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“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

CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 1 Czech Heritage Society Social & Czech Movie: The Country Teacher 7pm - Clubroom 5pm
- Feb 7 Monthly Members Meeting - Dining Room 7pm
- Feb 11 Super Bowl Party - Clubroom 1pm / Music by David Slovak & Friends 2:30pm
- Feb 16 Pre-Party for Ennis Czech Music Fest - Clubroom 5pm / Music by Lonestar Legends 7pm
- Feb 17 Ennis Czech Music Festival - Main Hall 1pm www.ennisczechmusicfestival.com
- Feb 23 Fish Fry Fundraiser - Dining Room 5pm
- Mar 2 \$10K Building Fund Benefit - Main Hall 6pm
- Mar 7 Czech Heritage Society Social & Czech Movie: TBD 7pm - Clubroom 5pm
- Mar 8 Fish Fry Fundraiser - Dining Room 5pm / Music by (Band TBD) - Clubroom 7pm
- Mar 20 Monthly Members Meeting - Dining Room 7pm
- Mar 22 Fish Fry Fundraiser - Dining Room 5pm / Karaoke by DJ Don - Clubroom 7pm
- Mar 22-23 Sokol Ennis Spring Market - Main Hall
- Apr 4 Czech Heritage Society Social & Czech Movie: TBD 7pm - Clubroom 5pm
- Apr 7-8 Solar Eclipse Viewing Event – Parking Lot

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

2023 'Years of Membership' Awards

Jackie Don	Henning Sr	55
Frankie	Svehlak	55
Mayfair	Mullican	50
Billy	Dodson	50
Evelyn	Knize	50
Wesley	Knize	50
Larry	Valek	50
Warren	Anderson	45
Edwin	Mikula	45

Patti	Kalat	35
Ryan	Mullican	30
Glen	Wilson	30
Heather	Laney	30
Ricky	White	30
Chad	Wester	30
Lezlee	Hernandez	26
Thomas	Betik	20
Richard	Chapman	20

Lisa	Spurgeon	15
Kristine	Betik	11
Christopher	Gilbert	11
Kyle	Liska	10
Randy	Owen	10
Joel	Hernandez	10
Stacey	Bohanon	10
Eric	Toth	5
Rebecca	Gillentine	5



Thomas Betik received 20 Year Membership Award at Sokol Ennis Members Day event Dec. 2, 2023



Randy Owen received 10 Year Membership Award at Sokol Ennis Members Day event Dec. 2, 2023



Larry Valek received 50 Year Membership Award at Sokol Ennis Members Day event Dec. 2, 2023



Jack Henning received 55 Year Membership Award at Sokol Ennis Members Day event Dec. 2, 2023



Mayfair Mullican received 50 Year Membership Award at Sokol Ennis Members Day event Dec. 2, 2023



Edwin Mikula received 45 Year Membership Award at Sokol Ennis Members Day event Dec. 2, 2023 (Sister Debbie Macik accepted on his behalf)

“Spring is the time of plans and projects.”

— Leo Tolstoy, Anna Karenina

Member's Day Pictures



Santa & Executive Board Members

Membership Drive 2024

It's that time again for our annual membership drive going into 2024. 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 or in the Sokol clubroom. For more information regarding membership, please email membership@sokolennis.com.

Educational Director's Report

The Founding of Sokol

The Sokol organization was founded on February 16, 1862 in Prague by Dr. Miroslav Tyrš and Jindrich Fügner. The name Sokol was chosen as it is the Czech word for falcon, a courageous, agile bird, fast and high flying. The new organization was built on the idea of disciplining both body and mind, hence our motto, "*A Sound Mind in a Sound Body.*" The Sokol Tyrš System offered physical training utilizing gymnastics apparatus and other athletic strength and agility training techniques.

Sokol members' patriotism and dedication to the creation of an independent Czech state was evident from the very beginning. Sokol quickly became a Czech nationalist gathering point, attracting thousands of participants. The 1800s was a time in Central and Eastern Europe when the various ethnic groups began to promote ideas of nationalism, independent states separate from the Austro-Hungarian Empire. During the mid to late 1800s, thousands of immigrants came to the U.S. from Europe. Along with patriotism for their new home, Bohemian and Moravian immigrants brought Sokol with them, and in 1865, the first Sokol in the USA was started in St. Louis, Missouri. Sokol Ennis was formed in 1908.

