

INTER COMM
CLUB INTERNACIONAL D'ANDORRA

MAGAZINE / REVISTA



VOL. 9 - Núm. 4 - SUMMER / ESTIU 2000

CLUB INTERNACIONAL D'ANDORRA

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(Cover photo: Colour photo: "FALLES" about Andorra la Vella streets on St. John's Night 1999)

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INTERCOMM

International Club of Andorra Quarterly Magazine JUNE 2000

GROUP LEADERS

ART	NINA O'BRIEN VAL RYLATT	837772 835606	NATURAL HISTORY	ANN MATSCHKE	841279
CHOIR	CLARE ALLCARD M.T. RAURELL	836269 836123	PATCHWORK	GILL FURMSTON	836060
COMPUTERS	STANLEY JONES	836972	SCOTTISH DANCING	CLARE ALLCARD BRENDA ROSS	836269 836886
DRAMA	SIMON BINSTAD	835975	SOCIAL ACTIVITIES	ANN PRICE FIONA DEAN	836653 835052
TENNIS	IVAN STANSBY	836210	WINE TASTING	IVAN & DIANA STANSBY	836210
HELPLINE	SAMIA OMAR	837631			
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	-	DIANA STANSBY	-	836210	
ADVERTISING COORDINATOR	-	SALLY SMITH	-	837636	

COFFEE MORNING IS HELD EVERY WEDNESDAY, 10.30 - 12.00, AT THE HOTEL PARIS-LONDRES
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Editors: P. Parkinson,
M.T. Raurell,
N.O'Brien, B.
Dorning, F. Dean
Translators: M.T.
Raurell, C.C. Smith
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ADMINISTRATION

edifici Areny, balcoes, carretera general,
Arinsal, La Massana
837636
services@servissim.ad

PROPERTY OFFICE

edifici Rossell, balcoes, avinguda Sant Antoni,
La Massana
837598
property@servissim.ad

EDITORIAL FROM THE BOARD

By the time that this issue goes to the printers we shall have held the Annual General Meeting. During 1999 for various reasons Club expenditure substantially exceeded income, which meant that the deficit had to be met by drawing on financial reserves. That after all is what reserves are for, to be used when necessary. Too soon to say how 2000 will turn out financially.

Subscriptions have been increased, for the first time ever, in peseta terms, although in terms of £, \$, francs and some other currencies, subscriptions are still less than they were ten years ago, without allowing for inflation. So there is, if necessary, scope for another subscription increase without inflicting hardship on any of us.

The weekly Newsletter has been made free, to anyone who comes to the coffee morning or who provides envelopes for postal transmission, still (fortunately for all of us) free of cost within Andorra. It does not seem practicable to send the Newsletter to all members. Why? Because volunteers at coffee mornings can be found every week to put 70 or 80 Newsletters into envelopes. Volunteers can be found at coffee mornings **once in three months** to put 300 copies of Intercomm into envelopes, label them, sort into parishes, take to the post office. Every week? No way is that possible for the Newsletter. We should all be grateful to these volunteers. Do not take them for granted.

Concerning Intercomm, advertising rates will be increased from the beginning of 2001, and we are having quite a lot of success in collecting arrears of advertising revenue. In principle **all** future advertising must be paid for before the advertisements go in. This issue, as an experiment is being printed on cheaper paper, as a measure of economy – we don't know how it will turn out. We have taken (temporarily) the decision to reduce each issue to 24 pages instead of 28. The amount of space taken up by advertising is on an uptrend, a result of considerable effort by several people. One consequence (good or bad? we are not sure) is that the Magazine Sub-committee has more contributions than can be published in this issue. In principle Intercomm should in time be self-financing, but some of us have doubts as to whether this is really a practicable, or even a desirable, aim. We are having some success in getting together a better quality

magazine, which entails more expenditure than previously on specialist preparation.

Message To All Of Us

THINK EURO!

Just 1_ years ahead, no more pesetas, french francs, deutschmarks, and so forth. Pounds, dollars, yen etc. remain in being.

The calculations are easier for pesetas than for most other currencies. Within a minute fraction of 1%.

1000 PESETAS = 6 EUROS

Lunches with U.K. Consul-General

States that belong to the Commonwealth or that were formerly part of its predecessor the British Empire together contain around 2000 million people, or 35% of world population, which is one reason why English is becoming almost a world language, and why it is the preferred language of communication within our International Club. No preference for nationals of particular countries is implied.

In the middle of March the U.K. Consul-General in Barcelona, Mike Thomson and his wife Jackie, accompanied by Hugh Garner U.K. Honorary Consul in Andorra, invited to lunch in Andorra la Vella six members of the International Club, all except one being Board Members. These lunches were just a part of a programme of meetings over several days, mostly with Andorran authorities, and having an E.U. as well as a U.K. context.

It is hoped that Mr. and Mrs. Thomson will sometimes be able to attend Club functions. The Magazine Sub-committee will welcome for possible publication information about similar meetings, events, functions.

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St. John's Eve and Catalan Nationalism

Anyone might be forgiven for thinking that 350 years would be long enough for the inhabitants of Pyrenées Orientales to get accustomed to being French rather than Spanish or Catalan. It was in 1659 that France and Spain signed the Treaty of the Pyrenees, ending the Franco-Spanish War of 1648 – 1659, and ceding Roussillon and part of Cerdagne to France. But if you go to the Andorra National library and read the Catalan Encyclopaedia, you will find that Vallespir, Rosselló, Conflent, Alta Cerdanya, and Fenolledar (roughly equivalent to the Pyrenées Orientales) are still considered as Catalan, at least in the cultural and linguistic sense.

In Perpignan, just as in Andorra and in Cataluña, St. John's Eve (June 23rd) is a night of celebration, when fire is brought down from the sacred mountain, Le Canigou, to light bonfires. In origin this is a celebration of the summer solstice, dating back long before such comparatively recent innovations as Christianity.

Have a look at this action photograph, taken last year, and expect to see similar events in 2000 and 2001. We can't be sure that we will get Intercomm out in time for June 23rd, 2000.

"Falles" about Andorra la Vella streets on St. John's Night 1999. The "falles" are wooden faggots, and this photograph, kindly given by the Centre de la Cultura Catalana of Andorra, shows the spectacular results of "fallaires" movements.



This is one "falla". During all June, there are demonstrations and workshops in schools and elsewhere, to learn about making "falles" and the arm movements to produce the great sparkling balls of fire. This is a very old Andorran and Catalan tradition. Nowadays there are "falles" exhibitions on St. John's night in almost all parishes of Andorra. There is a revival of this beautiful tradition that has been a little forgotten for several years.



Helpline Mobile 'Phone

In a year of operation of the Helpline mobile 'phone, at a cost of about 33,500 pesetas, there have been only four genuine calls. This is clearly not an economic use of Club funds, so with regret the Board has discontinued this service.

Car Boot Sale – Reminder

This will take place on **Sunday July 2nd 2000** in the usual place at Arinsal, starting at 9h00 and continuing until 14h00. As in previous years some stalls will be for charitable purposes and others will be for the benefit of people who have rented stall space for the day. We are, as always, grateful for the help and collaboration of the Comú de La Massana and of the Quart d'Arinsal. We look forward to seeing many Club members on the day.

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NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Group activities, including the coffee mornings, are organised for the benefit of Club members only. However, subject to the group leader's approval, non-members may be present on up to three occasions after which we must ask them to take out Club membership

THE INTERNATIONAL SINGERS

A busy summer season is upon us and we hope so much to see you at some of our events. Our first full length summer concert, held on 7th May in la Massana, is already over. We were very happy that, for the first time, the Unió Pro-Turisme de La Massana invited us to give this concert. And happier still that, after the concert, they insisted we make it an annual event.

We expect to be asked to sing on TV for the Car Fair the first weekend of June. We have already been invited to sing a few songs at the end of a special service for the sick in the hospital chapel on 9th June and to give a short concert at the Sanctuary of Meritxell on Sunday 18th June for all those celebrating their 25th and 50th wedding anniversaries this year. (If that includes you and you'd like to join in the festivities give me a ring. C.A.) Then, if you missed the May concert - which really does seem to have been quite successful - don't worry, there will be a repeat performance at Santa Maria del Fener Church on Tuesday 20th June at 9.30pm. On 24th June we join all the other choirs plus several instrumentalists in the Ordino auditorium for a joint concert to celebrate the International Day of Music. We hope also to sing for the elderly residents of the Sola d'Enclar home, a wonderfully appreciative audience!

We are also very pleased to announce that the Caixabank has, at **Otti Hoebig's** invitation, most generously given us money towards the 'renovation of our wardrobe'! We hope that it won't be too long before you see us dressed slightly differently. There's just the little matter of finding something that pleases everybody....

