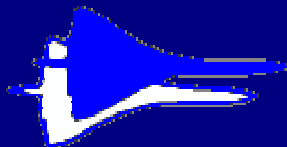


Edition 1/2010



WORLD AIRLINES CLUBS ASSOCIATION

WACA WORLD NEWS

Welcome to Recife



And to the beautiful
Brazilian attractions



Presidents's Message



Dear Interliners,

I hope you are all keeping well and am glad to be in touch with you again through this WACA World News edition. Since we parted to each other in Kuala Lumpur, though I have to leave you one day before, the EC has been busy looking after the good affairs of WACA. The EC met in Amman and each and every EC member was apprised of the current situation and put shoulders together to look in only one direction to bring WACA in the second decade of this century. Various regional meetings were held after the EC Meeting and we are all looking forward to meet at the next annual interline celebration in Brazil.

In consultation with the Secretary General who was busy at work, as President, I made my way to Recife, Brazil, together with the President of the Interline Club of Portugal and accompanied by the WACA VP Public Relations, for a site visit. I must commend the Interline Club of Portugal for hosting this AGA in Brazil and more particularly in the city of Recife. All the authorities visited are very much eager to see WACA in Recife and everything is ready to welcome us in October. It's going to be grand fiesta.

Regular updates are being communicated to you through our WACA Head Quarters as and when we receive the updated information from the hosting club. The WACA Executive Committee members are all committed to make this AGA another successful event in the South American region. Pre and Post tours have been organized enabling our participants to have a wide variety of choice to discover this part of the globe which is unknown to many of us.

I would advise you to send your registration forms now and you will be taken care by our hosts, the Interline Club of Portugal and I have no doubt you will take the most of it.

Looking forward to greet you personally in Recife.

Warmest interline regards

Maga Ramasamy
WACA President.

Christmas Party from I.A.C. Zurich Report from the Bonanza Winners

We arrived in Zurich on Friday and were met by Eugene. He took us to his home where we met his lovely wife Hilde. After a short rest we went downtown and took a trolley to have a lovely tour of Zurich, which was to say the least very interesting. After that we headed for home where we had a lovely fondue (my favourite!) and I guess it showed as I just kept eating and eating and drinking some lovely wine they had.



Fondue at Eugen and Hilde Meier's Home

Saturday, we awoke to a wonderful breakfast (they had gone to a lot of trouble for us and we felt very special). We then took off and went to Lucerne (beautiful city), went to the museum of transportation and spent a few hours there. So much to see and do and imagine we could touch things, so we got right into that.



Nancy and Jerry in Luzern

After that we had a lovely lunch at the museum restaurant then drove half way up Mount Titlis to Engelberg. What a beautiful view! We fell in love with Engelberg. It was just like a postcard picture and to see the skiers on the hill so close to us - we felt like we were in wonderland. We then went to see them make cheese and of course did a little shopping. We then drove back to Zurich, had a little more wine.

We were taken to a restaurant called the Rosengarten, where we had a traditional Swiss dish ordered for us and as usual it was terrific. Unfortunately I cannot remember the name of it, but it was delicious and that's all that's important.



Christmas Party

Sunday, we rested in the morning and then got ready for the Christmas party. It was a great afternoon and it was wonderful to see all the people we had met in KL and Borneo and to touch base with them again and also to meet and make a lot more friends. The meal we had was delicious and the gift exchange was a lot of fun. We left in late afternoon and Eugene picked up a light dinner which we had very little of even though it was terrific but we were quite full from the party.



On Monday we were taken to the airport, did some shopping and took our flight back to Canada.

It was a trip we will never forget and would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people concerned epically Eugene and Hilde and hopefully we will be with some of you in Brighton for the European meeting.

Jerry & Nancy Loughhead
Member at Large, B.C., Canada

Jordan Interline Club Welcomes the WACA Executive Committee!

Once again, WACA Executive Committee holds its Annual meeting in Amman, Jordan. With the usual warm hospitality of Jordanian, WACA EC members felt that they were at home. Welcome drinks were prepared by Yousef/ JIC President in his house, and two dinners were arranged



For the visitors, the first dinner was after a long day of meetings in Yousef's office and it was in Haret Jdoudna, an oriental restaurant in the City of Madaba.



JIC EC members joined them in the dinner and everyone had enjoyed the delicious food that was offered.



Before every dinner arranged by the Jordan Interline Club, Yousef Khoury insisted to have generous welcome drinks at his house. Let us enjoy the photos that worth a thousand words!





Last night for WACA EC included a nice dinner in a restaurant called Centro, the food was delicious and the atmosphere was extremely cosy.



On behalf of Jordan Interline Club President & members, we invite every airliner to our beloved country Jordan to enjoy the historical & modern places as well as the warm hospitality that you will receive from each Jordanian.

Welcome to Jordan!

Suhair Mahmoud
Assistant to the VP Public Relations
JIC WACA Rep.

WACA EXECUTIVE MEETING



WORLD AIRLINES CLUBS ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 18th TO THE 21st OF March, 2010 AMMAN, JORDAN

Zay National Park at dusk, Jordan.

Due to an "overbooking" situation at the Marriott Hotel Amman, the Hotel Management "booked us", for the night of the 17th, at their other propriety, the Marriott Resort and Spa Dead Sea, a forty-five minutes drive from Amman. With the majority of the EC members arriving late on the 17th or "really" early on the 18th, the organizational skills of the "Middle East wizard" Yousef Khoury, Regional Vice President for the Africa, Indian Ocean Islands and Middle East Region as well as the willingness and the hospitality of the members of the Jordan Interline Club were put to test with the transfers from the Amman International Airport to the Dead Sea area and from the Dead Sea to Amman. They all surpassed it with "flying colors".



Lunch time at "Chez" Yousef

With the late arrival at the Hotel and an early departure to Amman, some of the members of the EC did not even get the chance to be properly introduced and acquainted with their "pillows"...others however, found time to enjoy a "deep" in the Dead Sea and a mud "bath" under the "jealous" watch of those that had not brought their bathing suits. But the relaxing and "fun" times were cut short as the transfer to Amman was scheduled for eleven o'clock with the meeting being called to order at twelve.

With the presence of the majority of the EC members, Regional Vice President Latin America and Caribbean Region Jacquie Lyseight, was unable to attend due to professional and personal reasons, WACA President Maga Ramasamy called the meeting to order at about one o'clock. The meeting took place in Yousef's office with a full agenda that kept the EC members busy for the two days that the meeting was scheduled for. Main points of the Agenda included the review of the 42nd WACA AGA in Kuala Lumpur, the report of the inspection trip to Recife, done by the WACA President and the WACA VP Public Relations, the 2011 WACA Budget and the most importantly, the prospect and survival of WACA as an Association in the short term.

WACA Secretary General, Julian Chau, gave an overview of the financial results of the 42nd AGA in Kuala Lumpur. Thanks to the successful Pre and Post AGA tours and the Assembly in itself, WACA is again in fairly good financial shape.

Related to the prospects and survival of WACA as an Association in the short term, and in view of the actual state of the world's economy and the continued measures taken by the airlines to minimize the effects of it in their operational results, a mandate was given to the Regional Vice Presidents to try, at their upcoming Regional Meetings, to obtain the number of members, subdivided, if possible, in three categories: Active airline employees, Retirees and employees from related airline Industries, per Club in their Regions. The purpose of the exercise is to have a real perception of the WACA membership and also to determine WACA's path in the immediate term.

