



GOOD TO KNOW – JULY 2015

82nd International F.I.C.C. Rally in Novalja/Croatia

27 June to 4 July 2015

RALLY STATISTICS/RALLYE STATISTIK/ STATISTIQUES DU RALLYE 2015

Country Land/Pays/	Club/ Federation Verband fédération	Units/ Einheiten unités	Persons/Personen /personnes			
			Total	Adults/ Erwachsene/ adultes	Juniors/ Jugend- liche	Children Kinder enfants
AUSTRIA/Österreich Autriche		1	2	2		
BELGIUM /Belgien Belgique		5	9	9		
BULARIA/Bulgarien Bulgarie		1	10	2		1
CANADA /Kanada		2	4	4		
CROATIA/Croatie/ Kroatien		5	17	13		4
CZECH REPUBLIC/Tschechien République Tchèque		19	60	46		14
FRANCE /Frankreich		15	32	31		1
ESTONIA/Estonie/ Estland		6	16	13		3
FINLAND/Finlande Finnland		83	171	178		7
F.I.C.C. staff/Personal/bureau		1	2	2		



Country Land/Pays/	Club/Federation Verband fédération	Units/ Einheiten unités	Persons/Personen /personnes			
			Total	Adults/ Erwachsen e/ adultes	Juniors/ Jugend- liche	Children Kinder enfants
GERMANY/Deutschland/ Allemagne		46	91	91		
GREAT BRITAIN Grossbritannien Grande-Bretagne		61	117	117		
HUNGARY /Ungarn Hongrie		19	53	42		11
ITALY/Italien/Italie		56	118	110		8
IRELAND/Irland/ Irlande		1	1	1		
JAPAN		1	1	1		
LUXEMBOURG/Luxemburg		1	2	2		
NETHERLANDS/Niederlande/ Pays-Bas		9	19	18		1
NORWAY /Norwegen Norvège		10	22	21		1
POLAND/Polen/Pologne		40	106	90		16
PORTUGAL		5	8	8		
ROMANIA/Rumänien/Roumanie		9	29	21		8
RUSSIA /Russland Russie		18	62	53		9
SLOVENIA/Slowenien/Slovenie		23	52	45		7
SLOVAKIA/Slowakie/Slowakei		20	44	39		5



SPAIN /Spanien Espagne					
		20	41	43	2
SWEDEN /Schweden Suède & Danish participants/&dä- nische Teilnehmer/& participants danois					
		34	68	72	4
SWITZERLAND Schweiz/Suisse					
		20	41	41	
TAIWAN					
		11	37	38	1
TURKEY /Türkei Turquie					
		27	57	58	1
UKRAINE/Ukraine/ Ukraine					
		21	48	61	13
		592 + 6	1.181 + 12		108
		598	1.193		108

F.I.C.C. Council and Honorary Members – Voluntary helpers:

The F.I.C.C. Challenge 2015 was won by :

The Camping Association of the Republic of China

(Calculated on the basis of the highest number of rally participants (individuals) of a club or federation, multiplied by the officially recognised kilometrage by air from the major airport nearest the headquarters of that club or federation to the major airport nearest to the rally site.)

The Organiser's Prize is awarded to the national clubs or federations with the highest number of registered and paying participants at the rally.

Category I (Clubs and federations with 1 to 10,000 members):

Motor Caravanners Club (GB)

Category II (Clubs and federations with 10,001 to 25,000 members):

Norsk Bobil og Caravan Club (N)

Category III (Clubs and federations with 25,001 members and over):

SF Caravan (FIN)



Croatia – Novalja – Island of Pag – Strasko Campsite A very successful international F.I.C.C. Rally

If you are an enthusiastic camper or caravanner and go to an international rally on a 4 or 5-star campsite, then you are a lucky devil !

And if you are a member of a club or federation that belongs to the world-wide federation of camping, caravanning and motorcaravanning, alias F.I.C.C., and were at this particular international rally on the Strasko campsite, then you are a lucky camper indeed!

There were 598 outfits from 32 countries at the 82nd International F.I.C.C. Rally on the Island of Pag in Croatia. A very varied programme was on offer : entertainment during the day and every evening, a variety of excursions and sporting activities, but perhaps most important of all : 7 days' holiday.

