Web Desk, Catherine Stein

From Finland there is a story of a cool short cut...

Ice road across Lake Pielinen opens - several weeks late

Ice conditions across entire country are very weak

As a result of the mild and damp winter, thin ice has delayed the opening of ice roads across lakes in most parts of Finland except for Lapland. On Thursday, the Finnish Road Administration (Finnra) could eventually open the ice road across Lake Pielinen from Koli to Lieksa in Eastern Finland, when the thickness of ice reached the minimum of 40 cm. Since 1980, the Koli ice road has been Finland's longest public ice road. The 7-km route shortens the distance from Lieksa's Vuonisaari to Koli from 92 km to 41 km.

For example in two other traditional ice-road venues - Kuopio's Kallavesi Lake and between Oulu and the island of Hailuoto the thickness of ice is quite insufficient. While Finnra normally opens at least four official ice roads every winter, now there is now only one across Kemijärvi Lake at Räisälä and another across the Kemijoki River in Rovaniemi's Oikarainen, in addition to the Koli ice road. Moreover, Finnra has set certain weight limits for vehicles on the ice roads in Lapland. In Räisälä the weight limit is 4.5 tons, while in Rovaniemi it is 7 tons.

According to the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), the ice thickness in the lakes of Central Finland was 15 to 20 cm below the average for the season at the end of January. SYKE will obtain new readings next weekend. In any case, the ice conditions of the current winter are very weak in the entire country excluding Lapland, reports hydrologist Johanna Korhonen. As a consequence of the weak ice situation, the number of drownings for the current year is so far already 15, among them one Russian tourist in Sotkamo in Eastern Finland. Most of the drowned persons were middle-aged men who had gone fishing on the ice on familiar lakes. In comparison, the number of drownings as a result of thin ice in January 2007 was just three, while three other drowning cases occurred at the same time.

The minimum thickness of fast ice is 5 cm for a person walking alone, while a snowmobile requires an ice thickness of at least 15 cm along the entire route. This last point can be the downfall of snowmobile riders, who hit patches of thin ice owing to lake or river currents, often with fatal consequences. Moreover, the minimum thickness for a passenger car is about 20 cm of fast ice. On official ice roads the minimum ice thickness has to be 40 cm.

Advice on how to save oneself or another person who is in trouble on ice can be found on the web site of the Finnish Association for Swimming Instruction and Life Saving (SUH).

From Denmark there is good news being confirmed...

FOR DANES, ANY TIME IS BEER TIME

Whether drinking a cold one after work, or raising a glass to the newlyweds, it seems that beer is an inextricable part of Danish life

For a country whose flagship brewery is set to become the world's largest, it seems appropriate that the vast majority of Danes feel that beer is an appropriate beverage to drink on most occasions, according to a new survey.

The days when office canteens allowed workers to enjoy a bottle of Carlsberg or Tuborg during lunch break may be gone but for most Danes. But according to SABMiller, a joint British-South African brewer, beer is still much more a part of social occasions in Denmark than in wine-belt nations such as Italy and France.

Take weddings for example. Here, 80 percent of Danes say it's acceptable to drink a glass of beer during the festivities. And while other northern European countries Sweden and the Netherlands have the same opinion, only 23 percent of Italians felt so.

When it comes to dinnertime, wholly 95 percent of Danes say a beer makes home cooked food go down better, while 93 percent say beer at a restaurant is also acceptable. At only 56 percent, Frenchmen were the least likely to drink beer with food.

And when it comes to drinking beer at social occasions, the study found that Danes took the term 'social drinking' seriously. When out with a group of Danes at a bar, expect that someone in the group will offer to buy a round - even if the group is rather large: at an average round size of 6.4 beers, Danish beer drinkers' generosity came in second only to Belgium's 7.1-drink average.

Skål!

*The Copenhagen Post (source:
<http://www.denmark.dk/en/servicemenu/News/CultureNews/ForDanesAnyTimeIsBeerTime.htm>)*

We hope you enjoyed this edition of The Nordic Club newsletter. We welcome your input be it articles, photos, recipes or any other item you would like to share with members of the club. Please remember to get your dues to Kathy, a check for \$30 is all it takes! Please support our sponsors... Carlsberg, Publix, Aalborg Akvavit, Newberry Opera, Bohemian & Arla Foods!

Have a great week and a fine month.

The Nordic Club

Louis Dessau
President
(Denmark)

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