



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.”

.....

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Delegates to National Convention - N/A

Delegates to National Polka Festival Committee (volunteer)

Benny Trojacek, Randy Owen, David Liska

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Rental Manager - Dade Montelongo Bar Manager - Joni Braddock
Gym Manager - Joanna Wilson Swimming Pool Manager - Joanna Wilson

Educational Director's Report

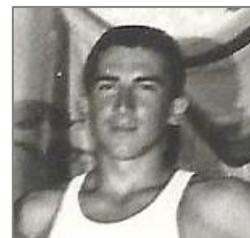
Local Sokol Leaders

Lawrence "Larry" Laznovsky

1945 -- 2011

This is the first in a series about our local Sokols who were instrumental in keeping the Sokol and Czech spirit alive here. These articles will reminisce for our older members and introduce our newer members to those who dedicated their lives to this organization. Gymnastics was the founding element of Sokol, and adult men actively participated in gymnastics. Unfortunately, that is no longer the case in this area.

Larry Laznovsky was born into Sokol, the son of Frank A. (also a Sokol KHB unit president) and Mary A. (Trojacek) Laznovsky. He grew up in Ennis and graduated from Ennis High School in 1963. By then he had already been coaching gymnastics here in Ennis since his early teens. Many of us can remember warming up for gym to his favorite exercises: jumping jacks and arm circles. At the young age of 17, he became the Sokol Ennis Men's Physical Director. He soon went on to serve as the Men's Director and President of Southern District of American Sokol.



During the 1969 National Slet in Chicago, he met Lillian Vesely. Soon after, they married and they made their home in Ennis. Larry and Lil spent many years coaching and mentoring young athletes and traveling the world together. They attended and participated in numerous gymnastics activities nationwide and worldwide: ASO Slets, Canadian Slets, COS Slets, Sokol USA Slets, ASO Conventions, World Gymnaestradas, and USAG National GymFests.

For decades, Larry was the face of Sokol Ennis. He was not simply the President of Sokol KHB Ennis for 28 years, he served on Sokol boards at the national and international levels as well as for several Czech cultural organizations.



In 1990 after the end of the Communist era, Larry, along with a contingent of American Sokol leadership, traveled to Prague, Czechoslovakia, where they were instrumental in re-establishing the Czech Sokol in its founding country and founded the World Sokol Federation, where he served as Vice President of that new organization. Larry served as the American Sokol Organization (ASO) National President from 2000-2010. For his lifelong contributions to Sokol, Larry was awarded the ASO's TG Masaryk Award posthumously in 2017.



Learn more about our local Sokol leaders in our museum near the front entrance of our building.

Na Zdar!

Sister Liz Moucka Krajca,
Educational Director, Sokol KHB Ennis

GYMNASTICS REPORT

- Our gymnasts are learning their routines for April 12, 2025 Slet in West, Texas.
- We are doing a Quilt Raffle \$1 a ticket, Beats Headphones \$2 a ticket, Nintendo Switch \$5 a ticket. These will be raffled on the last day of the Polka Festival!
- We did a kolache fundraiser for our travel account for Nationals in Chicago this summer. We sold out! Great day, we appreciate all the helpers that came out to make this a success.

VOLLEYBALL REPORT

- Adult Volleyball free play is Wednesday 730 till around 10. Must be 17 for these teams! A one-time \$50 insurance fee per season and adult has to have a silver membership with Sokol and that is \$45 and then every January dues are due of \$45

POOL REPORT

- We are planning to open the pool back up in late April on the weekends.
- Then fully open the Tuesday after the Polka Festival. Here are the entry fees and pool rental cost for this year! We already are renting the pool and it's booking up fast! Call 972-921-1962 for booking pool and pool passes!
- **Daily Swim** (ANYONE COMING THROUGH DOOR HAS TO PAY ADMISSION REGARDLESS OF SWIMMING OR NOT SWIMMING)
- Member \$7 / Non-Member \$14 / 2 YRS AND UNDER FREE
- **Water Aerobics**
- \$7 a class / \$42 punch card for 7 Classes (exp 2025) / \$175 punch card for 30 classes (exp 2025)
- **Season Pass** (Starting April-September) (same household and on same day of sign up) (Must be member to buy a pool pass) Individual \$200 / 2 people \$250 / 3 people \$300 / 4 people \$350 / 5 people \$400. Add \$50 per person over 5 ppl
- Patio Rental during Open Swim 2 Hours, \$50 for patio and 5 guest (REGARDLESS OF SWIMMING OR NOT SWIMMING) all other guest to party will be charged regular entrance fee
- Private Pool Party (40 people or less REGARDLESS OF SWIMMING OR NOT SWIMMING) 2 Hours, \$350
- Private Pool Party (60 people or less REGARDLESS OF SWIMMING OR NOT SWIMMING) 2 Hours, \$400
- Private Pool Party (75 people or less REGARDLESS OF SWIMMING OR NOT SWIMMING) 2 Hours, \$450
 - Extra Fees
 - Rentals (\$100 for every extra hour after a 2-hour min decided 72 hours prior to party)
 - Rentals (\$150 Day of party to add a hour after 2-hour min)
 - Bartender (\$50 cash day of party for 2 hours + \$25 extra hour)