As an example of what was done at the 40th AGA in Cape Town, it was suggested that an Inter-line/Airline Engagement Forum, after the Regional Meetings being accomplished,

should be included in the working session of the 43rd AGA in Recife, whereby all Clubs could intervene and participate with inputs and or suggestions on how to improve the actual WACA trend in the membership and also how to attract new members from the new generations of Airlines employees.

With only three EC members (Far East and Australasia, WACA Headquarters Manager and North America) handing in their reports previously to the EC meeting by email, it was decided to move this item for the next's day session in order to give time to those that had not done so, to have it printed.



A succinct report of the inspection visit to the site of the next WACA AGA in Recife, was given by the WACA President and the Vice President Public Relations. Relevant points of their reports were the ability of the Interline Club of Portugal to get the Diplomatic Corps of Brazil and Portugal involved in the organizational scheme and that although the Hotel Recife Palace had been sold to the Dutch "Tulip" Hotel Chain, the new Hotel Management had honored the previous contract and arrangements.

As a consequence of the involvement of the Brazilian Diplomatic and Tourist authorities, a letter, issued by the Brazilian Consular Services, waiving most of the pre-requisites for the issuance of the visas required, will be sent by the ICP to all participants that need a visa to enter Brazil. Further details will be, in due time, released by the ICP and WACA HQ. Although the financial aspect of the Association is in reasonably good shape, V.P. Finances and Treasurer advises that restraint on spending and further containment of expenses should be observed. Vice Presidents International Events and Special Projects, and Public Relations discussed their respective portfolios and advised that the WACA ID Card and the WACA Portal were put on "stand-by" until such time sufficient financing for the projects is found.



Judith Guevara, Samer and Suhair relaxing at "Amal's" Lounge...

After each day's working session and before going to dinner, members of the EC had the opportunity to enjoy moments of relaxation at "Amal's" Lounge and the camaraderie of the hospitable members of the JIC.

Our first dinner was in a pleasant and typical restaurant located in the village of Madaba, some forty minutes drive from Amman. This was my third

visit to the restaurant (they have the greatest lentil soup and the best fresh grilled cheese in the world), and also the third time that somehow we missed the right turn and ended up lost. A pleasant surprise was awaiting us...the dinner was sponsored by the JIC and amongst our hosts we had the pleasure of meeting again Past JIC and WACA President Ramzi Shuwayhat.



The dinner, a truly gastro-nomic introduction to Arabic "cuisine" and composed by numerous "entrées" was fully enjoyed by us all, with also some of "us", forgetting all the problems of calories, cholesterol and all the likes, and taking full advantage of such a feast (I did not have my lentil soup but surely enjoyed the fresh grilled cheese ...compliments of the Middle East Wizard).

On our way back to the hotel, we again missed that "famous" turn and made our way to Amman, it seemed, via... "Cairo". The important factor was that our hostess took us sound and safe to our final destination and the extra time spent on it was taken as an opportunity for the "back seat" passengers to catch up on their sleep.

Our second "night out" started once again at "Amal's" Lounge and ended at "Centro" Restaurant in Amman's downtown.



Once again we were served a lavish menu, this time "Italian cuisine". According to my "hostess" it was my second time in this restaurant but with all

honesty I have no recollection at all of being there as well as what my

main course was, ...question of having too much of a good time or in the worst case scenario ...age??? Several members of the JIC joined us for the dinner which made the evening even more attractive and enjoyable.

Tonight's dinner will be our last evening together as group. Some of the EC members will depart early in the day to their homes while others will take tours to Petra and Jerash and others will take the opportunity to discover and explore other sites of Amman.



All in all, it was a productive and good meeting, even if some of the results were debatable and not to the satisfaction of all, they were never the less discussed in

an orderly fashion and respect was shown towards the intervenient and his/hers opinion or suggestion. Positive steps were taken for the betterment of the Association while directives or annotations for future actions were taken into consideration.

A big thank you to Yousef "the Middle East Wizard" for his magical organizational skills, to Amal for giving us access to her "private Lounge" and to all the JIC members who did not shun the minimum effort to make sure that our stay would be a pleasant and unforgettable one...A sincere thank you to **YOU ALL!**



I cannot, however, terminate the report without a word of appreciation, although very personal, to Salam, my private "tour guide", "chief negotiator", "interpreter", "escort", "driver", "hostess" and for "Managing" my travelling Montreal/Amman/Montreal and Amman/Cairo/Amman. A personal thank you also goes to Suhair for making my transit in Amman and departure times, the most enjoyable possible, allowing me to make use of the "Crown Lounge".

F. Valdez, RVP North America



Ragheb Sweis May you rest in heaven!

Someone so special Can never be forgotten!

Jordan Interline Club & WACA family has both shared the loss of Ragheb Sweis, who was a dear friend and an active member in the Jordan Interline Club Executive Committee.

Ragheb Sweis has joined the JIC in 1989 and became a member of the JIC Executive Committee in 1994, he served in several positions: the last one was being the Vice President JIC from 2006 till 2007.



Ragheb attended most of WACA AGAs and Regional meetings. His first AGA was in Nairobi in 1994 and his last one was in Cape Town in 2007.



In JIC he was a very active member and attended most of International and local events such as the regional meetings in Mauritius, Cape Town, Johannesburg and Lebanon.



Ragheb Sweis,

We will Miss You!

Suhair Mahmoud
Assistant to the VP Public Relations
JIC WACA Rep.

Wheelchair Donation Capetown Interline Club

I have just returned from delivering the wheelchair to a family in Guguletu.

Today I was taken into an African Township called Guguletu here in Cape Town. I met Mary Sili many years ago through the Cape Town Interline Club when we donated 6 wheelchairs to her day centre where they were in desperate need of these items for the elderly. These wheelchairs are still in use and bringing much independence to those using them.



Nyaniso (Truth) and Tandiwe (Loveable)

Mary, who is a State Registered Nurse, called me a few weeks ago explaining that she had a family in Guguletu where both members in the one household were amputees due to diabetes and were sharing one wheelchair. It made life very hard for them as, for example, if one had to go to the day hospital to collect medicine the other had to sit all day in a chair or lay on a bed until the other one returned home. Mary remembered our previous donations and that is why she turned to us for help.



Nyaniso saying Thank You



Nyaniso giving thumbs up after test run in new wheelchair

When I arrived at their house I was greeted with warm smiles and traditional hand shakes. Their excitement was palpable. Tandiwe (means Loveable) was seated in the one wheelchair - she is a single amputee - and Nyaniso (means Truth) was sitting in the lounge easy chair - he is a double amputee. When Mary's son, Lulu, brought the wheelchair into their home Nyaniso leant forward and touched it as if in disbelief (see photo). He put on the brakes and immediately swung himself off the chair and into the seat with agility that left me in awe. He then rolled the wheelchair into the kitchen did a "wheelie" about turn and came back to the lounge with his thumbs up giving his stamp of approval. He could not wipe the smile off his face and kept thanking me for this wonderful gift of independence. "Now" he said "we can both go to church together!"



Tandiwe, Mary, Nyaniso and Heather

To all who made this possible, thank you. I will always remember today and how wonderful it feels when you can help those less fortunate than yourself.

Heather Thistleton
Capetown Interline Club

10 Travel Resolutions

Trips keep us going throughout the year.

Isn't it time you made yours count?



Get a passport, already!

