



PROUDLY SERVING THE ENNIS COMMUNITY SINCE 1908

“The mission of the American Sokol is to provide fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural, and social programs.”

.....

What a great time we had at the Masquerade!!

Thank you to all who attended and supported this year’s Annual 10K Building Benefit! We had a great time dancing to live music, eating great food and raising funds to support Sokol Hall!



The Annual 10K Building Benefit night's winners....

👤 Best Masked – Alan Barak 👤

🎴 Card Game, hosted by Shellie York – Chelsea Reeves & Evette Vitovsky 🎴

TT Paid Table Winners - \$250 – Ray Montelongo & Ryan Waedekin
\$500 – Raymond Toupal TT

Cash Prize Winners

\$10,000 – Ron Knott

\$2,500 – Bob Podhrasky

\$1,000 – Johnny Hubbell

\$250 – Ronnie Dlabaj, Bob Peters, Jeff Prachyl, Jim Patak

\$150 – Trey Kovar, Glen Wilson, Ty Zabonik, Joanna Wilson, Ryan Mack, Nolan Vrana, Paul Hernandez, Mark Sanders, James Novy, Doreen Honza, Andy Mikula, Eric Toth, Liz Moucka 🍷

Our Silent Auction was supported by Sokol members, local businesses and DFW-based companies. Thank you to our Silent Auction donors:

- Ben E. Keith Food & Beverages
- Brother David and Sister Chelsea Reeves
- Brother Mike and Sister Nannette Liska
- Brother Randy and Sister Debby Owen
- Heart-n-Soul Life (Sister Sarah Honza)
- Jerry & Gene Jones Foundation
- NexGen Aviation
- Park Hill Portraits
- Site Landscape Development
- Texas Rangers

A huge thank you to the kitchen, bar, hall set-up and event teams, and polka musicians. We could not make the event happen without these dedicated members and friends.

.....
PROPERTY REPORT

Starting April 27th thru May 8th we will be starting on a floor project of the whole hall. We are removing all the floor tiles. We are going to polished concrete as we did in the renovated restrooms.

We have also replaced 2 air condition units in the hall.

If interested in helping with general maintenance, email facilities@sokolennis.com. The Property Committee normally meets the first Weds of the month at 7pm.

.....
EVEN THE SMALLEST ONE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD,”
Peter Rabbit

GYMNASTICS REPORT

Gymnastics held 2 mini 5 week sessions for kids 3 years to 6 years of age. Our normal gymnastic classes are gearing up for Southern District Slet at Ft. WORTH April 18.

We are doing a Quilt Raffle \$1 a ticket.

VOLLEYBALL REPORT

Adult Volleyball play is Wednesday 730 till around 10. Must be 17 for these teams!

If interested in Registering, New membership to Sokol, and Raffle tickets you can email fitness@sokolennis.com, come to the gym Monday 5pm to 7pm , Tuesday 4-7, or come by the Clubroom Monday and Wednesday!

Thank you, Joanna Wilson -- Physical Director/Gymnastic Manager Sokol KHB Ennis
Southern District Women's Director

Sokol Ennis Scholarship

The Sokol Ennis scholarship is open to all high school seniors who are current members of Sokol Ennis or have a parent/legal guardian that is a current member of Sokol Ennis. Two - \$250 scholarships will be awarded. The scholarship application for 2026 can be found online at www.sokolennis.com/membership. Completion of the application is required to be considered for the scholarship. The deadline is May 20th. Scholarship recipients will be announced no later than June 1st. All applications should be mailed to Sokol Ennis, PO Box 205, Ennis, Texas 75120, postmarked by May 21st. No late applications will be accepted.



Please consider donating to the Scholarship Fund. Donations can be made online at sokolennis.com or send check to Sokol Ennis, PO Box 205, Ennis TX 75120.
(American Sokol Organization Ennis, Texas is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code)

**“THE EASTER EGG SYMBOLIZES OUR ABILITY TO
BREAK OUT OF THE HARDENED, PROTECTIVE SHELL
WE’VE SURROUNDED OURSELVES WITH.”** — Siobhan Shaw

POOL REPORT

Sokol Pool is BACK for May! 🌞 🏊

We're kicking off the season and couldn't be more excited to welcome everyone back! 🎉

Soft Opening: Saturday, May 2nd — and we'll be open every Saturday in May, except Polka Weekend!

