

# Kubbnation

the magazine for the game of kubbb

Playing Kubbb For Charity Since 2009  
**The Kubbb Collective**

2010 National Champion - The Ringers  
**U.S. National Kubbb Championship**

How Eau Claire Became New Gotland  
**The Kubbbolution**

10-time World Champion Team Ekeby  
**Interview: Terry Ekelöf**





<b>Det Första Kastet</b>	<b>03</b>
Kubbnation, Meet <i>Kubbnation</i>	
<b>U.S. National Kubb Championship</b>	<b>04</b>
2010 National Champion - The Ringers	
<b>Eau Claire's Kubb Tournament</b>	<b>04</b>
The History of the Largest Kubb Tournament Outside of Europe	
<b>The Kubb Collective</b>	<b>05</b>
Playing Kubb For Charity Since 2009	
<b>Interview: Terry Ekelöf</b>	<b>06</b>
10-time World Champion Team Ekeby	
<b>Des Moines Kubb Club</b>	<b>08</b>
The New Club On The Pitch	
<b>The Kubbolution</b>	<b>09</b>
How Eau Claire Became New Gotland	
<b>Kubb On Campus</b>	<b>12</b>
Spreading Kubb Through Campus Clubs	
<b>Review of Rules</b>	<b>13</b>
An Explanation of Different Rules	
<b>2010 Tournament Results</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>2011 Tournament Information</b>	<b>15</b>
U.S. Championship and More	
<b>Where's Your Kubb At?</b>	<b>15</b>



Office:  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin, USA

Publisher and Editor:  
Eric Anderson

Distribution:  
wisconsinkubb.com  
oldtimegames.com  
the worldwide web

Photos: All photos are from John  
Connell or Eric Anderson, unless  
otherwise noted.

Contact information:  
Eric Anderson  
715.830.0122  
eric[at]wisconsinkubb.com

Opinions expressed in *Kubbnation* are  
the opinions of the writers and  
advertisers themselves, not the  
publication or its editors.

Top: Abigale Smith playing at Rockford Swedish Historical Society Tournament.  
Above (top left clockwise): Kubb friendly in Minneapolis (photo: Mike Jackelen); Totally KubbuLar and  
Kubbawockeez; Ya Sure Ya Betcha Kubbers; Top four teams at U.S. National Kubb Championship.  
Cover photo: 2009 U.S. Midwest Kubb Championship.



Kubb unites people and creates peace on Earth.  
Kubb förenar människor och skapar fred på jorden.

# DET FÖRSTA KASTET

## KUBBNATION, MEET *KUBBNATION*



Welcome.

Let me introduce you to the first edition of *Kubbnation*. This is something that I have been thinking about for over a year, and my hope is that this little magazine can increase the knowledge of what is happening in the kubb community (kubbunity), expand the interest of kubb, and promote kubb related activities and Nordic culture. The intent is that *Kubbnation* will be an annual

magazine, with it expanding in 2012.

Back in the early cold weeks of 2007, I came up with the idea of hosting a small kubb tournament. On that stormy tournament morning in August, I did not know what to expect, but I believe something special happened that day. Even though the raffle was a flop, half the teams were friends or family that I talked into playing, the burgers and brats were probably overcooked, and trophies were plain blocks of wood, two things happened that made me wonder what the future could hold for kubb. First, a team drove 1,100 miles roundtrip from Ann Arbor, MI to play in a kubb tournament in a little city called Eau Claire, WI. Second, even though the event organization was probably a missed four-meter toss at best, there was so much wonderful energy that day, and for months after people were mentioning that they could not wait until a 2008 tournament. Both of those things really made me believe that there was more to this game than just tossing lumber.

Specifically over the past two years, it is amazing to see how kubb has really taken off. This past summer, I just started realizing that this is only the beginning of kubb making its way

into our culture, no matter where we live. Local clubs are popping up everywhere. Numerous communities are hosting tournaments, and Rockford, IL had their first tournament and 34 teams wanted to play. It makes me wonder what will be going on in the world of kubb in another year or two. I cannot even wrap my head around what it might be like in four or five years, except that it will be an even more prominent part of the culture in many of our communities, and my two little girls will be playing in the U.S. National Kubb Championship.

In this first issue, I wanted to find a balance between different types of kubb activities happening. I hope I succeeded. The smörgåsbord ended up including articles on kubb clubs, tournaments, and as far as I am concerned, what has to be one of the one or two coolest things happening in the world of kubb...The Kubb Collective, not to mention an interview with a player from the 10-time world champion Team Ekeby. I hope you enjoy the mixture of articles. If you have any ideas of things you would like to see in future editions, please contact me.

I think of kubb as a gift that was given to me. There is something special about this game that makes people mow their lawns at three different heights, look for houses that have an adequate area for a pitch, not ask for money for winning a tournament, is a catalyst in creating community and friendships, and is an amazing tool for fundraising. I truly believe in the saying, "Kubb unites people and creates peace on Earth." I have observed it when people were not looking, heard numerous personal stories about it, and have experienced it firsthand myself. Something great is going on. Kubb is a game, sure, but it is also a lot more than that. I hear so many people say, "Kubb is more than just a game. It's part of my life now." Some may laugh at that, but I don't. I believe it. The proof is out there for all to see.

Kubbnation, meet *Kubbnation*.

**SEE WHERE IT ALL BEGAN**  
BERGEN | BILLUND | COPENHAGEN | GOTHENBURG | HELSINKI  
OSLO | STAVANGER | STOCKHOLM | TRONDHEIM | REYKJAVIK

+ To book flights contact your travel agent,  
call (877) I-FLY-ICE or visit [www.icelandair.us](http://www.icelandair.us)

**ICELANDAIR**  
WWW.ICELANDAIR.US

**cape clogs™**

**CAPE CLOGS**

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION, AND FROM SWEDEN TO YOU  
SOLID, FLOWERS, SEMI-SOFT, WOOLY, CHILDRENS, SUEDE, AND MORE

Cape Clogs featured in O Magazine, TODAY Show,  
and Good Morning America

TO ORDER: [WWW.CAPECLOGS.COM](http://WWW.CAPECLOGS.COM)  
**1.800.380.5977**

body. mind. sole.