You still have to ask the question though « Was everybody happy and satisfied ? » It is difficult to come up with a definitive answer to this question since you cannot possibly please all of the people all of the time when you organise such a big event.

Everyone is different and people's expectations vary tremendously. What one person considers to be brilliant, another finds disappointing.

However, in general, the joint efforts of the Strasko campsite and Udruga Kampista Hrvtske were much appreciated, judging by people's comments and smiling faces.

Campsite : The Strasko campsite is right on the sea and is one of the best camping grounds in Europe. The bay and beach have been awarded the « Blue Flag ». The campsite has 14 clean and modern sanitary blocks with toilets, showers and washbasins, facilities for the disabled, clothes washers etc. as well as restaurants, shops and sports facilities.

Pitches : The pitches are laid out under oak and olive trees that give a lot of welcome shade. Most are of a very high standard with electricity, running water, waste water drainage as well as satellite and TV connections. So most of the participants were able to enjoy a good, modern camping holiday in a natural setting.

A number of fully equipped, air-conditioned mobile homes offered rally participants alternative accommodation.

Opening Ceremony : The Opening Ceremony was organised in a large marquee on the « main road » in the middle of the rally ground and some aspects were rather chaotic.

The general idea is that it should not just be the parade of nations, but a colourful display reflecting the different cultures and ties of friendship between countries and peoples and this should be a highlight of the ceremony. The music at the beginning of the parade was unfortunately inaudible. In future, organising committees should pay more attention and give more prominence to the parade so that the splendidly colourful national costumes and waving banners and flags are imprinted on everyone's memory.

Programme : People were generally happy with the music in the big marquee every evening and many a couple took to the dance floor and « tripped the light fantastic ».

General Assembly : 39 clubs and federations attended the General Assembly that was held in the gymnasium of a local school.

Excursions : Excursions were arranged in the vicinity and further afield. Participants were generally happy and much impressed by the virgin countryside, rushing waterfalls, rich flora and fauna, caves and grottoes with their interesting rock formations, the tasty regional dishes and the friendly welcome they were given.



Closing Ceremony : People said their farewells at this event amid tears of joy and sadness. Would they all meet up again next year?

The F.I.C.C. flag was handed over to Mr. Suk-Jae Chang from South Korea because KCCF will be organising the 83rd International F.I.C.C. Rally in Wanja at the end of July.

After that the F.I.C.C. flag will be passed to Mr. Joao Luis Querez, President of the Portuguese federation, for the 84th International F.I.C.C. Rally in Ponte de Lima, Portugal in 2016.

In conclusion we would like to quote our late Swedish camping friend, Tom Carlson, who said :

« I cannot think of any other event that would give me the same opportunity to get to know so many people from such different cultures, traditions and customs as an F.I.C.C. Rally. It is quite simply a wonderful experience - may it carry on for ever. ».

Bülent Karaboncuk

F.I.C.C. Council Member





84th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY IN PONTE DE LIMA /PORTUGAL from 29 July to 7 August 2016



Heritage, environment and rural charm

Protecting its environment is one of Ponte de Lima's main preoccupations a fact that is easy to understand when you see how Mother Nature has endowed the whole area with wonderful scenery and great natural beauty which deserve to be preserved for posterity.

Tucked away in a beautiful valley, Ponte de Lima is an idyllic destination for tourists who are looking for a different type of holiday where they can immerse themselves in the natural world alongside a population in an authentic rural setting. Local people are justifiably proud of their lifestyle.

Ponte de Lima was recently awarded the European Prize for Tourism and the Environment for being one of the eight most beautiful and interesting tourist destinations in Europe.

Gastronomic delights

Ponte de Lima's local speciality is Arroz de Sarrabulho, a strong, traditional spicy stew of marinated pork and rice. The meat is cut into small pieces and stewed, seasoned with bay leaves, nutmeg, cloves, salt and pepper. Rice is added flavoured with cumin.

Most of Ponte de Lima's dishes contain pork in one guise or another, whether spare ribs in the style of Clara Penha or "belouras" (blood sausage with cornmeal) and smoked sausage - pork is omnipresent. Until quite recently family and friends gathered round for the traditional pig slaughtering.

