

Scandia Camp Mendocino - good dancing, good friends from many places, great food, beautiful surroundings. For me it is a place of many fond memories which expand each time I visit the camp. I get a big dose of American-ness, get to see most of my friends in one place, and get to dance every day.

I believe that Scandia Camp Mendocino was one of the first places that invited Norwegian and Swedish instructors to teach in the US. Before that, most dancing had been interpreted through instructors that were American or lived in the US. At those first camps, an intermediary between the cultures was still strongly needed. (I know! I was a translator for Sverre Halbakken.)

The camp has contributed to narrowing the gap between Norwegian and American dance cultures. Norwegian instructors are universally impressed with the seriousness of the dance interest, and learn a lot from the analytical American approach. Many (most?) campers have been in Scandinavia, attended major events there, and learned about the Scandinavian approaches. This year two Norwegian couples were able to attend as regular campers, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

The camp has also forged many ties between Norwegians and Swedes that would not have existed otherwise.

This process of cultural exchange creates a lasting and important legacy of the camp. And the camp is fun, too. What more could we ask?