🎉 FREE Neighborhood Party!

Join us Saturday, May 16th, from 5–8 PM for a fun-filled evening with friends, family, and neighbors. Come celebrate the start of pool season with us!

🔗 Pool Rentals Available!

Planning a graduation party or birthday bash? We've got plenty of dates open in May—make a splash with your own private pool party! Pool Phone Number 972.921.1962 Leave a message and we will return your call ASAP.

🏊 Water Aerobics kicks off May 19th — a great way to stay active and have fun in the water!

📅 Check out the full calendar and grab your spot—we can't wait to see you poolside! 😊💙

May 2026 - Sokol Pool Hours & Rental Availability

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Rental Availability in Red		Text 972 - 921 - 1962 to get Pool Rental Information				10:15 am - 12:15 1 - 5 pm 5:30 - 9:30 pm
Pool Hours in Purple		* Means you can asked for an extended party time				
Water Aerobics in Green						
	3	4	5	6	7	8
	1 - 3 pm 4 - 6 pm					10:15 am - 12:15 1 - 5 pm 5:30 - 9:30 pm
	10	11	12	13	14	15
	1 - 3 pm 4 - 6 pm				EHS Grad Closed	NEIGHBORHOOD PARTY 5 pm - 8 pm
	17	18	19	20	21	22
	1 - 5 pm 5:30 - 6:30 pm 7 - 9* pm	1 - 5 pm 5:30 - 6:30 pm 6:30 - 9 pm	10:15 am - 12:15 1 - 5 pm 5:30 - 9* pm	1 - 5 pm 5:30 - 6:30 pm 6:30 - 9 pm	1 - 5 pm 5:30 - 9* pm	Polka Fest Closed
	24	25	26	27	28	29
	1 - 3 pm 7 - 9* pm	1 - 5 pm	1 - 5 pm 5:30 - 6:30 pm 6:30 - 9 pm	10:15 am - 12:15 1 - 5 pm 5:30 - 9* pm	1 - 5 pm 5:30 - 6:30 pm 6:30 - 9 pm	1 - 5 pm 5:30 - 9* pm
	31					30
	1 - 5 pm 5:30 - 6:30 pm 7 - 9* pm					10:15 am - 12:15 1 - 5 pm 5:30 - 9:30 pm

print-a-calendar.com

Thank you - Joanna Wilson - Pool Manager Sokol KHB Ennis

Czech Easter Traditions --- Fascinating Facts

1. Is it Easter... or a celebration of spring?

Velikonoce (Easter) comes from the expression *velká noc* meaning “great night” after the day in which Jesus Christ rose from the dead. During Communist rule, however, the religious celebration was suppressed and the arrival of spring was recognized instead. Since the Velvet Revolution and the collapse of Communism in 1989, Easter’s Christian roots have slowly been reestablished, though the holiday is still less overtly religious than visitors might expect (at least in the case in the capital city).

2. Easter Monday trumps Easter Sunday

While Easter Sunday is important in most Christian countries, in the Czech Republic, **Easter Monday is the main event** — and it’s an official public holiday. Easter Sunday is typically spent preparing: women decorate eggs while men prepare their *pomlázky* (braided whips). The real festivities kick off Monday morning.

3. The pomlázka tradition: whipping as a spring ritual

Pomlázky are braided whips made from pussy-willow twigs and decorated with colorful ribbons. On Easter Monday morning, boys and men traditionally go house to house, gently tapping girls and women with the whip while chanting a rhyme — “*Hody, hody doprovody, dejte vejce malovaný...*” — requesting decorated eggs in return.

The word *pomlázka* comes from the verb *pomladit*, meaning “to make younger.” The tradition is rooted in a pre-Christian fertility ritual: the fresh willow symbolizes the energy of spring, and being whipped was believed to bring health, youth, and fertility for the coming year.