If interested in Registering, New membership to Sokol, and Raffle tickets you can email me at jnoplis80@gmail.com, come to the gym Monday 5pm to 8pm, Tuesday 4-7, or come by the clubroom Monday and Wednesday!

Thank you

Joanna Wilson Physical Director/Gymnastic Manager/Pool Manager Sokol KHB Ennis

\$10K Fund Raiser

Winners



\$10K Doreen Honza



\$2500 Elayna Benton



\$1,000 Clint Porter

\$250 Shellie York

\$250 Tommy Richardson

\$250 David Belew

\$250 Troy Patak

\$150 - Dustin Gadberry / Erik Trojacek / Rodney Mach / Renee Valek / Rita Holland / Kyle Stephenson
Mateo Garcia / Greg McElroy / Alex Wensowitch / Erick Toth / Darren Slovak / Jacob Zhanel / Emil Martinek



Hat Winner - Samatha Mikula



Card Game Winner - John Waedekin



50/50 Winner - Barbara Liska

Party Goers



Bands



\$10K Fund Raiser

Making It Happen



Ennis HS National Honor Society Helpers



“The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity. The fears are paper tigers. You can do anything you decide to do. You can act to change and control your life; and the procedure, the process is its own reward”.

Amelia Earhart

Sokol Ennis Scholarship 2025

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 2025 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.

NCAA Championship Watch Party Apr 7

Come out to the Clubroom Monday April 7th to watch the NCAA Championship Final. Doors Open 5pm. Spin-the-wheel drink specials! Game starts at 8pm. A great way to spend Monday night!

Czech Movie & Social Apr 10

Monthly Czech Movie & Social is Thursday, April 10th in the Clubroom. Doors open 6pm. Accordion Music by David Slovak 6pm. 2025 Queen Pageant Crowning 6:30pm. Featured Film: "The Firemen's Ball" 7pm. For questions or comments: Victor Havel 817-714-8323 or Kyle Stuckly 817-925-1673, Ellis County Czech Heritage Society.

Monthly Members' Meeting Apr 16

Our next monthly members' meeting is Wednesday, April 16th at 7pm in the Dining. 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.

Cinco de Mayo Fajita Feast May 5

We will have a feast fundraiser on Monday May 5th 5pm-7:30pm in the Dining Room serving Fajita plates. Price TBD. Carry-outs available. Clubroom open 5pm & drink specials for Cinco de Mayo!

National Polka Festival May 23-25

Come help celebrate 59 years of Czech heritage and traditions Friday through Sunday, May 23-25, 2025. Held every year on Memorial Day Weekend, the National Polka Festival offers an abundance of activities to be enjoyed by the entire family in a small-town atmosphere. The festival kicks off with an opening dance on Friday featuring polka music and the King and Queen Dance Contest, where participants and non-participants are encouraged to wear traditional Czech kroj (costumes). On Saturday morning, decorated floats, bands and colorful costumes kick off the downtown festivities with a giant parade that twists through historic downtown Ennis. Then experience our traditions, religious customs, dancing, taste, sights, sounds, and "a little bit of the Czech Lands" on Saturday and Sunday at our three spacious air-conditioned halls (KJT, Sokol, and SPJST) and in downtown Ennis. Enjoy a weekend of polka dancing with 14 live polka bands including Grammy Award winning Brave Combo and a Country Concert on Saturday Night with Southall at Sokol Activity Center 8:30pm-12am! For more info: www.nationalpolkafestival.com.

Let us know if you can help - Festival hours for Sokol Activity Center are Saturday 11am-5pm and Sunday 11:30am-11:30pm and we need servers & cashiers for the kitchen as well as help in other areas. Contact 972-875-7959 or facilities@sokolennis.com. Thank you!

CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS

- Apr 10 Czech Heritage Society Social & Czech Movie: "The Firemen's Ball" - Clubroom 6pm
- Apr 12 Sokol Southern District Slet – Sokol WEST
- Apr 16 Monthly Members Meeting - Dining Room 7pm
- Apr 17 Sokol Southern District Meeting – Zoom 7pm
- Apr 28 Czech Beseda Lessons - Dining Room 6:30pm
- May 1 Czech Heritage Society Social & Czech Movie: TBA - Clubroom 6pm
- May 5 Cinco de Mayo Fajita Feast Fundraiser – Dining Room 5pm / Clubroom 5pm
- May 7 Czech Beseda Lessons - Dining Room 6:30pm
- May 12 Czech Beseda Lessons - Dining Room 6:30pm
- May 19 Czech Beseda Lessons - Dining Room 6:30pm
- May 20 Deadline for 2025 Scholarship Applications
- May 21 Monthly Members Meeting - Dining Room 7pm
- May 23-25 National Polka Festival - Main Hall www.nationalpolkafestival.com
- May 24 Country Concert w/ Southall - Main Hall 8pm www.nationalpolkafestival.com
- May 25 Raffle Drawings for Quilt, Beats & Game Onn
- Jun 5 Czech Heritage Society Social & Czech Movie: TBA - Clubroom 6pm

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

FUN at the Annual \$10K FUND Raiser Staff Reporter

The Annual 10K FUND raiser was a lot of FUN this year. We had some fun activities that were organized by Chelsea & David Reeves. Chelsea came up with theme of "To The Derby" referring to the Kentucky Derby. One of the fun activities was a Horse Race in the clubroom and the ever-popular 50/50 won by Barbara Liska.

Several people dressed in their best Spring Sunday attire as if they were going to the Kentucky Derby. There was a best hat contest that was won by Samatha Mikula. We even had a commemorative cup and mint juleps.

John Waedekin won four tickets to a Ranger's Baseball Game in the card game that was sponsored by Shelly Smiley York with City Real Estate, the ever-popular split the pot drawing that netted \$2,081 for Barbara Liska and a silent auction.

The steaks were cooked to perfection by Benny Trojacek and his crew, Joni Braddock and her bartenders keep pace with crowd, and the entertainment was outstanding. Constable Roy Callender and his Deputy Constables Flores and Montanaro kept us all safe. The National Honor Society students were a major help in the kitchen.

Brad Ackland sang standards from the 50s and 60s during the dining hour. He was followed by Eric Trojacek and the Lost Money country band. When they went on break, volunteer band David Slovak and Friends played polkas, waltzes and group fun-dances.

Last year we sold out of tickets the day of the event and this year we sold out on Monday before the event. We only print 400 tickets and know of people who couldn't get a ticket at the last minute. So, get your tickets early next year.

ČESKÁ BESEDA LESSONS

(CZECH FOLK DANCE)

**APRIL 28 &
MAY 7, 12 & 19 at 6:30pm**



SOKOL ACTIVITY CENTER
2622 E. HWY. 34
ENNIS, TEXAS 75119
CLUBROOM ENTRANCE
(BACK WEST SIDE)



**Our group will perform Saturday, May 17th 10am
for the Farmers Market at Minnie McDowal Park,
downtown Ennis (corner of Dallas St & Knox St)
and Friday, May 23rd 7pm for the
National Polka Festival at KJT Hall**

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

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 Guzman	4	Tompkins	Josh
6	Zavala	Fernando	5	Quintero	Guillermo
8	Petry	Willie	5	Sandoval	Aaron
9	Mendez	Cristal	5	Jones	Deborah
10	Thompson	Christine	6	Harvell	Dona
11	Slovak	John Paul	6	Easton	Lisa
13	Reeves	Chelsea	10	Breadon	Michael
13	Silos (Cardona)	Alma	11	Gora	Tammy
15	Mullican	Ryan	11	Salik	Willie Joe
16	Walker	Patti	12	Atkinson	Emilio
17	Washburn	Rosemary	13	Pruitt	Rowdy
17	Britton	Alexis	13	Trojacek	Hannah
17	Slovak	Evelyn	16	Mullican	Mayfair
18	Duncan	Mercedes	17	Laney	Heather
18	Iulucci	Kailya	17	Locke	Carlyle
19	Hamlin	Tara	18	Ege	Carla
19	Harper	Mary	19	Phillips	Rebecca
19	Novak	Matthew	20	Perez	Aressa
21	Kalat	Charles	20	Valek	Susan
21	Jones	Rae Anne	21	Gonzalez	Hugo
24	Havel	Victor	21	Trojacek	Linda
25	Mikula	Edwin	25	Fudge	Robert
25	Nelson	Clint	25	Martinez	Matthew
26	Macik	Debbie	26	Robles	Felipe
27	Zabojnik	April	27	Sylvester	Tina
27	Kapavik	Keith	28	Gamino	Cesar
27	Sander	Cheryl	30	Schiffner	Terry
			31	Smith	Amy
			31	Macik	James
			31	White	Ricky
			31	Wallace	Lisa

2025 Sokol Ennis Sponsors - Thank you for your support!

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