



**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.”**

Donations and news worthy items to support the Sokol KHB Newsletter should be sent to Sokol KHB Newsletter, P.O. Box 205, Ennis, TX 75120

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**SPECIAL NOTICE:** Due to the increasing cost of postage and duplication, as of January 1, 2025, Sokol KHB will no longer distribute the bi-monthly Sokol KHB Newsletter via US Mail. Distribution to the membership will only be via email.

Those members currently receiving the Newsletter via US mail, should submit their email address to the Newsletter Editor, Chuck Kalat ASAP.

NOTE: For those members who do not have or do not wish to share an email address, hard copies will be available for pickup in the clubroom. The Newsletter can also be viewed on the Sokol KHB website at [www.sokolennis.com/newsletter](http://www.sokolennis.com/newsletter).

Members who absolutely must have a hardcopy of the Newsletter sent to them via US Mail, should contact Chuck Kalat – KHB Newsletter Editor to discuss special consideration.

We appreciate your understanding,

*Chuck Kalat* – Sokol KHB Newsletter Editor

EMAIL: [ckalat@aol.com](mailto:ckalat@aol.com) -- Please indicate “KHB Newsletter” on the subject line

TEXT: 972-672-9520

PHONE: 972-672-9520

## **GYMNASTICS REPORT**

We are still registering kids for gymnastics. Our Season began September 9, 2024.

- Gymnastics/Pool is hosting our **SOKOL FALL SPOOKY POOL NIGHT PARTY (look to swim section for details at [www.sokolennis.com/swim](http://www.sokolennis.com/swim))**
- Gymnastics/BOI is hosting Christmas Market November 2, 2024 at 8am to 4pm.
- Our first raffle is the 50/50 to be given away at our Sokol Christmas market Nov. 2 at 3pm! Vendor spots still available reach out to Jennifer [sokolkbvendors@gmail.com](mailto:sokolkbvendors@gmail.com)
- This year we are raising money to send some of our gymnastic kiddos and Coaching Staff to National Slet in Chicago. National Slet June 25-June 29, 2025.

## **POOL REPORT**

SPOOKY POOL PARTY

October 12, 2024

Time: 6-9

Price: \$7 Members; \$10 nonmembers (open to the public!)

Come swim and enjoy being scared. We will have spooky music and scary people on sight.

## **VOLLEYBALL REPORT**

Adult Volleyball free play is Wednesday 7:30 till around 10. Must be 17 or over for these teams! A one-time \$50 insurance fee per season and adult has to have a gold membership with Sokol and that is \$65 and then every January dues of \$65 are due

If interested in Registering, or New membership to Sokol, or swim passes, you can email me at [jnoplis80@gmail.com](mailto:jnoplis80@gmail.com), Or come to the pool when open or come by the clubroom Monday and Wednesday!

Thank you

Joanna Wilson

Physical Director/Gymnastic Manager/Pool Manager Sokol KHB Ennis

Southern District Women's Director

\*\*\*\*\*

**"We do not have government by the majority.**

**We have government by the majority who participate."**

Thomas Jefferson, Former U.S. President and Founding Father of the U.S.

\*\*\*\*\*

**"Democracy is based upon the conviction there are extraordinary possibilities  
in ordinary people."**

Harry Emerson Fosdick, American Pastor

### **Czech Movie & Social Oct 3**

Monthly Czech Movie & Social is Thursday, October 3rd in the Clubroom. Doors open 5pm. Accordion Music by David Slovak 6pm. Featured Film: "Comenius" 7pm. For questions or comments: Victor Havel 817-714-8323 or Kyle Stuckly 817-925-1673, Ellis County Czech Heritage Society.

### **Spooky Pool Party Oct 12**

Spooky Pool Party will take place Saturday, October 12th 6pm-9pm at Sokol Ennis Tyrs Swimming Pool. This event is open to the public. Admission \$10 per person / \$7 for members. For more info contact 972-921-1962 or swim@sokolennis.com.

### **Dallas Cowboys Watch Parties Oct 13 & Nov 10**

Sokol Ennis Clubroom will be open Sunday October 13th and November 10th for the Dallas Cowboys game. Doors open 2pm. Game at 3:25pm. Spin-the Wheel drink specials. No smoking (allowed on patio). Flat screens & sound system in Clubroom & on patio. The Clubroom has a full bar with a large variety of beverages. Pizza, chicken strips, corn dogs, French fries, tater tots, cheese sticks, jalapeno poppers, bread pretzels & snacks also available for purchase at bar.