**WIEC RADIO**  
102.7FM - COMMUNITY RADIO  
LISTEN ONLINE AT:  
[WIECRADIO.ORG](http://WIECRADIO.ORG)

**REGGAE TO BLUES TO FOLK TO NEWS**  
**FAT-FREE RADIO - NO COMMERCIALS**

**ROCKFORD, IL SWEDISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**KUBB TOURNAMENT - MAY 21, 2011**  
- REGISTRATION BEGINS FEBRUARY 01 -

The Rockford SHS will be hosting their 2nd annual tournament. 2010 was a huge success with 32 teams. Be part of 2011 and play for the kubb trophies, right in the heart of downtown Rockford, Illinois.

Spreading Culture. One Kubb At A Time.

[SWEDISHHISTORICAL.ORG](http://SWEDISHHISTORICAL.ORG)



# U.S. NATIONAL KUBB CHAMPIONSHIP

## 2010 NATIONAL CHAMPION - THE RINGERS

July 17, 2010 will go down in kubb history as the date of the inaugural U.S. National Kubb Championship. There were 64 teams, 140 players, and players came from eight different states. Teams started arriving before 7:30AM, led by the contingent from Des Moines, IA. All teams were placed in groups of four. The round-robin matches started at 9:30AM and elimination round matches started at 1:30PM.

As it usually is during a kubb tournament in Eau Claire, the heat and rain were factors during the day. The day proved to be both mentally and physically challenging, as the heat and humidity settled on top of Eau Claire. In the afternoon, a light rain softened the pitches and cooled off the air, to the delight of the players and spectators.

The first round of the elimination bracket had three #4 seeds beat #1 seeds and sent 32 teams to the Consolation Bracket. Kubb de Grace went 5-0 and won the Consolation Bracket (photo p. 14). In the end, Wisconsin and Minnesota both had two teams in the semifinals of the Championship Bracket, with Tad Kubbler making their second straight appearance in the semifinals. Finally, with the sun low in the horizon and after 159 matches and 10 hours of kubb, the father-son team The Ringers beat Default 2-0 to become the 2010 U.S. National Kubb Champion.

The event raised \$3,000 for Girls on the Run of Eau Claire County and USA for UNHCR.



### Results

**1st: The Ringers** (Eau Claire, WI)  
Aaron Ellringer and Dave Ellringer

**2nd: Default** (Eau Claire, WI)  
Nate Forster and Scott Forster

**3rd: Tad Kubbler** (Minneapolis, MN)  
Cole Vryens and Eric Goplin

**4th: Time Math** (Eden Prairie, MN)  
Chase Whitney and Matt Luchau

### Quarterfinals

Kubbitz (Eau Claire, WI)  
Time Math

Kubblai Khan (Chicago, IL)  
Default

Kubbsicles (Eau Claire, WI)  
Tad Kubbler

Team McKie (Rosemount, MN)  
The Ringers

## EAU CLAIRE'S KUBB TOURNAMENT

### THE HISTORY OF THE LARGEST KUBB TOURNAMENT OUTSIDE OF EUROPE

In 2007, Eau Claire hosted its first kubb tournament. A total of 40 players making up 15 teams played that day along the Chippewa River on a little patch of grass downtown called Peace Park. The intent for the tournament was to provide a friendly environment for a competitive tournament, while at the same time raise awareness and money for the atrocities that were happening in Darfur, Sudan. In 2008, the tournament, then the U.S. Midwest Kubb Championship, was moved to a new location downtown (Forest Street Park), due to increased interest. 31 teams played in the first U.S. Midwest Championship.

Another new location was needed for 2009, as the tournament grew to 48 teams, with several teams on a waiting list. The new

location was Boyd Park in Eau Claire's Eastside Hill Neighborhood and along the Eau Claire River. Then came 2010. Boyd Park was again the location, but this time it hosted the U.S. National Kubb Championship, with 64 teams.



Four people have played in all four Eau Claire, WI tournaments.

Above: Aaron Ellringer;  
Left: Ray Hodowanic (Rockford, IL);  
Right: Paul and Anwen Mullen (Chippewa Falls, WI).





# THE KUBB COLLECTIVE

## PLAYING KUBB FOR CHARITY SINCE 2009



**KUBB COLLECTIVE**

Springing from a mutual love of kubb, a batch of friends convened in January 2009, under the moniker “the Kubb Collective.” The idea was, and still is, to make every Kubb Collective a charity tournament. Having gathered emails to invite players and spreading the word by mouth, the first Collective tourney brought together about 35 like-minded folks to pitch in \$10 or less as an entrance fee. Players are randomly paired and engage in double elimination style competition, culminating in the winning pair donating the proceeds to a

local, regional, or international cause of their choice. Since then, 21 Collectives have gathered, with nearly \$4,000 dollars raised for charity so far!

The Kubb Collective plays year round, in private barns, yards, fields, or public parks and campgrounds regardless of weather conditions. Every Collective is a dish-to-pass affair, with a core group of die-hard kubbers joined by occasional players, and total novices. Although the core talent is often supplied by the regulars, the random pairings and short learning curve of the game always produces matches with exciting and varied results.

The Kubb Collective happens almost monthly in the Ithaca, NY area with little regard given to expanding the gatherings to huge affairs. Organizer Jim Perkins prefers the low-key nature of the events- keeping the process a relaxed neighborly endeavor rather than growing it to an expansive and time-consuming competition. “Right now, the process is generally democratic and organic, rather than large and unwieldy. We all have lives, families and jobs, so this remains a monthly hobby and an opportunity to gather with good people, play a fun game, laugh, have a few beers, eat good food, and give some money to good causes.”

Chosen charities include local SPCAs and animal shelters, volunteer fire departments, food pantries, hospice centers, the American Cancer Society, and so on. Those interested in being included in the Collective may send a note to Jim at [jimpe63\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:jimpe63[at]gmail.com) or by visiting the Kubb Collective on Facebook.