Eels from the Lima river are especially sought after in Ponte de Lima. This delicacy is prepared in a variety of ways between New Year and late spring, most popularly in a red wine stew with rice.

Anyone with a sweet tooth will love "leite creme" a burnt cream dessert with caramel topping.

Manuel Couto Viana reckons that "Arroz de sarrabulho that is not followed by leite creme as a dessert is like a meal with no bread and that only exists in hell".

You must try these local specialities during your stay in Ponte de Lima – you will find them on the menu in many of the restaurants in town.



Foto: M. Eiffling

Some practical information

Inscription: Adults (18+) Euro 120 – Youngsters (12-17 years) Euro 60 – Children until 11 years old free of charge

Electricity (6 Amps): Euro 35 per unit (tent, caravan, motorcaravan)

Camping Pass: Euro 75 (This amount is to pay by participants who do stay in hotels, B&B, Youth hostels etc. and who wish to go to the rally site in order to participate in the entertainment program.

A supplementary charge of 20% is added for inscriptions received by the organiser after May 10, 2016.

Information under www.ficc2016.com

Rally bookings can be made from 29 July 2015 onwards.



The 66th International F.I.C.C. Youth Rally will be held in Zeewolde, the Netherlands over Easter 2016

F.I.C.C.'s young people will be holding their annual rally from 24 to 28 March 2016 at the Erkemedderstrand campsite in Zeewolde. The booking fee is €60 per person (four nights' stay, one communal meal, an excursion to Utrecht, evening entertainment with campfire). All young people between 14 and 30 years of age will be most welcome at this event.

Zeewolde is on the A28 between Zwolle and Utrecht and is very easy to get to, especially from Germany and Belgium.



The campsite has a supermarket, a snackbar, WCs and showers and its reception is open 24 hours a day. Tokens will be used for payment. There is of course a disco every evening and information on the various themes will be available later.

Provisional programme:

Thursday, 24 March

- ° Participants arrive
- ° 8 pm to 1 am Disco and campfire

Friday 25 March

- ° 11 am to midday Opening Ceremony
- ° 1 pm to 2 pm Delegates' Meeting
- ° Activities
- ° 8 pm to 1 am Disco and campfire

Saturday 27 March

- ° 10 am to 6 pm Treasure hunt in Utrecht
- ° 8 pm to 1 am Theme Disco and campfire

Sunday 28 March

- ° 11 am to midday General Assembly
- ° Midday to 5 pm Sports activities (volleyball, football and much more besides)
- ° 5.30 pm to 7 pm Special Easter meal
- ° 7 pm to 8 pm Distribution of prizes and Closing Ceremony
- ° 8 pm to 1 am Disco and campfire

Monday 29 March (Easter Monday)

- ° Participants depart

The booking fee is €60 (includes Easter meal, 4 nights' stay, taxes and excursion)

Bookings are now being taken.

Information www.youthrally2016.nl and www.youthrally2016.nl

85th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY will be held in Datça, western Turkey, in May 2017
Further details on this event will appear in our next issue.



The 86th INTERNATIONAL F.I.C.C. RALLY will be held from 30 September to 9 October 2017 in Jhinshan/Taiwan

Further details will also be communicated in our next issue.

MISCELLANEOUS

Karlsruhe (DE) celebrates 300 years

The city of Karlsruhe in Baden, Germany, is celebrating its 300th anniversary between 20 June and 21 September this year with a packed programme of events. A Pavilion in the Schlossgarten (Palace park) will be the heart of Karlsruhe's Summer Festival – here events carry on well into the night. Karlsruhe is honouring its famous inventor, Carl Benz and Baron Drais von Sauerbronn with the Draisinen bike race between 10 and 12 July and a veteran car rally on 19 July.

Source: Camping, Cars & Caravans

Summertime = Mosquito-time

Here is an ideal trap for catching mosquitoes.

Nothing is more unpleasant than having mosquitoes ruining summer evenings spent outdoors. But there is one trick that is certain to keep them away.