Founding Father of Czechoslovakia



Tomas Gurrigue Masaryk is regarded as the founding father of Czechoslovakia. He was born March 7, 1850 to a Slovak father and Moravian mother in the small town of Hodonin in South Moravia. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Vienna, quite an accomplishment having come from a poor working class family. In March 1878, he married Charlotte Garrigue, an American by birth, whom he had met while a student in Leipzig. They lived in Vienna until 1881, when they moved to Prague.

Masaryk was a supporter of Czech and Slovak independence both prior to and during World War I and was Czechoslovakia's first President with its creation at the close of the war. For 300 years until the end of World War I, the Czech lands

Bohemia and Moravia, as well as Slovakia had been ruled by the Austro-Hungarian empire. Masaryk was adamant that the Austro-Hungarian empire must be abolished.

Masaryk was a skilled networker. Before the first World War had ended, he persuaded the British and French to endorse the concept of Czechoslovak independence. In 1918, as the war was winding down, Masaryk, along with his protégés Edvard Beneš and Milan Rastislav Štefánik, travelled to the United States to obtain support from President Wilson and Secretary of State Robert Lansing. Their negotiations resulted in the Washington Declaration, which proclaimed the independence of a Czechoslovak state. Few people are aware that Czechoslovak independence was declared from Philadelphia. Masaryk spent six months in the United States where he promoted Slavic unity within exile communities. Even before Masaryk had returned to the new nation of Czechoslovakia from the USA, the Czechs elected him as their first President. Masaryk was re-elected three times -- in 1920, 1927, and 1934.

We have a group of photographs of President Masaryk in our Sokol Ennis museum.

Na Zdar! Sister Liz Moucka Krajca -- Educational Director Sokol KHB Ennis

GYMNASTICS REPORT

Gymnastics is practicing for the end of year competition. We have started to sell quilt raffle tickets for \$1 a piece. The sewing circle here at Sokol has made a beautiful patriotic king quilt for us to fundraise. This will be given away at the Nat'l Polka Festival 2024. We are also selling \$1 raffle tickets for a scratch off basket to be given away at Nat'l Polka Festival 2024 also. The clubroom or a gymnastic kiddo will have tickets! The Board of instructors (gymnastic program, volleyball, and pool) are putting on a Spring Market March 22 and 23. Look at more details on our Facebook page.

VOLLEYBALL REPORT

Volleyball plays every Wednesday Night and is accepting new members/players! Speak to Brandon or Chris. Just come through the front doors and go to the right side of the gym.

POOL REPORT

We will reopen spring break - weather permitting. Prices and Pass information will come out at the beginning of March.

Nazdar !! Joanna Wilson - Physical Director/Gymnastic Manager/Pool Manager Sokol KHB Ennis



Member's Day Performance

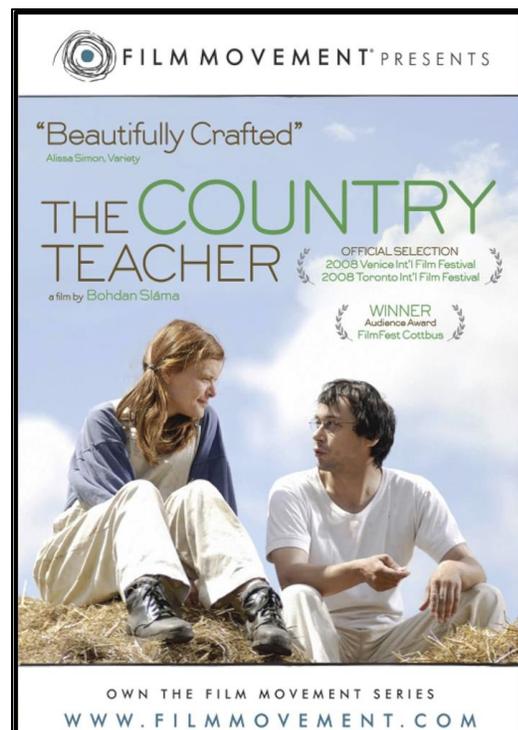


Monthly Czech Movie & Social February 1st

The next Monthly Czech Movie & Social is Thursday, February 1st in the Clubroom. Doors open 5pm. Accordion music by David Slovak at 6pm. The featured film is "The Country Teacher" at 7pm.

