

# The Midnight Sun

## A Day of Fun in the Sun!

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Charlotte World Soccer Tournament for 30+ years old adults was held on Saturday, June 9, 2007 at Ramblewood Park in Charlotte, NC. This was the second year that SAGA participated



in this event as a supporter and promoter of the event. We worked closely with the people from Swedish American Chamber of Commerce and concentrated our efforts on showcasing Swe-

den and other Scandinavian countries.

The event was partly a fundraiser for SAGA also. We sold ice water as well as raffles for

a Scandinavian gift basket, with all proceeds going toward the costs associated with the production of ScanFest of the Carolinas.

The day was enjoyed by many and we are looking forward to being part of next year's tournament too!



Thank you to all of our SAGA friends for helping us out during the day.

Submitted by Sanna Tucker



## SAGA and ScanFest to be Represented at Local Events

### Calendar of Events

- **ScanFest Planning Social**  
Living Saviour Lutheran Church  
6817 Carmel Road  
Sunday, August 19  
4:00 pm
- **UNCC Int'l Festival**  
Featuring Café Scandinavia  
Barnhardt Student Activity Center  
Saturday, September 29
- **Nordic Golf Classic**  
Regent Park Golf Club  
5055 Regent Parkway  
Fort Mill, SC 29715  
Saturday, October 20
- **ScanFest 2007!**  
Wachovia Atrium  
301 S. Tryon Street  
Saturday, November 3

### York Summerfest

Sat, Aug 25, 8am-5pm in York, SC (historic uptown)

We will have a booth set up to promote ScanFest and Nordic Golf Classic Golf Tournament. Volunteers are needed to hand out flyers and enthusiastically represent our great group!

For more information, visit

[www.greateryorkchamber.com](http://www.greateryorkchamber.com) and click on Summerfest.

### Matthews Alive Parade

Sat, Sept 1, 8 am in downtown Matthews, NC

SAGA will be walking in the Matthews Alive parade to promote ScanFest, Nordic Classic golf tournament, and other upcoming events.

Volunteers/Walkers, including children, are needed and encouraged to join us in the parade. Participants should wear folk costumes, country or ScanFest t-shirts, or other items to highlight Scandinavia and ScanFest of the Carolinas.

If you are interested in helping with either event, please contact Signa Curry at [signa@scandinavianconnection.org](mailto:signa@scandinavianconnection.org).

# Don't Miss Canoe Building Camp!

From [www.BuildACanoe.com](http://www.BuildACanoe.com):

This summer we are offering a wooden canoe building workshop the week of August 4-9. Torben Hanson, Professor of Craft at the Danish School of Crafts in Copenhagen, Denmark will be our guest instructor. The Danish School is a 110 year old institution dedicated to the teaching of craft to teachers. This workshop is designed for couples or a parent with an older child.



Reed Island Creek or the New River is optional.

This workshop, including accommodation in our restored 1800s log farmhouse inn and green building addition, most meals, yoga instruction, canoe building instruction and materials costs

\$1200 per couple. This includes, of course, taking home your own hand built canoe.

For more details and to register, visit [www.ambrosiafarm.net](http://www.ambrosiafarm.net), call us at 540-745-6363 or email us at [ambrosiafarm@swva.net](mailto:ambrosiafarm@swva.net).



[www.BuildACanoe.com](http://www.BuildACanoe.com)

Visit the camp website at [www.brpk.com/campambrosia](http://www.brpk.com/campambrosia)



Isabel Shankle, from Denmark, will also be here to teach yoga and our



renown local massage therapist, Shirley Ann Burgess will be on hand to give a hot stone massage after a busy day of boat building. Some Danish

and Tuscan meals will be prepared with ingredients fresh from our organic garden.