All you need is a large plastic bottle, brown sugar, yeast and warm water. You cut the bottle in half, turn the top part upside down and use it like a funnel. Pour the warm water into the bottom of the bottle and add the sugar and yeast. Insert the funnel and you will find that the mosquitoes are attracted to this brew and get stuck inside the bottle.

First day of Summer-A Solstice

A solstice is an astronomical event that occurs twice each year as the sun reaches its highest or lowest excursion relative to the celestial equator on the celestial sphere.

There are two solstices the summer solstice and the winter solstice. The summer solstice marks the beginning of summer and the winter solstice marks the beginning of winter.

There are also two equinoxes: They mark the beginning of the seasons autumn and winter. The day of the solstice is either the longest day of the year (in summer) or the shortest day of the year (in winter) for any place outside of the tropics.



Once people worshiped nature and celebrated the day of solstice as the day of fire, the day of the sun and the beginning of a new cycle or rather a new year. Probably many of you never have nor ever will jump over the fire in celebration of the first day of summer, but sometimes it still would be nice to thank the sun, which warms us.

Do a little „ritual“ and mark the beginning of summer;

Hug and kiss one another, meditate, light a candle, adorn yourselves with garlands of flowers, read a poem dedicated to the sun..

A happy new beginning of summer and cycle of life to us all on this wonderful planet.

Source: Read in the Camping ZATON magazine in Croatia

CAMPING, CARAVANNING, MOTORCARAVANNING

European caravan market is still on the up

The European caravan market is going from strength to strength. The European Caravan Federation (ECF) has announced a significant rise in leisure vehicle registrations between January and May this year. In total there were 78,014 new registrations of caravans and motorcaravans, a rise of 6.8%. This is encouraging confirmation of last month's registration figures and shows the continuing upward trend of the European caravanning industry so far this year.

In the first five months of the year, the traditionally strong caravanning markets in Germany, Great Britain and France provided the momentum for this growth in Europe. Great Britain announced the biggest growth with 14,750 vehicles, up 9.4%. Germany had the most registrations with 25,816 new caravans and motorcaravans, an increase of 8.5% compared with the same period last year. A total of 13,189 new registrations for leisure vehicles was recorded in France in the first five months of the year, an increase of 6.3% compared with the previous year.

Between January and May, there was significant growth in registrations of caravans in the all-important markets of Germany and Great Britain: 9,852 outfits were registered in Germany (up 10.8%), and 9,750 outfits in Great Britain (up 5.3%). The first days of summer brought a welcome improvement in the number of registrations in the Netherlands: the formerly buoyant market has experienced years of sluggish sales but, with 3,374 registrations (up 4.9%), the signs are that the market is now beginning to pick up.

A more reassuring economic situation in many parts of Europe gives people an incentive to contemplate the caravanners' philosophy of "Freedom, Nature and Independence" once more, which bodes well for the future of the European leisure vehicle market.

Source: ECF



INTERESTING SNIPPETS FROM OUR MEMBERS

The Camping and Caravanning Club (GB)

The National Feast of Lanterns will be held at Houghton Hall in Norfolk/Great Britain from 28 to 31 August 2015 to which F.I.C.C. members will be most welcome.

Some of the highlights of the varied programme of entertainment:

Friday:

- Music by the Folk Dance and Song Group, Club Band, Claire Barker Band and the Country & Western Duo Cardy and Coke
- Falconry display and motor cycle display team stunts by Bolddog Lings FMX Team in the Arena

Saturday:

- Music by the Jonathan Wyatt Big Band and the Club Band
- Fun Dog Show – best sausage catcher and best tail-wagger competition, the East Norfolk Militia brings the Napoleonic Wars to life and the Mardi Gras Parade (Arena).
- Saturday evening, participants light illuminations round their caravans and awnings as well as street scenes.

Sunday:

- Music by the Club Band, the comedy vocalist Brenda Collins, the All Stars Cover Band and Nelson's Shantymen Folk Band. Claire Barker and the Country & Western Duo provide evening entertainment in the bar.
- Another display by the Militia in the Arena, the Club Band leads a proms session and the evening is rounded off with a torchlight procession.
- Entertainment by "The Shantymen" and the "Claire Barker Duo" in the bar.

Monday:

- Procession with club banners and flags and closing ceremony.