The little blue, red or brown book literally opens up the world. Even Canada, Mexico, and much of the Caribbean now require a passport (or at least a passport card). If you're among the majority of Americans who don't have one, make this the year you get your first passport—and stamp. If you've had a passport for a while, get it renewed. You can't visit some countries (like Brazil, Israel, and Singapore) if your passport expires within six months.

Relax. Seriously.

It's not easy to break those weekday habits. But waking up at 7 a.m. for a full day of activities while traveling isn't much of an escape. Prod yourself to create time for sleeping in, people-watching, having a drink at lunch, or slipping back to the hotel room for a bath. You'll have a more rewarding—and more joyful—experience if you see fewer things, and see them well.

Learn 10 phrases.

Traveling without a clue about the local language puts you on the defensive. A few simple phrases can ease the awkwardness and earn you a smile—and, yes, sometimes a laugh or a raised eyebrow. Who cares. Get a pocket-size phrase book or a smart-phone application for a quick tutorial. By the time you arrive, you'll have an "excuse me" ready for the crowds at baggage claim and a "thank-you" for the bus driver. (We think these iPhone translation apps are tops.)

Travel with a close friend or family member.

None of us is getting any younger. Time is our most precious asset, so hoard your vacation days and travel with the folks who matter most. Swapping messages and weekly phone calls can't compare with sitting together on a plane for five hours and then zip-lining through the rain forest. Wait too long, and you'll regret it.

Give yourself the upgrade, for once.

There's such a thing as being too sensible, even in a recession. The next time you're at the car-rental counter on a sunny day, rent the convertible you've always dreamed of. And the next time you come in from hours of sightseeing, spoil yourself by heading straight to the spa. You can always scrimp elsewhere. You're on vacation. Act like it.

Take better photos.

Your camera's had the upper hand for too long. Learn to master some of the settings and functions this year, and you'll come back with photos that do justice to your travel memories—and serve as a visual diary of some of the best days of your life. (Start with our cheat sheet, [Take Your Best Shot](#).)

Dig in to a local delicacy.

Go on and try something you'd never eat at home, even if home is just the next state over. That means seeking out the street food cart with the longest line, eating something on a stick at a festival, and asking the waiter for the house specialty—if it's lost in translation, so much the better.

Upgrade your travel gear.

Buy a new, handy piece of luggage and learn to pack it lightly. It'll streamline every travel experience, from squeezing onto a train to taking a spur-of-the-moment side trip. If you're going to shell out the money, don't buy a black bag. Opt for something that you won't have to worry about identifying.

Strike up a conversation.

Make the effort to chat with a local, whether it's your taxi driver, the barista making your coffee, or the woman in front of you in the admission line. Chances are you'll come away with new insights into the place—and some recommendations you'd never get from a guidebook.

Don't overthink it.

Apart from certain choice things like an El Bulli reservation or World Cup tickets, you don't need to reserve much—and not much in advance, either. Last-minute travelers are often rewarded with unbelievable deals and an invigorating sense of spontaneity. Sure, there will be a few snafus along the way, but you'll tell those stories forever.

**By Budget Travel editors
(founded by Maga Ramasamy)**

Farewell to Peter Gilardoni, a true interliner and friend

Dear Peter,

We were all shocked about your sudden departure from this world to join the Great Architect of the Universe for the heavenly abode.

We will miss you physically in our midst, you are not forgotten and nor shall you be. Interliners will remember you of your generosity, your warmth in hosting guests at your place and your direct style of addressing issues during WACA meetings.

Peter you have been a good husband, devoted father and caring grandfather and dedicated Interliner both locally at the level of your Interairline Club Zurich and internationally for promoting the interline spirit wherever you visited.

This is part of life and you can rest assure that with the friendship you nurtured we shall always be in touch with Heidemarie and your family and to keep the very good memories of you. We are glad to have an almond tree planted at your permanent residence in good memory of your love to nature and the support to our WACA endeavour to protect the environment. Your memory will eternally be cherished in our prayers. You will always be loved.

We look forward to visit you whenever we stop over Zurich until we will all meet one day.

Truly yours

Maga Ramasamy

On behalf of all the WACA members.



Life is limited, but love and memories continue forever.

We would like to thank everyone

for the considerable condolences and signs of fellowship that we experienced upon the farewell of our beloved

Peter Gilardoni – Knauf

Taking comfort in the knowledge that Peter was happy and did not have to suffer, we are thankful for the loving support of so many people who share our pain.

We extend our thanks to all relatives, friends and acquaintances who conveyed their condolences to us and who offered Peter love and friendship during his lifetime and accompanied him on his final journey.

We would also like to say thanks for the numerous words of comfort received personally or in writing, for the wonderful flowers, wreaths and gifts to care for the grave as well as for the contributions to the Swiss Cancer League.

It means a lot to us to know that we are not alone in our grief.

Rümlang, April 2010

The bereaved family

North America Region (in 800 seconds)

North America Interline Clubs' Activities

The following is a "photographic" retrospective of the activities of some of the North America Interline Clubs during the North America's "winter Season", the reports of Helene (CIC) and AL (VIC) on their participation on the Vancouver Winter Olympic Games and an account of an episode reminding what interlining was all about, not too long ago and. Snow storms in USA (*"Mother Nature" wasn't too kind to the USA Clubs, dumping on them all that white stuff usual reserved for the Canadians*) and freezing temperatures in Canada, were not enough motive or reason capable to "force" the Clubs to postpone or cancelling their habitual monthly gatherings where moments of fun, camaraderie and relaxation are shared by the attending Clubs' members.

VANCOUVER WINTER OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

Reported by: Alfred Buchi (V.I.C.)



Being retired and with the Olympics coming to town, it was the chance of a lifetime to be a part of it. As Swiss born, I was selected to assist the Swiss Olympic team at Whistler during the Olympic and Paralympics' games. Half of the 20 volunteers working with the Swiss were with the team in Vancouver and the others at the Whistler athletes village. Being in the village gave us a view from inside the games.



Our jobs included getting the accommodation ready for the athletes by setting up a team office, doctor's office, physio room and athletes lounges in their housing. During the games we drove the medal winners to the media events. We had 10

vehicles that had to be kept ready for the team officials and coaches. Athletes who were arriving and departing needed help with their luggage and equipment. Our days started at 7am til 10pm in 2 shifts to cover anything that the team needed help with. After the team left we returned the housing back to its pre-Olympic state.

The Paralympics were more relaxed as the teams were much smaller, over 100 for the Olympics and 35 for the Paralympics.

With only 3 volunteers in Whistler, we were more involved with the athletes and got to appreciate their ability.

Seeing blind skiers and amputees in their daily life was inspiring. Staying and working in the athletes village give us a chance to meet many wonderful people from all over the world. The atmosphere and friendly volunteers made the 2 months go by in a flash. I was glad to be part of it.



MY OLYMPIC GAMES

Reported by: Helene Larway (C.I.C)

I had the opportunity to work in Vancouver during the Winter Olympics and Paralympics in February and March this year. What an experience! I was working as a Concierge with Air Canada along with 23 other colleagues from Edmonton, Toronto and Montreal, that were selected to help the Vancouver Concierge Office with the additional workload brought on by the Olympics.

Our duties included 'Meet and Greet' and process Heads of State from around the world as well as the worldwide members of the International Olympic Committee. Getting to meet so many interesting people was truly a privilege as well as an honor. We also assisted many of our country's politicians, from the federal, provincial, and municipal levels of government as you can see from the photo



of Montreal's mayor.

