

THE CIRCLE - NEWSLETTER

THE ONLY INFORMAL NETWORK OF U.S.F. ALUMNI IN THIS WORLD

It's summertime!

At least according to the calendar; the rainy weather in this part of the world apparently lost track of seasons.

This Newsletter could only be prepared by the end of July because of the necessary attention the redaction team was obliged to spend on the happenings on the football fields in France. Although France made it to the Final, other Circle countries were among the (very) early home-comers; which made Austria, Spain, Japan and Belgium decide to play their own new group in the Early Losers League.

Looking back at past events, we had a most wonderful Circle Meeting last May in and around Pamplona. Further down in this newsletter you will find the report by Anne Sorensen, telling you all about it (or at least those parts that are fit for publication).

For your records, the Minutes of the Annual Meeting, as well as the Financial Reports are enclosed with this Newsletter.

And, next year, in 1999 we will have our 10th Circle Meeting!
After Antwerp, Madrid, Oslo, Vienna, San Francisco, Paris, Geneva, London and Pamplona,
...

1999 CIRCLE MEETING:

April 30 - May 3, 1999

BADEN-BADEN, Germany

Hosted by Dirk Haro

Note these dates already in your agenda. More details to follow in the next Newsletter.

--- **Gossip** ---

From the high nord of Iceland came the news of promotions of **Jon Rikhardsson**, who is now functional manager at the Icelandic Fisheries Laborator (since mid 1996); and **Rannveig Rist**, who became on January 1st 1997 the general manager of the Icelandic Aluminum Company Ltd. Congratulations!

Rannveig and Jon are also looking to get in touch with two lost friends from USF : Fasida Obdulo Rashid from Malaysia and Alejandro Rocha from Mexico. Anyone who can help them ?

Also note some changes in e-mail and phone numbers; check the data-base.

Petter Danielsen has accepted an offer to work for a small Norwegian Biotech company named Natural. He is moving to Norway in August where he can be reached as of August 1 at the new address and numbers as stated in the database.

From Indonesia there was troubling news lately, but both **Nita Sunarto** and **Nina Sunarto** are reporting to be doing fine, given the circumstances.

Luis Martinez-Aoiz survived barely the invasion of Circle Members in his friendly homecity and region. There have even been some articles in the local press about the Circle Annual Meeting, including some pictures of participants.

Béatrice Leduc couldn't make it to Pamplona since she had to travel for Nestlé to Minneapolis, Minnesota (of all places). She moved within the Nestlé organization and is now "chef de produit gamme adulte – céréales". Also check the date base for new e-mail and fax number.

Jan Melsen reacted on the previous Newsletter which, in his interpretation, hinted that he was just having a good time travelling around. In fact, he insists that he has been working very hard and hardly traveled that period. (no further comments).

Also note the changes in business address for **Frédéric Pirard**.

The king of airline catering, **Wilfried Kainz**, missed for the first time out on the circle meeting. He was in the middle of preparations bringing Do & C° to the stock market; which ended up being a big success. And Wilfried returned to his home base in Vienna to become Vice-President at Do & C°. Congratulations!

While **Bernard Gander** is pretending to be working in Fremont, Marlyse and the kids having a wonderfull 6-week holiday in and around Half Moon Bay.

Annual Circle Meeting 1998

Circle Meeting Report

A detailed report of the happenings of the Pamplona meeting is enclosed with this Newsletter. Our thanks to Anne for noting all the reportable facts and delivering such a fine report.

Circle Currency Policy

All circle members need to be advised that as of 1st of January 1999 the Circle will adopt the

Euro as its currency; changing the membership fee from Ecu to Euro, at a 1 to 1 parity.

Circle Presidency

At the Annual Meeting in Pamplona Jos Piron announced that he will finish his term as your president at next year's Circle Meeting in Germany. After ten years it is time to step back and leave the Circle to new management.

All Circle Members are therefore advised to seek between themselves a new president or a new circle management system before May 1, 1999.

Data-Base

As usual an updated copy of the database comes along with the newsletter. Several changes have been processed since the last edition

Circle Membership Fee

This dramatic situation, as discussed in the last few Newsletters, has hardly improved. This explains that the database lists is still getting shorter.

Note: the fee-paid item in the date-base still relates to the status of the 1998-fee.

