



The Altweiberfest on 11 February was the last big event organized by the Frisbee Club before it closes its doors for the last time tonight. A farewell with a laugh and a tear as Frisbee Club crewmember Rosa shows.

See related article on page 6.

Photo Andrea Hohenforst



Next NATO Skywatch:
12 March
Submissions due by:
4 March



**Frequently asked questions
about MWA**

See page 10



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New Squadron 3 Commander

Squadron 3 changed hands at the Officer's Club on 28 January during a change of command ceremony when Lt. Col. Hans Grunwald (left) relinquished command to Lt. Col. Ekkehard (right) Heinichen. Operations Wing Commander Col. Manfred Arndt (middle) presided over the change of command.



Photo Andrea Hohenforst

Children from Chernobyl looking for host families

By Heidi Soerensen

Now is your chance! The organization 'Eine Hand für Tschernobyl-Kinder' is looking for host families for four weeks in June 2010.

"We had no idea what an outpouring of support the E-3A community would give these children. All the winter clothing that was donated, the gifts and this fantastic day here, and now so much

money – more than 3700 Euro!" were some of the words from a very grateful Ms Karen Segal on 12 February 2008, when 24 children from the Chernobyl area visited the E-3A Component. The support from Component members was indeed overwhelming and several people also expressed a wish that they and their family could become a host family in case of future visits of Chernobyl children.

This summer about 100 children

between 8 and 14 years who live near the Chernobyl nuclear disaster site in the Ukraine will visit areas in Germany and in Belgium. Each child will stay four weeks with a host family. The purpose of having the Chernobyl children visit Germany and Belgium is to give them access to good food, clean air and water, and provide them with opportunities to exercise their minds and bodies. Even one month of living in a good environment will strengthen these children for the rest of their lives.

If you and your family members are interested in becoming a host family in June 2010, please contact Mr. Otto Stöcker at phone number: 02404 9186873 or e-mail o.stoecker@t-online.de

The children from Chernobyl will visit the E-3A Component this summer and more information on how to support the children will follow in future Skywatch. POC Maureen Geraets-Head ext. 2480.



In February 2008 the children from Chernobyl enjoyed a visit here at the Component, including a tour of the AWACS and the chance to play fire fighters for one day. Donations and support from Component members were overwhelming. Photo Andrea Hohenforst

Mac community

With the popularity of the iPod and the iPhone an increased number of people decided to convert from a Windows-based PC to an OS X based Apple iMac or Macbook. Recently, several folks asked me if it'd be a good idea to organize some sort of a Mac community to provide an environment where people with a common interest could share experience and get questions resolved.

This would certainly be possible if enough folks were interested. A small group of Component Apple enthusiasts came together recently and discussed a possible format. It was decided that it would be a good idea to open such a community for the Tri-Border Community. Therefore please pass the message for those who are interested that an initial meeting will be held 9 March 2010 at 1600 in the Konya Room of the Officer's Club on NATO Airbase Geilenkirchen.

This will be our first meeting and we intend to create the structure of the organization at that time. For the time being this community is known as "iWacs". Alternative names can be put forward and we'll choose one during our first meeting. Not only will we discuss the proposed form and shape of the community but also place and frequency will be important items.

Other possible topics of the iWacs community can be: Share, distribute discuss OS X tips, tricks, "how to's", etc, iPhone use, Programming iPhone Apps, Provide and share Apple Scripts, Photo, video and audio processing (like usage of iLife and other related products), Improve life efficiency and organization (synched stuff over the "cloud" (MobileMe)...), How to use Macs on the road, during TDY ...

Additional goals could also include forming a Apple Users group in order to negotiate possible Apple offers, T-Mobile enhancements (euro-zone instead of NLD and DEU zones), improve home Internet access, etc. If you have more ideas, please share!

All is possible when we work together! Hope to see you on 9 March 2010! Points of contact are: Gerry Van Tol, +49 2451 63 3114, Stephen Hanson, +49 2451 63 2032, hanson_stephen@mac.com



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Commander
Brig. Gen. Burkhard Pototzky
Chief, Public Affairs
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Editor
SMSgt. Johan Hijmenberg

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German Sports Award Winners 2009

On Tuesday, 2 February, the Base Support Wing Commander, Col. Werner Nemetscheck, presented the German Sports Award at the E-3A Component Officer's Club.

If you are interested in joining the winners in 2010 and competing to receive one of the awards, the following information will help: Promoted by the Deutscher Sportbund (DSB), the 'Deutsches Sportabzeichen' is an annual test, which is open to all nationalities, for men and women to assess their general overall fitness within five different categories.

