



Welcome to the twelfth edition of the Pirate Times Newsletter.

To start with:- a report about the Swedish Pirate Party. They recently decided not to work together with the EUD. Continuing on with news direct from the Galician Pirates, they are now working together with the NGO 'Graba tu Pleno' ('Record your Plenary?').

We now offer a new feature! A quiz! The prize is a patch from the Swedish Pirate Shop. We also return with our monthly stats about pirate movements.

Of course we also cover the news about the Pirate Bay. The Pirate Party of Sweden had to stop supporting the Pirate Bay due to legal threats, but the Pirate Parties in Norway and Catalonia offered to step in. It didn't take long until the Pirate Party of Norway also received legal threats, and so they rescinded their support. As the Pirate Party of Catalonia isn't quite ready, the Pirate Bay had to come up with another tactic. The solution? They made the world believe that the Pirate Bay is now hosted in North Korea.

There is also news on the European level, a guide on how to participate in the IPRED consultation is brought to us by Amelia Andersdotter. She also has set up a regular streaming service to ask question to MEPs.

We hope you enjoy the news and we're always happy for feedback, ideas or tips at contact@piratetimes.net

The Pirates Times Team

Btw: You can also read the Pirate Times online at our [blog](#) or for offline reading just download

=== Contents ===

The Swedish Pirates say no to the EUDemocrats

Collaboration between the Galician Pirates and ?Graba tu Pleno?

The Pirate Movement on Facebook and Twitter ? February 2013

North Korea is the New Home For The Pirate Bay

P-review 4 March 2013

EU copyright law ? Pirates enable citizen participation

Pirate Times News Quiz February 2013

P-review 26 February 2013

The Hydra Bay ? PPSE Pulls Back But TPB Emerges in Norway and Spain

What Would You Ask a Pirate MEP?

The Swedish Pirates say no to the EUDemocrats



During the latest PP-EU conference, held in Paris, the Swedish PiratPartiet delegate Mattias Bjärnemalm explained the state of the negotiations between PP-SE and the Eurosceptic EUDemocrats (EUD ? Alliance for a Europe of Democracies) and invited the other Pirate Parties to address their concerns regarding this issue.

Considering the answers they had received, the PP-SE's board has decided to end these discussions, affirming its dissociation from Euroscepticism and its dedication to the cohesion between European Pirate Parties. This decision was announced by Mattias Bjärnemalm in the internal mailing list of the PP-EU, which is in the course of formation.

Dear Fellow Pirates,

As you hopefully are aware, Piratpartiet has at the last two conferences asked for feedback on a proposal to make a strategic alliance with the EU democrats (a small EU-sceptic political party) to form a European political party this year so that we can benefit from EU funding next year. Based on the verbal feedback from the last two conferences, and the written feedback from the Pirate Parties of Catalonia, France, Germany and Luxembourg, our board made the following decision this weekend (my translation):

"Considering the concerns presented by our European sister parties and striving for cohesion among the Pirate movement of Europe we the board of the Swedish Pirate Party have decided to terminate the discussions with EUD regarding the possibility to form a joint European political party. This is done to avoid the European Pirate movement getting its reputation smeared by being mistakenly confused for EU-sceptic nationalists."

Feel free to pass this information along to other members of your parties, and to people involved with EU-coordination not on this list.

Best regards

Mab

While this alliance could have brought funding from the EU to either PP-SE or PP-EU, this move from the Swedish board will certainly strengthen the bonds between the European Pirate Parties and is a good example of cooperation in strategic decision making at an international level. After this decision, the next meetings of the PP-EU delegates will certainly be of a more common spirit.

Â

Featured image: [PPCZ CC-BY-SA](#)

Written by LoÃc Grobol published at March 9, 2013

Collaboration between the Galician Pirates and "Graba tu Pleno"



The Galician Pirates have recently started a collaboration project with the Spanish NGO "Graba tu Pleno" ("Record your Plenary"). In short, the Pirates will coordinate the NGO's actions in Galicia, and will receive full media/logistics support in exchange.

"Graba tu Pleno" is a Spanish platform devoted to achieve widespread authorization to record any City Council meeting. Spanish Law doesn't forbid to do so, since it expressly states that this kind of meetings are open to the public. However, it's not totally clear on whether or not it's possible to record those public meetings. Technically, it should also be legal (since it's a corollary of the legally-enforced publicity), but there are no specific provisions concerning video cameras.