It was also our pleasure to assist all of our Olympic medal athletes. How exciting it was to see their medals proudly displayed around their necks...although I think each medal should come with a chiropractor

referral, as they were so heavy! The photo of Jaycee Jay Anderson is a keepsake (our gold medal snowboarder) as well as that of Ina Forrest, who was our gold medal Paralympics' curler.

The city of Vancouver was so vibrant during the whole period. My red mittens used for the running of the Olympic Torch in January came in handy, as all Canadians wore red throughout the games. Our national pride was overwhelming and random singing of our National anthem could be heard everywhere, all the time, on the streets of Vancouver, as well as at the Olympic Events.



I was fortunate enough to attend several events when I was on days off.

The first one was the day after the opening ceremonies where Jennifer Heil won a silver medal at the

moguls event. I must say, it was so wet on the mountain that day. I have never in my life been so wet and damp. It did not dampen the spirit of the crowd and we managed to get swept up in the excitement despite the terrible weather conditions. My next event was the Canadian Men's curling game against China. It was a fairly easy win for our team and once again the color red was everywhere! On Alberta Day I was thrilled to attend the Victory Ceremony, where Maelle Ricker received her gold medal. The noise was absolutely deafening in BC Place. We then watched Paul Brandt's concert.



On my next set of days off I went to Whistler to watch the Cross Country Relay event. It was our first event with snow...reminding us this really was the Winter Olympics. We took the "Alberta Train"

there and back, which is really the Rocky Mountaineer Train. If ever you want a spectacular holiday think of booking this train from either Calgary to Vancouver or Jasper to Whistler...check out their web-site and I think they even give an airline discount. The scenery is unbelievably beautiful! What a great country we live in. The last event I attended was our Women's Curling finals where our team won a Silver medal against Sweden. Both of the curling teams are actually teams from Calgary and Edmonton so it made it extra special to cheer on our fellow Albertans. As you can see, I did not attend a live hockey game but definitely watched them at a bar where the ambience was incredible. At one point, during the game against the Russians, one of our friends Jennifer actually started "the wave" with all the other patrons...



It was very, very loud and red at Joey's on Burrard for that game...and what a win! I think I saw Canada grow up during the Winter Olympic Games and show the world how truly patriotic we

are... We come from different and diverse backgrounds in this country, but we truly were unified during these games, and will continue to be so. Now that our red mittens are put away, and I am back in Calgary working at the airport, the memories and experiences I have tucked away will continue to glow brightly in my heart, as the flame did when I ran it. Although Vancouver has gone back to normal...this city too has been changed forever. The flame has been passed on to Sochi, but the legacy will live on forever, for those who were fortunate enough to take part in any way of these Olympic Winter Games.



Interlining "à la ancienne"

It all started on my return home, after spending an enjoyable Inter-line event organized by the San Diego Interline Club in Las Vegas, Arizona. I had left the Hotel, on Sunday the 21st of Feb. at 04:00 am to stand-by for the first flight leaving to Philadelphia at 06:45, which according to the late reports from the reservations, offered the best chances for me to make it. Famous last words...best chances! By 12:00 noon I had become part integral of the Gates 9A, 10A, 11A, 12A and once in awhile Gates 1A and 3A and the Agents on duty at the different Gates greeted me by my first name. I had been "rolled-over" so many times and for so many flights that if someone would had mention "Roll-over and play dead" I would had done exactly that.

At the Starbucks coffee shop I was also treated like as a "custom-ary" client, being greeted, by the employee, with the question: "Large cup of regular coffee-black no sugar and no cream" which was my usual order...

At the Security Control I was also known by my own name (*privileges of being a smoker*). For each series of missed flights I would go out for a "smoke" and was welcomed back by the controlling security agent. Monday the 22nd found me, still in Las Vegas International Airport, taking photos of Las Vegas at night (seen from the Airport) and planes landing or taking-off, and yes, to add to my



frustrations, I also managed to lose some \$20.00 playing in the slot machines available on the terminal "A". After being "bumped" from the earlier flights, decide to go around and see if buying a full fare I could get out of Las Vegas. I wasn't encouraged to do that by the

ticket agents, because my situation would only slightly improve and I would still be on stand-by for the flights.

At 10:00 am, and not seeing any lights at the end of the tunnel, called Miriam to find if there was any flights to any destination that I



could stand-by with better chances of making it than the flights to Philadelphia. I was told to sit tight and wait...they, Miriam and Rae, would come to the Airport, pick me up and drive me to San Diego. After three hours drive from Las Vegas to San Diego,

doing some shopping (*I even had a choice on what we would have for dinner*), we went to Rae's home for dinner and rest until my time to go to the Airport.

Rae's hospitality and friendship and Miriam's support, reminded me of the times when all you needed, when travelling around the world, was your copy of the WACA Contact...it would not matter in which country you would be, there was always an interliner that would come to your rescue in case of need. That was interlining as I remember it! I finally made it back home, some thirty six hours after my planned time of arrival, but not without one more incident...being "off-loaded" from my flight to Philadelphia, due to weight restrictions...



North America Region (in 800 seconds) North America Interline Clubs' Functions

FLORIDA INTERLINE CLUB Christmas Party



St. Patrick's Evening



MONTREAL INTERLINE CLUB Monthly Dinner Functions January - Chez Lien Restaurant



February- Topa ze Restaurant



March- Restaurant Casa Grecque



SAN DIEGO INTERLINE CLUB
Christmas Party



VANCOUVER INTERLINE CLUB
Silent Auction



St. Patrick's Day



CAIRO - EGYPT

A PERSONAL MINI PRE-EC MEETING TOUR

By: F.Valdez

Photos:N.A.R.Newsletter

Egypt, land of ancient mythology and the biblical beginning of Christianity. Land of ancient civilizations and legendary tales of curses cast upon those that dare to disturb the eternal peace of the dead...which, in our opinion, is still being casted upon those that visit Egypt in our days, but in the form of the most chaotic traffic we ever had the opportunity to witness and experience..



Aspect of the traffic in Cairo at any given time of the day and two pedestrians crossing the road.

Our story begins the moment we stepped outside the terminal and were virtually "assaulted" by an army of taxi drivers. For a tourist visiting Cairo for the first time, and without any knowledge of the local habits and complete dominance of the Arabic language, it can be a very costly experience. Fortunately for me, I had the company of Salam who not only took charge of the negotiations but also of the entire program of our visit.



The Nile and downtown Cairo in the

We finally got our taxi (the initial price asked was EGP £200.00 or US \$40.00 but Salam was able to reduce it to EGP £80.00 or US \$15.00) and headed to our hotel in downtown Cairo, a forty-five minutes drive when

traffic allows.

The ride from the Airport to the hotel is a must for the "lovers" of strong emotions (roller coast type). Roads in Cairo consist, in the majority, of a four or five lane artery, but, quite frequently, you see five or six cars driving side by side depending on how many lanes the road has.

Egyptians master the technique of driving with one foot on the accelerator

and the other constantly switching from the brake pedal to the clutch and vice-versa, one hand going also constantly, from the gear shift to the steering wheel and the car horn, while the other hand is holding a cigarette or a cell phone and not to mention, that once in a while we will also see a lady looking into the rear mirror, rearranging



A view of one of the streets of Cairo's Khan Alkhalili Bazar

a "rebellion" tuft of hair that shows out of her "hijab" or checking up her "make-up". All that, while speeding and "crisscrossing" the road from one lane to the other. We got to our hotel a bit "shaken" from the ride but otherwise sound and safe.