Individuals have several choices of events within the categories, but basically they must achieve satisfactory results in swimming, throwing, jumping, a long distance run and a fast run (sprint), based on their age and gender. The only category without an option is the 200 metres swim, which all must complete.



The award winners with their certificates. Photo Andrea Hohenforst

The times, distances, etc. needed to certify for the award are demanding, but can be achieved by the average person with some training. One calendar year (January-December) is available in which to complete

the requirements. Individuals that successfully achieve the DSB award requirements will receive a bronze pin and patch for their first and second year achievements, silver for their third and fourth year and gold for their fifth year on.

The overall results from 2009 can be found on the Sports Wise page. For more information, practice and certification, please contact Fritz Stelten at Sports Department, Bldg 206, ext. 4920.

HC4H, a very successful fundraiser

Several Haiti relief efforts took place during the past few weeks on the Component. One of them was 'Hot Cakes 4 Haiti' (HC4H) on 10 February at the Base Chapel. More than 30 volunteers prepared and delivered almost 300 plates which included 3 hotcakes and 3 sausages with butter and syrup.

Together they raised 2,700 dollars in 3 hours, amazing. "This speaks

volumes about this community," said SSgt. Jeri Catus from the organization committee. "We as a family came together for something bigger than each and all of us. Proudly we exceeded our goals! Thanks to all volunteers and contributors."

The money will be donated to the Red Cross to aid in the Haiti relief efforts.

Volunteers made the fund raising happen. Photo A1C David Pohl



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The Frisbee Club is Closed 'Adieë Wa' ... see you again (so

Text and photo
SMSgt. Johan Hijmenberg

Tonight, Friday 26 February, the Frisbee Club will close its doors for the last time as a result of reorganization within Morale and Welfare Activities. When the Frisbee Club personnel assembled around noon on 11 February to prepare for the 'Altweiberfest' Carnival party, they knew it was going to be their last big event in the Club. Despite their uncertain future they were, as always, motivated to provide their guests with an unforgettable event, just as the Club did for the last 26 years.

Frisbee Club Manager Mr. Frans Snackers has run the Club almost since it was established in 1983. "Until 1985 the Frisbee Club and the Officers' Club both functioned as Clubs and International Dining Hall (IDH) facilities. Once the Star Chef was built in 1985, the IDH opened at its present location," he said, explaining the Frisbee Club's situation in its early days. With the Club's 25 personnel, 10 of whom have 'mini-jobber' positions, Snackers organised and supported many events since 1983. Each year, in addition to the

Altweiberfest, the Club held a New Year's Ball. "In the early years we had an entertainment night every week," Snackers said, "but for financial reasons that wasn't possible after a while." He especially remembers the first arrivals of the 18 E-3A aircraft. "The E-3A Component Commander ordered that a beer stand be set up on the flight line for each arrival of a new aircraft and after the safe touchdown he offered a round of beer to the base personnel."

The National Support Units used the Frisbee Club facilities too. The Canadian Contingent held their yearly Christmas party there. For a long time the Club hosted the annual U.S. Air Force Ball, attended by 350 to 400 persons, and also the USAF Combat Dining Out. The Dutch came to the Club for their yearly Mussels, Steak and Wine Tasting nights. The Turkish for their Kebab Nights and the Spanish for a midnight dinner. And that is to mention just a few of the special events.

The Civilian Staff Association always held their annual meeting at the Club and each month it was the venue for the International Women's Club. It was also the place for the Darts Club, and where dancers could practise

their Line Dancing. Each month players could try their luck at Bingo and Skat evenings, and theme events like Christmas Markets were held. In addition, Club personnel supported special events held in one of the hangars, as well as the Oktoberfest and the Component Sports Day.

"We always achieved the impossible," says Marlies, as she prepared the Green Lounge for the upcoming Altweiberfest. She has worked at the Club for nineteen years. "There is a last time for everything," she said sadly. "You are taken out of a trusted environment. Probably the worst thing is that you lose contact with people you have known for such a long time."

Her colleague José, with 17 years of working at the Club, added, "Today is a strange day. It gives me a funny feeling to realise that this event will be the last one led by Manager Frans Snackers, our boss. All these years we really had fun and supported each other through thick and thin. It's painful for him that he has to give up his life's work."

