



World's Largest Olympic Collectors Club
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Greetings to all 496 of our 2017 members, 20 who are new to the Club. Thanks to all of you who renewed in time to help us get the **2017 Member Directory** ready to distribute with this newsletter. We are currently producing the 2017 and 2018 Club Member Badges.

This newsletter has information on our upcoming 2017 Lake Placid Festival, which is slated for September 30 – October 2. Plus there is a very interesting article penned by member **Ron Finnigan** concerning making plans to go to the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Olympics.

2017 MEMBER DIRECTORY

The 2017 Directory is included with this newsletter. We were unable to get any response from 18 members who have not renewed. While several of the 18 were fairly new to the Club, there were some who have been with us a long time. We hope they are doing well, and maybe just have a different email address. If anyone has any news on the well- being of these members, please let us know.

John Cleary (GA)	Yingnan Cui (China)
Lee Foster (NY)	Frederic Garriga (Spain)
Kelly Jo Johnson (OH)	Tim Mustart (Canada)
Hao Kuang (China)	Christiane Paquelet (Brazil)
Dax Smith (UK)	Janet Waltom (UK)

2017 AND 2018 MEMBER BADGES

As detailed in the last newsletter, we had delayed producing the 2017 and 2018 club pins in an effort to coordinate the design with the PyeongChang organizing committee. The pins (without the 2018 Games logo) are now in production, and should be arriving in your mail in the next 4 weeks or so. Those with multi-year memberships will receive both the 2017 and 2018 pins at the same time, so one benefit of being a multi-year member is to get your 2018 pin a year early, well before the PyeongChang Games! The pins for 2017 and 2018 were designed by one of our members, **Oakley Hammond**.

2018 BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

Olympin Club members will be voting this year to elect three Board members for a 3-year term starting in January, 2018. The three seats up for election are those of **Don Bigsby**, **Sid Marantz**, and **Craig Perlow**.

We invite members interested in running for the Board to contact election committee chairperson **Pam Litz** at pioneerpl@aol.com or call her at 310-457-7496 to discuss the duties and responsibilities associated with a Board position.

All candidates must submit a candidate statement by May 30 to be considered by the full committee for inclusion on the ballot. Pam will share details of the election process as well as the responsibilities of Board Members with all interested parties. Candidate statements will be printed in the newsletter in June. Voting will take place during the summer, and the results will be announced in September.

ARE YOU AN ELECTRONIC MEMBER?

How is your membership working for you? Are you enjoying the convenience and benefits that are available to you? Do you know your personal password to access the “MEMBERS” section and see, or update, your personal data? You might want to read Don’s note on page 4!

Visit our Website! www.olympinclub.com

BOYI COMES TO USA!

While planning his recent trip to the States from Beijing, Olympin member Boyi Zhang reached out to some of his pin trader friends in California for travel advice. Eventually, he decided to modify his travel plans so that he could meet up with fellow Olympin members in Los Angeles. Sid Marantz graciously offered his beach house for a gathering, and Dan Presburger put out the word that Boyi would be there on February 1. About a dozen members of the Southern California Pin Club, who have been gathering periodically to trade pins and to exchange Olympic stories since 1984, showed up to greet him. Boyi had brought along a few hundred pins, and so there was plenty of pin trading for all before the group took him out to dinner at Tony P's in Marina del Rey.

Boyi spent the night at Sid's and then the next day headed down to Orange County to meet up with Ingrid O'Neil as, in addition to pins, he is interested in acquiring torches, medals, and other Olympic memorabilia. Boyi is a very active collector in Beijing and is president of the Worldwide Friendship Olympic Club there. Recently, he organized the first China Sports and Olympiad Pin Exhibition in Beijing.

If other Olympin members plan to visit Southern California, please contact Dan, Sid, or Pam Litz, and we will be happy to organize a similar get-together with some of your fellow Olympin members.



2017 OLYMPIN CLUB FESTIVAL!!!

Olympin Club Annual Collector's Festival Returns to Lake Placid September 29-October 1

This year's Olympin Club Collector's Fair will be returning to Lake Placid this fall for an exciting three-day event!

This year's edition will be held at the new Lake Placid Convention Center, in the Lussi Grand Ballroom. Events will include a free pre-convention evening reception in the Lake Placid Olympic Museum, a free evening reception in the observation room of the 120-meter ski jump tower at the Intervale Ski Jump Complex, a formal dinner, auction, and more!

Reservations for trading tables, receptions, and the dinner can be made at the Official Convention Website. In addition, hotel information, special hotel rates, travel information, and contact links, are on the site as well.

Official Convention Website:

www.lakeplacid2017.com

This year's edition promises to be bigger and better than ever. It is being held at one of the most beautiful and popular times of the year in the Adirondacks, so we recommend making your reservations as soon as possible. Also, table space is limited!

LOS ANGELES 2018 IOC WORLD FAIR

The IOC has selected **Los Angeles** as the site of the 2018 IOC World Collectors Fair. This is the 3rd time the IOC Fair has been held in the USA. (2011 in Chicago and 2015 in Lake Placid) Very little information is available at this early date. It is likely the event will be during the summer months.

Jon Becker is chairman of the host committee.

While the event will be an IOC sponsored Fair, it will also serve as the site for our 37th Olympin Festival!

PYEONGCHANG 2018- WHAT WE KNOW

by Ron Finnigan

With memories of Rio 2016 still fresh in our minds and thanks to the short turnaround between summer and winter games, we are now less than a year away from the opening ceremonies of PyeongChang 2018. As many of our Olympin members plan on attending, I thought I would share some of the research I have done so far for these Olympics.