Epilogue

Yesterday is history; and Tomorrow is still a mystery.
But Today is a gift, that's why it is called 'the present'.

... AND WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

It happened in Pamplona ...

On Wednesday 29th April, a group of about 10 people got together in Hotel El Toro, just outside Pamplona. We were all looking forward to a few days' break in sunny Spain, and our suitcases reflected our expectations. Luis arrived with an impressive 5 kilo pamphlet including the programme for the weekend, and he had also made the effort to print T-shirts for the entire group.

After a short discussion as to where and when to eat, we finally decided to have dinner at the hotel, the first in a row of numerous Tapas meals. Being a little tired after the travel, and looking at the contents of the heavy programme starting next morning at 10, we had a relatively early departure to the idyllic Farmhouse anno 1730 where part of the group was lodged.

On Thursday 30th April at 10 sharp, Luis came to pick us up at the Farmhouse and brought us to the Hotel El Toro where the rest of the group was waiting with a bus. Being near the Rioja region, wine tasting was a safe winner. The bus took us to the "La Rioja Alta" Winery, where we during the tour learned everything about Grandes Reservas, Reservas and Crianza wines. There we also had a delicious lunch where we could taste the distinction between the various wines the winery offered. Due to its popularity, Luis had to book this visit a year in advance, so he was really a well prepared host.

This activity took some time, and on our way back we visited a couple of villages, so in the end we only had 15 minutes rest at the Farmhouse before leaving for the Tapas bar where we were to spend the evening. The rain was pouring down outside, but the cheese we were served tasted deliciously with the wine, and on our second night we went to bed at about 4 a.m

Friday 1st May – Did I say May? The rain was still pouring down and it was quite cold, but that was no problem on this well organized trip. Again we were picked up by the bus and this time we were taken to Bilbao and the Guggenheim museum. This was an incredible experience – even for those of us not being so familiar with modern art. There were so many colors and shapes and impressions to absorb. Looking in the programme after this visit, we could only see that the programme for the day had just started. Our next stop was at a Tapas bar, and later at the beach restaurant KA in Zarautu for a coffee. We were well fed during these days!

In San Sebastian we went to place some bets during the Jai-Alai game. I suppose this was a new experience for the majority of the group. The best way to explain is that there were 2 men on each team, with "something" attached to their right hands, smashing a ball, like tennis or squash. Lots of Spanish men were watching – placing bets. Our group collected a few pesetas each, and as far as I could understand we won 30.000 pesetas. After spending a couple of hours in this sports centre, the bus took us down town. Unfortunately – because of the heavy rain – only a few of us were dressed for a walking tour in the old town. The rest of us took seats in a bar overlooking the beautiful harbour of San Sebastian.

The next item on the programme was dinner at "The Sidreira", a farmhouse with home made cider. Again we ate well, but the horrible cider was exchanged for some local wine. We now counted 8 circle members and 16 groupies. Later in the evening the bus took us

back to Pamplona where we went to bed, quite exhausted.

The plan for Saturday 2nd May was a visit to the Pyrenees Mountains with outdoor activities like climbing, walking, a train ride, etc. Due to the bad weather, the programme had to be completely changed. The bus took us to the natural Garden Park, and on the way there was a beautiful scenery. To me it looked more like Switzerland or Tyrol than Spain. Anyway, we had a wonderful lunch at a local restaurant, and again – lots of wine. After lunch we said goodbye to Bernard, Marlyse and the children, headed for the bus, and made a few more stops in small villages on our way back. Then we had 2 hours! break before dinner. I think everybody slept except Luis who was an ever-going never-tired host. The day was concluded with more Tapas, more wine, and the Annual Meeting at La Olla.

On Sunday 3rd May people started to leave, but those that were left planned a barbeque at the Farmhouse. Cato and I were lucky to get a ride with Dirk and his girlfriend to the airport, so we never made it for the barbeque.

We were a little surprised and disappointed that the other Spanish did not show up, but many thanks to Luis for organizing this Annual Meeting on his own.

We never had a sight seeing in Pamplona, so we figured that maybe there is nothing to see there, or maybe Luis kept us away to stimulate our curiosity so that we would come back later. We probably will! See you in Baden Baden next year!

Anne