In the evening enjoy drumming under the stars or a house concert given by talented local musicians. A one day trip of canoeing the

## Taste of Scandinavia is the NEWEST adventure of SAGA!

Come and taste the real native foods of Scandinavia on Saturday, November 3, 2007 during ScanFest of the Carolinas 2007. We will showcase some of the best home cooking in the region! So far, we welcome the following people to our food committee:

Sirpa Lepistö  
Jaska Lepistö

Ellen Stenstrom  
Susan Cureton  
Else Grady



Please hop on board the food chain!!! We welcome all of you to be part of Taste of

Mr. and Mrs. Niels Olsen  
Monica Arnette  
Åsa Baer  
Lenora Claesson

Scandinavia!  
For more information, please contact Sanna Tucker at [sanna@scandinavianconnection.org](mailto:sanna@scandinavianconnection.org)

# Sweden Unveils \$150 Laptop Computer

From Insider TechNews:

Now called "The Cheapest Notebook in the World" by Gizmodo, Swedish company Medison just lowered the price on their budget laptop, Medison Celebrity™ to \$150 to compete with Dr. Negropontes's OLPC (One Laptop Per Child), which originally retailed at \$100, but has now ballooned past \$175. "There is a great interest but I cannot disclose exactly how many computers we are selling", said Medison representative Robert Klanjac to



Swedish newspaper Aftonbladet. "We have changed our strategy to meet the demand from our customers. We want everyone to

internet browsing, e-mailing and word processing. It comes with a Linux installation, 1.5 GHz Celeron and a 40 GB HDD which sounds like it might measure up to those tasks. The Celebrity is a direct competitor to the yet to be released Asus Eee PC 701 and might create a stir on the market.

## Medison Celebrity Key Features

- Intel® Celeron 1.5 GHz CPU
- 14" Widescreen X-bright LCD
- 256 MB Ram memory
- 40 GB Hard Drive
- 802.11g Wireless LAN
- Optimized Linux operating system

Pre-installed office and multimedia applications

<http://www.medisoncelebrity.com/product.html>

**Would you like to see your friends and family in *The Midnight Sun*? We would, too! Send your photo or recipe submissions to [Jenn@ScandinavianConnection.org](mailto:Jenn@ScandinavianConnection.org) by August 24.**

be able to afford a computer", he continues.

The Medison Celebrity™ is meant to be a computer for

## Charlotte Children's Theatre to Highlight Works by HCA

Children's Theatre of Charlotte invites you to join us as we celebrate our 60th anniversary with an exciting new season! We've chosen the theme of "Celebrating New Horizons" for our 2007-08 lineup of MainStage Productions and Special Events, as we look back on our past, appreciate where we are today, and dream excitedly about our future.

This year's lineup includes two performances of classic Hans Christian Andersen works. The Grey Seal Puppets bring "The Emperor's New Clothes" to life on January 12 & 13. These performances are geared

toward audiences aged 5 and up. The Taradiddle Players finish their season with an Asian-inspired adaptation of "The Nightingale," running from May 2-11, and appropriate for children ages 6 and up.

Tickets and more information are available on the Children's Theatre website at [www.ctcharlotte.org](http://www.ctcharlotte.org). You can reach our Box Office at 704-973-2828 (10 am to 5pm, Mon -

Fri). For general questions about Children's Theatre of Charlotte or to request our 2007-2008 season brochure, call 704-973-2800 (9am to 5pm, Mon - Fri).



### SHOW UP EARLY TO YOUR RETIREMENT PARTY.

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## Wonderful, Never-ending Winter in Ski Tunnel

From [www.finnfacts.fi](http://www.finnfacts.fi):

**Ideal conditions are a spur to sportsmen and women as well as the keep-fit enthusiast to ski in the snow in a ski tunnel. Finns can practise their favourite winter sport all the year round.**

The ski tunnel at Jämi was constructed completely above ground level. The combined length of the tunnel and halls situated at either end of it is 625 metres. The ski tunnel section is 8 metres in width and about 4 metres in height; at one end there is a place for turning round and at the other a hall with artificial snow where there is also a curling rink. Next to the



artificial-snow hall there are changing-room facilities and also a cafe. The building covers, in all, about 6,000 square metres in area and 30,000 cubic metres in space. Almost a million people live within the tunnel's catchment area. The project's costs are two million euros.