Milk, newspapers and fresh bread can be bought on the spot. One can unwind in either of the two bars (WIFI hotspots) and wander round stalls selling local produce or trade stands with attractive offers by Truma, Cadac, Thetford and Whale.

Further information under www.nfol.co.uk



50th anniversary of the Magyar Camping es Caravaning Club

The very successful and enjoyable 50th anniversary celebrations of F.I.C.C.'s Hungarian member club, MCCC, were held at the campsite on the shores of Lake Velencer. The programme consisted mainly of great evening entertainment and interesting excursions both locally and further afield.





A good number of foreign campers took the opportunity to stop here on Hungary's second largest lake and break their journey en route to the rally in Novalja/Croatia.

WE HAVE PLEASURE INTRODUCING:

Vlaamse Kampeer- en Caravaning Federatie (VKCF)



Camping in Belgium goes back several centuries, but it was mostly associated with military activity. Camping for pleasure first happened a few centuries ago when rich families came to the health resort, Spa, and could not find suitable accommodation. They put up very large tents in



surrounding fields and were served by a small army of servants. The question of course is whether this was really camping.

The first traces of organized camping club appear a few months before the outbreak of World War I in 1914. The first club was called “Camping Club de Belgique”. Thirteen years later a periodical magazine “La tente” was launched.

Between the two world wars there were three camping clubs in Belgium. The biggest, the “Royal Camping Club de Belgique”, and a much smaller one “Les Campeurs Belges” both served the French-speaking part of the country. For the Flemish part the “Vlaamse Kampeercentrale” was established in 1934. The Flemish organization could not count on government support so sought assistance from the “VTB”, the Vlaamse Toeristen Bond. “Vlaamse Kampeercentrale” became a member of F.I.C.C.

During World War II all camping was considered to be a military activity and was therefore prohibited. Nevertheless the fortnightly magazine “Toerisme” issued by the Vlaamse Toeristen Bond dated 1 July 1941, carried an announcement of the creation of “De Vlaamse Kampeertoeristen” (V.K.T.). To get around the war-time restrictions, announcing a picnic was the message to insiders that a camping weekend was being organised!

After the bombing of Antwerp in September 1944 all camping activities were stopped and the magazine “Toerisme” ceased publication. Between 1945 and 1947 there were several attempts to start the club again but the economic situation was not favorable.

However in 1948 in Ghent, some experienced campers along with other newer camping friends started the “Vlaamse Kampeertoeristen” all over again. Heavy tents carried on foot and by bike soon gave way to family cars transporting camping equipment. The first caravans rapidly made their appearance and later came the motorcaravans. The need for a proper camping magazine was never more marked and on 16 January 1953 the first issue of “Kampeertoerist” was published.

As most Belgian clubs were members of the Belgian Camping and Caravanning Federation, the regionalization of Belgium created a problem for F.I.C.C. Until that time F.I.C.C. only allowed one federation to represent any one country. However, as the Belgian federation was divided into the “Fédération Francophone des Clubs de Caravanning et de Camping de Belgique (FF3CB)” and the “Vlaamse Kampeer en Caravanning Federatie (VKCF)”, both federations became members of F.I.C.C.

“VKCF” was founded on 6 March 1979 and its original statutes were published in the Belgian Gazette on 14 June 1979.

“VKCF” was simply the umbrella organisation with member clubs like VKT, Vlaamse Kampeertoeristen and the former Vakantiegenoegens and Pasar. Pasar left both VKCF and F.I.C.C. The Royal Automobile Club RACB became a member of F.I.C.C., which means that today VKCF’s members are the Königlichen Automobil Club, Kampeervereniging t’Heiken



(Heiken Camping Federation), ATB De Natuurvrienden (ATB Friends of Nature) and Vlaamse Kampeertoeristen (Flemish Camping Tourists). “Vlaamse Kampeertoeristen” is still the leading camping club.

Fédération Francophone des Clubs de Camping et Caravaning de Belgique (F.F.3C.B)



F.F.3C.B is a tourism association recognised by the Commissariat général au Tourisme Wallonie-Bruxelles (General Commission for Tourism Wallonia-Brussels) and is a member of the Conseil supérieur du Tourisme Wallonie-Bruxelles (Wallonia-Brussels Tourism Board). The Federation’s stated mission is to develop and promote outdoor holidays in the Wallonia-Brussels region and to promote the camping lifestyle generally while protecting the interests of campers.