The first written records of the custom date back to the 14th century, though it’s likely much older. It’s worth noting that the *pomlázka* tradition is increasingly debated in the Czech Republic, especially in cities. While it remains part of village life and community gatherings — where men visit from house to house, stopping for a chat and a drink with each family — many women in urban areas consider the practice outdated or offensive in its symbolism. The tradition is noticeably declining in Prague and other larger cities, though it’s still very much alive in rural Moravia and Bohemia.

4. Decorated eggs are given to the whip bearers!

Decorating Easter eggs (*kraslice*) is one of the Czech Republic’s most beloved and widely practiced traditions. Women and girls decorate eggs to hang in windows, display in baskets, or give to the boys who visit on Easter Monday.

The techniques range from simple to breathtakingly intricate: eggs are painted, dyed with onion peel and other natural colors, etched, decorated with beeswax, wrapped in wire, perforated to look like delicate lace, or adorned with tiny pieces of straw. Some methods are specific to

**“EASTER IS THE ONLY TIME WHEN IT’S
PERFECTLY SAFE TO PUT ALL YOUR EGGS IN
ONE BASKET.” — Evan Esar**



particular regions and families, passed down through generations. The most elaborate eggs can take days to complete.

You'll find beautiful *kraslice* for sale at food markets and shops throughout the Czech Republic. If you're taking one home as a souvenir, wrap it carefully — they're very fragile.

5. Red is *the* symbolic color at Easter

While *kraslice* come in every color imaginable today, red is traditionally the most important Easter color in the Czech Republic. It symbolizes the energy of new life that comes with spring — health, happiness, and vitality. Some Czechs still wear red at Eastertime to welcome the season.

6. Green Thursday means green beer

On *Zelený čtvrtek* (Green Thursday), the tradition was historically to eat only green food — spinach, herbs, nettles, and other spring vegetables. Czech breweries have taken this a step further by producing *zelené pivo* (green beer) for the occasion, naturally colored with herbs or young wheat.

If you're in Prague during the Thursday before Easter, you'll find green beer on tap at many pubs and restaurants. It's become one of the more enjoyable modern additions to Czech Easter traditions.

7. Lamb is the most popular dish on the Easter menu

Lamb — whether actual meat or the sweet cake version — is the most recognized part of the Czech Easter table. The *beránek* is a sweet sponge cake baked in a lamb-shaped mold, often dusted with powdered sugar. It's the single most iconic Czech Easter food.

Beyond the lamb, the traditional Easter spread includes:



- **Mazanec** — a sweet yeasted bread made with rum-soaked raisins, almonds, and lemon zest, marked with a cross on top. It's the Czech answer to Italy's colomba or Britain's hot cross buns.
- **Nádivka** — a savory Easter stuffing made with bread, eggs, nettles, and smoked meat.
- **Hard-boiled eggs** — naturally dyed and served alongside the feast.
- **Slivovice** — homemade plum brandy, especially in Moravian households. Not for the faint-hearted.

April, 2026

ČESKÁ BESEDA LESSONS

(CZECH FOLK DANCE)

APRIL 27 &
MAY 4, 11 & 18 at 6:30pm

SOKOL ACTIVITY CENTER
2622 E. HWY. 34
ENNIS, TEXAS 75119
(FRONT ENTRANCE)



**Our group will perform
Friday, May 22nd at 7pm for the
National Polka Festival at Sokol Activity Center**

DANCERS WEAR KROJ (Czech costume) FOR PERFORMANCES

WE INVITE ANYONE AGES 10 AND UP TO JOIN US TO PRESERVE
OUR CZECH HERITAGE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

ENNIS CZECH BESEDA DANCERS

INSTRUCTORS: JIMMY & THERESA LISKA / DAVID & DIANE LISKA
FOR QUESTIONS OR INFO, CALL OR TEXT DIANE LISKA AT 214-205-7610

Membership Matters!

Join us at our next monthly members' meeting on Wednesday, April 15 at 7pm in the Dining Room. All members are encouraged to attend. Sokol values your interest & welcomes your involvement in the organization. Get the whole family involved with opportunities for both adult and youth volunteers. These meetings also provide a great time to share feedback & ideas for Sokol's educational, physical, cultural, & social programs & activities. Members' Meetings normally occur every 3rd Wednesday of the month.

2026 Ways & Means Initiatives

Did you know Sokol's Ways & Means committee is dedicated to bringing programming that supports Sokol and its mission? This year, we are looking to do even more with the support of our members and local businesses!