That's why some Mayors have decided, on their own, that it's illegal to record public meetings. They're even expelling and fining those who try to do so.

"Graba tu Pleno" was born to put an end to these practices. They're decentralized and gather from time to time to go to a particular city and try to record the Plenary session. If they're expelled, they notify the press.

With this tactic, they've already managed to reach national TV, radio, and the printed press. They've also managed to get some support from important institutions such as the Spanish Ombudsman and members of the Government, as well as several Courts of Justice.

Since "Graba tu Pleno" and the Galician Pirates share the common goals of transparency and an increased citizen's participation in public affairs, the agreement between them has been easy. "Graba tu Pleno" immediately decided to name the Pirates "Graba tu Pleno Galicia", and the Galician Assembly voted unanimously to support the NGO.

Some specific lines of cooperation between both formations are already being developed.

Featured image: [portaldelsures CC BY-NC-SA logo Graba tu Pleno](#) by permission

Written by Fabián Plaza Miranda published at March 7, 2013

The Pirate Movement on Facebook and Twitter “ February 2013



During the month of February the Pirate movement grew by 9,994 followers on Facebook and 5,586 followers on twitter. This brings the total amount of people following a Pirate Party on Facebook or Twitter to 690,756 people. Germany has stopped hemorrhaging followers as their internal strife quiets down and the rest of the world sees solid growth, especially where The Pirate Bay controversy has bought the Parties to the attention of the press and the public. Although a lot of the potential for growth on the back of that story will be seen in the statistics for the month of March.

Facebook

Sweden increased its lead in first place with nearly 3,000 new followers in the wake of the attack on the Party by the content industry a growth of 3.5%. Brazil, Tunisia and Morocco have seen increases of over 8% - solidly building on their spectacular growth in recent months. Only Romania saw a decline in numbers and reason for that is understandable was talked about in the last monthly summary.

Twitter

Here the story is widespread steady growth. The large jump in the numbers for Norway are largely technical as we were tracking the wrong account.

FAQ

*Why only Facebook and Twitter? Why not Google+, vk.com or others? - Mostly because it's hard to know what other social networks to include. Only doing Facebook and Twitter takes a lot

of time, even though there are scripts to update followers. The same reasoning goes for federated services such as status.net as well since it's hard to gather useful statistics for them.

*Can I have access to the .csv file you used for these stats? - Right now only if you have a very good reason and a specific purpose for them. I am working on updating contact information for different Pirate Parties. The plan is to make everything accessible in a good format with continuous updates. Giving out the information freely at this stage would only result in several versions of the document being in circulation where some are badly updated and faulty.

*Why is country X not included? - Probably because I didn't know about it or considered their activity as dead. Send me a message or comment on this post and it will be included for next month.

*Why is there "Countryname 1" and "Countryname 2" for some countries? - Because of internal struggles in that country with two pirate parties both claiming to be the official one. I would rather not waste my time on determining which is legitimate and which not and therefore I add both statistics until it is cleared up.

*Isn't the follower/population very biased? - As all statistics numbers are biased in some way. Just measuring number of followers are biased to bigger countries. The follower/population obviously gives the initial country (Sweden) a bonus as well as countries sharing the same language. This is still an important alternative measurement since it shows relative impact of the social media account.

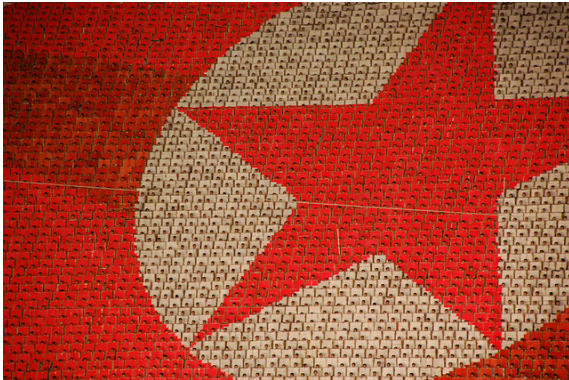
*Why did you not include local party X who is bigger than some countries here? - This is supposed to measure international impact. The reason Catalonia and Galicia are measured separately is that they are quasi-autonomous regions, independent from Spain.

