



WFIS EUROLETTER

September 2006, number 2



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[Http://www.wfis-europe.org](http://www.wfis-europe.org)

Send your E-mails to:
elena.grisafi@inwind.it

We always wait for your contribution!



Invitation 10. Years WFIS jubilee

Dear WFIS-Europe e.V. member associations,

at the general assembly in 2006 the steering committee presented ideas of a future WFIS-Europe program. The jubilee weekend is one of this and also the forth workshop took place in 2006 in Laubach /Germany.

Now it is time to invite you - the annual 10. Years jubilee and workshop .

The purpose of this weekend is to get to know each other, to strengthen the relations in between the WFIS member associations - to have a weekend full of mutual exchanging ideas. Talking about experiences and taking ideas and impressions back home for the everyday work in your scout group as well as for you personally.

The workshop contains handicrafts as well as discussions and an excursion. As we want to exchange ideas you are invited to contribute something to the handicrafts and ideally guide a workshop (e.g. something with leather, iron, knots, music...whatever you are interested in) - please share your ideas with us.

The weekend will take place from October 6th to 8th in Laubach / Germany. The accommodation will be at a Campsite with tents or family hosting or in a place where you could sleep indoor.

Where and when to arrive:

Airport the nearest airport is Frankfurt/ Main. Please let us know when you are arrive, to make sure that we can pick up you.

Train It is also possible to come by train (It is the best solution) up to Giessen main train station.

Programme:

Friday

Late afternoon, (or Saturday morning) official workshop

Opening ceremony

WFIS - NEWS

Saturday

morning - workshop activities (there are already some activities available: such as management for group leader, games, law/right, first aid, future program etc.)

afternoon - visit of Laubach with special places. At night we will celebrate the 10.Years jubilee at a special place, including a small performance that your association will prepare.

Sunday before leaving, there will be some discussions.

The participation fee is 20.- Euro.

Please forward this invitation to the members of your association

For ideas about handicrafts/workshops contact: handicrafts@wfis-europe.org

For general queries about the workshop please contact: workshop@wfis-europe.org

Postal address: **WFIS - Europe e.V., Angelstr. 15, 65558 Heistenbach, Germany**

Application for the workshop until **October, 1st 2006**

Application for leading a workshop until **September, 8th 2006**

Every other ideas for the activities is very welcome (contact Funko: funko@solmser-pfadfinder.de)

The Invitation will include all Leaders of groups, troops, packs and rover sections.

Please contact Funko with following details: When do you arrive, how many arrive, where do you like to have you accommodation, name and age of the participants, vegetarians and how long your performance will take.

Look forward to seeing you at the workshop and nice and joyful summer camps,

Yours in scouting

WFIS-Europe Steering Committee

WFIS - NEWS



Welcome to Barcelona — January 26 - 27 - 28

Now more than ever, knowledge and learning in Scouting are at the core of WFIS Europe mission.

I am proud to announce that *L'Associació Catalana de Scouts* being host to organize the next General Assembly, is already inviting the WFIS-Europe association members to attend such event that will be held in Cabrera de Mar (Barcelona).

You will be receiving forthcoming information issues in the next few weeks before the Assembly in order to keep you updated as well as give specific details that you need.

All our week-long event's stuff will show up the official X WFIS EUROPE GENERAL ASSEMBLY logo. We have the perfect opportunity to spread the traditional Scouting goals at the country level and take care of every detail.



Where?

Torre Ametller Youth Hostel
Veïnat de Sta. Elena d'Agell
s/n
08349 Cabrera de Mar
Barcelona

A Youth Hostel that provides all services with specially allocated staff and exclusive space for the X General Assembly.

Capacity: 200 persons, 53 in 2 - 6 people bedrooms with bathroom.

147 in 2-3-6-8-12-16 people bedrooms.

How much?

A € 55.00 Euro fee is requested. The charge covers the total costs of administration, organization, meals, rooms and stuff.

You will have to complete payment in advance with your attendance confirmation.

<http://www.ac-scouts.org>

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions at bcn2007@ac-scouts.org

Jerry da Silva Matz - Kangur
Chief Commissioner ACS



Exterior

The great adventure of Eurocamp: from Ireland to Switzerland

It's Sunday 23rd July. We are leaving a day late for Eurocamp and I have had butterflies in my stomach for the whole night. After 4 months of planning I'm about to board a plane to Switzerland with 10 of my Scouts and Rachel to represent Ireland at the WFIS Eurocamp in Switzerland.



Just past our meeting time in the airport, one of my Scouts has not arrived - this is not good! Finally Rachel tells me he was upstairs in the departure area and we are set to go. My Scouts look very smart in their class A uniform and are anxious to get on the plane, as am I.