Various pictures from different Kubb Collective events in New York. Kubb Collective photos are courtesy of Jim Perkins.

by Jim Perkins





## INTERVIEW: TERRY EKELÖF

### 10-TIME WORLD CHAMPION TEAM EKEBY

Perhaps you have seen the Youtube video of a Swedish guy in his backyard going six for six, setting up the kubbs again, and going six for six again. Well, that is Joakim Ekelöf tossing that lumber. For brothers Terry and Joakim Ekelöf, it all started in a neighbor's backyard with a homemade kubb game. The kubbs were scrap pieces of wood. This was in the middle of the 1990s, and the game of kubb was quickly taking over Sweden. The rest is legendary. In 1995, a group of friends on Gotland got together, named themselves Team Ekeby, and entered the first World Championship (VM). They made it to the semifinals. The following year Terry Ekelöf joined the team. That year Team Ekeby would go on to win their first of 10 World Championships (Terry has won nine). A few years later Joakim joined the team. We thought the world of kubb would like to learn more about one of the players from the 10-time world champions. *Kubbnation* was able to get in contact with Terry, who lives in Stockholm.

*Where were you born? What city do you live in now?*

We were both born in the countryside (Källunge, Gotland). Today I live in Stockholm, and Joakim lives in a town called Landskrona, in the southwest part of Sweden.

*How old were you when you started playing kubb?*

I started playing in 1995 (or maybe in 1994, can't remember exactly). It was, however, at our neighbor's back yard with a home made kubb game made out of raw wooden clamps for kubbs and sawed off footsteps from a ladder as throwing sticks.

*Where does the name Team Ekeby come from?*

Originally many team members came from Ekeby which is a neighbor village to Källunge (none of them live there now).

*Is kubb more mental or physical?*

In backyard training/matches it is almost always the best player (objectively) who wins. In tournaments (large spectator) games it is somewhere 60% physical (if you by physical mean pure playing the game ability) and 40% mental.

*How many times a year when you are training do you go six for six?*

I usually do it only a few times a year. Joakim can do it just about how many times he wants. He counted a few years ago and I think it landed somewhere between 70-80.

*How many hours do you practice leading up to the VM?*

Ten years ago we practiced quite a lot, maybe an hour a day from June to the VM. Nowadays we hardly practice at all, maybe 4-5 hours in total.



Terry throwing at field kubbs at the 2009 VM.  
Above: Terry ending a game at the 2009 VM.



# INTERVIEW: TERRY EKELÖF

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

*What percentage of Swedish families do you think have a kubb set?*  
Somewhere between 30-50%.

*Do you two ever play one-on-one? How long do the matches take?*

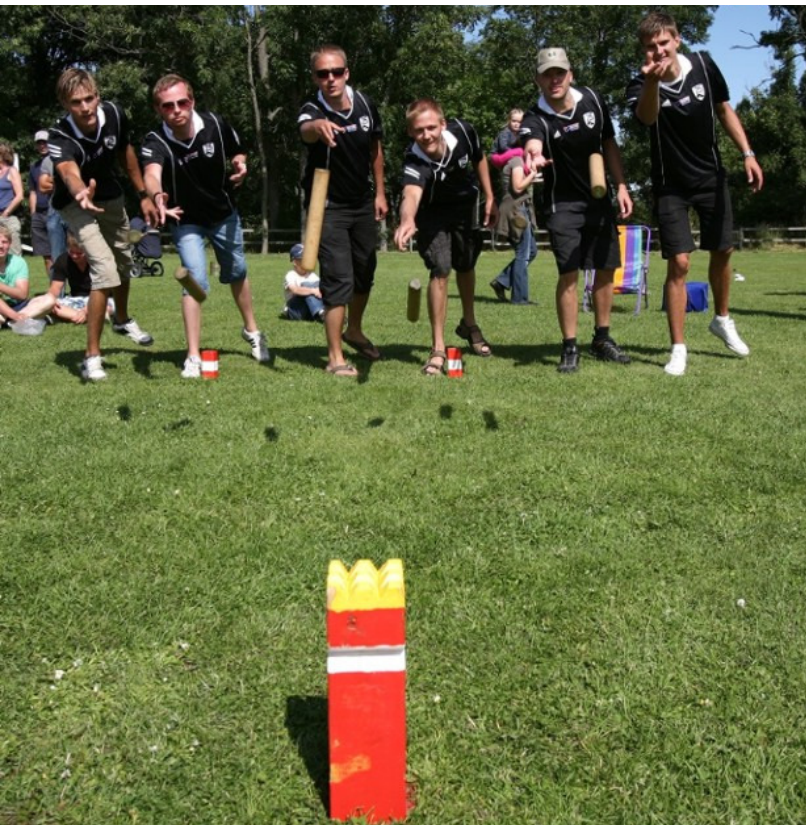
Since a few years back I try to avoid playing against my (younger...grrr) brother, solely because I get beaten. Without exception. The match lasts one to three rounds if he starts and another two or three rounds if I start. My opinion is that Joakim is by far the best kubb player in the world. I am not even in the top ten. I have one quite valuable ability though. I play my best when the pressure is the most (in the finals). Most players play roughly 20-50% worse in critical moments, I play 20-30% better.

*Do you have a specific pre-tournament meal?*

Hahaha, no no, not at all. We usually meet up with the whole team (the one and only time) the night before the VM and play some and barbecue. The last few years we have met up with "Jonssons Trutar" every other year at Lars Jonsson's, and every other at our parents' place the week before VM.

*Now it seems that more and more teams have gotten really good at the placing the kubbs close together. With that, what is the next big thing that you think teams will need to do?*

I am convinced that, in the future, the best teams need to master throwing the "shorts" as far away as possible with a consistent hit rate knocking them down. This is because you will need to minimize the penalty for missing a short one and the benefit of taking out all the "shorts" together with one from the base line. We have been talking about initializing some serious training some day to make that real. It is, however, quite a lot more difficult.



Team Ekeby showing off their kubb skills on Gotland. Interview photos are courtesy of Terry Ekelöf.

*Most memorable match?*

Very hard question since there are so many memorable matches and moments. I usually don't remember the wins very well, the losses stick so much better which makes us (at least me and my brother to play mainly NOT to lose). One very memorable moment though (for many reasons) is our "win" against Moldekubbar in last years quarterfinal. I write win in quotation marks because we were so close to losing that game. We actually would have lost if the referees hadn't ruled out two of their throws...that was crazy (the first for standing across the baseline with the foot, and the other for a foul for stick rotation).