What is remarkable is that, like Marlies and José, most of the Club's personnel have worked there for many years. For example, Brigitte

has 25 years' gastronomy experience, including 10 years at the Club, "At the moment it's a sad time, but hopefully we can enjoy the next job they offer us in the future." Or Petra, with seven years at the Club, pulls a beer for a customer. "To be honest, I'm quite emotional. It has an impact on your daily life. The contact with customers that you built up during the last few years is being taken away. This is really a super team that has always worked very hard. And it was a tremendously good feeling to see customers leave the Club with a smile on their faces."

Besides the bar, the Frisbee Club operated a busy restaurant that was the only place for late visitors to get dinner, as the O'Club didn't provide any and the IDH closed at 1830. "The advantage for the Club was that it was centrally located on base, within walking distance for anyone," Snackers explained. "The restaurant is really popular, especially the Steak Nights on Mondays and Fridays. No chance of getting a seat without a reservation. Fifty customers a night is more the rule than the exception. Many restaurants off-base wish they could attract such numbers." Especially late-arriving visitors found their way to the restaurant. "It was



me day)

really the back-up for the IDH. Crews of late arrivals or visiting aircraft could get a meal at the Club."

The aim of the Morale and Welfare Activities is to provide as much support as possible to the base personnel. And surely the Frisbee Club passed that test in the last 26 years. "Club members could use the Club facilities for private events too," said Snackers, "and many members took advantage of this benefit. It was also a key link for building up relations between the base and guest members from the outside community."

"Even though it's the last time we are holding the Altweiberfest, don't cry," said Snackers, starting his briefing during the joint lunch with his personnel. The briefing covers situations like fire, emergency, smoking regulations, ticket sale and taskings for the approaching event. When everyone knows what to do, he has the last word: "Let's start."

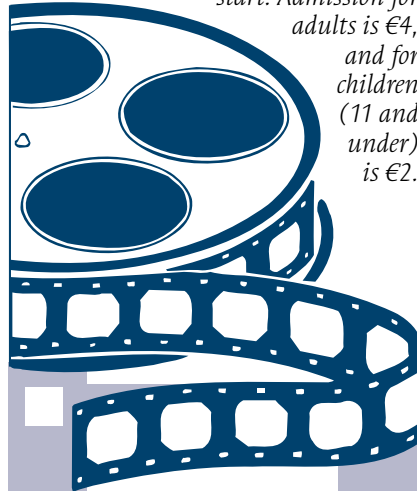
As the crew get up from the tables to go off to their posts, two of them are wearing T-shirts showing the words "Adieë Wa", Limburg dialect for "See you again (some day)."



The Frisbee Club crew poses together just before the Altweiberfest begins.

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Armored (PG-13)

Friday, 26 February, 1930
Matt Dillon, Jean Reno

The Princess and the Frog (G)

Saturday, 27 February, 1600
Anika Noni Rose, Bruno Campos

Everybody's Fine (PG-13)

Saturday, 27 February, 1900
Robert De Niro, Drew Barrymore

Precious (R)

Friday, 5 March, 1930
Gabourey Sidibe, Lenny Kravitz

The Princess and the Frog (G)

Saturday, 6 March, 1300
Anika Noni Rose, Bruno Campos

Sherlock Holmes (PG-13)

Saturday, 6 March, 1600
Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law

Avatar (PG-13)

Saturday, 6 March, 1900
Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana

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Photos Capt. Jolene Ortiona

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Frequently asked questions about MWA

Recently, the O'Club Manager Rene Peeters sat down with a few Component personnel in order for them to ask some of the most burning questions about the new MWA reorganization. Here is a summary of those questions.

Q. When will the IDH/Rotodome change happen?

A. The 25th of February is the last day the IDH will be open and at 0600 1 March the Rotodome will open for business. The Rotodome will be open to everyone, even family members.

Q. Will the Officer's Club offer lunch?

A. The O'Club will not offer lunch immediately. If the MWA program is able to make any profit, it will immediately be turned back into the program, but the first goal is for MWA to break even.

Q. Why can't the IDH stay as the IDH and just have an increase in prices?

A. The price would have to more than double in order to continue with IDH the way it is. The Component cooking staff was cut from 29 to 13 cooks and there is no feasible way to keep the MWA program the way it is now.

Q. Why do we have to pay at the bar at the Sentry club?

A. Its faster and more hygienic to keep the food preparers separate from the food handlers. You will get a slip at the bar and hand that to the food preparers in line. Soon, the new cash registers will send your order directly to the food preparers and it will be much quicker for everyone.

