

What will SilwerSteam 2019 be about?

Inspired by The Airship Ambassador, Kevin Steil, and his campaign “Steampunk Hands Around the World”, we decided that the theme for SilwerSteam would be the social meeting between enthusiasts, and that has been implemented in all of the activities going on at the event!

As a participant, your first inclination of this is that we have tried to make as many of the program activities as possible available when You want to have a go at them, instead of at a specific time. Of course, some things will only happen once and at a preset time, but most activities will be more flexible!

Our firm belief when we have thought about what makes a get-together of fellow enthusiasts such a memorable event is that it is the interaction with each other that make´s us smile in remembrance for years to come.

Therefore, we have started a silly, friendly, and not one-bit serious competition on SilwerSteam where everyone that want´s to can participate. Almost all activities (well, a fair part anyway) will be part of this, soon to be celebrated and highly lauded, SilwerSteam competition!

Let us show you the ropes of how we have thought (and bear with us if we take our time, this will all be very straightforward and easy on-site).

All participants that want to enter the competition (and here we hope that this means almost all of you! ☺) creates a team with two other convention-goers. You chose a Steampunky name for your team, and throw yourself into the competition!

Points will be awarded for most activities that you try during the event, and scoreboards at the reception/lounge will make sure to heap glory and bragging rights to the top teams as the rest tries to topple them from their throne.

As an example, you may enter the teapot racing competition whenever you like. Either you bring your own wondrous machine or you borrow ours and challenge another team. Then you can get the race going in your own time. Each participant gets 1 point, and the winners 1 more. Then you are free to challenge someone else or just gasp at the museums awesome steam engines! You can, of course, enter multiple times to try to improve your score, but another 1 point will only be awarded if you compete against a New opponent.

So what activities will there be during SilwerSteam? What can your team (for you Will participate? Won´t you?!) do to carve a reputation as the most Steampunky of all?! Well, let us tell you...

Splendid Teapot racing – Take your radio-controlled teapot through an obstacle course as fast as possible, and try to reach the top runs that will enter the finals at the end of the convention.

Tea duelling! – The more fashionable choice of duelling! Let your opponent shake from their top hat down to their steam-heated leggings, when you dip your biscuit in the teacup and bring your most time-tested glare to bare...

And for those a bit more physical...

Last one standing – SilwerSteam´s duelling ground. As the old saying goes “*There can be only one!*” (-Connor MacLeod). Here you issue your challenges, chose your weapon and weather the swings and arrows from devious opponents before opposing and defeat them in style! Weapons available will be swords, bow and arrow, and guns (of some sort). They will (of course) be entirely safe (it would sort of be counterproductive to our goal of socializing otherwise) and otherwise known as Larp-swords,

Bows with foam-tipped arrows and Steampunky Nerf guns. As in the teapot racing, bring your own, or borrow ours. Cry Havoc and let slip the... well... whatever you think is most steampunk...

If you are more inclined to the brainy side of things, you might want to try to solve...

The SilwerSteam puzzles and mysteries! Hidden in the museum, in papers or by interviewing the most usual suspects, you gather clues and solve puzzles that takes you closer to the heart of the matter. Think MYST, and you know what we are aiming at.

-But for all the steamy brass cogs in the world! What about fashion?!, we hear you cry. Never fear, there will, of course, be a...

SilwerSteam Costume Contest!! Send us your heliographic engraving (or photograph as the kids calls it today) and then you write down the story of your outfit and let your peers decide who will be called to the finals!

Speaking of photos, there will likely be a wealth of possible ***backdrops*** for taking your pictures. Apart from the building from the turn of the century, you have the steam engines, the old mechanical workshop, and our photo sceneries the interior of the spaceship HMSS Ventus Scandinavia, the steampunky apartment of the professor couple Marie and Pierre Silwer, as well as the steampunk-inspired art collage in the reception to name a few!

If the flashes from photos of your awesomeness remind you that you actually didn't score as fabulous as you deserved in the duels. You can always attend our fencing master Lars Lyktas ***workshop on the noble art of cane fighting*** in the tradition of A.C. Cunningham.

Lars will also hold a lecture on flea-market treasures that fit into any Steampunk collection and the stories they tell...

If you instead preferred bow and arrow (which will, of course, entitle a separate point to the SilwerSteam competition) and wants to sharpen your aim, Robin "Steampunk Robin Hood" Larsson will give you pointers and advice during his ***archery workshop***.

You can also meet the multi-talented, 100% charming, and altogether ***Steampunk-genius Andy Fraser with special guest Justyna Krawczyk***, winner of the European Steampunk-makers championship, that will show us his inventions, creations and... well... the things that no-one understands, but looks really impressive! And most importantly, they will showcase the wondrous suitcases from The International Steampunk Makers Challenge. Please enter the competition you too! They and many other works of art will be on display!