As promised I am continuing to share short excerpts from the lives of choir members. This time it's our beloved **Binnie Segal** who comes under the spotlight. Without her the choir would have died years ago. Binnie entered the Royal Academy of Music in

London at the tender age of 16. After graduating, she performed solo all over Great Britain including the Wigmore Hall and would have played the Royal Festival Hall if her father had allowed it. After moving to Mallorca, she gave many concerts both as a soloist and as a guest artist with visiting trios and chamber orchestras. She joined the International Singers as our pianist in 1993. Since when we haven't looked back.

We've even managed to recruit some men! But that doesn't mean we couldn't do with more. **Richard Johnson** and four young Mormons have joined us, all of them great additions to the choir - they not only have lovely voices but work on their music at home.


Anyone interested in joining the Singers or needing information please ring Clare Allcard 836269 or M^a Teresa Raurell 836 123.

WINE TASTING GROUP

The Wine Tasting Group is planning to meet again in the Autumn - date yet to be arranged. We urgently require imaginative and active wine enthusiasts to volunteer to organise (or to assist in organising) the next meeting.

Telephone contacts: Ivan & Diana Stansby on 836210 or George & Carla Stobart on 838084.

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COMPUTER GROUP

The regular meetings of the group continue every other Thursday at the Rutllan Hotel, La Massana at 11.00 a.m.

The average number attending is 15 but on one occasion 25 members were present. To find the date of the next meeting phone **Stanley Jones** on 836972 or ask around.

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PETER SMITH

Tel: 837636 Fax: 838039

Mob: 321858 E-mail: sicom@andorra.ad

We are a reference group of persons who have similar interests or computers which makes it possible for members to help each other.

Peter Jennings was instrumental in answering a suggestion that we could have a Computer Help Line by Email. This is now available, but as it is complicated to explain its function, it has only been announced at meetings.

The Group seems to have a life of its own, and from the opening "Any questions" the next two hours quickly passes with the troubles and successes that

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people are experiencing. The Group includes experts and beginners and any member with computer problems is welcome. There are always new developments to discuss where computers are concerned.

There is a continual pressure on members from the grandchildren who ask "Why are you not on

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Computer installation and tuition

Virus prevention and cure

E-mail and the Internet

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the web, as you live in Andorra? **Brian Keep** and **Peter Smith** continue to help us in joining the Internet and solving computer problems. The most common service of the group is to help people to get on the World Wide Web, and the Email.

This year we continue to send out more Email copies of the Newsletter. Once it is prepared for transmission it takes less than 2 minutes to go to 60 members living in many parts of the world including China, Denmark, Thailand, England and France.

A discovery that the T.V. monitors in Barcelona Airport are available in Andorra on Channel 33, Text page 500 for the index, and then each terminal is listed for arrivals and departures on up to 6 screens, which are operated by the airport computer.

We have members who have experience with nearly every server in Andorra.

For further information contact Stanley Jones 836972.

Email jones.stanley@andorra.ad

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ART GROUP

If anyone wishes to join we meet on Fridays in Andorra La Vella. Full details and registration from **Nina O'Brien** 837772 or **Val Rylatt** 835606. We follow no definite curriculum and some excellent work has been produced from those starting from scratch or those already well advanced. Drawing



15th Anniversary cake mentioned

is not a pre-requisite. Art group participated in full strength in the 15th anniversary at the Govern's Riberaigua Gallery. Most of their pictures had a very different theme. When I first started everybody wanted

to do the mountains and a church. These are exquisite but too much of a good thing or theme can be repetitive and boring. Actually, I can't say that the group is not doing the mountain theme at all – it is the rendering of the same compositional elements that are different.



Nina and Samia spellbound at the sight of the cake are ready to pounce on it!!

This time the opening at the Sala d'Exposicions Del Govern was very creative and absolutely original. This being the 15th anniversary there was a colossal cake, more than one metre high and one metre in diameter, surrounded by numerous candles, descended through a window by means of chains or ropes one could not see because it was dark. After the normal introductory speech suddenly the lights went out. Wow!!! And we thought of 007 or Batman or even Robin Hood – who was wearing the famous diamonds? Then of course suddenly the candles were lit and we saw the cake. It was covered with cream which some of us thought was fake. So much so that one of our members happened to go closer to get his suede jacket soiled with the cream! Since the cake was not cut and since the cream was real, what was inside? Where was it baked?, at least one thousand five pound cakes were pasted together. Cake and cava – too bad if you missed it. It was far better than the normal ever so boring tapas and canapes. They even had little pastries for each artist with the name as well to take home or eat then and there.

Nina O'Brien

Casa Guilla

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERCOMM

We of the Magazine Sub-committee are always on the lookout for almost anything that can be of interest to members. Even if you have only a half-formed idea, get in touch with one of us at the Coffee Morning or by telephone (we are listed as Editors). Now and then we receive a mild complaint that Intercomm is too much this or that or the other. Well the answer is obvious. Write something that **isn't** this or that or the other and we will (almost) promise to publish it.

Given the Board decision to temporarily reduce the size of the Magazine from 28 to 24 pages as a measure of economy, some contributions have had to be deferred or spread over two issues. That does not mean any slackening in the need for new contributions. Wherever possible one or more photographs, postcards or drawings make for greater interest.

May we appeal to Groups to be a little more forthcoming than has sometimes been the case recently in providing reports of their activities and details of future plans.

Contributions for the next issue to be left, please, in the Club letterbox at the Servissim office in La Massana by 2nd August, or handed to one of us at a Coffee Morning.



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POSTCARD FROM PUIGCERDÀ

Elsie O'Shea tells members all about the Activities day trip to Puigcerdà organised by *Ann Price*

Sunday 20/2
12h30

Dear All,

Have spent a relaxed but stimulating morning here after the early start from Andorra. The weather is perfect - spring sunshine, blue skies and spectacular views of the Cerdanya valley. The market is busy, with spring-flowers very much in evidence. Bought a huge bunch of mimosa and some lovely primulas - others were tempted by the (Pashmina look-alike) scarves.

The outward bus-trip was very interesting. Ann pointed out where a village had been washed away in the 1988 floods and also a house of "ill-repute". Where does she get all this information?! Had a coffee-stop at restaurant La Muga and looking forward to lunching there on the way back in pleasant surroundings and convivial company.

Regards,
Elsie



To All Club Members,
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DRIVING IN ANDORRA

by Caroline Colvin-Smith

Within the context of one of the Club's aims, that of disseminating useful information to its members about various aspects of life in Andorra, I have prepared some guidelines for drivers. They are not all-inclusive but are up-to-date; in fact the procedure relating to yellow cards changed during the writing of this article.

1. ITV - CAR INSPECTIONS FOR ROADWORTHINESS

The procedure for car inspections has changed and I thought it might be helpful to explain the system here:

If your car is 5 years old the Govern's inspection is obligatory and will have to be repeated every 2 years until the car is 10 years old when it must be tested every year.

The inspection site is still the same one, on the Os road in St. Julià, but is now open from 8.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. on weekdays. (From 13/6 - 11/9, 8.15 a.m. - 2.45 p.m.)

The cost of each test is Pts. 2,100 whether the result is positive or negative.

You will need to produce up-to-date green (insurance) and yellow (road tax) cards.

On arrival at the depot, drive first to the little office where you pre-pay the test and show your documents.

Then you join the queue. When I went this week I had to wait for over 2 hours as the average inspection rate was 10 minutes per car, with only 2 inspectors on duty. So evidently the promised speed-up in testing (and the new, comfortable waiting room) has not materialised.

When it is your turn, you hand over the receipt and the documents to one of the inspectors who then drives your car into the testing area whilst you wait in the windy courtyard outside the payment office for it to be delivered back to you.

If all is well, he puts a sticker on your windscreen indicating when the next test is due; if not,

he may explain what needs to be put right but will, anyway, give you the official test report paper with the details. If the car has failed the test you have to return within 8 days with the faults rectified.

When you return for the second (or any subsequent) test, once again the Pts. 2,100 must be pre-paid but if you catch the inspector's eye he will tell you where to park, somewhere in front of the office **BUT NOT IN THE LONG QUEUE OF CARS**, and will process your car within a very short time. It will be necessary to show him the first ITV report, the pre-payment slip and the green and yellow cards.

2. IN CASE OF AN ACCIDENT

Most accidents involve two vehicles and two drivers, although in some cases there will be three or more vehicles involved and in others only one driver and vehicle (e.g. driving too fast round a bend and skidding off the road into a tree). But as a general rule, complete the European Accident Statement, of which you should always have a copy in your car. It is a standard document in Europe, of course in various languages. (The above was contributed by Peter Parkinson)

For any accident in Andorra, involving people or vehicles, the parish police (urbans) must be notified straight away.