Q. Will I always be able to get breakfast, lunch and dinner on base?

A. Yes, all three meals will be offered somewhere on base.

Q. Where can I take a group to eat on base?

A. The Rotodome will have a

separate section for reserved seating where you can have food delivered to you, but you will pay a little extra for the service charge. The Officer's Club will be available for large groups, but there will be an increase in price in order to pay the staff.

Q. Why should I get the MWA card?

A. The card will give you a 30% discount at all the eating establishments. During happy hour on Tue from 1700 to 1800 and on Fri from 1430 to 1800, there is already 25% off and you get an additional 30% off of that. With the implementation of the Food Service System on 1st March, discounts for "MWA Card" members will be introduced and certain MWA Services will be limited exclusively to MWA Card holders.

Q. Where can I get the interim MWA card?

A. For now, you can still apply for the card at the E3A Club (former Officer's Club). In the future, the

card will be your NATO ID card, but that change won't happen until summer time.

Q. Why do I have to pay for a whole year at a time?

A. If you get your MWA card before we change to the new system, you will be on a monthly billing cycle. After introduction at the middle of the year, you will pay for the whole year at once, this has purely administrative reasons. If you PCS you will get your unused money back.

Q. What about guest members?

A. Guest members will also be issued a card, but it will be a different color.

Q. Can I get my money back if I am deployed or TDY?

A. No, once you are a card member, you will not be refunded for being TDY or deployed. However, with the possibility of longer deployments in the future, that may be re-evaluated.

News from GK International Women's Club

By Francesca Romana Concari

All upcoming international evenings of our Club will take place in the Officer's Club.

On 18 March a Norwegian Night will take place, with special cuisine and show hosted by Norwegian Ladies. On 15 April there will be the Italian Night themed 'Baci da Roma' (Kisses from Rome) with special cuisine and show hosted by the Italian Ladies.

Every lady is welcome to attend events. If you aren't a member, you can enter the event for a €10 ticket at the door. On 20 May a Bingo Night will take place, but this is for members only. I hope you can join the Club very soon! For any further details please contact Francesca Romana Concari, IWC President, at alefraeri@yahoo.it

SKYWATCH CLASSIFIED

Skywatch Classifieds are free to all NATO personnel. Advertisements must be printed or typed, and include your name, office symbol and duty extension. The editor will not accept advertisements for services that generate a regular income, or for housing other than vacation rentals. Submissions for the next NATO Skywatch are due to PAO, mail Stop 33, e-mail: pio@e3a.nato.int, before noon Thursday, 4 March.

Auto

For Sale, Dodge Caravan SXT (black), 7-seater, 2007 (road admitted 2008), 31,000m, still under warranty, excellent condition. Asking €11,500. Contact 02456-508280 (leave message).

2006 Hyundai Sante Fe, must sell moving back to US. Excellent condition, European specs, diesel engine, great MPG, automatic transmission, sun roof, dealer maintained w/records, very comfortable and dependable, €12,500. Contact Jeff Martin home

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Looking for a babysitter?

Responsible and mature teenager (15) has some extra time available on the weekends. Fluent in English & Dutch. Please call 02456-508280 to arrange your well-deserved night out.

Furniture

6 Oak press back dining room chairs with 2 matching barstools €150. Contact Jeff Martin home +49 (0)2455 930849, work +49 (0)2451 633617.

INTERNATIONAL WOMENS CLUB



NORWEGIAN NIGHT

18 MARCH 2010 - 19:00

AT THE E-3A CLUB

WELCOME

Vikingfest

At the Officers' Club on 5 March 2010, 1900, with traditional food and a

show "The Viking" and music. Wear a Viking costume or dress smart. Tickets €10.00. Also tickets available from the Norwegian Support Unit. Find your local Viking before he finds you!

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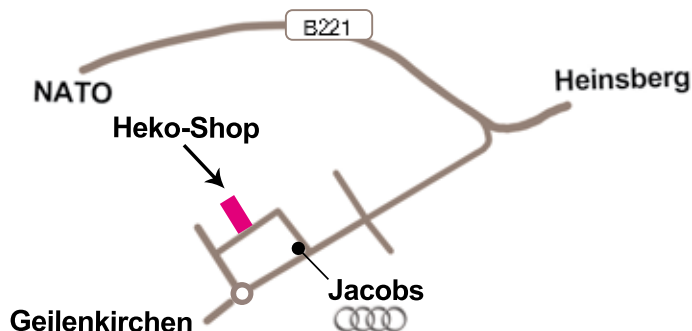
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