For me, besides it being the first time in Egypt, Cairo was also a mini "pre-EC Meeting Tour" and I had only two days to experience the Egyptian life and to visit and see, as much as possible, the sites that made Egypt so famous. After checking-in and freshening up, Salam decided that we must visit the Downtown market and buy the shorts that I would need to visit the pyramids (although the temperature was 7° Celsius).

Once again Salam is busy negotiating with the taxis drivers (negotiations are a must for anything you want to do or buy) the best rate for us. We got our taxi and were driven to a five-story mall with stores selling only men's clothes. We did visit almost every store on the five floors of the mall, only to be told that shorts were out of season and that I was too old to wear shorts???? After the "visit" to the mall, Salam and I decided to stroll through the downtown streets that are part of the market on our way back to the hotel, and were also "introduced" to the Egyptian version of a pedestrian crossing a road.



Ghiza archeological site with the Sphinx and the pyramids of Mykerinus and Chephren in the background.

Again, crossing a road in Cairo is also a must for the "lovers" of strong emotions, but this time is more like playing "Russian Roulette". During our



Details of the pyramid of Cheops at Ghiza

"relaxed walk", Salam was also able to buy either a pair of a very long shorts or a pair of a very short pants for me (still not being able to figure the style) from a street vendor.

I have heard about the pyramids and seen them in photos, movies, in history studies or reports on TV programs. I learned in high school, the ancient Egyptian civilization and their contribution to the fields of engineering, medicine, particularly funerary,

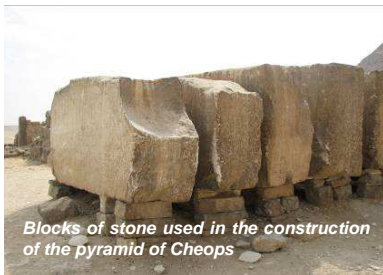
mathematics and literacy, but nothing could have prepared me to face the real grandiosity and magnitude of the pyramids and how they were constructed. No wonder why the pyramids are considered one of the original seven wonders of the world.

According to Egyptian civilization's historians and archeologists, the blocks of stone used in the construction of the pyramids were dragged (forcibly) from the Arabian hills to the Nile, where they were then ferried across and taken over by



Entrance to the burial hall where the corps were mummified and to the "Doctor's" (?)

others who hauled them to the Libyan hills. The work was done in shifts of three months with one some ten years were needed to build the track (from the Nile to the Construction site) along which the blocks were hauled



Blocks of stone used in the construction of the pyramid of Cheops

enty-three long colossal statue representing a lion with a head face which is believed to be a likeness of Chephren standing guard over his tomb. Its original name of Hor-em-Akhet (*Horus who is in the horizon*) has changed and now is known in Arabic as Abu el-Hol (*Father of terror*).

The defacement of this mythical man-animal which is evident today is due in part to erosion by the wind and in part to the cannon of the Mamelukes who used it for target practice.



After having crawled through a very low tunnel to visit the tomb of the "doctor" that mummified Cheops, I sort of give up on the idea of going through it again by visiting the interior of the pyramids.



View of the chamber and the tomb where the "doctor" was buried



Tunnel and steps leading to the tomb



With the exception for some "ignorant people" that show complete disregard for the place and environment, leaving empty plastic bottles of water all over the place, it was interesting to notice the respect, almost spiritual, displayed by those visiting the tomb.

After my brief encounter with the "past" and once in Egypt and in a place such as the archeological site of Ghiza, what else was left for me to do if not, as the old saying goes, "In Egypt do as a tourist do"...take photos with the pyramids...and of course ride a camel.

Not too sure of the gender of "my" camel because while I was the lonely rider he or she did not show any signs of being annoyed and fully cooperated with the photographer.

However and as soon as Salam approached... he or she then changed moods.... he or she wasn't too pleased...



I also enjoyed seeing my chief "negotiator" Salam getting annoyed at the vendors of "genuine" Egyptian antiques or souvenirs, telling them we did not want to buy anything and trying, to no avail, chase them away from us.

During my visit to the complex of Ghizeh, I also got a better understanding of why, as a general rule, Egyptians are such as extremely successful merchants, they keep coming up with innovative ways of getting you committed, be it in the shape of offering a little stone as a lucky charm "only because you are a friend" or by offering to take your photo (in very creative and original angles, I must say) with the pyramids or the sphinx as background or yet, riding or standing with a camel, and simultaneously insisting, that they do not want any money from us. Once we make the mistake of accepting the offer, whichever that may be, then it is "big time" negotiating the consequent "Baksheesh" (tip).

On our return to Cairo in the early hours of the afternoon, we went to the "famous" Khan Alkhalili Bazar where, according to Salam, I could have a "delicious" lunch while enjoying a beer if I so wish. The restaurants are located in a plaza surrounded by not less than three Mosques, one of them a Religious University, and is an "official" stop for the organized tour buses. While Salam was busy with the waiters trying to direct us to their respective restaurant, I went to the one that had no "pushy" waiters (sometimes not being able to communicate is a blessing in disguise) sat and order a beer.

I had, however, forgotten that I was in a Muslim country and that alcoholic beverages weren't allowed to be served. So the next best thing was to have a non-alcoholic beer (I had never, previously, tasted a non-alcoholic beer) as it was suggested by the waiter. As soon as I took a "sip" of the beer I must have made such an "expression" of disgust that I become the instant laughing "stock" of the waiters that were around us.

After our lunch and before going to visit Salam's cousin (married to a German diplomat), we walked through some of the streets of the Khan Alkhalili Bazar and bought some mementos of my visit to Cairo.

Once we had finished all the "shopping", we took a taxi and off we went to Tania's (Salam's cousin) home. On our way, we had a "near" miss (by inches) collision with another car (interesting to notice how Egyptians avoid collisions; one car accelerates while the other driver, literally, "stands" on the footbrake pedal).

By then, and after experiencing the "Roller Coast and Russian Roulette" emotions, I was already a "pro" on the art of mastering the Egyptian traffic, and although the missed collision would have been on the side of the car were I was travelling, the occurrence didn't even increase the rate of my heart beating...



We are back at the hotel, after spending a pleasant couple of hours with Tania and Olga (*Tania's mother*) and "YES" having a real beer and to top it, German beer. The "jet lag" and all the day's emotions were catching up with me and we decided to stay in the hotel, have a snack and rest...tomorrow is another day of visiting Cairo, a lunch in a restaurant that according to Salam, serves the freshest fish in town, and a visit to the



famous Cairo Museum were in the program. After breakfast, we check-out, leave our bags in storage at the hotel and start our tour to the restaurant which according to the directions given to Salam, was a short walking distance from the hotel.

The short walking distance from the hotel to the restaurant, although Salam did her best, stopping at almost every five minutes to ask for directions, and the answer was always the same...about two blocks, ends up being close to a one and half hour heck of a walk (*and we weren't even close to it*), and a taxi ride to finally reach the "short distance walk and by now famous" restaurant one and half hour walking, although exhaustive, gave me the chance of seeing parts of Cairo that otherwise I would have not seen, or the chance to interact with the locals...especially with some of the children coming out of the school and that decided to somehow adopt us...only for their own fun...they kept telling Salam "I love you"...Of course once again I was ignored!