3. THE HIGHWAY CODE

By bringing its Highway Code up-to-date in August 1999 Andorra aimed to fall in line with the regulations in other European countries. The principal changes are as follows:-

Driving Licences now specify the driver's experience and which categories of vehicle may be driven.

Drivers and front-seat passengers must wear seat-belts at all times. (This will soon apply to back-seat passengers as well.) The use of mobile phones, whilst driving, is forbidden. There are now large notices at the borders to this effect. Non-compliance



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with these two regulations carry fines of Pts. 3,000.

As far as 'drinking and driving' is concerned, the top levels permitted for drivers of commercial vehicles, such as lorries, buses, vans and taxis, is 0.2 milligrams per litre and for other drivers 0.5mg./l. If a breathalyser reading is above these limits the maximum fine is Pts. 150,000 with confiscation of the driving licence for 6 months. Refusal to be breathalysed results in a Pts. 50,000 fine.

If speed limits are exceeded the fine is Pts. 15,000.

Finally, an interesting anti-smuggling regulation is included: there are very heavy fines if somebody is caught owning or driving a car with a false bottom or lining.

4 USE OF WARNING TRIANGLES (contributed by Henryk & Solveig Feilberg)

The technical inspection of vehicles in Andorra now also includes checking if you have a warning triangle or hazard triangle.

Any Andorran-registered car must always carry at least one warning triangle. In case of breakdown on the road, the triangle should be placed 150 metres in front of the vehicle and/or 50-150 metres behind. The interpretation of front and behind is not clear, but logically must mean in the direction of the traffic.

The warning triangle may be of the folding type. When readied the three sides of the triangle should be of equal length. Outside measurements of each side should be 50 cm plus/minus 5 cm, with a reflective border all around and raised 5 cm off the ground when in place.

European Standard E1 27R 02 and E1 27R 03 followed by 5 digits refer.

Warning triangles are currently on sale in Andorra at about 1000 pesetas each.

Members are further advised, that the Spanish law requires a minimum of **TWO** warning triangles. As

regretfully some members are aware, fines in Spain start at 50,000 Pts, for foreigners.

5. YELLOW CARDS

The procedure for yellow cards has now been simplified. If you still have a card with an expiry date, a few days before it needs renewing ask your Comú for a 'certificat d'inscripció' which proves you are registered with them. This certificate & the yellow card must then be taken to the Govern's traffic department. After 2-3 days they will give you in exchange a new **FINAL** yellow card without an expiry date and which you can thus use indefinitely.

Caroline Colvin-Smith

Taller Mecànic d'Automòbils

RM-3



Edif. Montané
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LETTER FROM MOJACAR

Doreen Woolton is a former member of the CIA! who receives our magazine 'second hand'.

It is really four years ago since I left Andorra? Thanks to my many friends there and the excellent magazine INTERCOMM I seem to always keep in touch.

It was only after I came to live here I realised Encamp is twinned with Mojacar and there is a huge photo on the wall of the local Ayuntamiento taken from the top road running from the restaurant Llac y Cel above Encamp. It is always very pleasing to see this and when I mention to any of the local population that I once lived in Encamp a friendly chat always ensues.

I must congratulate the Club for rising above the problems of the past year and going from strength to strength. I enjoy to read of the Club's activities as well as the contributor's articles. How I envy you the concerts and theatrical productions especially those held in the Auditori Nacional d'Ordino. I am afraid Mojacar is something of a cultural desert as well as being designated a geographical desert. However, the 'desert' is being tended, watered and artificially fed to produce fruit and vegetables and slowly the foreign residents are putting together the occasional choral concert and a theatrical evening often including local Spaniards. Amazing how so many productions need a flamenco guitarist!

How well I remember the Christmas Fairs and aren't you all to be congratulated on the record total

raised. I will take the article to the next Social Committee meeting of our Anglican Chaplaincy and I am sure your planning schedule, **Clare**, will be most helpful.

Living here on the coast our busy tourist periods are so different from yours. Everything is waking up now ready for Easter; all the beach bars are having a lick of paint and the beaches are being cleaned in readiness for the massive influx of visitors. A huge hotel is nearing completion and I am told it is well booked for the summer season. Mojacar is changing, building permits are being spread like confetti but it is still not a high rise resort and hopefully this will be it's salvation.

Once again many thanks for an interesting magazine and for making it possible to stay in touch.

*Hasta luego
Doreen Woolton*

Dear Ed.

If this is ever printed maybe you would like more notes from Mojacar?

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BUILDING AIRCRAFT IN ANDORRA

by David Baines

Tom Mead and I had built an aircraft previously. We did make a flight from the parking lot at the Pal ski station, but the steeply inclined scenery of the Pyrenees, the engine manufacturer's grim warning that it could not be relied upon beyond gliding distance from an airfield and the startled dissatisfaction of the Government, decided us against doing it again.

And then a friend said that he had been flying the BanBi MCR 01 in France.

"It's the most exciting aircraft I've flown since I left the Air Force." He said enthusiastically. He used to fly Canberras in the RAF. "It's a kit aircraft made from carbon fibre, very light and very strong." He omitted to say 'very expensive'.....

Tom and I drove to Darois, near Dijon and had a quick test flight. The performance was impressive. Climbing out from the airfield, the nose of the aircraft was high enough to obscure the forward horizon, the low cloud base that day prohibited anything too fancy and after a 30 minute flight, mostly throttled back to keep below the limiting speed of 320 kph, we returned for landing.

The aircraft is advertised as having a range of 1500 kms, or with the optional wing tanks 6000 kms, which also gives an endurance of 23 hours, more than boredom, bottom or bladder could stand, so we considered only the fuselage tank.

It is also expected to get to England, for example, non-stop, with a fuel cost of less than 6000 pesetas.

The only drawbacks I could see were the cost, which was more than I wanted to pay, and the size.

The MCR 01 is the smallest two-seat aircraft in the world, and although the adjustable seat was in its lowest position, I was still about 3 cms short of headroom, and could only fly the plane with my head cranked over sideways, in a stance like a worm-seeking blackbird.

"Perhaps I could cut away some of the framework that supports the seat to allow more headroom." I asked the chief pilot.

Back in Andorra, I attended a meeting of the recently formed Federation of Aviation Sports of Andorra, and circulated the details of the aircraft. Eric Recurt, a French Pilot who was sitting next to me at the table, spoke of an aircraft he wanted to build, a Thunder Mustang, costing ten times my estimate for the MCR. He quickly committed himself to a share, and we started to look for four other investors. We decided we needed six people at FRF 50,000 each.

Manel Campos, our Andorran member, came next, followed later by Mike Leonard, who took a flight in the demonstration aircraft in Darois and confirmed my enthusiasm. Howard Hobson, hearing of the project, threw in a share and our last member Juan Payaras arrived at the door with the news that he had already put the money in the bank, which instantly removed any debate about admitting him.

Juan's membership introduced a small problem. Everyone else speaks English, while only Manel, Eric and Mike converse well enough in Spanish or French to talk to Juan. My limited knowledge of those languages only allows me to understand half of the conversations, Tom can converse in French and Howard only in English. It is a polyglot group but we manage to stumble along.

We started work in France on April 7th last year.

At the factory we were presented with all the parts for the fuselage, and two of us easily managed to carry it down a flight of stairs and across the tarmac to the assembly hangar. Any thoughts of home construction vanished when we saw the complexity of the assembly, which needed the factory jigs to ensure aerodynamic accuracy.



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We had to trim the excess plastic from the mouldings using a diamond saw and not knowing that the by-product of cutting carbon fibre is soot. At the end of the day we looked like African coal miners coming off the midnight shift and I revelled in a hair colour I hadn't seen since my twenties. It was a lot like making a plastic model aircraft on a grand scale. Everything, even the seat-belt installation, is held together by epoxy glue, which though very strong, is capable of causing an allergic reaction during application, painfully demonstrated by a fellow builder whose fingers swelled and peeled like overcooked bratwurst. We wore masks and rubber gloves most of the time.

We gave some thought to cutting the frame

that stopped the seat from going lower, but came to realise that the few centimetres of headroom gained might easily translate into several thousand feet of headroom if the floor fell out in a high speed turn, so we placed the restricting frames further aft and altered the geometry of the seat support, and gained five cms with the frames intact. The only problem remaining is the buttock-gripping plastic shell of the seat that promises to restrict arterial flow to the legs after a few minutes, but a restriction on dessert and chocolate during the next few months might take care of that.