Â

Featured image: by [SalFalko](#)

Written by Josef Ohlsson Collentine published at March 6, 2013

North Korea is the New Home For The Pirate Bay



The content industry is using its new method of threatening anybody who tries to help the Pirate Bay with legal action. The ISP, being used by the Norwegian Pirate Party to provide bandwidth, has been forced into revoking the access. Instead of threatening the Norwegian Pirate Party, like they did [a week ago in Sweden](#), they go straight for their ISP. It is simply force majeure being used by well funded international interests.

Pirata.CAT is still able to assist and provide a safe haven for the file sharing site. The Catalanian Pirate Party is committed to helping but has not been able to provide the bandwidth just yet.

"The Pirates of Catalonia have always been committed to the defence of access to culture, which is why we offered to let the Pirate Bay move to Catalonia, where the law would protect them," [said Kenneth Peiruza](#), spokesman for the Pirate Party of Catalonia

However, the new Hydra metaphor, where two heads appear where one has been cut off, needs to be updated. The Norwegian head has been severed but new head has appeared in the most unexpected of places, North Korea.

[The Pirate bay on its blog](#) said:

"This is truly an ironic situation. We have been fighting for a free world, and our opponents are mostly huge corporations from the United States of America, a place where freedom and

freedom of speech is said to be held high. At the same time, companies from that country is chasing a competitor from other countries, bribing police and lawmakers, threatening political parties and physically hunting people from our crew. And to our help comes a government famous in our part of the world for locking people up for their thoughts and forbidding access to information.?

Irony indeed. As personal rights are being lost in the West in the name of profit will we see their resurgence of those very same values in that forlorn and isolated land? Could this be a bridge head in the country for freedom of information and personal liberty? And what of the Content Mafia? How will they react?

More information can be found on [Falkvinge's blog](#)

edit: Monique Wadsted, the lawyer that represented the American movie companies in the court case against TPB is confused by the move:

"Actually I don't have any comments until we know how it works in North Korea concerning laws on copyright and courts" ([translated](#))

Â

UPDATE: 05 March 2013 There are [reports](#) coming out that it is an elaborate hoax. If so it is one we don't mind falling for as it means TPB has found an means to spoof their location in away that may be able to protect them and their supporters from the dark side.

Featured image: [Some rights reserved by \(stephan\)](#)

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at March 4, 2013

P-review 4 March 2013



Pirate Times Review

A regular review of some things that passed the Pirate Times by in the previous week and a preview of some events coming in the week ahead.

The week in review 25 February - 3 March 2013

□28 February Whistle-blower Bradley Manning [pleaded not guilty](#) to aiding the enemy

□28 February The second live streaming [video broadcast](#) from the office of [Amelia Andersdotter](#).

UPDATE : This week the subject will be on why open access in research and scientific publications is important to everyone.

□28 February UK courts [extended bans](#) of web sites at the demands of the UK music industry

Â

□1 March Lego obtains interim injunction against Czech Pirate Party - [World Trademark Review \(subscription\)](#)

□3 March The Canadian Government [introduced ACTA](#)

□3 March The Swiss have voted for tough [curbs on executive pay](#) as called for by the Swiss Pirate Party

Some events that should be interesting for Pirates in the coming week

□7 March Live streaming [video broadcast](#) from the office of [Amelia Andersdotter](#).

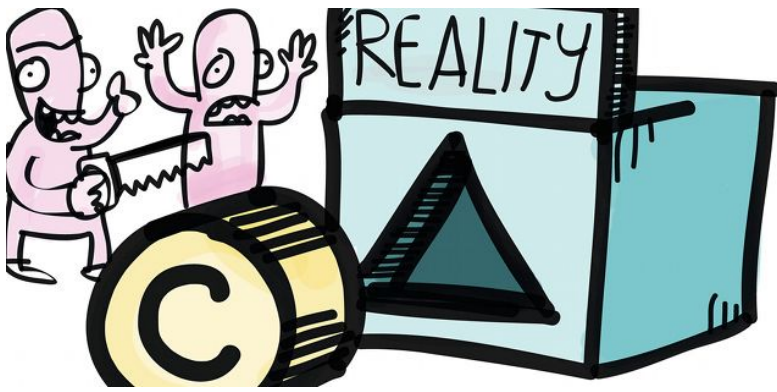
□8 March [International Women's Day](#)

□9-10 March [2 EuWikon](#) The 2nd European Finance Conference of the German Pirate Party

Featured image: by [gerlos](#) [CC BY-SA](#)

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at March 4, 2013

EU copyright law “ Pirates enable citizen participation



The European Commission is currently planning the next revision of IPRED, the Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement Directive. At the very least the directive is expected to carve the current copyright regime deeper into stone, thereby further preventing much needed reform. But very likely it will also include a tightening of "enforcement", for example restrictions on due process for file sharers through "fast track" litigation, more enforcement responsibilities for private service providers and harder penalties.