SPU-Systems from Kankaanpää, which acted as the contractor for the framework and covering of the tunnel, is a company that specializes in hall construction and manufactures both prefabricated wooden-frame wall and

roofing panels and also polyurethane heating insulation. The company has used the heating insulation to develop solutions in particular for indoor practice halls. The solutions have improved the control of moisture in difficult conditions, the durability of structures, acoustic applications and energy



consumption. The ski tunnel is naturally a cold building, and its special requirements are similar to those in indoor practice halls.

SPU-Systems has been involved in the construction of 45 ice rinks in Finland and one at Akureyr in Iceland. Its best-known projects are the roofs for the Hartwall Arena in Helsinki and Turku Ice Hall and the Sibelius Hall at Lahti.

## The Sea Stallion Sets Sail Again

From [www.havhingsten.dk](http://www.havhingsten.dk):

There was a lot of excitement at the Viking Ship Museum in Glendalough, Ireland, where the Sea Stallion on Sunday July 1st set out for Dublin.

For one month and half, the ship will be the crew's only home on the 1000 nautical miles long journey across the North Sea, into the Atlantic Ocean and south through the Irish Sea. The crew must fight through the toughest waters of Europe and some of the most challenging waters of the world north and west of Scotland.

### Gigantic interest

"The interest for the departure of the Sea Stallion is gigantic. Newspapers, radio and television from all over the world will be here. And we know that many private persons will follow the expedition very closely as well. People call and write, asking what route the Sea Stallion will take through the Danish waters. We cannot say of course, how fast we will travel; that's up to the Gods of Wind to decide, because we don't bring an

auxiliary motor. Only the wind and tough work at the oars will move us forward. But we can say with nearly a 100 percent certainty, that we WON'T sail through the Limfjorden," Project Leader Preben Rather Sørensen says.

Instead, the Sea Stallion will set course for the Skaw as soon as it's in Kattegat, and on the way towards the North Sea the ship will sail north of the Skaw and not through the Limfjorden.

"That's because the Limfjorden is not deep enough for the Danish escort ship, which is escorting the Sea Stallion all the way to the Orkneys," Preben Rather Sørensen explains.

### Follow the ship on the Internet

"Judging from all the questions I get, lots of people will stand by the shores of the Kattegat and hope for a glimpse of the Sea Stallion. And many private sailors will set

out to follow us for a little bit. My best advice is to enter the website of the Sea Stallion. There, everyone can see the exact position of the Sea Stallion. The position will be updated regularly, and every day we will tell the readers the last piece of

news about our plans.

These plans will be adjusted according to weather changes and the weather forecasts for the following days," Preben Rather Sørensen says.

"The ship will winter at the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin, until 2008 where

it will sail back to Roskilde. So for a long while this will be the last chance to come real close and enjoy the sight of this incredibly beautiful sailing ship. Please, come and join us and talk to the members of the crew, who are going to endure all the hardships."

For up-to-date info on the Sea Stallion's progress, visit [www.havhingsten.dk](http://www.havhingsten.dk).



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We're on the Web!  
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## 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 100-200 words to [Jenn@ScandinavianConnection.org](mailto:Jenn@ScandinavianConnection.org) by Friday, August 24.

## Europe Heads to Beach, America Heads to Work

*From Reuters:*

As Europe's workers take a few weeks of holiday this summer, their American colleagues will be lucky to get a few days off work, says a report published by the European Trade Union Institute.

Finland, followed by France, offers working people the most statutory vacation, at more than six weeks per year, the report, an international snapshot of how much paid leave people get by law and in practice in 21 countries, says.

The United States is the only country where employees have no statutory leave, and they get about half as much time off in reality as Europeans get,

according to the report, compiled by the Washington-based Centre for Economic Policy Research.



"The United States is in a class of its own," the report says. "It is the no-vacation nation."

Andrew Watt, an economist at the Brussels-based European Trade Union Institute, said the report

not only highlighted a conscious decision to ensure more free time in Europe. It also showed the errors many economists make when saying U.S. productivity and economic output is better than Europe's.

Canada and Japan, which require employers to give at least 10 days paid leave to their staff, are less generous than the Europeans, who get at least four weeks by law and often much more in practice, the report said.

In the United States, leave was generally harder to secure for people in low-pay and part-time jobs, it added.