One thing that surprised me was the apparent fragility of the parts. The fuselage just behind the cockpit canopy can easily be deformed by finger pressure and the interior of the wings are supported from collapse only by a light-weight expanded foam that would seem more suitable for parcel-packing material. It occurred to me that I have seen corn flakes packed in stronger boxes, and yet the factory says that although it is not licensed for aerobatics, the aircraft is quite capable of them, and I think it is.

We worked in relays at the Darois factory over

the summer of 1999 and by August we had enough done, we thought, to bring the aircraft back to Andorra to finish fitting out. We towed the fuselage and dismantled wings and tail back to our garage in La Massana, and commenced fitting out the interior. Here we met our next problem.

In the factory we gained more information observing other more complete aircraft in the hangar, than we did from the instruction manual which was written in French, and partly in English and German, and totally in confusion.

"No it's not like that. It's been changed" was the common response to queries, and we learned to distrust the book. It did occur to me that our alternative method of looking at others would ensure that a

mistake made by one builder would descend down the production line like a virus, but we are checking very carefully.

The aircraft is nearly finished, and stands in the garage awaiting wiring of the instruments and the fitting of a plastic strip between the wings and the flap, that none of us can understand. Engine testing should start in a few weeks.

We did have an agreement to keep the aircraft at La Seu Airport and, lacking any hangar there, purchased all the

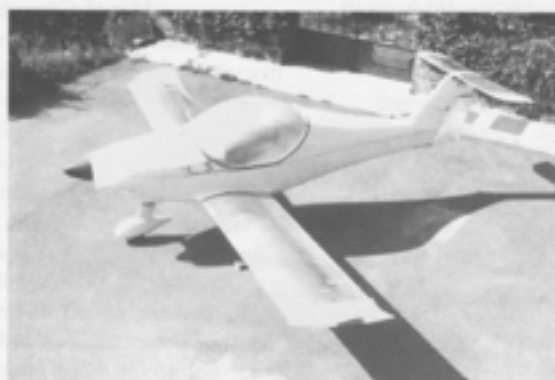
parts to build one, from an agricultural building company, but we have been asked to delay construction while the negotiations are taking place for the restructuring of that airport as Andorra's terminal. Hopefully by the time this is published we might have a favourable decision.

This spring the plane might be test flown at the factory, or the first flight might take place at La Seu or Pamiers depending on licensing in France or Spain, which is still under discussion, but one thing we can promise to both you, and the Andorran Government, who are considering aircraft licensing in the Principality, it won't be at the Pal car park.

This aircraft has much higher takeoff speed and we'd never make it over the trees.

Any aerophile is welcome to look. Call 838142 to view.

David Baines



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SALVADOR DALÍ

by Nina O'Brien

Dalí was here in Andorra. "Memòria dels Somnis" Salvador Dalí (1904-1989) was the title of the exhibition which opened on 20th December 1999 at the Govern's Riberaigua Gallery. The exhibition continued until 28th February 2000. This particular collection contained 150 Dalí original sketches and illustrations taking us through the age of ten to almost his death. Most of them were courtesy of private collections. It is rare to see so many works of a great artist in one exhibition. The show also had jewellery, sculpture and a chess set. The illustrations for Don Quixote were especially intriguing. I was expecting to see some of his Divine Comedy as well. I imagine, however, that it must have taken a lot of effort and resources to bring to us whatever Dalí could be put together. For me and many others this has been the best and most of Dalí in one show. Quite a few of his works are in the United States galleries, museums and private collections where he exhibited frequently.

I remember when I visited Figueras, Dalí's birthplace, I was full of awe and anticipation. I believe quite a few of our readers have been there. I was not only disappointed but also felt lost and confused. It is true that he did work for the theatre and even films. The theatrical murals one finds in Figueras, however, are not all done by Dalí. Some of his students and followers or perhaps the tourist industry decided to make a tourist's visit worth while. There was only one room that contained some of his smaller works.

Some of us like Dalí for what he has left for us – the others keep him at a distance because most of his works remind them of a nightmare they may have had or a composite fear of some sad events in the past. Dalí has been an enigma. To get to Dalinian orbit is through himself. He once said "my work is a reflection, one of

the innumerable reflections of what I accomplish, write and think".

Around 1929 he associated himself with the Surrealists. At this stage he described his pictures as "hand painted photographs". These were adorned with symbols of assorted phobias, delusions and other factors of abnormal psychology – mostly based on Freudian theories. Though Dalí was indeed a true advocate of Surrealism, he had to be disowned by the original Surrealist group in Paris. This was partly because of his academic technique and partly because of his personal squabbles and jealousies.

His early training in Spain was academic, being educated at the School of Fine Arts, Madrid. He was very particular almost to the point of madness about acquiring the technique and practice in painting and drawing that the centuries of civilisation had perfected before him. However, Dalí's love of

traditional rendering of the past was not "right" at the time when the twentieth century artists are trying to get rid of the past. In spite of the apparent difference in the conceptual thinking, Dalí continued to make waves. He was quite an exhibitionist. In the late sixties every other picture magazine printed his latest stunts. Maybe now, it may be possible to look again at a painting by Dalí as a painting rather than a sensational news piece. Critics still find it difficult to evaluate him objectively. In spite of all the opposition and the emotional upheavals of his life, he never stopped recounting his tragic myth to everyone and in every circumstance, in Spain, France and America, on the radio, on the television and in the course of

countless private interviews or during his press conferences. He somehow made it impossible to separate the private world of his painting from his public personality.

Regardless of all this Dalí is without question



Dalí and Gala in 1938

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to me the most thoughtful and powerful genius of the last century. He has been called the Leonardo da Vinci of the twentieth century. Paradoxically, along with Picasso and like him, Dali, the most renowned and representative man of our time, is the most misunderstood and unknown. His work as a poet, a philosopher, and as an aesthete has made its mark on our sensibility, but yet remains to be truly discovered.

By any standard he was an arresting craftsman, no matter to what use he puts his talent. His art has also been criticised because of its theatrical elements, well suited to the arts of display – however, cheapened in its surrealist imitation by many. His work has had a strong influence on commercial window-dressing and on specialised advertising directed toward a sophisticated audience. Dali had himself designed theatrical sets, jewellery and indulged in pop art as well. He also collaborated with Luis Buñuel on two significant surrealist films, *Un Chien Andalou* and *L'Age d'Or* (1931). After he came to the United States in 1940, he created several ballets and a quantity of commercial illustrations.

Dali was born on May 11th, 1904 at 20 Call Monturiol in Figueras in the province of Girona. In his own biography, (*The Secret Life of Salvador Dali*, 1942), he talks about his childhood – marked by extraordinary intense emotional experiences, in which many later dreams and obsessions were prefigured – at the age of seven he wanted to be Napoleon!!!

Between 1921 and 1926 he studied intermittently at the Madrid Academy and perfected his technical skill in the tradition of seventeenth century French and Spanish genre painting. In 1927 Dali went to Paris. He paid a visit to Picasso and joined the Surrealist group the following year. Above all he met Gala. She in so many ways, kept him from many emotional and unwise actions. For a very brief period he was influenced by the abstract phase of Picasso and Joan Miró. He soon returned to his earliest interest in the "Metaphysical School" of Italian painting, especially the work of Giorgio di Chirico. According to

Dali, Chirico believed in the investigation of dream imagery in the Freudian tradition – far ahead of Freud himself. Dali's technical precision was admirably suitable to the creation on canvasses of the hallucinatory atmosphere of the dreams. Depicting with great precision familiar objects in illogical settings and combinations.

In 1934 when the Surrealists expelled him from their group the same year he went to the United States where he found the ideal environment to develop his taste of exhibitionism. When, in 1936 the Spanish civil war broke out, Dali painted a series of violent canvasses before returning to New York where he sold a lot of his work. Being a very complex being and the enigma that he was, for some reason he could not withstand the impact of his success and fled to Port Lligat in the Costa Brava. Fortunately, Gala was there. In 1941 when war broke out in

Europe Gala and Dali both left for the United States.

Late in life his fascination for religion was revived. He met Pope Pius XII and leaned more and more toward Classicism. He painted very large canvasses, illustrated Don Quixote, as he had done the *Divine Comedy*. He also became interested in creating jewellery and pop objects.

Among his religious Surrealist paintings, possibly the best known are *Christ of St. John on the Cross* (1951) in the Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum and *The Last Supper* (1955) shown in the Metropolitan Museum, New York.

To me Dali's art does not or should not need much explanation. Once it is accepted as a dream or vision, it exists, as it should without explanation. No matter what, Dali had an exceptional career as an international painter, being as famous in Spain, the United States and elsewhere in the world. The fantastic nature of his art suggests that he was an eccentric person obsessed by mythomania and megalomania and maybe visions. The fantasies he painted could be intellectual moralities.