Before submitting the directive to the European legislative process, the Commission opened a "consultation", an online survey about the proposal, in November 2012. These consultations usually are relatively complex and time intensive and thus usually only filled out by NGOs and lobbyists.

However, PPSE MEP Amelia Andersdotter has published a [handy guide](#) that enables citizens to have their say. With the help of other Pirates from different European countries it is now available in several languages, to allow as many people as possible to fill out the survey. And they were quick: In fact, the translations of the guide were there even before the Commission had translated the survey itself into its three working languages.

Some Pirate Parties have started additional campaigns to spread the word, such as the project group [\(PG\) Intellectual Property Rights](#) of PPDE, who also helped with the translation work.

Digital rights NGOs such as EDRi have also taken up the call for broad citizen participation in the consultation and have written [a guide](#) of their own.

There's also another consultation that touches on copyright law, even though its main focus is trade secrets. It is nonetheless an opportunity to make your voice heard. And since Amelia wrote [a guide for it](#) as well, it only takes minutes. Again, PPDE's PG Intellectual Property Rights helped with translations, so that the guide is now available in three languages.

By providing these survey manuals, Pirates and net activists serve as mediators between the Commission's lobby targeted questions and citizen's concerns over civil liberties and outdated copyright rules on the internet.

Now it is up to the people to make their mark by outweighing lobby input in these consultations. This way they can make clear that a more open approach to information freedom in general and copyright law in particular is necessary, instead of further entrenchment of restrictive rules.

The IPRED consultation ends on 30 March 2013. People who would like to participate should plan in a few additional days, because they will have to apply for a survey link from the European Commission first. The consultation on trade secrets already ends on 8 March 2013, but there is no registration required.

Featured image: CC-BY flickr user [entrapir](#)

Â

Image Source: Crop of

"Copyright Hacking"

CC-BY flickr user entapir

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/inkninja/8119702305/>

Pirate Times News Quiz February 2013



Today we are introducing a new feature in the Pirate Times. At the end of each month we will be asking some questions based on the articles published during that month and a few based on more general Pirate trivia.

The questions are in a multiple choice format and each correct answer reveals a letter at the end of the quiz. The collected letters will build up a word or a phrase that is related to the Pirate movement.

Participate by sending that word (or phrase) with your name/alias and you will be placed in a draw for the prize. The winner of the draw will be sent a piece of treasure from the Pirate Times treasure chest. Entries must be in by 8 March 2013 CET and the winner will be announced in the following Pirate Times "P-review", published every Tuesday.

Â

Entries should be sent to the email address andrew@piratetimes.net with the subject line 'Pirate Times Quiz'.

Rules:

- Only one entry per person
- Late entries will not be entered in the draw
- Draws will be made using [Random Picker](#)
- Copying the correct answer from someone else is allowed and even encouraged
- Email addresses will not be kept past the end of the draw except to get the details of the winner.

To the QUIZ

The quiz cannot run on our site due to a bug. Therefore we are hosting it on Andrew's site until it can be fixed. [Click here to proceed.](#)

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at March 1, 2013

P-review 26 February 2013



Pirate Times Review

A regular review of some things that passed the Pirate Times by in the previous week and a preview of some events coming in the week ahead. This edition of P-review has been delayed due to the momentous news that came out of Sweden yesterday regarding The Pirate Bay.

The week in review 18- 24 February 2013

□20-21 February 2013 Due to ongoing **internal conflict** in the German Pirate Party the leaders of two state parties have resigned and one has left the party.

Â

□20 February **Cory Doctorow visited the California Pirate Party** for their Pirate Hour video cast - "the Pirate Party is shifting the goal posts"

Â

□23 February 2013 **Crypto partys** were held in Reykjavík, Iceland and **Massachusetts**, USA. Lots of people learning OTR, Tor, PGP, Tails and more... Pirates serving their communities.