*Has anyone won all 10 Team Ekeby World Championships?*

The only one who won all ten titles is Greger Westerlund.

*What has been your secret to your success in VM?*

I wouldn't say its such a big secret, its just that no one ever asked. I am convinced that the "secret" is: 1. The invention of drilling (I and Tord Ahgren invented that in 1996 and we were alone with it for 4-5 years); 2. Our constant urge to improve not only our playing skills but HOW to play kubb (tactics if you like). A few examples: to always have a correct "feeling" for your team's current ability is crucial. This is because you get severely punished for not knocking all short thrown kubbs. If you always can throw the exact number of kubbs short that your team is able to knock down, it will optimize the performance. We also try to work a lot with the psychology of the game, with the goal to make the unit Team Ekeby to perform at our maximum. For example, some people (at least in our team) hit better if they get to throw early in the round (with the confidence that the following players will correct possible mistakes) than late, even though it would be better to let Joakim throw the first stick for maximum in that particular throw. We always play our safest cards last (kubb is nothing about max performance, its all about persistent performance).

*Where do you see kubb going in the future? Do you think it is growing still in Sweden?*

I am not so sure it is still growing (in Sweden). I would really want to see it professionalized quite a lot. Maybe with more serious tournaments (with proper prizes) and because of that more serious players (equals higher standards). Some organized clubs with regular practice - high quality practice (not just playing).

*Is kubb more popular on Gotland than on the mainland? Are there different kubb-play and/or strategies on Gotland than on the mainland?*

I would put it this way: I don't think kubb is more popular on Gotland than on the mainland in terms of percentage playing the game for fun. Due to the World Championship always held on Gotland I think the number of "serious" teams are a lot higher. The, by far, most serious place for kubb is Nybro (close to Kalmar). There are a lot of players there. They even have a league and an indoor kubb field to play in wintertime.

*For you, what is so special about kubb?*

Hmm, I dont know...maybe that it is so hard to make perfect.

*Thanks Terry. Good luck in 2011.*

# DES MOINES KUBB CLUB

## THE NEW CLUB ON THE PITCH

### The Primordial Beginnings:

The discovery of kubb in Des Moines can only be simply described as an internet stumble. Chris Hodges was going to be hosting a BBQ and wanted to add a new outdoor activity. A Google search for "fun outdoor games" brought up a hit on how to make your own kubb set.

Our founder Chris built the set he learned to play on; he always says he's been a kubb builder longer than a kubb player. He figured 'what's the worst that could happen? I'll be out a few hours if this game doesn't live up to its awesome nickname; Viking Chess. What happened instead was a phenomenon; a roughly built kubb set turned into a city-wide addiction. BBQ's were never the same, as they were moved to the outskirts of town where a much larger backyard could be found, oftentimes to accommodate six kubb pitches. But the BBQ's always yielded the same dedicated players; there had to be more players out there, and more events to partake in.

Chris and I built the framework of the Club in those first months. The first stages of Kubbolution were set in motion. While nobody but us was willing to devote their lives to kubb yet, we knew we could do a lot of good with the game. We had a charter, by-laws, a website, even a registration plan all ready to go when Des Moines was ready for it.

### Kubbrian Explosion

Our next stage of Kubbolution was to participate in the U.S. Nationals. We took eight teams to Eau Claire, and we had no idea of the talent level, or the style of play. We ended up learning a new rule that completely flew in the face of strategy we were practicing for (supposedly if a kubb can be stood in or out, you must stand it in). We fared better than our expectations; we had a team tie for 9<sup>th</sup> for our first annual run at Nationals. But we came out of it knowing that kubb can make great things happen for the good.



The Des Moines Kubb Club at the 2010 U.S. National Kubb Championship.

After Nationals, the Association began to form further and was an instrumental guide in Des Moines' first open kubb tournament; the 2010 Fall Kubb Klassic. The event was a resounding success. We were able to raise over \$600 for Friends of Iowa CASA and had a multitude of sponsors that spent a lot of time helping make the event so successful. We had the nicest kubb set I have ever seen go for \$165 at auction, and another set right behind it at \$120. We had 14 teams and held a survey afterward to see how we could improve next year.

### Adaptation or Extinction?

For kubb to continue to thrive here in Des Moines, we will continue to work tirelessly. Our vision is to make kubb the favored lawn game in Des Moines, and to do good things for people using kubb. We are exerting a lot of effort on building competition rules for kubb, working diligently in hopes that they will be adopted at U.S. Nationals as the standard ruleset. Our next event, held in the dead of winter, will be a tournament played on a frozen pond. Des Moines Kubb will be represented at Nationals again (so look for our tent). We have already begun planning for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kubb Klassic. We hope to see you there in Des Moines next fall!

Read more about DMK at [www.desmoineskubb.com](http://www.desmoineskubb.com)

by Josh Feathers, Kubbmissioner - Des Moines Kubb Club

# OLD TIME GAMES

[WWW.OLDTIMEGAMES.COM](http://WWW.OLDTIMEGAMES.COM)

1.800.833.1448

HOME OF THE OFFICIAL SET USED AT THE  
U.S. NATIONAL KUBB CHAMPIONSHIP

Since 1999, we have been handcrafting the largest selection of quality kubb games in the world. Using only seasoned U.S. hardwood (not pine) to make our games and your investment last for years of enjoyment. Our premium kubb games are of authentic Swedish design and exclusive to Old Time Games.

KUBB - THE VIKING GAME™



# THE KUBBOLUTION

## HOW EAU CLAIRE BECAME NEW GOTLAND



Photo prior to the 2008 U.S. Midwest Kubb Championship

Since 1995, the island of Gotland, Sweden has hosted the World Championship of kubb, specifically in the small community of Rone, which is just outside Hemse. When people talk about kubb, rightfully so, the most talked about locale is Gotland. This is where the best of the best come year after year to test their skills. However, and even more so, this is thought of as the birthplace of kubb and where kubb is a huge part of the culture. Well, over the past four years, Eau Claire, WI has quickly increased its prominence on the world kubb stage, and many will say that kubb is now a significant part of the local culture in Eau Claire, and if not, it is well on its way. With that, Eau Claire is now affectionately known around town as New Gotland.