About the film: The Country Teacher (Venkovský učitel) is a drama about Petr, youthful, quiet & sensitive, who comes from Prague to teach natural science in a country town. The gruff principal asks what he's running from & predicts he'll be gone in six months. Marie, a widow with a teen son, Lada, befriends Petr. She's lonely. Petr does some chores at her farm and watches Lada with his weekend girlfriend, Bara. We meet Petr's parents & understand some of why he left Prague, then Petr's friend Mihi pays a visit & we understand more. Mihi throws a wrench in things, & Lada comes to Petr for help. Has Petr found his place in the world, but what about his nature?

Pizza, chicken strips, corn dogs, French fries, cheese sticks, jalapeno poppers, fried pickles, onion rings, bread pretzels, tater tots & snacks available for purchase at bar. Non-smoking event (smoking allowed on patio). Czech Movie & Social occurs monthly normally on the first Thursday by the Ellis County Czech Heritage Society. All Sokol members welcome.



Super Bowl Party February 11th

Our annual Super Bowl Party will be held Sunday, Feb 11th. Doors open 1pm. Live music at 2:30pm by David Slovak & Friends (polka, country, variety). Game at 5:30pm. Sub Sandwiches will be provided. Bring a covered dish if you like. Drink specials throughout the day. Flat screens & sound system in Clubroom & Patio (enclosed/heated patio). No smoking (allowed in patio).

Polka Pre-Party February 16th

In the Clubroom on Friday, February 16th is the Polka Pre-Party in celebration of the 17th Annual Ennis Czech Music Festival. Doors open 5pm. No cover charge. Live Music 7pm-11pm by Lonestar Legends (Mike Snapka, Bob Adamcik, Ken Horak, Chris Snapka, David Slovak). Burger, Fries, Grilled Cheese Sandwiches & more available for purchase. No smoking (allowed in enclosed/heated patio).

Ennis Czech Music Festival February 17th

The 17th Annual Ennis Czech Music Festival will be held Saturday, Feb 17th at Sokol Activity Center. The festival is a day filled with great music, dancing, food, drinks, and much more. Dance to 4 fabulous polka bands: Czech and Then Some 1pm, The Moravians 3:30pm, Ennis Czech Boys 6pm, and Jodie Mikula Orchestra 8:30pm. Come hungry because the Sokol kitchen will be serving Czech classics all day long, including Klobase and Sauerkraut. A full Fried Catfish Dinner will be served from 4:00-7:00pm at \$13 a plate. The festival is also a great family event, including a kid zone for the smallest of attendees. Doors open at 12pm with music from 1:00 to 10:30 PM. Admission \$10, and kids aged 12 & under are free! For more info see www.ennisczechmusicfestival.com or email ennisczechmusic@yahoo.com.

Fish Fries - February 23rd, March 8th & March 22nd

We will have our annual Lenten fish fry fundraisers on Friday, Feb 23rd, Mar 8th & Mar 22nd, 5pm-7:30pm (or while supplies last) in the Dining Room. \$13 a plate (\$8 child) which includes fried fish, French fries, hushpuppies, coleslaw, beans, dessert & tea. Here or to-go. Also live music Feb 23 (band TBD) & Karaoke Mar 22 by DJ Don / 7pm-11pm / No cover charge / Doors open 5pm. No smoking events (smoking allowed in Patio). For questions & ideas, email fundraising@sokolennis.com.