### **Monthly Members' Meeting Oct 16**

Our next monthly members' meeting is Wednesday, Oct 16th at 7pm in the Dining Room. All members are encouraged to attend. Sokol values your interest & welcomes your involvement in the organization. There are many opportunities for youth & adult members to be involved. Involving the entire family in volunteer activities addresses the benefits of youth volunteering while utilizing the volunteer resource of adults with children. Sokol encourages parents and their children to volunteer together! Members are also encouraged to provide feedback & offer ideas on Sokol's educational, physical, cultural, & social programs & activities. Members' Meetings normally occur every 3rd Wednesday of the month.

### **Burgers & Tots Feast Fundraiser Oct 21**

Sokol Ennis will be selling \$7 Burgers & Tots plates with all the trimmings in the Dining Room (back east entrance) on Monday October 21, 2024, 5pm-7:30pm (or while supplies last). To-go plates available. Clubroom open 5pm-11pm and Monday Night Football Watch Party 7:15pm Ravens vs Buccaneers & 8pm Chargers vs Cardinals!

### **Friday Night Party / Music by Lost Money October 25**

Sokol Ennis will have a Friday Night Party on October 25, 2024 with live music by Lost Money 7pm-11pm in the Clubroom. No cover charge / doors open 5pm. Pizza, fries, corn dogs, chicken strips & more available for purchase at bar.



### **Sokol Ennis Christmas Market Nov 2**

Sokol Ennis Christmas Market will take place Saturday, November 2, 2024, 8am-4pm. Come shop small business. Vendors Wanted! 10x10 space \$60. Set up 6am. For questions & registration, email sokolkhbvenders@gmail.com.



## **Membership Awards & Annual Members' Meeting Nov 20**

Wednesday, November 20th will be our Annual Members' Meeting and Membership Awards Ceremony in the Dining Room. All members are encouraged to attend. Awards Ceremony starts at 6:30pm followed by the Annual Meeting with elections of officers. The Clubroom opens at 5pm.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2025**

If you are interested in being an elected officer of Sokol Ennis, please contact Nominating Chair Joanna Wilson 972-921-1962 or email [membership@sokolennis.com](mailto:membership@sokolennis.com) by November 15th. Info about elected offices & the annual meeting can be found at [www.sokolennis.com/about](http://www.sokolennis.com/about).

## **OCTOBER IS CZECH HERITAGE MONTH!**

In 1982 the Texas Legislature declared the month of October as Czech Heritage Month.

## **SOKOL MEMORIAL DAY OCTOBER 8**

Sokol Memorial Day honors the memory of more than 1,500 members of the nation's oldest athletics association, who were arrested by the Gestapo on Oct. 8, 1941 by the order of Reich protector Reinhard Heydrich. The arrested members of Sokol were tortured and sent to Nazi concentration camps, with only few of them surviving the war. During the following years of World War II, thousands more Sokol members died. Despite the danger they faced, many of them participated in Heydrich's assassination.

## **Czech & Slovak Heritage Day October 15th at Sokol Dallas**

The annual Czech & Slovak Heritage Day hosted by the American Czech Culture Society (ACCS) will take place Oct. 13, 11am-6pm at Sokol Dallas, 7448 Green Ave. Admission is \$10 per person (ages 16 & under free). Music by Dallas Czech Orchestra, Czexasanka UNT Brass Band, Laddie Gajdica Jam Session and Lonestar Legends. Czech Beseda Dancers of Ennis and Fort Worth will also perform. There will also be children's activities.

## **CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS**

Oct 3 Czech Heritage Society Social & Czech Movie: "Comenius" 7pm - Clubroom 5pm  
Oct 7 Czech Beseda Practice - Dining Room 6:30pm  
Oct 12 Spooky Pool Party - Swimming Pool 6pm  
Oct 13 Dallas Cowboys Watch Party - Clubroom 2pm / Game 3:25pm  
Oct 13 Czech & Slovak Heritage Day - Sokol DALLAS 12pm  
Oct 16 Monthly Members Meeting - Dining Room 7pm  
Oct 21 Burgers & Tots Feast Fundraiser - Dining Room 5pm  
Oct 25 Friday Night Party - Clubroom 5pm / Music by Lost Money 7pm  
Nov 2 Sokol Ennis Christmas Market - Main Hall 8am-4pm  
Nov 7 Czech Heritage Society Social & Czech Movie (7pm) - Clubroom 5pm  
Nov 10 Dallas Cowboys Watch Party - Clubroom 2pm / Game 3:25pm  
Nov 20 Membership Awards & Annual Members' Meeting – Dining Room 6:30pm