Nina O'Brien



Don Quixot, 1977-1978



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P.S. Is that O.K. Ann?

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The Toulouse service is twice on 4 days per week from the Bus Station as above with several pick up points in Andorra, then to Toulouse City Centre and the Airport. Return price 4.500 pts.

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THE PILGRIMAGE TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, MAY 1999

by Gaye Keep

My major qualification to go on a pilgrimage was having the time, the interest and some energy. A friend of thirty years' duration picked me out as a suitable companion to join her quest and two years ago we went to the major bookshops in London to buy the relevant books on the pilgrimage to Santiago. Last winter we read all the information we had, wrote to the different Tourist Offices in Spain, downloaded info from the Internet and corresponded by email over the winter. Sixty-eight emails or so later, we had planned a route, detailed the exact clothing we would need and got the luggage in theory down to 8kgs each. We put aside the month of May for the trip as it was before the busy summer season when water shortages can occur, April could bring bitter winds across the plains and in May the flowers would be emerging, so May was settled on. Due to the work constraints of my friend we would have to cycle as she only had three weeks holiday. In February I acquired a bicycle, and was to be seen practising twice a day on the road from Erts to La Massana and a few other points beyond. At first I needed five stops to get up the hill to Erts (it's such a modest slope that when driving you hardly notice it, let alone change gear) but even on a bike with 18 gears you soon learn about gradients.

According to legend, St. James, one of the apostles who accompanied Jesus Christ, was beheaded under the orders of Herod in 43AD and his body was carried by sea to the Galician town of Padron, from

where it was taken to Santiago. In the 9th century the tomb was re-discovered and a church built beside it in honour of the Saint. At first it was the local Christians who came to visit Santiago but soon monks and others followed. Such was the popularity that there were four different routes across France and the Camino Jacobea

(or the Chemin de St. Jacques) came to be known across Spain as the French Road. It was particularly popular in the 11th and 12th centuries when the Asturian monarchs took St. James (Sant Iago) as their patron saint and protector against the Moors. St. James is portrayed in two different guises along the camino, he is mainly a pilgrim with a stick and scallop shell but he also appears as Santiago Matamoros, a slayer of the Moors. After Rome

and Jerusalem, Santiago was the most visited shrine by medieval pilgrims and the route also offered penitance and a pardon for sins. Pilgrims of all types came, from kings (French and Spanish) to saints (St. Francis of Assisi) also pagans, jews, heretics, the idle, vagabonds, artists, traders, the good, the wicked and whores.

A pilgrimage is a ritual journey, undertaken alone or as part of a group, with the aim of achieving purification, perfection or salvation; it's a religious experience in which a series of bonds are established, between a place of this world and a higher sphere, between the person and being purified by the consummation of his goal. Even Chaucer remarked "People long to go on pilgrimage, And palmers for to seek the stranger strands, Of distant saints hallowed in



First night at Roncesvalles waiting for the hostel to open at 4 p.m.



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sundry lands". Apart from religious reasons pilgrims today go for cultural reasons, to see the historic, artistic and aesthetic relics, or for ecological reasons, to get away from their world, the pollution, noise, etc., and sociologically, to mix with others from all walks of life.

At the end of April we duly got ourselves, bikes and equipment together, loaded the car and were driven to St. Jean de Pied Port, on the French side of the Pyrenees, by a concerned husband for the start of our journey. That first night was quite difficult as we had said our goodbyes, we'd done so much planning beforehand but were about to embark on a venture, not knowing what the days would be like, we were still unfit but gung-ho to get there and experience the camino.

The first day it drizzled for most of the time, we pushed our bikes up the road for what seemed almost all of the 23kms along and up 850m, but we did get the time to appreciate the unfolding beech leaves, inspect the wild flowers along the wayside and chat to other pilgrims. The Route Napoleon through the trees is described as being spectacular for walkers (27kms) but it can take 12 hours for the less fit and is not suitable in bad weather. Arriving at Roncesvalles in Spain we checked into the first of the refugios or hostels, this was operated by a monastery and it was our first introduction into pilgrim life. There were a couple of dormitories with bunk beds in pretty close proximity 15 bunk beds in a room, (i.e. thirty people), two rooms, mixed sex dormitory and mixed-sex facilities which included two squat toilets, 3 showers and a communal sink for washing face, teeth-cleaning and sock-washing. Lights out and locked up at 10pm. Extra bodies slept on mattresses on the floor, although a youth hostel in another part of the monastery building took another 100. We had met a retired Swiss couple during the first day; they had retired from work a couple of days before and were determined to walk the Camino and to take whatever time they needed (anything from a month minimum to two months

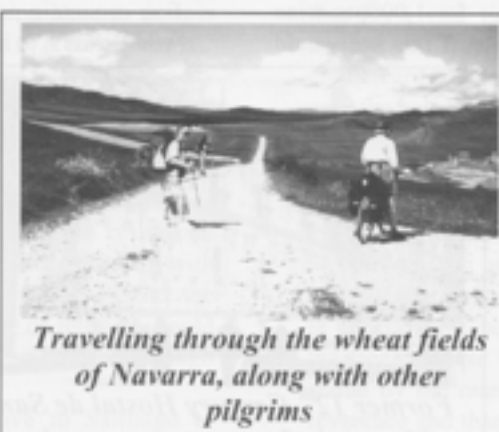
or so). The look on their faces was a picture at the sight of the dormitory - Swiss cleanliness, it certainly wasn't. We were all invited to attend mass at 6pm, it was a moving service with a special blessing for the one hundred plus pilgrims about to start out on the camino. Earlier we had completed questionnaires and during the service the priest read out all the countries of the participating pilgrims, there were at least twenty different countries that night.

We had supper in a local restaurant, but being Spain it didn't open until 8.30pm so we had to eat fairly quickly and be back inside the monastery before 10pm.

About twelve feet away from the dormitory window was a large clock and it noisily struck all the quarters as well as the hours. People got up all night long, so the lights went on and off in the toilet area, along with loo-flushing, door-creaking (the kindest donation of all would have been to leave a tin of WD40 at every hostel) people coughing, grunting, snoring, sneezing, and then at 5.30am they started getting up, wrapping everything in plastic bags,

pulling on boots and departing long before the first café was open. It was still dark outside but people were in a rush to get to the next hostel to ensure they could get a bed. This was our first night on the Camino and we did wonder what we had taken on.

Being on bikes we were second-class pilgrims, some beds were only available after the walkers had checked in or after 8pm at night. Some places just didn't accept bikes at all, so we had to take an hotel room in Pamplona, Burgos and a few other places but it did give us the chance to do some washing and get most of it dry before moving on. The Basque country was very interesting, surprisingly neat and tidy villages and a far cry from the Spain of the south. We looked at churches, cloisters, cathedrals, abbeys, monasteries, convents, Roman arches, Gothic arches, fallen arches, dropped arches, biblical scenes, crosses, Virgin and



Travelling through the wheat fields of Navarra, along with other pilgrims

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child statues, excruciating statues of Christ, but some churches had wonderful carvings either in wood for the choir stalls or in stonework on the portals. Some royal tombs had truly wonderful carvings done in marble, such that you could almost feel the fabric it was so delicately wrought. We saw ancient bridges spanning rivers, marvelled at the detail on capitals above pillars or on roof joists, saw where the Knights Templars had travelled, and had so much history and religion in three weeks that it was enough to make the head spin.

The food was pretty good, we could get a sustaining pilgrim lunch or dinner for 1,000pts wine included and at the first downpour of rain we would repair to a café for a sandwich and coffee. We felt it was our duty to sample and differentiate between the local bakery products at whatever time of day. We met a lot of interesting people, all nationalities, and we've been able to compare notes later by email from Brazil to South Africa. We met a Dutch lady who had taken fourteen years to get to Santiago, taking a fortnight off each year and doing what she could in that time and then starting off from that point the following year, Spaniards who were walking each weekend, French families who did five day stints before returning to work. We also met people with horrendous foot problems, such that they'd been hospitalised and told to rest for a week or so before being allowed back on the camino.

One of the highlights of the trip was listening to the monks chanting at St. Domingo de Silos (their CD having made the hit parade a few years back). We arrived at the monastery in time for the 7pm Vespers service. After the service my friend chatted up one of the brothers and he invited us to stay in one of the guest units (but not in the monastery itself, you understand, as that was male only). We were then invited back at 9.20pm for Compline and to hear the monks chant the Ave Maria which was sung in the very beautiful 12C cloisters. There was just us two, three

men in retreat at the monastery and the monks chanting. It was almost as though they were chanting just for us. There were just a few lights illuminating an altar and a couple of the arches of the cloister and the whole experience was most moving, particularly at sunset. The service was completed in the church where just a couple of candles were lit and we were the only congregation.