After a two hour flight we arrive in Zurich. It is lunchtime in Switzerland but we are still a long distance from our destination. We still have two trains to take to get to Steinen. However we did have a couple of stop offs to fill ourselves with ice-cream to keep us cool in the sweltering heat. There is constant fear of counting scouts and making sure you have all your rucksacks but it proved to be an adventure.

In Steinen we were met by Thomas one of the camp staff who took our luggage to campsite, while the team of Troop 44 followed signs to camp. We arrive at the site, and see the large mess tent known as the Schwyzerstübli. We are shown where the campsite is located - beside BPSA -UK



Grabbing our bags again we walk down towards our campsite, there is still plenty of open space in the campgrounds, we walk past the flags of all the member countries that are participating in Eurocamp. Switzerland was near the Schwyzerstübli, followed by Denmark, a small group of Hungarians to the left, Italy, Spain, and then turning right we are greeted by a camp gateway with the flag of St George and some English accents.

Norman Boxhall has greeted me and points to the Irish flag flying from the back end of our campsite. After briefly saying hello we begin setting up camp. It is already 6pm and we have been traveling since 11am that morning.

With temperatures hitting the high 30 degrees it proved rather difficult to erect patrol tents, the soil was like clay it was that dry and crumbled in your hands. We are warned of chances of storms by the end of the week.

Funko greets me with a present of Apple wine from Laubach. Oh darn! After being up late the night before planning and triple checking I had everything I remembered the deal we had of a trade of Apple Wine for Guinness. Funko laughs at my mistake and we agree on a party in Ireland in the not so distant future.

Ireland are still setting up camp while we can hear the sounds of Spain and England in the distance with their on stage performance. Having finished erecting our tents we do get to see some of England's performance. The Schwyzerstübli is packed inside as it is raining gently outside.

Monday Morning - We are awoken by the sounds of Taps being played on a bugle. It turns out to be our morning alarm clock. I always thought Taps was to be played at the end of the day! My Scouts didn't sleep much last night but as always exceptions are made for the first night. We make breakfast and into our class A uniforms for flag break. Singing and chanting along the way to flags we are greeted by old friends welcoming us to camp. It was a wonderful site to see the flags being raised to the sound of the presidential salute played by one of my Scouts Kevin.

After wash up my Scouts place on their class B uniform of the Troop 44 t-shirt. It is proving to be a very warm morning. We are assigned a table outside the Schwyzerstübli and we dress it up in Green white and orange. The morning passes quickly as Scouts go from table to table trading Irish gifts for gifts from other countries. The atmosphere at camp is electric as German Scouts play German songs, Italians dance, and Irish Ballads are being pumped out from an MP3 player on our table. One of my Scouts Gary has been going around giving "Free Hugs", as I slowly disassociate myself from my Scouts and claiming not to know them! =)

I picked up a wonderful silver medal from Mexico for Rover Scouts in the trading day and have sold plenty of badges for Scouting Radio.

After Lunch my Scouts take part in "Sippenlauf", a Scout skills and challenge afternoon. Thinking that it was only open to Scouts I place them into a team. Meanwhile I tried to catch up with some old Scout friends, take photos and report for Scouting Radio. I meet some of my Scouts throughout the afternoon and am informed they came second to a group of German Rover Scouts in a race - had I known Rover Scouts were taking part in the Sippenlauf I would have participated. However a team of teenagers beating older Scouts is quite an achievement! =)



Since we had some time before dinner, and temperatures were in the high 30's the Scouts and I decided to try out the lake, what a beautiful area the campsite is in the water feels like a semi-cold bath but it is refreshing. My Scouts enjoy messing and splashing about. I knew that everyone would sleep well tonight.

Italy is attracting a large applause and dance at their camp performance on stage outside the Schwyzerstübli. Shortly after the camp performance, Norman, Jay, and a few Danish Rover Scouts take part in a ceremony to invest Sarah into the now reformed Phoenix Rover Crew of the BPSAI.

I was awoken throughout the night with the sounds and flashes of fireworks throughout the night. I was told that the 1st August is a celebration in Switzerland and someone could be setting off fireworks early.

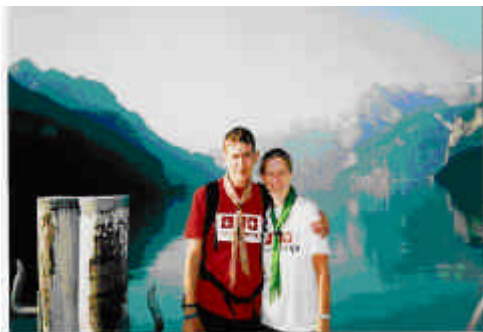
It's Tuesday and the heat is proving difficult for not only the Scouts but the Leaders, Rachel found it difficult to sleep, we have been told the temperature is hitting 41 degrees. I am constantly warning my Scouts to drink plenty of water and have been instructing them to keep away from fizzy drinks.