When I decide to go to a Games, the first thing I do is book airfare. For PyeongChang, all incoming overseas flights will arrive in Incheon (Seoul). Nonstop flights are available from New York, Los Angeles, and Toronto, as well as from many European hubs. Korean Airlines, one of the Games sponsors, offers many of these nonstop flights.

Once in Korea, many will want to spend a few days in Seoul seeing the city and experiencing Korean culture first hand. Leaving Seoul, the trip to PyeongChang is a bit of a question mark at this point. A high speed rail line is under construction and slated for completion sometime late in 2017. Several media outlets are stating in December, but finding any information online regarding progress and completion date is proving difficult. Given Korean ingenuity and the fact that the high speed train was a cornerstone of their bid, my guess is the line will be ready in time for the Games, and that the trip from Seoul will be well under two hours. If not, the journey will involve motor coach or rental car and will be significantly longer. Regardless, one will need to pay careful attention to this part of the trip. Also, assuming the high speed train is completed on time, there are questions about capacity so it will likely be worthwhile to pre-book if possible.

As was the case in Vancouver and Sochi, the Games venues are being spread over a mountain cluster and a coastal cluster. The area in the mountain cluster will be PyeongChang itself and the nearby Alpensia and Yongpyong Resorts. These areas will host ski jumping, cross country, biathlon, bobsleigh/skeleton/luge as well as one alpine skiing event. The main Athletes' Village will also be here, along with the IBC/MPC. Two outlying venues in this cluster will host alpine skiing

(Jeongseong Alpine Centre) and freestyle skiing/snowboard (Bokwang Snow Park).

The PyeongChang Olympic Stadium, where the Opening and Closing Ceremonies will be held, is a temporary, pentagon-shaped venue that will seat 35,000. No other Olympic events will be held there. This stadium will be located about two km northeast of the Alpensia Sports Park, and its first floor will serve as the Medal Plaza during the Games. In addition, next to the stadium will be an Olympic exhibition hall as well as traditional food markets and other attractions.

So if you plan to attend either of the Ceremonies or to hang around the IBC/MPC, you'll be making the trek into the mountains.

The coastal cluster is located in Gangneung, a city of about 250,000 located to the east of PyeongChang on the Sea of Japan. Gangneung Olympic Park will host men's hockey, curling, speed skating, and figure skating/short track in four venues. Separate from these is another venue in the coastal cluster, the Kwangdong Hockey Centre, which will host women's hockey. (A classic line from one of the websites I visited that discussed the new venues that are being built: "They are expected to be completed before the games begin.") Gangneung will also have an Olympic Village and a Media Village, apparently side by side. So for those of you that like to frequent the Athletes' Village, it appears that you will have two options.

From what I've been able to determine, it seems there will be a transportation hub in both the mountain cluster and coastal cluster and then individual buses running to all venues. Travel time between Gangneung Olympic Park and PyeongChang/Alpensia appears to be about 30-45 minutes. It is unclear whether this connection will be by train or motor coach, or if the high speed train will factor in. The Games transportation plan has not been released at this time. Once released, it will surely answer many of our transportation questions.

Housing is likely the single biggest issue all of us face when making our plans to attend a Games. Some people are discussing staying in the Seoul area and commuting to PyeongChang/Gangneung each day. This may work if the high speed train is in service and has the capacity, but this is unclear

currently. Staying in PyeongChang will likely be price prohibitive given its small market and limited amount of housing. Thus, I expect that most of us planning to go will look to stay in and around Gangneung and commute into the mountain cluster as needed. A quick look today on Airbnb does not return many results (unlike Rio that showed hundreds). So those of us planning to go must do our homework over the next several months and see what unfolds regarding Airbnb and other private accommodation opportunities. I fully expect that a few Olympin members will do a reconnaissance trip to Korea this fall to scope out the housing situation. With a population of a quarter million people, there should be plenty of private housing opportunities in the Gangneung area. They just have to be discovered. I think we all should wait for the market to settle a bit and avoid paying overly high prices now. Late fall is likely a good target period for booking.

Olympin member Daniel Beniston has posted a number of times recently on Yahoo Pin Traders and has provided some good insights into logistics and housing opportunities.

To date this information is accurate as far as I can tell. Yes, there are many uncertainties and questions still to be answered. Be wary of the information you find on the internet. Much of it is based on plans laid out in the PyeongChang bid that are outdated. I'll try to provide follow-up articles in upcoming Olympin newsletters so please get in touch with any findings that would be of value to members organizing a trip. Have fun planning and hope to see you in PyeongChang!

IS OUR WEBSITE WORKING FOR YOU?

At the present time, 404 of our 496 (81%) members are Electronic Members. During the past 4 months, I have had to contact nearly all of the 121 Electronic Members whose membership expired in 2016. This tells me you are not accessing the "MEMBERS" section at the upper right of the Olympin Webpage. Maybe you don't know your password? Please ask me if you need your password.
don.bigsby@yahoo.com

If you are a Written Member, you also have website access to the "MEMBERS" section. I counted and found only 32 of our members do not have an email address listed. Since there are 92 Written members, 60 of them have access to the Club website. And it means I am printing and mailing Newsletters and our Directory on my time to 60 people unnecessarily. All they need to learn is how to print these items themselves, and save 40% on dues by converting to Electronic Membership. You can expect we will eventually go strictly to Electronic in this decade, so you might as well start transitioning.

I always said I would not abandon our non-computer-literate members. But I will not be doing this work forever. I feel myself slowing down after 35 years, and when I stop, I have no idea who will do the hundreds of hours taking care of Club details.

As an example of me slowing down, this newsletter is almost two months late. Granted, we have had some personal issues at home (Heart surgery, Wedding), but I still am losing steam. I apologize for making you wait so long for this issue.

Don