We journeyed through a variety of scenery from forests, vineyards to green wheat fields; long, boring, dusty plains, gravel tracks, main roads, cities, four mountain passes and saw an incredible variety of wild flowers, at least two hundred species. I started to

log them but soon ran out of names so started to draw them. We had a day of tree heathers and white broom, of asphodels, poppies, cistus and peonies. The cities were as interesting as the countryside: Pamplona, Estella, Burgos with its excellent bike trails across the city, Leon with its fantastic 12C monastery of San Marcos (now a Parador), Astorga and Santiago. We slept in some good refugios, some grotty hotel rooms, one

night in a caravan, and a couple of places run by priests where hygiene was non-existent but their sheer character, independence and friendliness made up for any shortfalls. We cycled against head winds, in cloud, mist, sunshine, rain and dust.

We arrived in Galicia under a low cloud and it rained for the next four days. Its landscape compares to other Celtic centres like Ireland, Cornwall and Brittany, i.e. green and grey. We had a miserably damp night in a monastery building in Samos and the great photo I didn't take was of a group of pilgrims the next morning waiting at the bus stop for the 8.15am bus to take them to Sarria. My feet were permanently wet in sopping shoes and they only dried out on the fourth night when we came to a radiator.

Arriving in Santiago de Compostela was quite something. The Cathedral is huge and has two large ornate towers at the front, magnificent 16C stone



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carvings on the various portals, but overall there's this great feeling of achievement, the fact that you've arrived. You've survived the road, all those interminable uphill sections, the weather from sunburn to solid rain, some pretty awful sleeping conditions, and there were times when I wondered just what had been so awful in my past life that merited such treatment now, but all that was forgotten when you arrive at this huge square and see the cathedral. We attended the twelve noon pilgrim mass and found there was standing room only. It was a Holy Year so you got more absolution for your sins (or you have to do less penitence for the same amount of sin). A Holy Year is when St. James' day on the 25th July falls on a Sunday and when this happens the great doors of Puerta Santa of the cathedral are opened and the huge silver incense burner is swung at pilgrim masses. It takes eight men to pull the rope to get it to move and then it swings through a 50m arc and nearly touches the ceiling on each swing. Santiago, the city, is very pleasant with its narrow streets and centuries of history and the pilgrimage but much tat in the name of religion is sold to tourists from plastic saints to wooden Santiago staffs.

My faithful husband drove to Santiago to collect me and whilst in the area we drove to Finisterre. It was a lovely sunny day and it was nice to see the Atlantic ocean; we had a good fish lunch on the way. A fitting end. Would I do the journey again? Yes,

there are parts like the Route Napoleon that I would love to return to and walk, and there are selected places that I could happily spend more time in and churches steeped in history that were locked until an hour before the evening mass that are worth returning to see. On the other hand there are parts that I was glad I was cycling through; the bikes allowed us to do the distances and deviate from the path to see other attractions. It was also nice to park them and walk around the cities stretching other sets of muscles. We met many walkers striding along who were too tired at the day's end to see many of the sights at their destination. I'm thankful I had Gore-tex, good shoes, a credit card and 'phone which doesn't quite compare with the hair shirt of old.

The year 2000 has been decreed another Holy Year. Even if you do not make it on a pilgrimage the city and cathedral of Santiago is well worth visiting even though it is 1,170kms away. I've not described the cathedral in any great detail but the craftsmanship is quite sumptuous. There's the magnificent Portico de la Gloria an elaborately sculptured doorway of 1188, the tree of Jesse where holes have worn through the statue by the many fingers of pilgrims touching it in reverence and thanks for their safe arrival, the statue of St. James where you kiss the brass scallop on the back in the tradition of "hugging the apostle" and even the bones in the crypt to revere.

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HELPLINE HANDBOOK – Additions & Deletions

from Samia Omar

1. Helpline mobile phone has been disconnected. In an emergency dial 116. In case of any other problems, refer to your Helpline handbook. If not covered, call Samia Omar – Helpline Coordinator – Tel: 837631.

2. Under Doctors, Dentists etc.:
New address:
Jose Herranz Paloma
Carrer Ciutat Valls, 26 1º, 1ª
Andorra La Vella.
Tel: 861063
Hours:- Monday – Friday – 3-8 p.m.

3. Under Pharmacies:
Farmacia Les Tres Creus
Carrer Les Canals, 5
Andorra La Vella
Tel: 820212 Fax: 865592
Ask for Martha or Rosie. They both speak English. All pharmacies have arrangements for blood analysis. Home visits are also possible.

4. Under Physiotherapists:
Change of address:
Patricia Font Saboya & Victor Aran Pueyo (husband)
Centre Casamanya (same building as new Spanish Post Office)
Avda. de Través
Edifici Sant Roc
La Massana
Tel & Fax: 835050

5. New Additions:

- a) Nursing
Mrs. Marie Lee Green – a freelance nurse, speaks English
Tel: 839783
La Massana
- b) Hairdresser/Perruqueria – home visits made possible in case a person concerned is an invalid
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Avda. Sant Antoni
Edifici Daniel Armengol-Baixes
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Tel: 836577 Mobile: 344803
- c) Sra. Maria Rosa Consul (speaks some English)
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Tel: 836592

Samia Omar

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FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

Forthcoming activities in Andorra, during the months of June, July, August and early September, kindly given by the Cultura Department of the Andorran Government, the Comus, and the Pro-Turisme Offices. Thanks to them all.

Andorra la Vella

JUNE

First and Third Saturday - At 19h00 "Ballarussa" (one can learn traditional dances from all over the world, and eat cake and drink wine and soft drinks. At Placeta Monjó.

7th - In Teatre Comunal "Cineclub de les Valls" presents "Ça commence aujourd'hui" by Bertrand Tavernier at 22h00.

10th - Organ concert in St. Esteve Church.

13th - "Festa Major" in Sant Antoni del Puig quarter. Mass and Sardanes at 12h30.

14th - In Teatre Comunal "Cineclub" presents "Dis-moi que je rêve" by Claude Morleras at 22h00.

17th - Organ Concert at 21h30 in St. Esteve Church.

20th - In Santa Maria del Fener Church at 21h30 Concert by **THE INTERNATIONAL SINGERS D'ANDORRA**.

21st - Music's Day, in Teatre Comunal at 22h00 "Cineclub" presents "Year of the Horse", by Jim Jarmusch.

23rd - St. Joan's Eve celebration. (There is an interesting article written by Peter Dunkley in the book "ANDORRA Festivals, Traditions and Folklore", page 66, "ANDORRA'S BONFIRE NIGHT". You will find out everything about this magic night and the Andorran Fallaires tradition.) At 24h00 bonfires will be lit in different places. Dancing will follow in Plaça del Poble.

24th - "Festa del Poble" Parish Holiday. Sardanes in Plaça del Poble at 19h00.

29th - "Festa Major" in La Margineda.

JULY

1st and 3rd Saturday - At 19h00 "Ballarussa" in Placeta Monjó.

1st - "Festa Major" of Cap del Carrer (beside Farmàcia de les Tres Creus. Sardanes at 22h00.

11th - Sardanes at 22h00 in Plaça del Poble.

18th - Sardanes at 22h00 in Plaça Guillemó

25th - Concert "One and a half century of the *tenora*. (The *tenora* is a special musical instrument very important in the group of Sardanes players, the Cobla.) By Cobla Marinada, in Sala d'Actes of Plaça del Poble at 22h00.

AUGUST

1st Weekend - "Festa Major" of Andorra la Vella. Several entertainments for everybody.

1st - Sardanes at Plaça Guillemó at 22h00.

5th - Sardanes at Plaça del Poble at 12h30 and 19th.

6th - 12h00 in St. Esteve Church. Mass and at 13h00 traditional "Contrapàs" and Giants dancing. At Plaça del Poble, Sardanes at 19h00.



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7th - At 12h30 and 19h00 Sardanes at Plaça del Poble. At 22h00 Concert de "Festa Major" in Sala d'Actes by Cobla La Principal de la Bisbal.

14th - In St. Esteve Church, in the evening, concert by Ignasi Ribas organ - he is well known as accompanist of Petits Cantors -, and Ricard Casañ, trumpet.

20th - "Festa Major" of Santa Coloma, Sardanes at 12h30.

22nd - At 22h00 Sardanes at Plaça Guillemó.

29th - At 22h00 Sardanes at Plaça del Poble.