**Email any ideas for fundraisers & social events to the Ways & Means Committee at [fundraising@sokolennis.com](mailto:fundraising@sokolennis.com)**

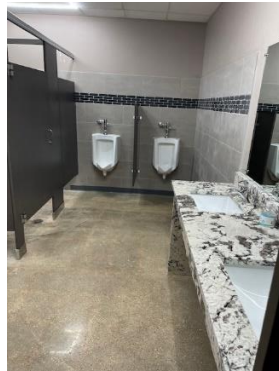
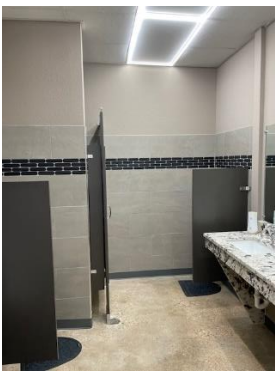
**Join Sokol Ennis Members Group on Facebook to get upcoming event notices & other info**

## Building Renovation

Great news! We have finished our first phase of our improvements project. All 8 restrooms have had a total makeover. The front glass doors have been replaced with energy efficient glass. As you can see in the photos we have taken the tile away and have gone back to basics to the concrete. With these and future improvements we are wanting to have a fresh look but also be low maintenance upkeep.

We are working on future renovations and will keep the membership updated.

Thank you to all who keep supporting us to be able to do these renovations. We will continue to have fundraisers toward these projects. Be sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, X (Twitter) as well on our website [www.sokolennis.com](http://www.sokolennis.com) for future events.



## October Is Czech Heritage Month in Texas

In 2019, over 2 million people in the United States reported being of Czech or Slovak heritage, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Many of these individuals are descendants of Czech immigrants that settled in more rural parts of the country and, as a result, have developed their own unique culture that blends their Czech heritage with American traditions.

While there were several waves of immigration from the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, the first began in the latter portion of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century. In the Midwest, one of the places these immigrants settled was in eastern Nebraska, and, according to the Czech Heritage Project, a large amount of the population there today still identifies with this heritage. Depending on the county, the number of people with Czech ancestry ranges from 15% up to 44%.

The Wilber Czech Festival, or Czech Days, is a area's heritage with an abundance of live music, used not only as an opportunity to gather but culture.

Even beyond these few days, the impacts of the typical to hear over radio stations, and stores and kolaches are popular throughout historically Heritage Project reports a decreasing number of Czech fluently or know more than a few phrases, the culture's influence in the area remains visible. The rural nature of these communities preserved aspects of their heritage, which their descendants now celebrate.



festival held in Nebraska that celebrates the a parade, and a talent show. The festival is also to promote and perpetuate Czech

Czech community are still felt. Polka music is that sell specialized items such as sausages Czech communities. Although the Czech people in younger generations can speak

A similar trend can be observed in the South. The Texas State Historical Association states that thousands of immigrants from mostly Moravia traveled through Galveston and settled into about 250 different communities throughout Texas. The language tradition continues today, which the Texas Almanac contributes to the fact that it is formally taught in several schools. However, the Czech spoken in this area is different from the Czech spoken overseas. Because many of these individuals were from the Moravian region, the Statesmen reports that the Texan Czech dialect is closer to "old Moravian" and absorbed German terms as it evolved.

Several Czech festivals occur in Texas, such as Westfest, where the community celebrates its heritage over several days. However, the unique blend of Czech and Texan traditions is a little more prominent. Besides the dialect spoken there, some aspects of the festival might be unfamiliar to someone who grew up in the Czech Republic. Polka music is heard playing by those riding attractions at the fair, another very American tradition. Additionally, although beauty pageants occur in other parts of the world, pageants in the United States are very popular and widespread. Westfest holds its own contest each year, crowning a "Miss Westfest" clad in a kroj.

The influence of Czech culture in Texas also remains apparent beyond this celebration. Cities with names like Praha, after the capital of the Czech Republic, and Moravia can be found between San Antonio and Houston. Several radio stations continue to play polka music, and the kolache is prevalent throughout the state, although the food known by Texans is different from the Czech variety. Like in the Midwest, the isolated nature of these towns allowed these communities to retain aspects of their heritage.