In trying to figure out how to pass on the story of what is happening with kubb in Eau Claire, it was realized that nobody could explain it better than Katie Venit. In the summer of 2010, the publication *Volume One* did a feature article about kubb in Eau Claire, and it was written by Katie. Katie and *Volume One* were nice enough to allow *Kubbnation* to use the article. Enjoy. We know the Chippewa Valley did.

### Kubbtown, USA:

How kubb, a Nordic lawn game, swept Eau Claire and made us a national hotspot.

By Katie Venit

"I have big plans for Eau Claire," said Eric Anderson, coordinator of the U.S. National Kubb Championship in Boyd Park on July 17. What's that? You've never heard of kubb and don't even have any idea how to pronounce it? You must not have made Anderson's acquaintance yet. He is more or less (but mostly more) responsible for kubb's infiltration of the Chippewa Valley. He's passionate about kubb and wants to make it a part of our daily lives.

### VIKING CHESS ... OR NOT

First things first. Kubb (pronounced "koob" and rhymes with tube) is a modern version of an old European lawn game. Grass is nice, but it can really be played almost anywhere, even on a foot of snow as was the case at *Volume One's* Winter After Hours socials in Boyd Park. The basic idea is to knock over all of the opposing team's kubb and then their king. It's often been called Viking Chess because of its alleged medieval Nordic beginnings and the strategy involved.

Those medieval beginnings are alleged because no one really has any idea how long kubb has been around. At the very least, our Nordic friends have been playing it since way back in the 1980s when it became popular on a small Swedish island called Gotland. The island hosts a popular medieval week and is home to a medieval World Heritage site. Kubb quickly became associated as "Gotlandic" to Swedes, and to Swedes "Gotlandic" equals medieval. So kubb may only be a few decades old, or it's entirely possible that it actually is a newly rediscovered medieval game that was played by Erik the Red.

Either way, our part in the kubb story picks up a few years ago when Anderson went to Sweden for a year of grad studies. He got hooked on kubb and brought it with him to Eau Claire. Realizing it was a great way to meet people in his new home, he organized a tournament in the summer of 2007 on the green space across the street from the old Just Local Food (the walking bridge on West Grand).

The championship has expanded every year and has drawn more and more people from far-flung states, so Anderson has decided to call it the U.S. National Kubb Championship. "I thought, nobody else is doing it. People are coming from all over so we might as well call it the nationals and push the envelope a little bit."

There is no U.S. Kubb Association (yet) to regulate this sort of thing, but this tournament is large enough to warrant the title. In fact, with 48 teams and a waiting list, last year's was the fourth largest tournament in the world and the largest outside of Europe (the World Championships in Sweden hosts more than 190 teams). Anderson is limiting this year's tourney to 64 teams - the most Boyd Park can handle - and if it gets any larger in future years he's going to have to search for a new spot.

"I don't want to say I'm thinking big because ... well, it's just kubb," he said a bit sheepishly, but he has so much enthusiasm for the lawn game that it's easy to get swept up in kubb fever. "I know this sounds crazy, but when I talk to people who are looking to buy a house, some people actually make sure they have an area in the yard for a kubb pitch," he said. "A guy I know up in Chippewa Falls is going to put little cement circles in the yard that designate where the four corners and king go."



# THE KUBBOLUTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 09

## WHY NOT EAU CLAIRE?

I asked quite a few people why they liked this little game of dubious origins, and they all said that there's just something about it that gets a hold of you. "I saw Eric playing it and I wanted to play it. It was really that simple," said Aaron Ellringer, who is tossing around the idea of starting a U.S. Kubb Association. "We're going to spend the next year figuring out what it means and how to put it into place. It seems like Eau Claire is a willing community, and there are a lot of people in town who would support that." Anderson really likes the social aspect of kubb, and says that every time he plays a passerby stops or a motorist pulls over to ask what he's playing. "It's a cool way to bring people together, and I've seen and met people around town who I wouldn't have otherwise."

What makes them think little ol' Eau Claire is mighty enough to host the kubb nationals or even a national association? Anderson rejects that question and asks, why not Eau Claire? Although kubb is played in some other places in the country – there are clubs in New York and Seattle – the Upper Midwest has quite a few kubb tournaments, including annual events in Dallas, WI and Duluth, MN.

Even more importantly, Anderson believes Eau Claire to be perfectly situated in what he calls the Nordic Corridor, attracting people from nearby cities with large Scandinavian populations. "What I'm hoping is that Eau Claire is going to be the hub between the Twin Cities, Chicago, Madison, Rockford, and we are the kubb capital," he said, and then chuckled at himself. "This is sounding crazy."

In fact, Anderson thinks it's fairly safe to say that, per capita, kubb is played more in Eau Claire than anywhere else in the U.S. This may have something to do with our nostalgia for the motherland. All of Anderson's grandparents came from Sweden.



The Spring 2008 kubb friendly

He enjoys the emotional connection to his "cultural DNA" and figures that probably appeals to a lot of other people, too. "There are so many people living here with Scandinavian background or German background. I think it's easy to get excited about something that's part of our history."

But it's not just about reaching back to a community across the pond; it's also about building something new. "You think about the people you meet because of kubb, and I think there's something about it that brings people together and helps build community." A key aspect to this may be that kubb is not just a game, but a community event. Kubb has been a part of local happenings like the farmers' market, the Sounds Like Summer concerts, the Rock-n-Roll Kickball Classic, and WHYS Bluegrass Festival. Some kubb games even organically transform themselves into events. Anderson recalled the second kubb

## VISIT EAU CLAIRE IS PROUD TO SUPPORT KUBB!

Bring it home! Did you know that Visit Eau Claire works everyday with people just like you to bring their meeting, workshop, training, rally or sporting event to our community?

Unmatched experience, unbelievable value.  
We invite your group to Visit Eau Claire...  
The Unexpected Wisconsin.