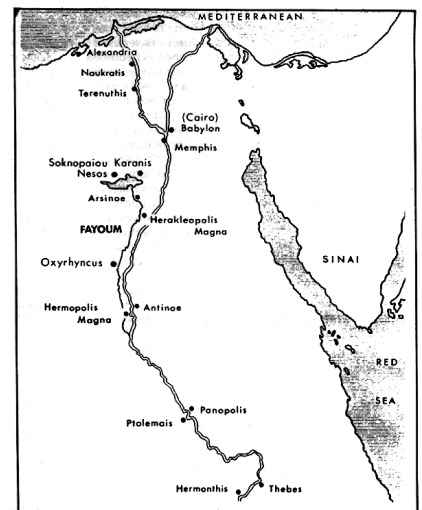
One disappointment though. Because the walk and the time we spent at the restaurant, it was already too late to visit the Cairo Museum... against what we were told early in the morning the Museum closes at three and not at five o'clock.



Egypt is much more than Cairo, the Museum and the funerary complex of Gizeh. It is Sakkarah, the Valleys of the Kings and of the Dead. It is Luxor and the Nile, the world's longest river. It is its ancient civilization and today's modern society...

I shall return!

Who knows maybe the Nile Cruise???



SAN DIEGO'S LAS VEGAS GET AWAY WEEKEND (18th-21st Feb. 2010)



LAS VEGAS GET AWAY WEEKEND...A CO-PRODUCTION of the San Diego Interline Club's "Dynamic Duo" and STARRING a dedicated group of members of the Club, exceeded themselves with the organization of the event. Tailor made or, as one can say, "free and easy", the package offered the possibility to the participants, to do and see whatever they want at their own pace and according to their own budget. The concept introduced by the San Diego Interline Club proved to be successful and it might be used as an example for future International events organized



by Interline Clubs if they so wish.

In the usual order: Back Row; William "Bill" Kain, Semia Salame, Jannell Gledhill, Alexis Haddad, Sue Corso, Rae Rothschild, Evelyn Mayorga, Simon Salame and Helen Worswick. Front row; Geraldine Dilley-Kain, Miriam Marley, Carmen Thoumy, Sophie Remrodt, Mario Mayorga, Amal Saad and Colin Warswick



The event took "off" on Thursday, the 18th at the event's "Home Base" Excalibur Resort Hotel and Casino, one of the best known Resort Hotel and Casino in the famous Las Vegas strip, with the gathering of all the participants at the Hospitality Suite for a welcome drink and the usual greetings of "old" friends meeting once

again to share a few days of camaraderie. The Las Vegas weekend counted with the participation of interliners from the Lebanon Interline Club (*the largest contingent*), the Sidney Interline Club, the Bahamas Interline Club, WACA Members at Large and the Montreal Interline Club (*represented by the Regional N.A. Vice President*).

One of the options offered by the hosting Club, was a day tour to the Grand Canyon, one of the World's original seven wonders, with a photo stop at the Hoover Dam (*also offered as an optional tour*).



Thirteen intrepid interliners took up the challenge and without knowing what was expecting them (*temperatures in the winter are between -7° and 10°*), headed to the Grand Canyon.

Grand Canyon, one of Earth's most powerful, inspiring landscapes-A land to inspire our spirit- overwhelms our senses. Its story tells of geologic processes played out over unimaginable time spans as a unique combination of size, color, and dazzling erosional forms.

Deep time, changing landscapes, the Grand Canyon reveals beautiful sequence of rock layers that serve as windows into time. The carving of the canyon is only the most recent chapter, a geologic blink of an eye, in a long story of land masses colliding and drifting apart, mountains forming and eroding away, and sea levels rising and falling, and the relentless forces of moving water. Several factors make Grand Canyon's geology remarkable.

Many canyons form as rivers cascade among mountains peaks, but Grand Canyon sits incised into an elevated plateau (*The South Rim elevation is 2,100 meters*).



For us, theun-prepared ones, it was a chock when we disembarked from the bus and faced a chilly and strong wind that went directly into our bones... and freezing everything in its way!!!!

Once we finished our lunch (picnic style) and invaded the souvenir shop buying all the necessary gear to maintain us warm, we were ready to face the cold. The magnificent view of "Mother Nature" masterpiece made all the extra spending and exposure to inclement weather, worthy of it. There are no words capable of describing the view and only when one experience it personally, he or she will then be able to understand the magnitude of the Grand Canyon. Today's tour (20th February) will take us to a visit, outside and inside, of the Hoover Dam. More than an historical or touristic site, the visit of the Dam is a tribute to the determination and resourcefulness of the human race, if we take into consideration that at the time of its construction, none of today's technologies were at their disposal.

Hoover Dam once known as Boulder Dam, is a concrete arch-gravity dam in the Black Canyon of the Colorado River, on the border between the states of Arizona and Nevada. When completed in 1936, it was both the world's largest hydroelectric power generating station and the world's largest concrete structure. It was surpassed in both these respects by the Grand Coulee Dam in 1945. It is currently the world's 38th-largest hydroelectric generating station.

After a visit to the powerhouse and the technical description of it, free time to stroll along the complex was given to us. The visit, although technical, proved to be of general interest, mostly because of what was said about the technology available at the time of the Dam's construction, and also for the innovative ways, for the epoch, that had to be put in practice to face the problems encountered with the different phases of its construction.

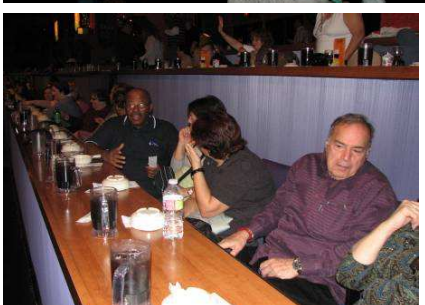
At around 13:30 we return to Las Vegas for our final tour of the day: a visit to a chocolate factory and the botanical garden.

After visiting the chocolate factory, tasted some of their brands of chocolate, tour the botanical garden and having lunch, once again picnic style, on the grounds of the botanical garden, was time for us to return to our hotel.

Tonight was the last night of the event and a farewell "cocktail" at the hospitality suite followed by the group dinner and show was in the planning's. By 6 pm and with all "festivities" terminated, we descend to the Hotel "basement" for our dinner and show and also to meet the "gamblers" group that mysteriously, had not given signs of life, and to take our last group photo. That done we enter the "arena" and took our places in the "gallery" reserved to the assistance, which was, by the way, also our dinner table.

The show was about King's Arthur "Camelot", the Round Table Knights and the stage was set to remind us the medieval tournaments.

A little Hollywood style but entertaining never the less. At the end, we all had fun, enjoyed the show and the dinner, and even the fact that we had to eat using our own "cutlery" (*fingers and hands that is*), as it was done in the epoch, did not bother us...The post trip on Sunday the 21st of February was attended by 10 participants (the "gamblers" group was back on "duty" and Chico had left to Airport for his return flight home). Our group left the Excalibur Hotel at 7:30am for the West Rim of the Canyon with a short stop at the Hoover Dam. It was our 3rd trip by the Dam, but we did get a different view.



sides of the Canyon were a brilliant Red, brown, yellow, beige, and black.



As we proceeded to the Havapai Indian Reservation down a dirt road for about 20 miles, the driver gave us some facts. The West Rim is not as well visited as the South Rim which we had done on Friday the 19th of February. The view is more spectacular than the South Rim. The Colorado river is in full view even though it is 4000 feet down. The rocks and the sky a bright blue with white puffy clouds. It was picture perfect. I hope that Chico will include Carmen's photos.

