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Volume 1, Issue 1

The Midnight Sun

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Calendar of Events:

- February 4 (Saturday)
Charlotte Checkers game,
New Charlotte Arena
(333 East Trade Street)
7pm
- November 4 (Saturday)
ScanFest 2006!
Location and Times TBD

Welcome to the Land of The Midnight Sun!



A year and a half ago, we, the Scandinavian community in Charlotte, NC, decided to start our own annual Scandinavian Festival. Our first ScanFest was held in October 2004, an astounding feat of organization that we managed to pull together in six weeks. Following ScanFest 2004, SAGA of the Carolinas, a non-profit organization, was born. The purpose of the new organization is to bring together local Scandinavians and people with an interest in Scandinavian culture to celebrate our traditions through an annual festival. As we

worked toward our goal of ScanFest 2005, we found our biggest challenge has been keeping our community informed of the planning process. To that end, we have decided to start a monthly newsletter to keep everyone up-to-date on SAGA events and ScanFest 2006 planning, a process already underway. Which brings us to The Midnight Sun!

The Midnight Sun will be published on a monthly basis in an electronic format which will be distributed via email, and also posted on our website

(www.ScandinavianConnection.org). Hard copies for those without Internet access are available for \$5 per year (to cover postage and printing costs). In each issue we will let you know about upcoming social events, fundraisers, and the most recent plans for ScanFest 2006. We hope you find our newsletter informative and helpful. Please contact us with comments or submissions:

Ulrika Pettersson, editor
Ulrika@ScandinavianConnection.org

Jenn Terada, editor
Jenn@ScandinavianConnection.org

SAGA + Charlotte Checkers = FUN

Join us for an exciting night of hockey at the beautiful New Charlotte Arena located at 333 East Trade Street in Charlotte's Center City. SAGA has arranged for group discount tickets to the game versus the Columbia Inferno on Saturday, February 4. Attack Zone

tickets will be available for \$14 (regularly \$18) and Corner Seats for \$12 (regularly \$15). Bring your family and friends and your favorite hockey cheer, and join us at the game! Watch your email inbox for information about purchasing tickets at the

group rate or contact Ulrika Pettersson at 704-763-9152 for assistance. All proceeds from this fundraiser go directly towards ScanFest 2006 expenses.



GO CHECKERS!!

Skål! ScanFest 2005 - What a Party!



Dancing the Jenkka!

The 2nd annual ScanFest was held on November 12, 2005, and a great time was had by all! Santa Claus made a special trip from the Arctic Circle to see the children of Charlotte. The Swedish School in Charlotte treated us to a beautiful Sankta Lucia procession, and **Scandans**

made the trip from Raleigh to entertain and educate us. What a treat to join them in dancing the Jenkka!

Visitors enjoyed perusing the Scandinavian Marketplace and Grocery with its many handcrafts and imported goods, partaking in some authentic Scandinavian pastries, coffee, and glögg, and socializing with fellow revelers.

Many thanks to all of our volunteers, sponsors, vendors, and supporters, without whom ScanFest could not hap



Helle Voldbaek and Hanna Boxer with Sanna Tucker

pen. We look forward to many more years of celebrating Scandinavia with all of you!

Do You Have a Fabulous Photo?

Have you or your family recently been to Scandinavia and have some great snapshots to share? We would like to feature a different photo every month to highlight

the best that Scandinavia and its people have to offer! Photos could depict beautiful scenic shots, family candid photos, traditional holiday celebrations, or local Scandinavians having a good time. Submissions should include a brief (50-75 words) description of the photo as well as a photographer's credit and contact



The Swedish School performing Sankta Lucia

information. Please send your submission to Jenn@ScandinavianConnection.org

Mark your calendars!

The 3rd annual ScanFest Charlotte will be held on November 4, 2006. Stay tuned for more details...

Please Note: All submissions become the property of SAGA and will be eligible for inclusion in all SAGA media. This means that we can share your submissions with other people on the Web, in print materials, and in other ways. So, send it in! Thanks!

Looking for a Few Good Chefs...

Do you get rave reviews for your cooking or baking? Do you have a Scandinavian recipe that is considered tops among your family and friends? Would you like the opportunity to share it (and maybe show off a little)? Well, we would like to see what you can do!

The Midnight Sun will be hosting a monthly recipe contest. Recipes must

be Scandinavian in origin (or have a strong Scandinavian influence) and cannot have been previously published. This month's entries must be received by **11:59 pm, EST, January 20**. Entries will be judged on creativity and taste by The Midnight Sun editors. Decisions of judges are final and may not be ap-



pealed. Winner of the January contest will receive **two (2) tickets** to the February 4 Charlotte Checkers game vs. Columbia, **an apron**, and **recognition** on our website and in future newsletters. Entries should be sent to Ulrika@ScandinavianConnection.org.

GOOD LUCK!!

A Publication of **SAGA of the Carolinas**, a non-profit organization

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"Connecting Scandinavia and the Carolinas"

We're on the Web!
www.ScandinavianConnection.org



Mission Statement

SAGA of the Carolinas, a non-profit organization, is organized to promote cultural exchange between the United States and the Nordic Countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden; to preserve and enjoy the Scandinavian traditions, customs, history and cultural heritage; to increase understanding of the Nordic people and societies among Americans; and to provide a forum where people interested in Scandinavia can meet and enjoy Nordic culture and activities. -

Calling all Scan-Am Groups!

If your group or organization would like to have your events or news included in the next issue of The Midnight Sun, please send your submission of 100-150 words to Jenn@ScandinavianConnection.org by Friday, January 20.

ScanFest 2006, An Event in the Making

Are you ready for some ScanFest?

After ScanFest 2005, we made a couple of realizations: we need better communication and a bigger venue! To address the first issue, we formed The Midnight Sun newsletter. We are currently working on a solution to the second. Our festival became so popular so quickly that we outgrew the old venue almost immediately. Unfortunately, ScanFest's coffers were a bit wanting and we were unable to rent a larger facility for last year's event. This year, however, a new venue is a priority! We are currently looking into several possible venues for future festivals that will allow us to give everyone involved the space that they need, as well as giving the

event room to grow.

This year we are planning to have many of the same components of ScanFest that we have had in past years: authentic foods and pastries, Scandinavian handcrafts, groceries, and imported goods, folk dancing, music, and other entertainments, and children's activities. We would also like to include some new and unique events, such as a soccer match or perhaps a wife-carrying contest. If you have any

ideas or input that would help our event become bigger and better, we'd love to hear from you!



Committees are currently being formed for the 2006 festival. We would love to have representation from as many Scandinavian countries as we could. If you or anyone you know would like to be involved with any aspect of ScanFest 2006, contact Sanna Tucker at 704-846-9070 or

sanna@ScandinavianConnection.org.