VISIT EAU CLAIRE  
THE UNEXPECTED WISCONSIN

VISITEAUCLAIRE.COM

(888) 523.3866 ~ (715) 831.2345



# WHYS 96.3

EAU CLAIRE

COMMUNITY RADIO

whysradio.org

(715) 831-WHYS

Listen online to the Global Beatnik at 9am -noon on Wednesdays and more.

## ADVERTISE IN KUBBNATION

Contact information: [eric\[at\]wisconsinkubb.com](mailto:eric[at]wisconsinkubb.com)

Due to this being primarily online, advertising can begin after initial release.



# THE KUBBOLUTION

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

friendly he organized in April 2008, which was held at Peace Park across from the old Just Local Food. Fellow kubb-head Zac Barnes had run into some members of New North String Band the day before and invited them to come by. They ended up playing for a couple hours. Some other people brought grills, others brought soccer balls and Frisbees. In the end at least 60 people showed up. "What was great was that I did not even know over half the people there," Anderson said.

Anderson's end goal is to have kubb be part of the Valley culture, something that we all share together as a community – not just those of us who trace our ancestry to the cold parts of Europe. He and Barnes were invited to teach kubb to fourth and fifth graders at Flynn Elementary, and Anderson said that about a fifth of the kids said they had played before. He sees this as further proof that Eau Claire and kubb belong together. "Nowhere else in North America are a fifth of the kids at a school saying that they have already played it."

"I think it is safe to say that the goal for a lot of us here (such as the local kubb club Eau Claire Berserkers) is for kubb and Eau Claire to be synonymous," he said. "There are two types of people in Eau Claire: those who have heard about kubb and played it, and those who will shortly hear about it and play."

### UNITING PEOPLE & BRINGING PEACE ON EARTH

If kubb does take over the Valley, it will be a benevolent process. Kubb's tongue-in-cheek (sort of) motto is "Kubb unites people and creates peace on Earth." It's a silly slogan, but there's something in it aside from the community-building aspect. From the very first, Eric has tied the tournament to fundraising. Every year it has raised money for the refugees in Darfur. Anderson also wanted to contribute funds for a local charity, so he added the local chapter of Girls on the Run, a program that teaches girls empowerment skills and healthy living.

The Nationals aren't the only game in town. The Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity has gotten in on the act and will be hosting its own tournament in September to raise money for its programs. Tim Haukeness, administrative director of the

Zac Barnes introducing kubb to 4th and 5th graders at Flynn Elementary School in November 2010. This was the second time E.C. Kubb Club members went to Flynn. Flynn now has kubb sets available at recess time.



Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity, said this may be a lower pressure event for new players since it's mainly just for locals.

Habitat is also organizing volunteers to come to their center and make kubb sets that people can receive in exchange for donations. Kubb is a great fit for Habitat. "It's a family activity, that's the part that excited us. It fits right in with Habitat's mission for low-income families," Haukeness said, adding that Habitat would like to be known as the kubb makers for the Chippewa Valley.

Students at UWEC have been getting in on the kubb scene, too. At the Fresh Start Farmers' Market on campus, students had a chance to play kubb with farmers – a worthy endeavor, according to co-organizer Zac Barnes, because these two groups might not have otherwise gone out of their way to meet each other and find common ground. The Foodlums have also been active in the kubb community. "Foodlums and kubb have quickly made a social event out of games and food bringing together students to find ways to improve the local community in the university bubble, hoping to get a better understanding and vision of the possibilities for growth on UWEC's campus," Barnes said.

### JOIN THE KUBBOLUTION

The easiest way to get in on the kubb revolution would be to get yourself a kubb set, find a friend or few, and follow the rules printed with this article. Log on to the Wisconsin Kubb web site at [www.wisconsinkubb.com](http://www.wisconsinkubb.com) for information on where to get your hands on a kubb set and on upcoming tournaments and game days. You could also join a kubb club like the Eau Claire Berserkers.

As kubb in Eau Claire takes on an aspect of social change, your experience won't be complete until you put your kubb skills to good use. Although Eric has plenty of volunteers for the Nationals (thanks to the Eastside Hill Neighborhood Association), Habitat could use some help for their tourney and with crafting the kubb sets.

As more people discover the charms of this simple yet complex game, Anderson hopes the Valley community will become even more closely knit and coherent, and maybe even do some good along the way. Even with the exponential success kubb has already enjoyed here in a few short years, Anderson believes this is just the beginning. "I think to myself, where does this stop? And I don't know, maybe it just keeps growing."

Kubb on.

**You can read this article in its entirety at:**

[http://volumeone.org/articles/article/1513/FEATURE\\_Kubbtown\\_USA](http://volumeone.org/articles/article/1513/FEATURE_Kubbtown_USA)

**Katie Venit :**

Katie Venit is a professional freelance writer who enjoys writing about everything, but especially food and drink, culture, the Great Outdoors, and education. Preferably all in the same story. If you'd like to work with her, email her at [katie.venit\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:katie.venit[at]gmail.com).





# KUBB ON CAMPUS

## SPREADING KUBB THROUGH CAMPUS CLUBS

What do University of Wisconsin, University of Minnesota - Duluth, and University of Michigan all have in common you ask? You can probably name a few, like having hockey teams and the such. But, did you know all three have official kubb clubs? That is right, if you are a student at either of those universities and others around the country, there is an organized kubb club just waiting for you to join. Or heck, if your campus does not have one, you can create your own club.

Over the past year, one of the most active clubs has been at the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a membership of 60 members. The UW Madison Kubb Scouts were officially recognized by the university in 2009. Members meet often to play kubb, sometimes as often as weekly. Most events have a unique name or go along with a theme, like Leif Ericson Day, Söndag Stravaganza, and SNUBB—Snow Kubb. Some things that have been discussed for the future are creating a dedicated website, selling event promotional graphics as posters for fundraising,



An image from the UW Kubb Club to promote the Kubbzilla vs. Doctor Copter feat. Madison Farmers Market kubb event in September 2010.

and purchasing more kubb sets. The group was organized by Carl Schroedl, who was also one of the pioneers of the Southwest High School kubb club, located in Minneapolis. Carl has been known to introduce kubb to people from organized events at the American Swedish Museum in Minneapolis to any passerby while playing at a park.