In all this Sardane dancing, Sra. Rosa Garriga will lead a "rotllana" with who are beginners.

Canillo

JUNE

18th - Celebration of Gold and Silver Wedding Anniversaries in Meritxell High Mass sung by Cor-d'Encamp, then a short Concert by **THE INTERNATIONAL SINGERS D'ANDORRA**.

23rd - Celebration of Saint Joan's Eve. Fires and dancing in Palau de Gel. Information Unió Pro-Turisme - Tel: 851002.

29th - "Festa Major" in Sant Pere del Tarter.

This month - The Campaign "Florim la Parròquia" - Cleaning and Embellishment of the Parish. The Comú offers one geranium to all the people living in Canillo. Information - Tel: 851036.

JULY

8th & 9th - St. Rock's Day celebration. Popular activities for everybody.

15th, 16th & 17th - "Festa Major" de Canillo

25th & 26th - "Festa Major" de Ransol, Aldosa and Els Plans

Probably the last Sunday of this month - In the morning at Planells de Mereig - International Sheepdog Trials. Information - Tel: 851036

AUGUST

16th - St. Rock's Day celebration - popular activities for everybody.

24th - St. Bartholomew's Day. Celebrations in Soldeu.

This month - There will probably be the X Meeting Canillo-Ordino, in Coll d'Ordino. Organised by Unió Pro-Turisme de Canillo and Iniciatives Turístiques d'Ordino.

? - Photography Competition "Marathon".

SEPTEMBER

8th - **NATIONAL ANDORRAN HOLIDAY** - The Virgin of Meritxell. High Mass in the Sanctuary, sung by Petits Cantors d'Andorra, and probably Concert by the same, after the Mass. Information - Tel: 851434 AINA.

"Festa Major" of Meritxell village.

Encamp

JUNE

? - "Aerobic" Marathon, in Complex Poliesportiu.

2nd - Exhibition End of the Year of the Art School, in Complex Poliesportiu at 20h00.

12th - Pentecost Monday, "Aplec" in Sant Romà de Vila.

16th - At 20h00 in the Comú opening of the watercolours exhibition by Joan Eris Puig.

In the Complex Poliesportiu, at 20h00 opening of a paintings exhibition.

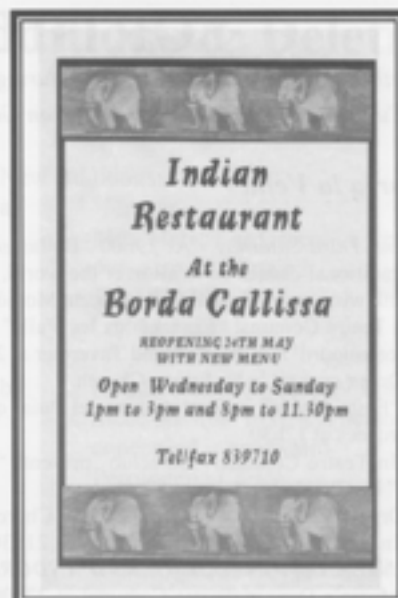
18th - From 9h30 till 13h30 end of the year of the Sportive Schools, in the Complex.

? - "Universal Sardanes' Day" celebration. Sardanes in the morning and also probably in the afternoon. Date not yet known.

23rd - St. Joan's Eve celebration, with fires and balls, in Encamp and in Pas de La Casa.

24th - Celebration of the "Mare de Déu de l'Ecologia" in Camí de Pardines. Ask for more information at Tel: 731000, Pro-Turisme office of Encamp.

29th - "Festa Major" in Pas de La Casa, in celebration of Saint Peter and St. Paul.



Every Thursday - At 22h00, there will be Sardanes, from this month up to mid September, in Plaça dels Arinsols or in the new Park.

JULY

1st Week - Opening of the photography exhibition by Joan Burgués.

July & August - Stages for children and young people in the Alberg La Baronia. Organisers Area del Jovent.

July & August - "Cortals Aventura". Sporting and Cultural activities for children and young people.

10th - St. Christopher's Day, in Santa Eulàlia Church, after the Mass, Blessing of the adorned cars.

13th - St. Henry's Day. The Traffic Police of Encamp celebrates its Patron Saint.

JULY

18th - Opening of the oil paintings exhibition, by Henry.

AUGUST

1st up to 15th - Tennis Tournament "Festa Major d'Encamp".

12th, 13th, 14th and 15th - "Festa Major" d'Encamp. Sardanes every day, and many different entertainments for people of all ages in Complex Poliesportiu, Casal del Poble and around the streets. See special programme.

Escaldes - Engordany

JUNE

9th, 10th and 11th - International Football 7 Competition.

17th - Popular celebration in the Obac quarter.

18th - Parish Feast - Several celebrations.

? - Celebration of the International Music's Day.

? - Sardanes in Plaça Coprínceps.

? - Summer's Cross Country

23rd - St. Joan's Eve - at 22h45 Statement read by the "Pubilla", "Pubilleta" and their "Ladies of Honour" recently elected, in Parking del parnal, then Fire Show. At 23h00 lighting of the fire from the "Flama del Canigó". And the traditional coca. Then Ball till dawn. Organised by Unió Pro-Turisme d'Escaldes-Engordany.

23rd till 30th - Summer School. International Music and Dance course - Principality of Andorra 2.000.

25th - Sardanes in Plaça Coprínceps.

JULY

1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th - Tennis "Copa del Sol" Competition.

2nd - Sardanes in Plaça Coprínceps

3rd till 15th - Summer School. International Music and Dance course, Principality of Andorra 2.000.

5th, 6th and 7th - Jazz Festival - "Jazz on the street".
 9th - Sardanes in Plaça Coprínceps.
 12th - Gospel
 13th, 14th and 15th - "Jazz on the street".
 14th and 15th - Jazz evenings at 22h00.
 16th - Sardanes in Plaça Coprínceps.
 21st till 28th - "Festa Major" organised by Unió Pro Turisme, with a very long programme:
 21st - At 20h00 Bells' pealing and rockets. Parade with Majorettes. At 22h00 Esbart Santa Anna dances in la carpa del parnal.
 22nd - In the Creu Blanca Square, games for children at 11h00 and 16h00. At 18h00 Festival in Parc de La Mola. At 21h00 Sardanes in Coprínceps Square. At 23h00 Evening Ball and at the same time in the New Hall, Festival for young people.
 23rd - 11h00 and 16h00 Festival for children in Creu Blanca Square. At 18h00 Festival for children in the Comú's Hall. At 18h00 Festival in Parc de La Mola Square. At 21h00 Sardanes in Coprínceps Square and at 23h00 Evening Ball.
 24th - At 11h00 and 16h00 Festival for children in Creu Blanca Square. At 18h00 Evening Concert in Parc de La Mola Square. Sardanes in Coprínceps Square at 21h00 and at 23h00 Evening Ball.
 25th - At 9h00 Mass in St. Jaume's honour. At 11h00 and 16h00 in Creu Blanca Square Festival for children. At 19h00 in the Carpa del Parnal Evening Concert. At 23h00 Evening Ball.
 26th - 11h00 Festival for children in Creu Blanca Square. At 12h00 Mass in St. Anna's honour. Foam Feast in Creu Blanca Square at 16h00. At 18h00 Havaneres by "Els pescadors de L'Escala, in Parc de La Mola. Fireworks at 22h00 and "Manolo Escobar Show" at 23h00.

AUGUST

1st and 2nd - Concert in La Carpa "World Music".
 6th - Sardanes in Plaça Coprínceps.
 9th, 20th and 11th - "All Summer in Music".
 13th - Sardanes in Plaça Coprínceps
 16th, 17th and 18th - "All Summer in Music".
 20th - Sardanes in Plaça Coprínceps.
 27th - Sardanes in Plaça Coprínceps.

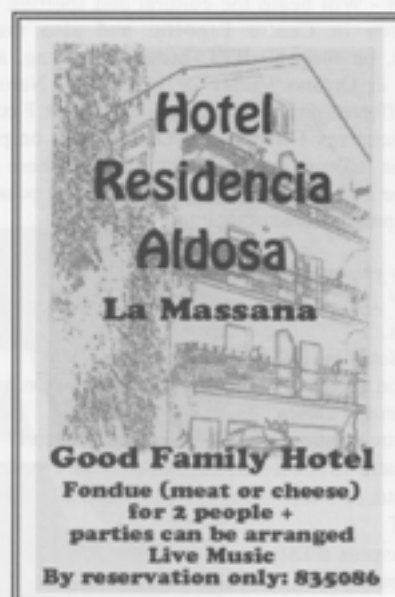
La Massana

JUNE

First up to 25th - Painting Exhibition by Carme Mas.
 29th up to 23rd July - Exhibition of Art School.
 29th up to 23rd July - Paintings Exhibition of the XI Fast Paintings Competition of La Massana.
 23rd - 24th - Sant Joan "Festa Major" of Sispony.
 23rd - Saint Joan's Eve at 22h00 the Fallaires will come down with their lit fagots (old Andorran tradition, quite beautiful and highly interesting). Dancing at Parking "Farré Negre" and traditional lighting of the fires.
 24th - 25th - "Festa Major de Pal".

