

## **Welcome to the 2001 Season !**

Happy New Year to you all, and welcome to a new season with the Danish Club of Houston. The busy December with Holiday Party and Church Service is almost forgotten, and we are already starting planning of this year's party as well as all the other activities for 2001.

The spring season will offer some of our "traditional" activities such as Fastelavn, Grundlovsdag Picnic, and Five-a-side soccer, but also a Camping trip / family picnic at Brazos Bend National Park and a Spring Church Service with Torben Poulsen and the Danish organ player Ulrik Damm.

Our friends in Danevang are busy with construction of the new Heritage Museum. We are invited to the inauguration in June, and as usual also to the Queens Birthday celebration in April.

The highly acclaimed Viking Exhibition will be at the Musuem of Natural Science mid-July until end of October. A Scandinavian committee is planning a lot of activities in connection with the exhibition, and we will also be part of that.

The Danish Consulate and the Danish Club may also start some business networking and get-togethers sometime in the spring. We have therefore added some lines to our Membership Renewal Form to help establishing such a network, which will be run by a separate committee outside the Board.

Talking about Membership Renewal... It is time to cough up the annual fee. The Club is not rich, and we do not need to be, so we maintain the annual fee for the whole family at \$ 15 for 2001. Thereby nobody should be prevented from being a member for financial reasons.

Please cut a check right away and send it to Hannes together with the enclosed form. We find it a little embarrassing to have to ask people to pay their dues, when they show up for an event, and it does happen from time to time. So get it out of the way next time you are in the bill-paying mood.

We are pleased to welcome Henrik Roende to the Board as replacement for Lis Ostergaard, who resigned from the Board in November. Henrik is a geophysicist, working for a French company in the upstream oil business, and the Roende family came to Houston about a year ago.

We look forward to a good year for the Danish Club of Houston! Thank you all for being part of it.

## **Through Rain, Sleet and.....**



No, we are not talking about the postal service, but about the 4 members of the Danish Club who have signed up to ride in the MS150 Bicycle Ride from Houston to Austin on April 21-22.

The four, Henrik Roende, Bent Benjaminsen, Bob Equitz, and Hannes Hofer, meet, together with some American friends, every Sunday Morning in Far-West Houston where they have, so far, ridden distances up to 45 miles. The weather has been pretty rough for bicycling this winter, but neither rain, wind, nor near-freezing temperatures has kept the hard core Danes from showing up.

The ride to Austin, which is actually closer to 180 miles long than to 150, is a charity ride for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Riders are to sign up sponsors for the tour. Should you be interested in sponsoring the Danish Riders, please send an e-mail to Hannes at [hofer@mac.com](mailto:hofer@mac.com).

*Hannes H.*

## **Danish Club Logo Contest !!**

The Danish Club is planning to offer T-shirts, Polo Shirts and Caps with our logo. Only problem is that we do not have an official logo. We are using a Texas map with the Danish flag, but why not ask our creative members for better ideas?

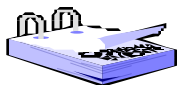
So, you are invited to submit your idea(s) for the official logo, to be used for merchandise, letterhead etc. The logo should be rather simple, include the colors red and white (and not too many others) and should include the text "Danish Club of Houston" as part of, or in connection with logo. Our merchandise will be offered in white and red colors.

Submit your suggestion(s) to Hannes Hofer by **February 21**, preferably in an electronic format, but that is not a must, as long as the format can be scanned. Only Hannes will know who the artists are, and the suggestions will be presented at Fastelavn and on the web-site.

Depending on number of suggestions, we will either go straight to an all-members-vote on the website or establish a committee for selecting the best logos for posting on the web-site for final vote.

First price is \$ 100 worth of merchandise with the new logo, second price is \$ 50 worth of merchandise.

## **Season Calendar 2001**



*Further events will be added,  
and changes may happen...*

### **Sunday, February 25, at 2 pm.:**

Fastelavns Party for the Kids and their parents at Pecan Park, Pecan Grove.

### **March 23 – March 25:**

Camping / Sunday Family Picnic at Brazos Bend National Park.

### **Sunday, April 1, at 11 am:**

Five-a-side soccer tournament and outdoor family church service at the Norwegian Seamen's Church in Pasadena.

### **Saturday, April 21.:**

HRH Queen Margrethe's Birthday Celebration in Danevang, TX

### **Sunday, April 22, TBA:**

Danish Church Service with Konfirmation. Pastor Torben Poulsen, New York and Organ player Ulrik Damm, Randers, Denmark. At Christ the King's Lutheran Church (TBC).