Another great example is the University of Minnesota - Duluth Kubb Klub. The UM-Duluth Kubb Klub perhaps has expanded their events more than any other campus kubb club. The club was created in 2006. The history and activity of this group is interesting and inspiring. The club was started by Ryan Whitney and Keith Yanes. Whoever wanted to play just showed up at the same spot at 4pm every Friday. In the early months of the club, there were already a bunch of friends who liked the game, so there was usually a good turnout for events. However, dozens of newcomers quickly started joining through the campus directory and through table advertising. Most of these people had never heard of the game before.

For the UM-Duluth Kubb Klub, this was just the beginning. Ryan Whitney knocks it down, “The best part of running a kubb club is being able to organize 2 - 3 tournaments a year - attracting teams from all over the Midwest region. Since you are an official organization you get funding from the school, and the power to advertise on campus with posters and running tables. Thanks to school funding and sponsorships, we were able to put new kubb sets into the hands of dozens of people, and have a great time doing it.”

*“Thanks to school funding and sponsorships, we were able to put new kubb sets into the hands of dozens of people, and have a great time doing it.”*

- Ryan Whitney (UM-Duluth Kubb Klub)  
2011 Quote Of KubbNation

These tournaments were well-run events that raised money for different organizations. In 2008, they hosted a 12-team tournament which brought in players from outside the university. Then in 2009, they hosted a 16-team tournament, which had several teams that had played in other tournaments throughout the year, not to mention three quarterfinal teams from the 48-team 2009 U.S. Midwest Championship. The tournaments take place on Kirby Terrace, which has a view of Lake Superior.

Carl, Ryan, and Keith, you and your kubb crews are real kubbassadors. If you have any questions regarding creating a kubb club on your campus, Carl and Ryan would be more than happy to answer any questions.

carlshroedl[at]gmail.com  
whitn074[at]d.umn.edu

UM-Duluth Kubb Klub members Dan Carlson, Ryan Whitney, and Keith Yanes after winning the 2008 U.S. Midwest Championship. Above: UM—Duluth Kubb Club playing indoors and hosting their 2009 Fall Tournament on Kirby Terrace.



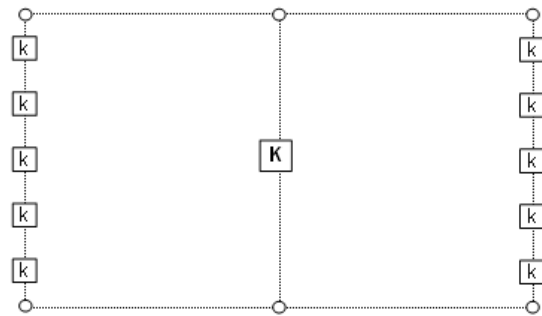


# REVIEW OF RULES

## AN EXPLANATION OF DIFFERENT RULES

For almost every different group of people that play kubb, there seems to be differences in the rules. However, a few things are staples. First, no helicopter throws of the throwing pins. Second, if you knock the king down before it is supposed to go down, you lose.

Learning how to play in Sweden, at least for me, it was the same way there. Every family seemed to have different rules, which made it very interesting. So, what are some of the common major variations? First and foremost, the stacking of kubbs seems to be pretty common wherever you go. With this rule, if a tossed field kubb hits another field kubb, those kubbs then get stacked. Perhaps you hit all five that you might have in your hand, then your tower is five kubbs high. A variation of this is instead of stacking vertically, all the kubbs are placed upright on the ground in a way that they are touching. So, you might have a line of five going from sideline to sideline, a five kubb line heading back towards the baseline, or any other modification.



A second variation makes the game significantly quicker. This variation takes a field kubb off the pitch after it has been hit the first time. So, Team A knocks over two baseline

kubbs. Team B tosses them back over. Team A sets them up. Team B knocks them over with their six tosses. Team A picks them up and puts them out of play. This rule speeds up the

game, but reduces some of the strategy in the game, as a team will very rarely have numerous kubbs to toss into their opponents half of the pitch.

A third variation is when a team gets to advance. This variation does not seem to be as popular, but it is worth noting. For most kubbers, you get to advance with any throws in which you can move up to a field kubb that was left standing by your opponent. However, a different variation is to hit all field kubbs over from your baseline. After you eliminate the field kubbs, or if there were not any field kubbs, you can then move up to your new line and attack baseline kubbs. Perhaps an easier way to explain this is field kubbs are always attacked from the baseline.

This leads to a fourth variation. This is one that I have never seen before, but I have given it a lot of thought and would like to play sometime. This variation requires that when you move up to a field kubb line to throw, you have to throw from that field kubb. You cannot move along the new line. So, the placement of field kubbs would be even more strategic. Of course, you are always hoping to knock them all down, so ideally your opponent would never get to advance, but if they did, perhaps you could put them in a location on the pitch that makes it more difficult to hit their field and baseline kubbs.

In learning more about rules in Europe, once you get into tournament play, there is a wide variety of different rules, depending not only on what country, but what tournament. Examples include how often one can toss kubbs, order of people throwing the pins, number of players on a team, and how kubbs are raised.



Tournaments, rules, or news?  
Wisconsin Kubb is the place.  
The home to everything kubb.

The two goals of Wisconsin Kubb are to unite and foster better and more meaningful relationships in our communities and spread Nordic culture.

[WISCONSINKUBB.COM](http://WISCONSINKUBB.COM)

## KUBB RADIO

The monthly kubb radio show.  
Coming in 2011.

Only on Eau Claire community radio.  
Listen local or online. Podcasts will be available.

## 2011 U.S. NATIONAL KUBB CHAMPIONSHIP

JULY 09 - EAU CLAIRE, WI

REGISTRATION BEGINS MARCH 01  
[WISCONSINKUBB.COM](http://WISCONSINKUBB.COM)



THE LARGEST KUBB  
TOURNAMENT OUTSIDE  
OF EUROPE.