Â

□22.-24. February The Pirate Party of Switzerland held its **Winter Congress** in Aarau Keynote speakers were **Richard Stallman**, **Birgitta Jónsdóttir** and **Gerd Leonhard**

Â

□24 February A Pirate **tobogganing event** in Bad Tölz, Germany

Â

□25 February The British Defamation Bill passed the House of Lords but this much needed reform is in danger of failing. It means anyone in the world can sue anyone else in the world for

libel in UK courts. A [PPUK press release](#) gives more details.

Â

Some events that should be interesting for Pirates in the coming week

□26 February The date the Swedish Pirate Party must stop supplying internet access to The Pirate Bay avoid legal action. They have vowed to fight the action.

Â

□27 February [We are all Greeks Now](#) - solidarity with the people of Greece

Â

□28 February 18:30 CET - The second live streaming [video broadcast](#) from the office of [Amelia Andersdotter](#). This time the theme is data protection in the EU

Featured image: by [gerlos](#) CC BY-SA

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at February 27, 2013

The Hydra Bay “ PPSE Pulls Back But TPB Emerges in Norway and Spain



PIRATA.CAT



The Hydra Bay

One week ago the Pirate Party of Sweden (PPSE) received **legal personal threats** for supplying The Pirate Bay (TPB) with Internet access. They were given a week to make a decision about stopping the provision of TPB with Internet access or face a legal battle. PPSE decided to step aside and have handed the responsibility to the Pirate Party of Norway (PPNO) and the Pirate Party of Catalonia (PPCAT).

The board of the Swedish Pirate Party were threatened with a civil law suit from "Rättighetsalliansen?(Rights Alliance) and faced taking a hard decision. Whether their actions were legal or not it would have had to be proven in court if they decided to stand up and fight back. Peter Sunde, former spokesperson of TPB **explained** how unfounded the legal threat was: "Can someone here define what and/or who is TPB? It might possibly be a search engine. Possibly a gathering point on the internet. A forum. A note board. But to put TPB into a legal definition of physical or judicial person is very hard. And without such a definition it is not possible to logically or judicially claim that 'TPB is illegal'. Possibly it could be claimed that crimes are committed through TPB, in the same way that you can claim crimes are committed on a town square" (translated)

A legal fight, despite being a win or loss, would deplete PPSE of funds and take a lot of their attention and focus needed for upcoming national and European elections in 2014. If they lost the fight the board members of PPSE would have incurred personal debts and possibly jail sentences affecting not just them but their families as well.

Following the news about the possible lawsuit PPSE has been in a storm of opinion. Several of the PPSE board members have received angry letters and demands for resignations for even

suggesting they not take on the legal fight. On the other hand they also received much support from others standing behind them no matter what decision they decided to take. Reluctantly the Swedish Pirate Party have decided to cut their ties with TPB but this only means the fight is carried on in a different manner than expected. Anna Troberg, the leader of PPSE, **says that**: "The Pirate Party has a board meeting in a few days. I will recommend the board to file a police report against the Rights Alliance for unlawful coercion. It is important to determine precisely how forgiving the system is to those who try to abuse the judicial system to silence others." The role that PPSE had previously has now been duplicated and passed on to the Pirate Parties of **Norway** and **Catalonia**. Winona, who is representing TPB, explained the new arrangement for **Torrentfreak**: "TPB did of course have lots of backup transit lined up for ages. This is however the first time we are going to show two at the same time?". TPB also decided to **blog about the situation** and compared the copyright industry's futile attempts with the impossible job in Whac-a-mole where the moles only pop up somewhere else when you try to use force against them.

"It is wonderful to be able to pass on the baton to two sister parties. It is testament to the pirate movement's maturity and strength, says Troberg. We help each other and work with our sight set firmly on the future. Today, there are more than sixty different Pirate Parties all around the world. Every cut connection to The Pirate Bay will generate two new connections" - **Anna Troberg, PPSE leader**

The choice on Spain and Norway as supplier of bandwidth for TPB is most likely due to recent court decisions in the two countries. In Norway the court ruled that Telenor, as an ISP, did not need to block TPB. In August last year another green light was given to Norwegians when the law firm doing the monitoring of file-sharing **lost their license to monitor** which essentially meant that "no hunting of file-sharers is allowed in Norway? -Cecilie Rønnevik, senior advisor to the Norwegian Data Inspectorate. In Spain the 'Sinde Law' could be a threat but the law states that if closing a website violates fundamental rights (like freedom of association and speech), it can't be blocked. Because of this exception PPCAT (together with PPGAL and PPMAD) are running a p2p service for **sharing textbooks**, which so far hasn't had problems. PPCAT also have several highly acclaimed lawyers helping them with legal issues such as **filing a lawsuit against USA** for

what happened with Megaupload.