JULY

During all the month - "Esports d'Estiu" - Several sporting activities and games for children.
 Every week - From Monday to Friday guided walking trips.
 2nd - At 10h00 VI Mountain Bike Cross-Country in Pal area.
 4th - At 18h00 Festival for children at Prat del Colat. At 22h00 Portuguese Folklore Night. The place is not yet decided.
 8th - 9th - Traditional "Roser".
 10th - "Festa Major d'Anyós".
 11th - At 18h00 Festival for children at Prat del Colat. At 22h00 dancing at Prat del Colat.
 22nd - At 22h00 traditional dances by Esbart Sant Romà.
 25th - At 18h00 Festival for children at Prat del Colat. At 22h00 Concert by "Banda Unión".



AUGUST

During all this month - "Esports d'Estiu" - Several sporting activities and games for children.
 Every week - From Monday to Friday Guided walking trips.
 1st - At 18h00 Festival for children at Prat del Colat. At 22h00 dancing at Prat del Colat.
 5th - 6th - "Festa Major de L'Aldosa".
 8th - At 18h00 Festival for children at Prat del Colat. At 22h00 Dancing at Prat del Colat.
 15th - 16th - "Festa Major de La Massana".
 19th - 20th - "Festa Major d'Arinsal".
 22nd - At 18h00 Festival for children at Prat del Colat. At 22h00 a cultural activity not yet decided.
 29th - At 18h00 Festival for children at Prat del Colat. At 22h00 a cultural activity not yet decided.

SEPTEMBER

3rd - At 18h00 XVI popular Cross Country.
 5th - At 18h00 Festival for children at Prat del Colat. At 22h00 a cultural activity.
 10th - At 17h00 Sardanes at Prat del Colat.
 At 22h00 Sardanes at Prat del Colat.
 11th - At 18h00 Festival for children at Prat del Colat.
 In case of bad weather, all the outdoor activities announced will take place in La Closeta.

Ordino

JUNE

23rd - St. Joan's Eve - Fires and popular balls, in the evening.
 24th - In the evening in Auditori Nacional d'Ordino, celebration of MUSIC DAY. With Orchestra Harmonia (accordions), Ian West, other Soloists, and all the Andorran choirs. **THE INTERNATIONAL SINGERS** among them.
 28th - "Costellada Popular" (Feast of chops) at 20h30 at Prat del Call. At 22h15 at the same place, fireworks and at 23h00 Ball.
 29th - St. Peter's Day in El Serrat. At 12h00 Mass. At 13h00 appetiser buffet in Hotel El Serrat. At 17h00 Festival for children with the group "La Mascarada" and chocolate with "xurros". At 22h00 Ball with the "Duo Laser" and flat cake and moscatell wine.
 During the first fortnight of this month - will be the delivery of the Medals (in sea-horse shape) to the children of the Swimming School.

This month - Will begin the cultural and sporting activities for children in Centre Esportiu and also the guided excursions, on foot, by BTT, horseback riding, and other activities, in Ordino Valley or in Sorteny Natural Park. Several different possibilities. Tel: 737080 or Fax: 839225 where "Iniciatives Turístiques d'Ordino" will be pleased to give all the information you want. Most of these activities will be free and will last all next summer and possibly they could also present some other interesting offers.

JULY

3rd, 4th and 5th - "Roser d'Ordino".

1st to 23rd - II "Objectiu Ordino" 15 photographers, 16 Exhibitions.

8th - 9th - Botanical Exhibition in Sala Polivalent.

Convocation for the X Painting Competition of Ordino.

? - "Cinema a la Fresca" - Outdoor cinema.

15th - Theatre on street - Titu Dleques "En Concert"

22nd - Theatre on street - Dance "Mascaró de Proa".

29th - Theatre on street - Gog i Magog "Oníric".

AUGUST

6th - "Travessa d'Estiu" - Excursion about the "Pics de Llevant" area.

12th - 13th - "Festa Major de Llorts".

II "Trobada de Buners" (Bagpipe players' meeting) Concerts, parades and exhibitions.

15th - 16th - "Festa Major" de Sornàs.

19th - "Teatre al carrer" - Theatre in the street. In the evening "Concert Vuitcentista" (XIX Century Style Concert) by Cobla Jovenivola D'Agramunt.

26th - Claret Clown "Tour Cultural Tourmix", in the season "Teatre al carrer".

? - "Cineam a la fresca" - Outdoor cinema.

SEPTEMBER

19th - Ninepin Summer Championship for children, V Round. In Centre Esportiu d'Ordino, Banc Agrícola i Comercial d'Andorra's Trophy.

This month there will be La Mostra Gastronòmica d'Andorra and the Festival Narciso Yepes in the Auditori Nacional.

Sant Julià de Lòria

JUNE

23rd - "The Flama del Canigó" will be collected in Casa de La Vall.

In the evening - celebration of St. Joan's Eve, with fires and balls.

24th - At 22h00 End of Year Concert, by the Music School's students.

JULY

2nd - "Ball de Tarda" - Afternoon at 17h00 Ball in Centre Cultural i de Congressos. Information - Tel: 844044. Anna Sanchez.

5th - At 20h00 opening of the paintings exhibition by Carlos Berardo. It will last till 23rd of this month.

26th - At 20h00 in the hall of Centre Cultural the Club Fotogràfic Lauredia will present their photography Exhibition. Till 10th September.

28th up to 1st August - "Festa Major". Information - Tel: 844044. Pere Ceron.

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BACON SANDWICH (7/4/95)

Pigs might fly, but only if they don't cause a stink.

A South African Airways plane heading to South Africa was forced to turn back and make an emergency landing in the UK after 72 flatulent pigs triggered its fire alarms. More than 300 people were also on board when the pigs sparked the mid-air crisis.

Everybody trotted off fast when it landed!!!

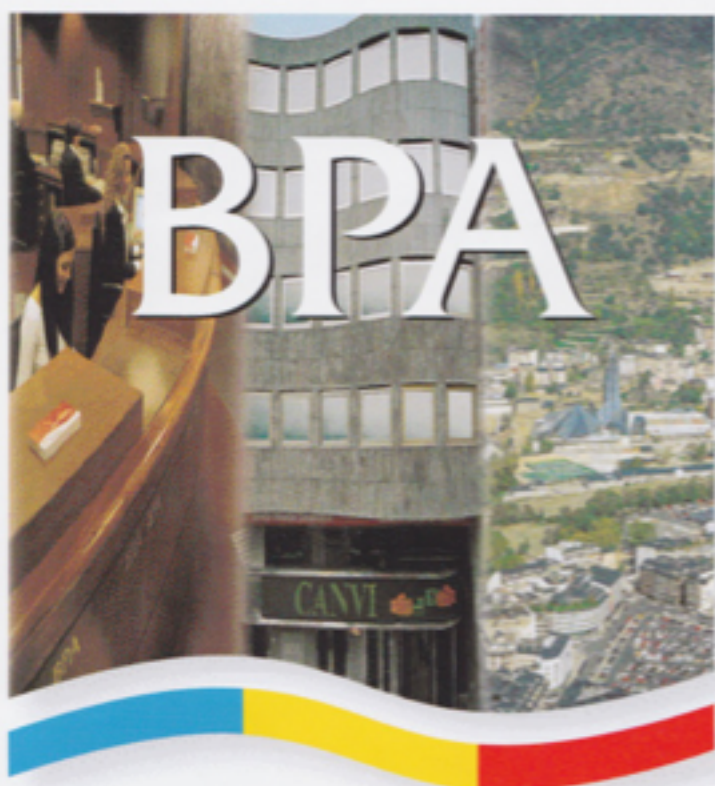
KANGAROO TALE (9/3/91)

Aborigines attacked three policemen with frozen kangaroo tails in a remote Northern Territory town and then ate the evidence, Alice Springs Court was told.

The three officers attacked by 15 aborigines carrying frozen kangaroo tails bought at a local store, were not seriously injured.

IGUANA (6/7/99)

German police yesterday said they were looking for an escaped iguana, which a man earlier tried to use to pay for a hotel bill. Do you need to know any more???



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Tel. +376 873500
Fax +376 873515
bpa@bpa.ad
www.bpa.ad

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