We're investing in our members and renters' experience with fundraisers to purchase new tables for the hall. Our goal is to replace twenty-four tables each quarter.



Interested in donating to refresh tables? Reach out to fundraising@sokolennis.com.

Follow our Facebook page to track when events are happening! Your attendance at these events not only supports our efforts for new tables but are also a great time!

Want to get involved in Sokol's programming or have ideas to share? The Ways & Means

Committee meets monthly on the first Monday. Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 15 at 8 pm, directly following the Members meeting in the Dining Room.

Monthly Czech Movie & Social Apr 9th

Monthly Czech Movie & Social is Thursday, April 9 in the Clubroom. Doors open 6pm. Accordion Music by David Slovak. Featured Film: "Something like Happiness" 7pm. For questions or comments: Victor Havel 817-714-8323 or Kyle Stuckly 817-925-1673, Ellis County Czech Heritage Society.

Upcoming Events

Apr 6	March Madness Final Game Watch Party	5 pm in Clubroom
Apr 9	Czech Heritage Society -- Czech Movie & Social	6 pm in Clubroom
Apr 10	Babouci – USA Tour 2026	6:30 pm in Main Hall
Apr 13	Jam Session	7pm in Clubroom
Apr 15	Monthly Members Meeting	7pm in Dining Room
May 7	Czech Heritage Society - Czech Movie & Social	6 pm in Clubroom
May 11	Jam Session	7pm in Clubroom
May 16	Dive in Movie at the Pool	7 pm at Sokol Pool
May 20	Monthly Members Meeting	7pm in Dining Room
May 22 -24	National Polka Festival www.nationalpolkafestival.com	
Jun 4	Czech Heritage Society - Czech Movie & Social	6 pm in Clubroom

Email any ideas for fundraisers & social events to the Ways & Means Committee at fundraising@sokolennis.com



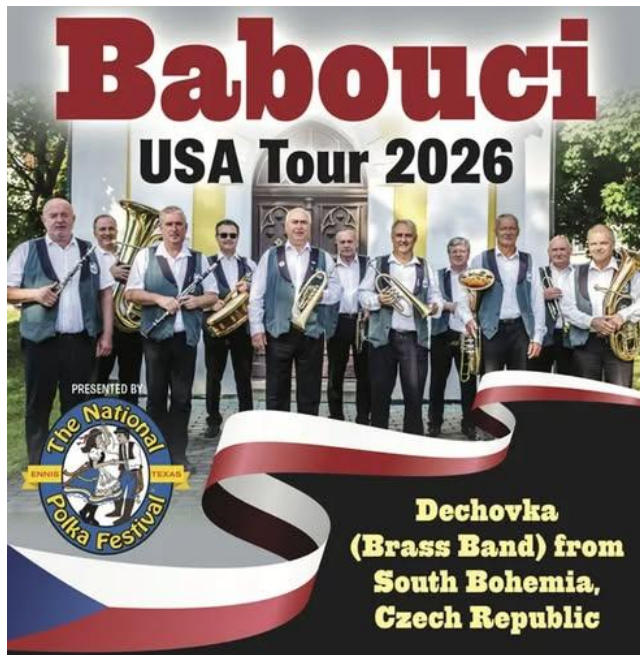
Join Sokol Ennis Members Group on Facebook to get upcoming event notices & other info



Join us at Sokol to watch the final steps of The Big Dance on Monday, April 6!

Sokol will provide pizza. Bring your favorite game day side, snack or dessert. Drinks will be available for purchase at the bar.

Clubroom doors open at 5 pm. Game tip-off is at 7:30 pm.



Babouci
USA Tour 2026

PRESENTED BY
The National Polka Festival
SPRING TEXAS

**Dechovka
(Brass Band) from
South Bohemia,
Czech Republic**

The image shows a brass band of ten members standing in front of a building entrance. They are holding various brass instruments like trumpets, trombones, and tubas. A red and white ribbon graphic is draped across the bottom of the photo. A circular logo for 'The National Polka Festival' is overlaid on the bottom left of the photo.