Today is hike day. Some of the Scouts have set off before us as they are hiking a longer journey. My Scouts have chosen route 3 which is long enough in this heat and would class as a 1st class

hike. I have some young Scouts with me and I don't want to push them too hard.

Even setting off at 2pm in the day, I have noticed Scouts of all ages being transported back to camp with injuries and mostly from heat exhaustion and dehydration. We are only at the beginning of our hike, but this is not proving to be a moderate hike, the beginning of this hike proved to be ALL uphill and not a gentle climb, it was a tough ascent. Conor from Troop 44 is finding it difficult and can't breathe right so Rachel decides to turn back with two of my Scouts and a couple of Rover Scouts and Leaders who are suffering from the heat while the rest of my Scouts continue the journey with Scouts from 1st Wigton in the UK.

We are delighted to find water along our journey in barrels - it is ice cold and my scouts couldn't resist getting soaking wet and I wasn't stopping them, I was joining in as was other Scouts from different countries it was that hot! We were drying off within minutes.



Josh, one of the Scouts from 1st Wigton falls awkwardly on his ankle and sprains it, and one of the leaders returns back to base while Mike and I take a group of 16 Scouts along the rest of the journey with the promise of dinner on our arrival.

Finally arriving at the meeting point we are greeted by the sound of Scouts relaxing, laughing and paddling in the nearby river. There is a shop and I don't stop my Scouts running off to buy some ice-cream before their dinner- they are absolutely exhausted and it has not got any cooler.

The Scouts start applauding as the sounds of a fire engine arrives at the meeting point, they open the hose on the Scouts spraying them from head to toe in water to cool them off, it was a great site and reminds me of a being up front at rock concert being sprayed to cool off.

Our dinner is a mixture of apple sauce, pasta and frankfurters. I think most of my Scouts were sticking to the ice creams.

After dinner - it has been decided to walk back a quicker way to camp. The programme plan was to set off in the dark carrying lights, but it is only 8pm and will not be dark for a few hours. Most of the Scouts are tired and would rather relax at campsite.

There is no on stage performance tonight, I think every Scout at Eurocamp is exhausted from the day.

I woke up early Wednesday morning to get a shower and am incredibly exhausted and simply running on left over adrenaline. It is the day of the Olympic Games. After breakfast, wash up and flags Rachel advises me to have an extra rest after noticing my bloodshot eyes and I am complaining about having a slight headache. My Scouts go off to take part in the Olympic Games. They are asked to be placed into teams of 10. Perfect a full team of Irish Scouts.

I catch up with some sleep on and off, I felt I was in a microwave even with the doors of my tent open. At midday I am awoken by the sound of my Scouts returning to the campsite - but they are carrying a WFIS flag which I thought they won during the Olympic Games.

One of my Troop Leaders explains it is a gift from all the Scouts. They all planned, and placed equal amounts of money into getting me one of the flags which I was hoping to buy at the end of the week for the Troop. I am lost for words it was a wonderful gift and Rachel promises me that the Scouts planned this all by themselves. Later in the week they all bought Rachel a WFIS penknife and pouch for her uniform. We spend the afternoon cooling off in the lake, and despite my Scouts completing a rope bridge in an incredibly fast time, they only pick up a wooden spoon in the Olympic Games.

This evening Germany and Mexico are on stage. Mexico have only a team of 4 or 5 Scouts but are

given a huge applause for their performance of native dancing and giving Klaus an Indian name. Tonight Rachel and I took it in turns to do night watch with Spanish, German and Mexican Scouts while my Scouts slept out in the open bivving as part of their 1st class requirements.

After bivving with my Scouts I once again wake my Scouts up early. It's Thursday and it is going to be a jam packed day. We leave early that morning to go on our day trip to Brunnen, a boat trip and hike the Swiss Way to the Swiss Water Park

We arrive in Brunnen where the Scouts spent the morning buying gifts for their families. The views from the boat trip were simply breathtaking.