Geir Aaslid, Leader of PPNO commented,

"Freedom of speech and expression must trump copyright law! Our political support of The Pirate Bay is consistent with our belief in the right of free speech and the right to communicate without surveillance and censorship. This is why the Pirate Party of Norway will carry the torch our sister party in Sweden ignited, and function as a postal service for The Pirate Bay."

Â

[Press release from PPSE](#)

[Press release from PPNO](#)

[Press release from PPCAT](#)

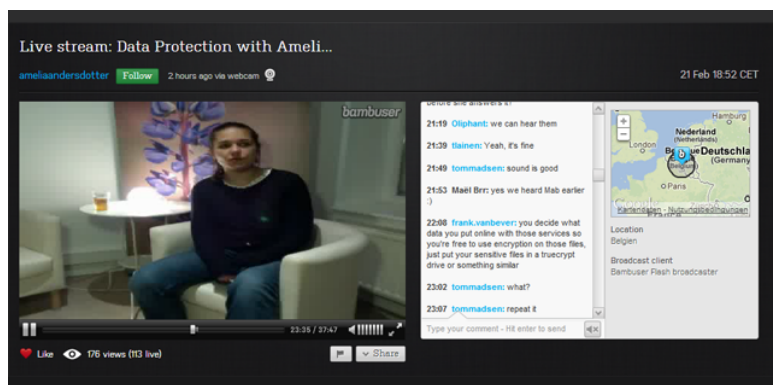


Featured Image: CC-BY-SA Pirate Bay, PPNO and PPCAT

Â

Written by Josef Ohlsson Collentine published at February 26, 2013

What Would You Ask a Pirate MEP?



Premiere

On Thursday evening, 21 February 2013, European Pirates got a new way to connect with Brussels and the European Parliament. Swedish Pirate MEP [Amelia Andersdotter](#) and her capable team have set up a regular streaming service so that Pirates and of course, any interested person can watch live and ask questions. The netcast started a bit late due to technical problems and there were a few interruptions as producer [Tess Lindholm](#) tested different microphones and plugged the computer, used to do the filming, into the power supply before it powered down.

Data Protection

Amelia was relaxed and competent in outlining her work in committee on the data protection regulations, what they relate to and how the politicians are under the effects of of an industry ?lobbystorm? and how the committee rejected the results of research made at the request of the committee and paid for by the European taxpayer. She also outlined how industry tricked MEPs into weakening data protection for EU citizens. This was even when small and medium sized companies prefer strong data protection as this saves them having to spend legal fees on trying to work out what legislation actually meant.

Viewer Questions

Viewers could ask questions over the chat provided on the [bambuser.com](#) site or over facebook and she spent most of the nearly 40 minute netcast giving answers that the normal citizen could understand in the fluent English that most Nordic people command. She baulked at only one question on how good dropbox was for data protection ? not being an expert in cloud security.

A Regular Feature

The broadcast reached a live audience ranging from 16 at the start and 30 at the end. There was also a live audience in the room of about a dozen people. An hour after the broadcast had finished over 170 viewers had watched the **recorded program** which is ?forever? available with the chat log as **Elin Andersson**, Amelia's intern, told us and maybe later on youtube. The netcast will become a weekly feature - Thursdays at 18:30 CET and not only Amelia but other team members and hopefully other politicians will appear to explain their work and answer your questions.

Â

Featured image: CC BY-SA Pirate Times

Â

Image Source: CC BY-SA

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at February 25, 2013

Thank you for reading our newsletter. If you for some reason do not want anymore newsletters you can **unsubscribe** from our newsletter. We always appreciate feedback for improving Pirate Times.

If you have comments, ideas or tips on news we would love to hear from you! Send a mail to: contact@piratetimes.net