At the Indian Reservation we were treated to an Indian dancing and singing show. We also toured the different types of housing from teepees to adobe dwellings. Those that were daring also went out on the famous new sky-

walk.

We were able to climb around very carefully on lots of the rocks for better pictures as there were no guard rails. There were very large black Ravens sitting in a dead tree that hung out over the canyon which was very photogenic. While we observed the birds, Indians, canyon and River we had a great barbeque lunch.

We also watched Scenic Airways helicopters taking off for tours down in the canyon. It was pretty wild. We stayed at the Canyon til 130p when we left. On our way back to Las Vegas, We stopped at a great ice cream, chocolate and honey shop..Most of us had ice cream. Go figure even though it was cold.

When we got back to the Hoover Dam there was a 1 mile back up to cross the Dam. Our driver (we were in a smaller bus than the other 2 times at the Dam) turned off and we went up the canyon to an overlook of Lake Mead. We also saw the train tracks and the mountain tunnel that the original train traveled during the construction of the Dam in 1931. All in all we saw 3 different views of the Dam and received 3 different bits of historical information. Our happy little group arrived back at the hotel about 5pm. Some of our group then went off to see a Las Vegas Show, others went to gamble and some just collapsed in their rooms for a rest. I hope that everyone, regardless of their package or what tours they did, had a wonderful time. The San Diego Club wants to thank everyone in attendance for their support and a wonderful weekend of camaraderie.

We hope to see you all in Recife Brazil.

Miriam Marley
Secretary San Diego Interline Club

**Australia Day 2010
Sydney Interline Club**



**We had a wonderful evening on Australia Day...
100 members set to eat, drink and watch a wonderful fireworks display!**

**John Aarons
Regional Vice President, Far East and Australasia**

The 2010 European Regional Meeting from a North American Viewpoint

Kitty and I hadn't visited the UK for many years even though we were married there and all our children were born there, so we took the opportunity to visit in conjunction with the European Regional Meeting being held in Brighton and hosted by the Gatwick Interline Club.

The Gatwick Club committee consisting of Sue Walker, Susan Hassall, Helaine Michaels and Frank Miller did a fantastic job in setting up the program. They suggested we take the National Express coach from London to Brighton which is what we did. Activities centered round the Royal Albion Hotel situated on the sea front opposite the Brighton Pier.

On Thursday evening a welcoming drink in the hotel bar was followed by a sumptuous dinner with plenty of wine served in one of the hotel banquet rooms. Frank was at his usual loquacious best and explained that RVP Europe Heidi Tetri would be unable to attend due to the chaos resulting from the Iceland volcano eruption. He was prepared to take her place as he was a past RVP of the region.



On Friday the meeting was attended by delegates from Helsinki, Basel, Zurich, Portugal, Frankfurt, Iceland, London and Gatwick Interline Clubs. Although there was no quorum the meeting was held anyway. Lunch consisted of fish and chips served on Brighton Pier with wine included. Rhein-Main delegate Heinz Fuhr and wife Patricia traveled overland and after using trains, ferries and taxis they arrived on Friday evening in time for dinner at the Cricketer's Pub. There was so much food left over that the Gatwick group packed everything in a suitcase, left it on their hotel balcony overnight to keep it cool and served it for lunch the next day in Arundel..... interline initiative.



After breakfast on Saturday it was off by coach to Arundel castle. An extremely interesting tour of the castle was conducted by castle tour guides, lunch was served as mentioned above and upon return to the hotel and after freshening up, we took the 1883 electric train to Brighton Marina and Casino. An elegant dinner was served with lots of wine but unfortunately some of the group had to leave right after dinner because they had an early call next morning to make their way home by train, ferry and taxi. A few of the lucky ones made it home by Sunday around midnight



The Gatwick committee had planned to spend Sunday in Brighton to unwind and view the first running of the Brighton Marathon. Sue Hassall's friend Geoff Cook joined us to help Sue celebrate her birthday.

In addition to Kitty and myself, three girls from the Washington Interline Club were also in attendance and unfortunately we couldn't make our way home overland, but not to worry. The Washington girls were housed by Nuala and Chris Orton and we were well taken care of by Sue Hassall and Geoff Cook. The Helsinki contingent had a tough time getting home but us North Americans made it home in about three days.



Special thanks to the Gatwick Club committee for a 'helluva' good job well done.

Aubrey Winterbotham.
President, Montreal Interline Club.

EUROPEAN GET TOGETHER Brighton, 15-18 APRIL 2010



We were getting ready to go to Brighton on Thursday morning when the news came on the radio-UK airspace closing down due to volcanic ash from Iceland. This was one situation that we certainly had not anticipated.

So we were very relieved when out of 35 people booked on our package only 5 were unable to come. Of course we were very sorry for those who did not make it and missed them, while others only just made it into the country on the last arriving flights.

We had 4 participants from Portugal who were on the 1st flight out of Lisbon and able to land in London, similarly 4 from Helsinki, also on the 1st flight from there. Our 3 friends from Washington came on the direct flight into London, fortunately they had not chosen to travel via Europe. And from Frankfurt Heinrich & Patricia came via Paris and Eurostar, arriving a day late but at least they made it.

The 5 who did not make it were Heidi, our RVP from Helsinki who had intended to travel later in the day after a meeting—she nominated Frank as a past RVP to chair the European Meeting. Also Luisa from Lisbon had intended to take a flight later than our other Portuguese guests. Gerti could not come as there were no flights from Munich, and finally Silla & Jim from Iceland, not very surprising. Thorstein had left REK a few days earlier so was with us, and happy to take the blame for all the chaos.

On Thursday we had welcome drinks and dinner at the Hotel and caught up with old friends. Friday, a fish and chip lunch on the Brighton Palace Pier was followed by a tour of the Brighton Pavilion, then an evening in the lanes at Arundel for a tour of the castle and gardens and a look around the town, also an impromptu lunch of cheese and fruit left over from the night before. Saturday evening dinner at the Casino in the Marina with transport there via the Volkes Railway built in 1883 rounded off our weekend.

We were very lucky with the weather, warm and sunny, this was also good news for those taking part in the First Brighton Marathon on Sunday. Some of us stayed an extra night, we watched the runners from our Hotel balcony, raised a glass or two as they passed. Some people, like Aubrey and Kitty from Montreal also stayed the extra night, making the most of their enforced stay.

We were pleased to hear that everyone eventually got home, we think the prize for the longest journey must go to Anja and friends who took 6 trains, 1 bus, 2 boats, 6 taxis and 4 nights in hotels to travel from Brighton to Helsinki.

We would like to express our thanks to all who came and made the weekend so enjoyable for ourselves.

**Frank, Sue & Sue, Helaine
Gatwick Interline Club**

Volcan Eyjafjallajökull changes daily life in Iceland



After participating on the European Regional Meeting in Brighton, I am back to Iceland. Unfortunately, life is not back to normal in Iceland yet, i.e. not in the southern part of Iceland because the north part has more or less been unaffected by the ash. Yesterday there was ash fall more west than before and even a bit was spotted in Reykjavik. The farmers in the area south and southwest of the volcano have been worst hit. Farmers with horses and cows are moving them to a safe location but that is not so easy with the sheep. Some are even closing down their farms, slaughtering their sheep and going to live somewhere else during the summer at least. However I saw on the TV news tonight that one farmer is moving approx 100 sheep to a farm in south east part of Iceland.