While some festivals in the Czech Republic center around celebrating folk traditions, such as the Ride of the Kings that features traditional dress and dancing, the celebrations in America are unique. In both the Midwest and the South, descendants of Czech immigrants continue to celebrate their heritage through these events.

Written by Erin Schachtner.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Let us not forget the Annual Nat'l Polka Fest in Ennis!**



# **SOKOL ENNIS MEMBERSHIP AWARDS & ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING**

**Weds, November 20, 2024 / 6:30PM**

**Dining Room**

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



***All members encouraged to attend***

*The Membership Awards Ceremony starts at 6:30pm followed by the Annual Meeting with elections of officers. The Clubroom opens at 5pm.*

*Sokol values your interest & welcomes your involvement in the organization. There are many opportunities for youth & adult members to be involved. Involving the entire family in volunteer activities addresses the benefits of youth volunteering while utilizing the volunteer resource of adults with children. Sokol encourages parents and their children to volunteer together!*

*Members are also encouraged to provide feedback & offer ideas on Sokol's educational, physical, cultural, & social programs & activities.*

*Sokol Ennis is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership organization (American Sokol Organization Ennis, TX)*



**October** is  
National **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

- ☐ Breast cancer is the **most common** cancer and the second most common cause of cancer deaths in the United States.
- ☐ If breast cancer is detected in the earliest stages, there can be a **95% survival rate**.
- ☐ In the United States, **207,090** women and **1,970** men will be diagnosed with breast cancer **during 2011**.
- ☐ Approximately **38,840** women and **390** men **will die** of the disease.



Think *Pink* This Month!

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THE AMERICAN CZECH CULTURE SOCIETY AND ITS MEMBER SOCIETIES  
SOKOL DALLAS, BETTERLIFE, SPJST, KJT, KJZT, RVOS, VH CZECH SCHOOL  
and SLOVAK CONSULATE

present

# CZECH & SLOVAK HERITAGE DAY



October 13th, 2024 | 11:00- 6:00 PM



Music | Food | Vendors | Raffle | Jump House

Dallas Czech Orchestra  
Beseda Dancers Ennis & Fort Worth  
VH Czech School Dancers  
Czexasanka, UNT Brass Band  
Laddie Gajdica Jam Session  
LoneStar Legends Band

Ice Cream Truck  
Children's Activities

@ SOKOL DALLAS  
7448 GREENVILLE AVE  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75231

**Sokol Run - 10:00 - 11:30 PM**

Meet at the Harry Moss Park

Admission \$10  
per person  
(ages 16 & under free)

**Wear Kroj. Bring instruments for the jam session.**

For more information, contact - Bob Podhrasky [eventinfo@sokoldallas.org](mailto:eventinfo@sokoldallas.org)  
Nina Marcussen [czechschoolofdallas@yahoo.com](mailto:czechschoolofdallas@yahoo.com) • Lynda Novak [magiclady\\_46@hotmail.com](mailto:magiclady_46@hotmail.com)

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## October/November Member Birthdays

October				November		
1	Block	Marilee		1	Hernandez	Lezlee
1	Lanicek	Wesley		1	Matous	Joseph
1	Liska	Russell		1	Smith	Dea
1	Morales	Trenton		1	Zollinger	Jason
1	Smith	Chelsea		3	Liska	Michael
2	Kalat	Patti		4	Gonzalez	Shelly
3	Haskovec	Edwin		6	Morales	Calleigh
3	Soroka	Tommy		8	Cox	Shannon
5	Ozomy	Patricia		8	Green	Caitlin
7	Pouzar	Lily		9	Bouska	Loraine
9	Carrillo	Arthur		9	Trickett	Benjamin
9	Langer	Emily		10	Corral	Cesar
9	Larson	Nancy		10	Crook	Jill
9	McGuire	Johna		10	Willingham	Robyn
11	Liska	David		11	Cardona	Edmondo R Tellez
12	Liska	Kyle		11	Lenz	Aaron
12	Slovak	Anna		12	Matus	Wilma
13	Liska	Nannette		12	O'Brien	Thomas
15	Hickman	Michael		13	Willingham	Cali
15	Trujillo	Enelixsa		14	Valek	Jerry
15	Valek	Matt		15	Clark	Brian
16	Hernandez	Joel		15	Martinez	Ezekiel
17	Mikel	Steven		15	Zapletal	Andrew
18	Foshee	Hilary		16	Patlan	Jessica
18	Slovak	Jennifer		17	Anderson	Sami
19	O'Brien	Lilly		17	Reeve	Chip
19	Valek	Benny		18	McElroy	Greg
20	Frossard	Dianne		19	Betik	Thomas
20	Houdek	David		19	Cerda	Abigail Rodriguez
21	Matus	Harry		21	Martinez	Jillian
25	Houdek	Jim		22	Boon	Laura
26	French	Shelli		23	Almanza	Isai
26	Womack	Faith		23	Gutierrez	David
27	Marshall	Christina		23	Spurgeon	Lisa
27	Morales	Georgie		24	Smith	Vlasta
27	Wilson	Joanna		25	Elleven III	Charles