The first visible trace of international camaraderie among campers dates back to 1925 but it was in 1932 that the idea emerged of turning friendly camping get-togethers into an annual event. In August 1933, a Belgian by the name of Mr. Ernest DE KEYSER, became a member of the “International Bureau“. He was behind the idea of setting up the national camping federation which took shape on 7 April 1937. The Federation’s statutes were rather special in that they constituted a sort of contract between the representatives of campers’ associations and representatives of Ministries and even actual Ministers.

The Federation was one of the founding members of F.I.C.C. Its activities ceased between 1940-1945 because of the events surrounding World War II.

It was “re-founded“ on 13 March 1950 under the name of Fédération Nationale Belge de Camping, the word Caravaning being added two years later. Unlike the statutes of the old federation, the “contract“ element was absent: the camping clubs themselves were the founding members.

The Fédération Nationale Belge de Camping et de Caravaning held an extraordinary general meeting on 28 January 1978 during which the proceedings were suspended so that representatives of the francophone associations could consult prior to drafting the statutes that they deemed to be necessary.



The statutes of association of a new federation “La Fédération Francophone des Clubs de Camping et de Caravaning de Belgique” were adopted at an assembly called for that purpose on 10 June 1978.

La Fédération Francophone des Clubs de Camping et de Caravaning de Belgique was officially founded on 7 December 1978. It then asked F.I.C.C. to recognise its existence *de jure*, not merely *de facto*. Since F.F.3C.B represented its own cultural community and had a privileged relationship with French-speaking camping and caravanning members, the federation requested recognition at international level which F.I.C.C. readily granted.

F.F.3C.B is the umbrella federation of both camping, caravanning and motorcaravan clubs and also of individual campers who may become direct members of the federation.

Today the Federation’s membership includes eight camping, caravanning and motorcaravanning clubs, as well as its direct individual members. The clubs include: The International Police Association, the Royal Motor Union de Liège, Camping, Fédération francophone de camping et de caravaning de Belgique asbl.

The Federation represents 588 families.

The Federation’s aims are to improve conditions and comfort in camping and caravanning.

- It also seeks to encourage character development through cultural exchanges by bringing together campers of different nationalities especially those in neighbouring countries.
- Every year the Federation sets up and takes part in a number of information meetings for its members. This way campers learn of the importance of being closely and actively involved in the sector and are in a good position to choose the area they are most interested in.
- It creates centres specifically for children where they can discover the wonderful world of camping.
- The Federation is a member of the Wallonia-Brussels Tourism Board and the Committee for Camping & Outdoor Holidays. It is involved in producing an annual camping guide. In fact for many years the Federation assisted in drafting legislation for the “Walloon Tourism Code” several chapters of which related to camping and outdoor holidays. It was also involved in drafting legislation designed to protect campers and their well-being as well as regulations that the camping fraternity would be expected to observe.
- Recently, at the invitation of the Minister for Tourism, the Federation took part in a seminar on “Le printemps du tourisme” (Spring in the tourist industry) that addressed general aspects of modern-day tourism, particularly outdoor holidays (e.g. improving the quality of life on campsites).



EXHIBITIONS

Germany: Caravan Salon Düsseldorf from 29.8. to 6.9.2015
Caravan Salon Bremen from 6 - 8 November 2015

Italy: Salone del Camper, 12 - 20 September, Fiera di Parma (further information from segreteria@federcampeggio.it)

France: September - Salon des Véhicules de Loisirs, in Paris-Le Bourget.
From 3 - 5 November 2015 SETT in Montpellier

Sweden : Campingmesse from 10 - 13 September 2015, in Jönköping

The Netherlands: Kampeer en Caravan Jaarbeurs from 14 - 18 October 2015, in Utrecht

Switzerland: Schweizer Caravan Salon from 22 - 26 October 2015, in Bern

Great Britain: WTM – World Travel Market from 2 - 5 November 2015, in London

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