If you then want to get Really inspired, we will have an ***art exhibition*** of Steampunk inspired paintings and works of art! We present paintings by **Jaroslav Jasniewski**, Art by **Justin Tan** and the Swedish artist **Sandra Hultsved**! At least in our minds, they have managed to capture the essence of Steampunk.

Then we mustn't forget all of our fantastic artists, authors and craftsmen that will make SilwerSteam unforgettable. To be able to stroll around and chat with artists, artisans and craftsmen are one the highlights of the event. Here you will meet (amongst others)

Sandra Hultsved, a Swedish artist that marries the Gothic with the Victorian and makes our hearts ache with an overdose of emotions. (www.sandrahultsved.com)

Hanna Ågren – Entomechanic, an artist and adventurer that brings us the most exciting mechanical insects ever seen! (www.facebook.com/entomechanic)

Historiska Kompaniet - Molle & Ludvig delivers everything possible - the impossible they have a slight delivery time for... Here you can literary find Everything that makes a Steampunkiacs mouth waters. (www.historiskakompaniet.se)

Imperial Fiddlesticks Emporium – We don't feel at all awkward in naming Andrea an Artist in textile and fashion. Her Steampunk hats, for example, Are just Awesome! (www.imperialfiddlesticks.com)

Linn Åslund – Swedish author of the steampunk youth novels about heroine Ester Tagg. She signs her novels and answers questions about her inspirations, about her creative process and of course, you can get a book or three for yourself! (www.instagram.com/linn_aslund_forfattare)

Billy and Chris O'Shea will bring us as close as possible to the Kingdom of Clockwork universe with novels and a unique VR experience! (www.blackswan.dk)

SweBrick – Lego turned to works of awesomeness will bring their best Steampunk creations to show us all how you can really push the limits with these fantastic little blocks! Expect airships, fantastic buildings and hopefully even the diorama "Ruins of San Victoria"! (www.swebrick.se)

Jonas Källman is another Swedish artist that will show us his amazing Ceramic Steampunk and creatures sculptures representing any level of strangeness. We especially love his Steam-radio! (www.kallman.info)

Ulf Svensson brings his amazing brass and electricity creations! (www.sibbarparton.se)

Tingxa brings steampunk-inspired jewellery and lovely trinkets! (www.tingxa.com)

Feeling a bit of a craving for something sweet yet? A bunch of Anna and Nicklas children has promised to bring their tea trolley and home-baked cookies for your gastronomical pleasure!

For those who want to get back to the fantastically Important SilwerSteam team contest, there will be a *lot* of board games, both complex and fast and easy ones, that all will award points since they all are separate competitions.

At the museum you can visit a couple of interesting exhibitions, The Castle that Disappeared, Rapiers, Sabers and Cutlasses, Charged!

For the children, there are the superb playground The Little City Museum, as well as the curious youth exhibition Factotum and two exploration maps, The Mystery at Eskilstuna Huus and the Adventures of the curious mouse friends Pip and Petra. But most importantly, they get the chance to meet Pippi SteamStocking herself for some awesome fun!

But the most awesome things to behold is maybe the Mechanical Workshop from the turn of the century, that museum bad boy Hans will show up and running during Saturday. Lathes, presses and planes will rumble on. The machines are operated by belts, and the old workshop environment comes alive when they are started, and the awesome technicians can tell you all about the workshop. They have just been outfitted with new clothes too, model 1900, lower classes, with oil stains and all. Of course, they are rightfully proud of themselves!

If the mechanical workshop is a bit too loud for you, why don't head over to the museum's piece-de-resistance...

...The Steam Engine collection!!

This is northern Europe's largest, still working, steam engine hall. You will find many beautiful steam engines from the turn of the century, even a steam fire truck! With the help of our friends from The Society Steam Volunteers (Ångvolontärerna), you will get the chance to see

them up and running on full steam on Saturday! There is even an English locomotive from 1874 in the exhibition hall! It's ok to play with it, as long as you don't start it up!
Anna's favourites are the valve steam engine from Bolinder 1910 (especially the little oil cans) and the Generator. Nicklas is a nerd and is most impressed by the contrast between the technological marvels and the mosaic floor... (What can we say?!) Which one will be your favourite?

So, what do you think? We think this will be a really good starting point for a fantastic weekend of Steampunk awesomeness! But, of course, we haven't yet got into our plans for the evenings, tea, beer, candlelight meetings and the Saturday Night Full Moon Party!

www.silwersteam.com