It was great to see Scouts from different countries walk side by side along the Swiss Way. We all arrived at the Swiss Water Park where Rachel and I relaxed in the Jacuzzi while the Scouts made good use of the water slide. The hike back to the train station was not as long. Arriving back at camp we thank Ivan for a wonderful day out and get to work on taking down our tent and boundaries as we leave very early the next morning. The weather is in our favour as we take down the tents and I really believed we were going to get away with a dry night. Unfortunately it was not the case and the predicted storm clouds came over the mountains. Scouts were evacuated to nearby chapels, coaches and the Switzerstubli while Leaders attempted to storm lash mess tents and gather all items of clothing and equipment that was being blown across the campsite.

The Irish were due on stage that night for their camp performance and hoped to say goodbye to new and old friends before departing the next morning. Sadly our spirits were dampened (no pun intended) by the wet weather as not just Scouts but the Leaders wanted to thank the staff and Scouts for their help over the week but I guess it was an act of God.

We didn't gain much sleep that night as the Scouts slept on Colin's Coach - with Scouts even sleeping in the corridor of the coach.

Tired - we make our journey back to the Emerald Isles of Ireland - with a few mishaps in the airport of having to rummage through rucksacks after x-rays of our baggage came back. Luckily it was nothing too serious and we had to rummage through bags to unscrew the tops of torches in case they went on fire. I have never heard my Scouts so quiet in my life - most of them fell asleep on the plane home completely exhausted from the week in Switzerland and somewhat needing a shower.

All the Scouts of Troop 44 BPSA Ireland who attended would like to thank Bison and the Camp staff for a wonderful week and all the Scouts of the WFIS who came together for a better world.

[Justin Dawson - \(Skip the Irish Scoutmaster\)](#)

www.traditionalscouting.ie - skip@badenpowellscoutsireland.com

[Listen to reports from Eurocamp on www.scoutingradio.com](#)

A Scouts Wedding

Laubach/Germany – the little town where 10 years ago the WFI S History began (and the site of our last General Assembly this January) again was the scene of a unique scout event – a Scout Wedding.

Gregor, member of our steering committee since foundation times married his wife Birgit (scout name "Rollender Donner") in a big scout tent on the campground of the Solmser Pfadfinderschaft. Both being members of the scout group "Graue Panther" (an active group of old (and even older) scouts, wore scout uniforms during the wedding ceremony – and so was the vicar – himself a member of the "Graue Panther" since many years – he had his scout uniform underneath the talar and proudly displayed his blue scout neckerchief above it.

The idea was born during trips of the „Graue Panther“ to England and Lithuania a couple of years ago.

So, when the date for the marriage (in conjunction with Gregors 50th birthday) was set, a lot of activities started among the Solmser Pfadfinderschaft.

First – the campground had to be prepared for such an event. All the wooden buildings (towers, gate, bridge etc) had suffered from 15 years of extensive use since construction and had to be replaced. So, in a Winter Camp, the leaders took down the whole construction and in the weeks thereafter all groups were chopping wood for the re-construction. Altogether more than 2,5 kilometers of wood poles were cut and prepared in the near-by forests and in another camp over May 1st, all scouts re-build the construction in a big common effort.

Next- there was a special permission from church authorities required, as it is very exceptional to have a church wedding held in a scout tent...

For the wedding ceremony, a church had to be erected – made of 6 Jurten (big black tents as we could see during Jamboree and Eurocamp), and again, 250 meters of woodpoles needed to be cut and build in the construction. More than three weeks almost all scout groups and some of the wolf-packs worked hard – and the church was completed in time. Overall, more than 300 working hours were necessary, until everything was prepared.

The effort paid-off very well: More than 200 guests came to attend the ceremony on the campground, after about 50 scouts and members of other organisations of which Gregor is a member had saluted the couple in front of the Laubach Rathaus after their legal wedding.

A scout-tent – built on top of a wooden tower – served as bell-tower and the sound of the church-bells of Laubachs main church greeted the couple, when they arrived in the white scout-van, which had been decorated nicely by several girl-scouts in the hours before.

Gregor and RD went through a parade of scouts (with Klaus and Popper representing the steering Committee of WFI S), the WFI S banner was displayed and all scouts along their way threw flowers as the couple entered the church. Wolfcubs in international uniforms of scout associations around the world gave an impression of the world-wide brotherhood of scouts.

Gregor and RD took place on two wooden chairs, built from material of the surrounding forest and decorated with sheep-skins. A camp-cooking-table was used as altar, decorated with nature material and flowers.

Manfred – the scout vicar – conducted the wedding ceremony and talked about scouting spirit, remembered some common events – and many spirituals and scout songs sounded through the tent-church and the woods, before the wedding couple left under the sound of the Laubach church organ, followed by 200 guests.

A convoy drove them all through Laubach, and the day ended with a big open-air party in a near-by former quarry.



Congratulations
Gregor and
RD!
From us all!