### **Saturday, June 2:**

Inauguration of the Danish Heritage Museum in Danevang, TX.

### **Sunday, June 10, from 2 pm.:**

Grundlovsfest (Danish Constitution Day) and Annual Meeting, Nottingham Forest Club.

### **Friday, July 13:**

The Viking Exhibition opens at Houston Museum of Natural Science. (Thru 10/29)

### **Sunday, September 9 (TBC):**

Visit to Sam Houston Race Park. Pet the horses and win a fortune. Guided tour behind the scene, stay for the races.

## **Fastelavns Party ...**

Bring the kids to the Fastelavns party in Pecan Park, Pecan Grove (359 / Alt. 90, see map on back of Fee Form), Southwest of Houston. Lisbeth is baking her famous Fastelavnsboller, bring your own coffee.

As usual there will be prizes for the best kids costumes, and we will "beat the cat out of the barrel" and crown the Cat King & Queen. Attendance is free for both adults and kids, so don't forget to show up on February 25 at 2 pm. for some family fun.

## **Brazos Bend Camping / Picnic**

March 23-24-25, we are having a camping/picnic trip to Brazos Bend State Park. Those wanting to camp may come down Friday evening or Saturday and camp the entire weekend. For the more soft-core among us there will be a picnic on Sunday at noon. The Park is popular with campers, so if you want to camp please contact the Camping Guru Johnny Larsen, who has been put in charge of organizing the event.

Johnny's phone number is 281-316-1972. The Park's number is 979-553-5101, and their website is at [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/brazos](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/brazos). We will arrange a Ranger tour in the park, and you may bring your bikes for some exercise. More details to follow on our website and by e-mail Newsflash.

## **Five-a-Side Soccer...**

Last year was a total rain-out, and only the tough FLS miljø team showed up to defend the Danish colors. This year we should muster at least three or four teams for the Scandinavian five-a-side in Pasadena on April 1.

Outdoor Family Church service starts at 11 am., soccer games at noon. Send an e-mail or call Niels Kastrup by March 17, if you want to play on one of the DK-teams, or if you can put a full team together (5-7 players). We are playing on small fields and with mini-goals. It's a lot of fun and not too tough.

## **Holiday Party at Rice...**

Approx. 80 people attended the Christmas party at Cohen House, -not quite as many as we had hoped. The location was beautiful with a spectacular dining room, nice surroundings and a

qualified kitchen, who did their best to hit the Danish taste for Yule fare..

The Party Committee had done a great job decorating the facility and preparing sketches and songs for the evening. Raffles and Auction were popular fundraisers, and we could again this year send a donation to Lise Lesec's Children in California. After the dinner our DJ Milo played some old rock and roll, and we all hit the dance floor.

Thanks for all the hard work to Bridget Jensen, Karin Leadholm, Jane Lund, Charlotte Volders, Dorthe Equitz and Peter Madsen. Also thanks to Carole Hedemann for playing the accordion, to Milo Lund for DJ'ing, and to Susie Ipsen and Johnny Larsen for a fun performance.

### **Thanks to our Sponsors:**

We really appreciate the many nice gifts for the Auction and Raffle. Our sincere thanks to:

<i>Danish Inspirations</i>	<i>Aegis Asset Mgn</i>
<i>Clipper Americas</i>	<i>Samson Controls</i>
<i>Scandinavian Airlines</i>	<i>IKEA</i>
<i>Bisca</i>	<i>Dan Transport Corp</i>
<i>Moller Supply Services</i>	<i>FLS miljø Inc.</i>
<i>Nordana Line</i>	<i>Haldor Topsoe Inc.</i>
<i>Hempel Coatings</i>	<i>Anna Thomsen</i>
<i>Susie I. &amp; Johnny L.</i>	<i>Ray Daugbjerg</i>

### **New Members:**

Since our last Newsletter, we welcome the following new members to the Danish Club:

Helle & Keith Tucker	281-557-9771
Steen Svendsen	281-384-9162

### **A Holiday Card From California...**

The income from auctioning the SAS tickets at the Christmas Party was shared with the children of our former member Lise Lesec, who so tragically died in 1999. We have received a very nice card from the family, with personal regards from the sons Jacques and Nicolas. Also Lise's mother Birgitte thanks the Danish Club of Houston for still keeping Lise in our thoughts.