Friday, April 10, 2026

**Sokol Activity Center
2622 E Hwy 34 - Ennis TX**

**with Czech and Then Some
6:30pm - 10pm
Doors open 6pm**

**\$10 Admission
Ages 15 and younger Free**

**Sokol Kitchen will be open
www.nationalpolkafestival.com
www.sokolennis.com**



Monday

Jam Session

The graphic features the word 'Monday' in a bold, sans-serif font at the top. Below it, 'Jam Session' is written in a large, flowing, cursive script. The text is surrounded by various musical symbols including stars, musical notes, and drumsticks.

**Sokol Ennis
Clubroom**

**April 13 & May 11
@ 7pm**

**Musicians bring
your instruments!**

Doors open 5pm

www.sokolennis.com

Splash into Summer at Sokol this Season!



Saturday, May 16th – 5 pm

School's out and what better way to celebrate than a Dive-in Movie at Sokol's pool!

Sokol will be showing *The Sandlot* while attendees can swim and enjoy FREE hot dogs, chips and water (until supplies run out).

This will be **FREE** event open to all Ennis community members.

Bring a friend and dive-in!

Thursday nights are the place to cool down this summer!

Sokol will be hosting Summer Dive-In movies every Thursday this summer from 6:30-9:00 pm.

Admission is \$12 per person (*kids under 2 are free*) and includes a bag of popcorn. Additional concessions will be available for purchase.

Season passholder? Enjoy **FREE** entry!

Follow our Facebook event page for updates on the movies being screened!



April / May Birthdays

April				May		
1	Wastoskie	Jana		2	Wilson	Janice
2	Strunc	Danny		2	Pelzel	Thomas
3	Johnson	Lacy		2	Slovak	Daniel
4	Holt	Debra		3	Stout	Ellene
6	Trejo	Alejandro		5	Quintero	Guillermo
6	Zavala	Fernando		5	Sandoval	Aaron
8	Petry	Willie		5	Jones	Deborah
9	Mendez	Cristal		6	Harvell	Dona
10	Thompson	Christine		6	Easton	Lisa
11	Slovak	John Paul		10	Breadon	Michael
13	Reeves	Chelsea		11	Gora	Tammy
13	Silos (Cardona)	Alma		12	Atkinson	Emilio
15	Mullican	Ryan		13	Pruitt	Rowdy
16	Walker	Patti		13	Trojacek	Hannah
17	Washburn	Rosemary		16	Mullican	Mayfair
17	Britton	Alexis		17	Laney	Heather
17	Slovak	Evelyn		17	Locke	Carlyle
18	Duncan	Mercedes		19	Phillips	Rebecca
18	Iuliucci	Kailya		20	Perez	Aressa
19	Hamlin	Tara		20	Valek	Susan
19	Harper	Mary		21	Gonzalez	Hugo
19	Novak	Matthew		21	Trojacek	Linda
21	Kalat	Charles		25	Martinez	Matthew
24	Havel	Victor		26	Robles	Felipe
25	Mikula	Edwin		27	Sylvester	Tina
25	Nelson	Clint		28	Gamino	Cesar
26	Macik	Debbie		31	Smith	Amy
27	Zabojnik	April		31	Macik	James
27	Kapavik	Keith		31	White	Ricky
27	Sander	Cheryl		31	Wallace	Lisa

“A TRUE FRIEND IS SOMEONE WHO THINKS THAT YOU ARE A GOOD EGG EVEN THOUGH HE

KNOWS THAT YOU ARE SLIGHTLY CRACKED."

— Bernard Meltzer

2026 Sokol Ennis Sponsors - Thank you for your support!

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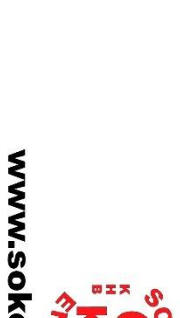
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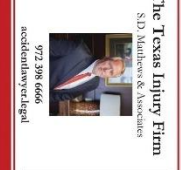
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 Sokol Hall | Sat., February 20, 2027
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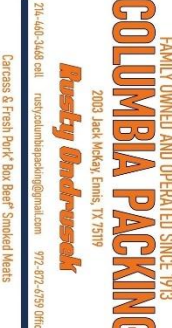
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