October				November		
28	Laznovsky	Lori		25	Vasquez	Chelsea
28	Vondra	Barbara		27	Avila	Jose /Alma
29	Blake	Kathleen		27	Barak	Marita
31	Contreras	Jose		27	Bragg	Connie
				27	Hernandez	Leticia
				27	Ondrusek	Rusty
				28	Elleven	Raymond
				30	Elleven	James

## DONATIONS

Sokol Ennis always appreciates donations to our organization, whether they be "In Memory" of a deceased member, or simply because you are able to help continue the Sokol mission. We have different areas, or accounts, where your donation can be applied. Therefore, it would be helpful to let us know in a note accompanying your donation, how you wish us to apply your generosity.

- General Fund (operations, dues support, etc.)
- Building Fund (improvements, maintenance, etc.)
- Scholarship Fund
- Swimming pool / Gymnastics
- Museum – Education

## Membership Drive 2025

It's that time again for our annual membership drive going into 2025. All members are needed to help with this endeavor. Please encourage your family, friends, and relatives to join. The membership application can be found on the membership page at [www.sokolennis.com/membership](http://www.sokolennis.com/membership) or in the Sokol clubroom. For more information regarding membership, please email [membership@sokolennis.com](mailto:membership@sokolennis.com).

**"We are not helpless. The fire is still burning. Please go out and vote this November. Too many people have died and sacrificed so much for us to have our voice, we have to use it. Get information. Use your voices to do something great for our children."**

Beyoncé, American Singer



**American Sokol cordially invites our Sokol members & friends to attend the  
XXV Sokol Slet June 25-29, 2025 near Chicago!**

Dear American Sokol Units,

The American Sokol is thrilled to announce the return of our traditional gathering of gymnasts, members, families, and partner organizations in the Chicago area during the summer of 2025. This 5-day event is a celebration of sport, recreation, culture and fitness and we are extending the invitation now to garner your support and we hope you will join us for a memorable week.

American Sokol competitive events will include artistic gymnastics, volleyball, fitness challenge, pickleball and golf. We'll also have fun social events for our participants including a fun run/walk, a celebratory banquet, social events at our local Sokol halls, a visit to our Sokol museum, a victory dance for our competitors, and a demonstration of mass calisthenics at our official Slet performance. There will be youth, family, and adult events to choose from.

We would be honored to have you and your organization to attend as participants or spectators. A tentative schedule of events is included and more information will be available during the virtual [American Sokol Town Hall meeting on September 30, 2024](#). You can also visit our website, <https://americansokol.org/>, to view updated information and registration for the events in October 2024.

Please extend an invitation to all your staff and friends and extend a hearty Sokol greeting from all of us at American Sokol. This event promises to be a dynamic international gathering where bonds of friendship will be strengthened or forged anew.

We look forward to having you in Chicago in June 2025. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the specifics, please email [slet@americansokol.org](mailto:slet@americansokol.org).

Nazdar!

Adam Wilt - President, American Sokol

**American Sokol Slet**

**Wednesday, June 25**

- Fun Run/Walk

**Thursday, June 26**

- Volleyball Tournament
- Youth Activity
- Celebratory Banquet

**Friday, June 27**

- Artistic Gymnastic Competition
- Adult Pickleball Tournament
- Fitness Challenge - All Ages!
- Local Brewery Tour
- Social at local Sokol Hall

**Saturday, June 28**

- Rehearsal & Youth Activity
- Slet Performance
- Victory Dance

**Sunday, June 29**

- Farewell Event

Learn more about the 2025 Slet

**Monday, Sept. 30 @ 7 PM CST**

**[American Sokol Slet – Virtual Town Hall Kick-Off](#)**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 850 5541 9346**

**Passcode: falcon**



2024 Sokol Ennis Sponsors - Thank you for your support!

**Shellie Smiley-York**  
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