\$10K Giveaway - March 2nd

Our annual \$10K Giveaway Building Fund Benefit is Saturday Mar 2nd at Sokol Activity Center. 20 cash prizes: 1st \$10,000, 2nd \$2,500, 3rd \$1,000, prizes 4-7 \$250, prizes 8-20 \$150. Doors open 5:30pm. Dinner 6pm-8pm. Open bar 6pm-11:30pm (valid ID required). Drawing 9pm. Live music includes Brad Ackland (Swing Jazz), The May Brothers (Country & Variety), and David Slovak & Friends (Polka). This year's theme is "Disco Fever" (attire encouraged). \$150 donation - Ticket admits two, includes steak dinner, drinks and dance. For Tickets and general info: Sokol Clubroom 972-875-7959. Additional tickets: John Marek Jr 972-268-2543. Tickets are also available Monday & Wednesday evenings in the Clubroom. Email: fundraising@sokolennis.com. Mail: P.O. Box 205, Ennis, TX 75120.

Spring Market - March 22nd & 23rd

Sokol Ennis will have a Spring Market on Friday, Mar 22nd 5pm-9pm & Saturday Mar 23rd 9am-4pm in the main hall. Anyone interested in becoming a vendor contact sokolkhbvenders@gmail.com. The vendor fee is \$75 for both days or \$50 for Saturday / 10x10 spots.

Solar Eclipse Viewing Event - April 7th & 8th

Sokol Ennis will be hosting a Solar Eclipse Viewing Event Sunday Apr 7th & Monday Apr 8th on the parking grounds of Sokol Activity Center. Reservations required. For parking reservations please call 972-875-7959. Reservation options are 1) Premium RV Parking (electric & water provided) \$100 per day / 2 day minimum (10 spots available) or 2) Self-efficient RV Parking \$50 per day (20 spots available). Car parking options TBD. Reservations are non-refundable. For info about the eclipse see www.eclipseoverennis.com.

Sokol Ennis Scholarship 2024

The Sokol Ennis scholarship is open to all high school seniors who are a current Youth member of Sokol Ennis or have a parent/legal guardian that is a current Gold member of Sokol Ennis. Two - \$250 scholarships will be awarded. The scholarship application for 2024 can be found online at 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 the 21st. No late applications will be accepted. Nazdar!**

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

February / March Member Birthdays

February		
1	Phillip	Dowell
1	Patricia	Garrett
1	Nathan	Vyers
1	Jessie	Lindsay
2	Frankie	Svehlak
5	Wayne	Sylvester
5	Chris	Macon
5	Joe	Gerich
6	Harold	Corey
6	Calvin	Keeton
8	Charles	Walker
8	Hannah	Vavra
9	Danny	Dvorak
9	Kacie	Zhanel
10	Freida	Bain
12	Debbie	Liska
12	Cesar	Castellanos
13	James W.	Benton
13	Kim	Hajek
13	Jennifer	Wilson
15	Phyllis	Mokry
15	Pamela	Hamilton
16	Bethany	Soderquist
18	Joseph	Matous
20	Christi	Campbell
20	Angie	Anderson
24	Christine	Kalat
26	Emil	Slovacek
26	Suellen	Mullins
26	John Chandler	Erisman
27	Dolores	Dlabaj

March		
2	Annette	Locke
2	Sarah	Gulledge
4	Gregory A.	Thomisee
4	Joni	Braddock
4	Mallory	Case
6	Susan	Wheeler
7	Rachel	Cariotis
7	Jonathan	Boyd
7	Esmeralda	Barrientos
8	Barbara	Cummings
8	Craig	Roberson
8	Lewis	Zajic
12	Mark	Sanders
15	Janet	Kalat
15	Antonio	Pina
15	Leo	Arevalo
15	Christian	Ramirez
16	Adam P	Gray
17	Molly	Dickerson
17	Elaine	Kasowski
18	Lisa	Schriner
19	Hardy	Walker
20	Jessica	Trojacek
20	Arial	Carrizal
22	Selina	Zertuche
24	Bobbie	Clemmons
26	Ned	Pleiner
26	Casey	Myers
28	Benjamin	Mokry
28	Kathy	Renfro
28	Josef	Slovak
31	Melanie	Northcutt
31	Stacey	Bohanon

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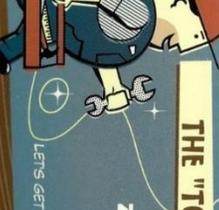
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