All air traffic had to be canceled from Reykjavik and Keflavik yesterday due to forecast of ash clouds. The forecast had been for closure of Keflavik from 7AM and both airlines had changed their schedule to depart all the morning flights between 5 and 6AM. Then there was new info and the forecast changed into closure from 3AM so all flights had to be canceled.

Since the eruption started, Icelandair and Iceland Express have been able to move their flights to Akureyri airport (my hometown) when KEF has been closed. Icelandair has then operated AEY-GLA-AEY and then had the hub in GLA and aircrafts based there to operate to its destinations in Europe and USA.

I met one pilot the other day that operated according to her roster KEF-BOS and was to have layover there one night and then operate back to Iceland. Then KEF was closed so she ended up operating BOS-GLA and then spent a week in GLA operating flights out of there to the destinations in Europe!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Two of my dispatchers colleagues attended the AGM of the international federation of dispatchers in Las Vegas May 2-5. They flew on Icelandair from KEF to Seattle on April 30th but the return flight from SEA had to land in GLA and from there they flew to Akureyri and then by bus for six hours to Reykjavik!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Akureyri is a small domestic airport (with only one or two international flights per week during the summer) and can not handle all this extra traffic it has had to take. Therefore they have had to take one hangar and turn it into a waiting area. They have been helped by the local Red Cross and a rescue organization to accommodate all these passengers and provide them with blankets and sandwiches, tea and coffee.



Icelandair has also sent some staff from Keflavik to Akureyri and extra customs and security staff has also been sent from KEF to handle the situation.

I have been pretty busy at work since I returned from UK but now I have five days off this weekend.

All the best from Iceland
Thorsteinn Jonasson
President, Interline Club of Iceland

43rd WACA ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND INTERLINE CELEBRATION Recife, Brazil

TIC TAC ,TIC TAC , ITS THE COUNTDOWN FOR THE

43rd WACA ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND INTERLINE CELEBRATION!!!

Dear Interliners,

The INTERLINE CLUB of PORTUGAL has everything ready, for a great AGA in RECIFE, where you are going to discover the cultural mix of PERNAMBUCO: Colonization by Portugal, Indigenous and African influence and the Dutch Touch.



View from the hill in Olinda to Recife



Olinda, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1982

This cultural miscellany turned Recife, Olinda, Porto Galinhas and other towns of PERNAMBUCO STATE, into important tourist centres, full of History and Rich Cultural Patrimony, ready to receive visitors from all over the World.



View from Hotel Golden Tulip Recife Palace to Boa Viagem beach

Enjoy the RODÍZIO (different sorts of grilled meat), the seafood, spectacular tropical fruits (the mangaba, sapoti, pitanga etc.), the caipirinha (cachaça, sugar cane brandy, lemon and sugar) and mostly the sun, the beaches and the BRAZILIAN WAY OF LIFE.



For a complete view of BRAZIL, please don't miss the PRE/POST TOURS to RIO DE JANEIRO AND IGUAÇÚ, SALVADOR, NATAL and MANAUS/AMAZONIA.

JOIN US AT RECIFE, THE BRAZILIAN VENICE !

Antonio Ferrão
President, Interline Club of Portugal

Interline Festival 2010 Visit Brazil!



Very few tourist destinations can offer such a diversified options as Brazil does. Its natural attractiveness, the extremely popular festivals and the countless protected environmental reserves are valuable factors that will astonish the potential tourist when it is time to choose a holiday destination. It is of everyone's knowledge the celebrity of Rio de Janeiro as a city, the world renowned Brazilian Carnival as the largest party in the world, the no lesser famous Amazonia Forest (commonly known as the world's lungs) and the country's paradisiacal beaches.

Carnival is also present in the scheduled festivals of several other Brazilian cities, attracting the interest of the many foreigners that visit Brazil.. São Paulo follows Rio's example, and it too, puts on some lively Samba School parades. In Pernambuco, Olinda and Recife one of the most visual aspects of the whole event is when the samba dancers and other participants all dance with bright umbrellas – certainly one of the more unique sights in any carnival around today. Whether it's the belly-bumping bate-coxa or the umbrella-wielding frevo, the regal maracatú or the extremely agile caboclinho, the dancing is as impressive as anywhere in Brazil.



The country's beautiful beaches and natural wonders such as the water Falls of Iguaçu also call people's attention and attract 35% of the tourists, according to surveys carried out by the tourist board, Embratur. With a coastline that extends more than seven thousand kilometers, Brazil has the privilege of being able to offer several leisure options in this segment. Among the most visited beaches in the country, we have the famous beaches of Ipanema and Copacabana, along the Rio de Janeiro coast; Joaquina, in the south of the country, famous for holding national and international surf championships; Praia do Forte, along the north coast of Bahia and headquarters for the Tamar Project for the preservation of the sea turtles; and the wonderful beaches with dunes in Natal in the State of Rio Grande do Norte.

One cannot forget about Ecotourism, the segment that has attracted most new followers over the past few years. According to data from the Ecotourism Society, average annual growth has been between 10% and 15%. Those interested in this type of traveling total 5% of the entire world tourist flow, or approximately 35 million visitors. And Brazil is one of the destinations with the greatest potential in this segment, since it has one of the world icons for ecology and biodiversity: the Amazon, located in the north of the country, with around 5.5 million square kilometers. It is estimated that the forests alone in the Amazon region have 60% of all life forms on the planet – more than half of which are still unknown to science.



During the Interline Festival 2010 in Recife and the various Pre and Post Tours, we want to show you some aspects of this vast and interesting country with his emerging industries, its culture and its multi-cultural population. Have a look at the several programs displayed under www.waca.org and make your choice! Enjoy this wonderful country with your interline friends!



See you in Recife!

Rosemarie Mamede
Vice President Public Relations

WACA Interline Festival 2010 Map of Brazil with Pre- and Pos-Tours



- ★ **RECIFE**, Capital of the Brazilian State of Pernambuco
- **Pre-Tour to Rio de Janeiro and Iguaçu Water Falls**
- **Pre-Tour to Salvador**
- **Post-Tour to Manaus and Amazon**
- **Post-Tour to Natal**

Last page....



Dear Interliners,

Another edition of your WACA WORLD NEWS is coming to its end.

The last months were very difficult for all of us. The economical situation has not yet improved, many of our companies had to face strikes. The eruption of the volcano in Iceland and the ash clouds over Europe affected in minor or major way the whole aviation industry.

Even though, we have a very positive outlook at WACA. The year of 2009 has been a very positive one for us. Some new events and specially the AGA in Kuala Lumpur and the pre- and pos tours – mainly to Borneo – have attracted many interliners.

We sincerely hope to continue with this very positive trend and invite all our member clubs to think about organizing some interesting events in their area. And if you still have any doubt about your next destination – just visit the Calendar of Events on our website www.waca.org – it will help you to organize some nice and interesting vacations! The highlight this year is without doubt the Interline Festival and AGA. For the first time we will meet in Brazil, in the city of Recife. Exciting pre- and post-tours to Rio de Janeiro, Iguazú, Manaus and the Amazon – amongst others. The Interline Club of Portugal, organizer of these events, is investing lots of efforts and work in preparing an unforgettable celebration for all of us. Please remember that the pre- and post tours have limited space. The reservations will be confirmed on first-come-first-served principle.

After a long winter and very rainy spring here in Europe, I wish you all a very warm and sunny summer!
Hope to see you all in Recife, Brazil!

Yours in Interlining

Rosemarie Mamede

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