### **Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig and Museum Tour...**

On a sunny November 12th afternoon fifteen members of the Danish Club toured the Ocean

Star Drilling Rig and Museum in the Port of Galveston, adjacent to the historic downtown Strand area. The museum is housed in a completely refurbished jack-up drilling rig, the type commonly used by the oil industry in drilling wells on the Gulf of Mexico shelf.

The tour began with a 15 minute film that described the history of the rig and provided an overview of the offshore oil and gas industry. Then Museum Operations Director Lisa White led the group through the rig, which features exhibits of actual drilling equipment and included numerous models and dioramas addressing offshore drilling and production, marine transportation, environmental protection, construction, and underwater pipelines.

The younger members of the group even had a chance to don hardhats and coveralls and get a taste of what rig life must be like! After touring all three decks of the rig, the group walked across the "catwalk" to the rig floor, where standing under the clear, blue skies one could almost hear the diesels churning and imagine the roughnecks busily working to "make hole"!



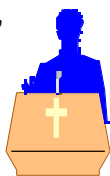
Afterwards a small contingent walked along Strand Boulevard, enjoying the quaint shops and quenching their thirst in the Danish way (beer!) at one of the area's many restaurants. The tour was a big hit and the Ocean Star is well worth the visit, particularly while here in the "oil capital of the world"!

*Carl S.*

### **Danish Christmas Church Service...**

The traditional Christmas Service at the Norwegian Seamen's Church was as usual a total "sell-out". Pastor Torben Poulsen from the Danish Seamen's Church conducted the service for the fifth year in a row, and we are very pleased that his contract has

now been extended – allowing also our tradition to continue. It is also becoming a tradition that baptism is part of our Christmas service, and two new members of the Danish Club were christened during the service.



After the service the children sang Danish Christmas songs and they were all excited when Santa Johnny showed up with goody bags for everybody. Meanwhile the adults were treated to “aebleskiver” and coffee.

### **Danish Pastry in Bellville, TX...**

Texas Journey, the AAA membership Magazine had the following remarks about Newman’s Bakery in Bellville in their October 2000 issue:

*..The smell of freshly baked goods and a smile from the locals greet you at this small town bakery, which attracts farmers, antiquers, bikers and wildflower lovers. Tasty pastries and sandwiches with a Danish touch from the owner’s wife can be complemented with espresso or cappuccino...*

The Newman’s are -of course- members of the Danish Club, and you can call Connie at 979-865-9804 for special orders like genuine “kransekage”.

### **Royal Danish Consulate**

Dorte Benjaminsen is on maternity leave, so until further notice Rikke Olsen will be the day-to-day contact to the Royal Danish Consulate in Houston. See [www.dkhouston.org](http://www.dkhouston.org) for opening hours, address and directions to the Consulate.

### **Green Card Lottery**

Did you know that the 1999 Green Card lottery had eleven million applications, including 45,000 from Danes? We have not yet heard about the number of participants in the 2000 Lottery, which closed on November 1.

### **Danes Worldwide – Dansk Samvirke**

Have you thought about joining Dansk Samvirke / Danes Worldwide, with their Summer school, Remote School Program, and special membership offers and events in Denmark? Annual fee is DKK 325, including the interesting monthly magazine “Danmarksposten”. All information and the magazine is in the Danish language. Please call or e-mail Niels Kastrup, if you want more information or a brochure.

### **Gulf Coast Scandinavian Folkdancers**

Would you like to do some Scandinavian two-stepping ? For more information, contact Carl Steffensen at 281-493-4801 (steff@flash.net)

### **Nordic Women’s Cultural Club:**

For more information, call Bente Rawson at 713-782-4108.

### **www.dkhouston.org**

Wanna read or print this Newsletter in flying colors ? Don’t forget to visit our web site to check on the latest news from the Danish Club, to review our photo archive from previous events, or maybe buy an air ticket.

### **Facts About The Danish Club...**

#### **Board of Directors:**

Niels H. Kastrup, President	281-855-9299
Carl Steffensen Vice President	281-493-4801
Hannes Hofer, Treasurer	713-664-7784
Mette Miller, Secretary	281-859-3140
Lisbeth Mogensen, Activ. Coord.	281-992-1136
Henrik Roende, Activ. Coord.	281-679-6886

#### **New Members / Address / E-mail Changes:**

Hannes Hofer  
4042 Silverwood, Houston, TX 77025  
e-mail: hofer@mac.com

#### **Newsletter:**

This volume is edited by Niels H. Kastrup, and mailed to members in good standing and selected friends of the Danish-American community in Houston. Copying and mailing courtesy of *FLS miljø Inc. – Clean Air To The World...*

### **Jensen World Travel, Ltd.**

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