

N O R D S T J E R N A N

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THIS WEEK



sun21 arrives in New York City

2007 is an important year for the John Ericsson Society, New York—celebrating its Centennial Anniversary. Special events are planned for June and July, in both Washington DC and New York. The Society recently hailed the first Atlantic crossing by a solar-driven boat in New York

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SWEDEN

Sweden aims to cut emissions of greenhouse gases by at least 30 percent by 2020, more than the European Union goal of 20 percent, Environment Minister Andreas Carlgren said

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Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt took another dive into virtual reality by cutting the ribbon to the country's embassy in the computer-generated world Second Life.

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BUSINESS

U.S. electronic stock market Nasdaq reached into Europe May 25 with a friendly 3.7 billion dollar takeover of Nordic exchange operator OMX that creates the world's second-biggest exchange.

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FEATURES

Scandinavia was well represented at New York's ICFE, the 19th annual International Contemporary Furniture Fair,

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SPORTS

Stuart Baxter is back in Swedish football and the former AIK and South African national team manager is already making an impact on his squad.

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Swedish submarine wows U.S. Navy Gotland 'sinks' carrier twice as 2-year exercise comes to end

By Chipp Reid
Nordstjernen



Royal Swedish Navy photo

The Swedish submarine Gotland makes her way into San Diego at the start of war games with the U.S. navy.

After nearly two years of training in the balmy clime of Southern California, the crew and shore party of His Swedish Majesty's Ship Gotland is ready to trade sunshine and palm trees for cool breezes and rocky shores.

Gotland is one of a new class of submarines that use a revolutionary propulsion system and is so quiet her skipper calls her a "hole in the ocean." It's why the Swedish sub spent the past two years operating off San Diego instead of her usual home port of Karlskrona. The Gotland, with her ultra-quiet Stirling AIP drive and ability to operate in the shallows, came to America to allow the U.S. Navy to improve its ability to track diesel-electric submarines. The results came as something of surprise.

"The report to us is that she has done extremely well," said Kjell Göthe, director of corporate communications for Kockums, which built the Gotland.

"The U.S. Navy have had problems finding her," Göthe said. We think it's because of the Stirling AIP. It makes no noise and no vibration. We're rather proud of the crew and the boat."

Gotland spent two years performing friendly and opposing forces in a series of anti-submarine warfare exercises. When she first arrived in 2005, her abilities clearly rocked the U.S. naval establishment. Gotland, operating against the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan strike group and Destroyer Squadron 7, accomplished something no "enemy" managed to accomplish since 1944. The Swedish sub "sank" the Reagan, not once, but twice, in two highly publicized exercises.

"I think it's safe to say the Gotland certainly helped us improve our ASW capabilities," said a spokesman for the U.S. Navy Commander, Submarine Forces Atlantic, the main U.S. submarine command.

"I can't comment on any specifics, but it's safe to say the published reports are accurate."

Lt. Commander Jens Nykvist, liaison officer for the Swedish contingent, said he believes the exercises were successful for both the Swedes and Americans.

"The 'victories' are the learned knowledge's and mutual understanding of each other's tactics which both the US Navy and Sweden has gained," Nykvist said. "The lessons learned from each other is essential when comes to improving tactics and

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Miss Sweden quits Miss Universe contest



Miss Sweden, Isabel Lestapier Winqvist

MEXICO CITY (AP) — THIS YEAR'S Miss Universe pageant is missing one of its most noted contestants: Miss Sweden, a statuesque blonde whose country is one of the few to win the crown three times.

Isabel Lestapier Winqvist, 20, has dropped out because Swedes say the Miss Universe competition, airing live Monday night from Mexico City's National Auditorium, is degrading to women and weighed down by scandals.

"We're taking a big beating by being linked to it," said Panos Papadopoulos, the organizer of the Miss Sweden contest, which scrapped its swimsuit competition and allowed women to apply for the position like any other job after

heavy criticism from feminists.

Participants in the pageant also are breaking the mold.

Miss Jamaica, 25-year-old Zahra Redwood, is the contest's first Rastafarian and the first to appear in dreadlocks. Miss Tanzania, Flaviana Matata, an electrical technician whose country is participating for the first time, is also challenging stereotypes of beauty with her shaved head. "I never let anyone define me neither by hair nor clothing as I believe God made me perfect as a pure, natural African woman," she said.

But the Miss Universe competition is still judged solely on an interview and swimsuit and

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Renowned Swedish illustrator and artist Stina Persson is exhibiting her ethereal watercolors in New York. Above: Agata.

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John Ericsson Society, New York hails the first Ocean crossing of a solar boat

'sun21' arrives New York

BELOW: Dr. Martin Vosseler at The Explorers Club, New York holding the commemorative brochure from John Ericsson Society, New York
and RIGHT: sun21 on Hudson River



The sun 21 Crew in North Cove Marina

"The time is ripe for the broad use of solar technology in navigation." This was demonstrated by the journey of the solar boat "sun21" from Basel to Chipiona, Spain to New York, which thereby became the first entirely solar-powered boat to cross the Atlantic. This historic event was especially significant for the John Ericsson Society, New York.

From time to time an inventor comes along who transforms an entire industry, forever changing its principal product and stimulating the development of technology. Such a man was Captain John Ericsson. His inventions, notably incorporated in the Civil War battleship USS Monitor, marked a turning point in shipbuilding and transformed the maritime industry. He spent the last thirty years of his life in research on solar energy and the design of solar engines. An engineer and inventor of the 19th century, his research and innovations in solar energy are relevant to 21st century issues.

The Welcome Ceremonies for sun21 were held at North Cove Marina in Manhattan on May 8, 2007 at 3:00PM. The marina is within walking distance of both the site of John Ericsson's home in 36 Beach Street on the roof of which he constructed an observatory for his solar energy research, and also of Battery Park in which stands his memorial statue.

It was a warm day, bright and breezy. After the formal speeches of welcome, brief remarks about daily life and research aboard by the crew, and a musical interlude by a string quartet that included two crew members, the crew conversed informally with the guests and welcomed small groups aboard the deck of sun21.

Members of John Ericsson Society, New York were present - Inez and Leif Brisfjord, Olov Johannesson, Janice and George Weinmann. The Society presented to the crew a Swedish ship's flag and copies of a commemorative brochure especially designed for the occasion.

At 6:30 PM following the welcome festivities for sun21 at North Cove Marina, transatlantic21, the Swiss association that developed the solar boat, celebrated the historic ocean crossing and launched the World Clean Energy Awards with a Gala Event at Broad Street Ballroom. Simon Estes and I Salonisti provided the music. The sun21 crew, the Consul General of Switzerland, Dr. Daniela Schlettwein of transatlantic21 Association participated, among many others.

The World Clean Energy Awards program was developed by transatlantic21 to honor and encourage applications of clean energy in seven categories: Construction, Transport, Production (agriculture, mining, etc.), Services, Finance and Investment, Policy and Lawmaking, Non-Government organizations and initiatives. The first winners will be announced on June 15, 2007 in Basel, Switzerland.

Rolex Watch USA hosted a reception and lecture at the Explorers Club, New York on Thursday, May 10, 2007, 6:30 PM. Two crew members, Martin G. Vosseler (Doctor and Environmentalist) and Beat von Scarpatetti, (Historian) gave formal lectures on the wonders and challenges of the journey.

Text & photography: Leif G. Brisfjord
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For more info, see www.johnericsson.org, www.transatlantic21.org or <http://www.cleanenergyawards.com>



Leif Brisfjord presenting a Swedish ship's flag to Marc Wüst