CHAMPIONSHIP SPONSORS

OLD TIME GAMES  
KUBB SET PROVIDER



State Farm  
deborahbecker.com



# 2010 TOURNAMENT RESULTS



**Rockford, IL Swedish Historical Society Kubb Tournament – June 05**  
L to R: 3rd: Kubbla Khan (Chicago, IL); 1st: Kubbra Kai Dojo (Joe Pendleton and Nate Olson - Shafer, MN); 2nd: The Strikers (Roscoe, IL)



**Chippewa Valley Habitat For Humanity Kubb Tournament – September 18**  
L to R: 3rd: Über Kubbers (Chippewa Falls, WI); 1st: The Hilltoppers (Eric Anderson and Josh Miller - Eau Claire, WI); 2nd: The Ringers (Eau Claire, WI)



**Fox Valley Kubb Tournament – September 18**  
1st: Team Kubbro (Eric Neuber and Jason Neuber - Neenah, WI); 2nd: Woody Wood Snipers; 3rd: Black Dawn



**Dallas WI/Viking Brewery Oktoberfest Tournament – October 02**  
L to R: 2nd: Duke Boys (Eau Claire, WI); 1st: Sweden's Sons (Paul Mullen and Eric Anderson - Chippewa Falls/Eau Claire, WI); 3rd: The Kubb'n Missile Crisis (Shafer, MN)



**Des Moines Fall Kubb Klassic – October 23**  
Above: 1st: Knockerheads (Josh Feathers and Dwayne Ballmer - Des Moines, IA and K.C. MO); 2nd: Madhouse; 3rd: Unky



**U.S. Nationals Consolation Bracket – July 17**  
L to R: 3rd: Huskarlar (Eden Prairie/Duluth, MN); 1st: Kubb de Grace (Gordon Kauffman and David Weaver - Chippewa Falls/Eau Claire, WI); 2nd: Da Beers (Des Moines, IA); 4th: Läkerol Originals (Minnetonka, MN)

**Additional tournament information from 2007 - 2010 can be found at: [wisconsinkubb.com](http://wisconsinkubb.com)**

## 2009



**U.S. Midwest Kubb Championship – 2009**  
1st: Savage Stick Flickers (Savage, MN)  
2nd: Koobie Doos (St. Paul/Winona, MN)  
3rd: Kubb – Son of Kubb (Rosemount, MN)  
4th: Tab Kubbler (Minneapolis, MN)



**Nobbele Kubb Tournament – 2009**  
1st: Kubbra Kai Dojo (MN)  
2nd: Up Nort (MN)  
3rd: Crooked Lake Trolls (MT, IL, WI)



**UofM Duluth Fall Tournament - 2009**  
1st: Crooked Lake Trolls (IL/WI)  
2nd: Kubbra Kai Dojo (MN)  
3rd: Team McKie (MN)



**Dallas, WI Tournament - 2009**  
1st: Red Herron (WI)  
2nd: Kanelbullarna (WI)  
3rd: Kubb de Grace (WI)



# 2011 TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

## U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP AND MORE

After four years and three different parks, the annual kubb tournament in Eau Claire will again switch venues in 2011. Even though Boyd Park is a great location for such an event, the limited space for 40 or more pitches, lack of decent grass, need for more restrooms, and potential of flooding after an average rainstorm makes it so that the U.S. National Kubb Championship will move to a new location. In 2011, the tournament will be located at the soccer park.

One of the great things about the previous four tournaments is that each location has had a great feel to it, and all were in downtown or close to downtown. The soccer park, by itself, does not have as much of an intimate feel. However, after a lot of thought of keeping the tournament at 64 teams, it was decided that if it continues to grow, how do you say no to 15, 20, or more teams. Also, there are now numerous other tournaments that can limit their sizes and be located in unique settings, for example Dallas, WI. The U.S. Championship will continue to do its best to create the most fair and most comfortable environment for players and spectators.

Another change will include where the proceeds will be directed. In 2011, the half of the proceeds that have gone to aid the people of Darfur will now be going to a Wisconsin based non-profit called We Help War Victims (WHWV). WHWV works with villages in Southeast Asia to remove or destroy land mines, bombs, and other unexploded ordnance. The organization also works with refugee families that have relocated to the U. S. from war-torn countries in Southeast Asia. The other half of the proceeds will continue to go to Girls On The Run of Eau Claire County (GOTR). GOTR is a girl empowerment initiative that operates programs in five elementary schools in Eau Claire County. The culmination of the program is a 5K run. The run is

for both the girls that participate in the program and the community as a whole.

[www.gotreauc Claire.org](http://www.gotreauc Claire.org)

[www.whwv.org](http://www.whwv.org)

The year 2011 is going to be a great tournament year, as there are several kubb tournaments planned. Dallas, WI will host its third annual tournament, while Rockford, IL and Des Moines, IA will host their second annual tournaments. There are several others planned. This includes tournaments in the Mid-Atlantic region, Minneapolis, MN, Thief River Falls, MN (web search Thief River Falls kubb and check out what they are doing there, especially in the winter), and others throughout the country.

### 2011 TOURNAMENT LINEUP

(when dates or tentative dates are available)

Rockford, IL Swedish Historical Society Tournament - May 21  
48 teams  
--

U.S. National Kubb Championship - July 09  
80 teams  
--

Old Time Games East Coast Tournament - Summer  
32 teams  
--

Minneapolis, MN Kubb Tournament - Summer  
32 teams  
--

Des Moines, IA Fall Kubb Klassic - September  
32 teams  
--

Dallas, WI Oktoberfest Tournament - October 01  
16 teams

Feel free to list your tournament at [wisconsinkubb.com](http://wisconsinkubb.com).

## WHERE'S YOUR KUBB AT?

Send your kubb pictures to  
[eem\\_anderson\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:eem_anderson[at]yahoo.com)

Jens Haroldsson (Stockholm, Sweden) sporting the 2010 U.S. Championship shirt at the World Championship.



Ethan and Jennie Stapp (Helena, MT) took this picture with Old Faithful.



Brad Ashton (Brooklyn Center, MN) and his 2009 U.S. Midwest Championship shirt with two Minnesota Timberwolves dance team members.







**KUBB UNITES PEOPLE AND CREATES PEACE ON EARTH.**