

March 2006
Volume CXXIX
Number III

American SokolTM



Sokol Town of Lake Camp Picnic/Reunion October 9, 2005



Twenty "Happy Campers" returned to the site of many joyous occasions of yesteryear – Sokol town of Lake Camp in the Forest Preserve of Willow Springs Illinois. It was a beautiful sunny day on which to enjoy good food (especially home baked goodies) and friendships which have established over many years. Much reminiscence, viewing of photo albums, plenty of laughter and our tribute to "Teach" Koleno* at the Memorial Rock were features of the day. Come join us on October 8, 2006!

Nazdar!
Bro. Ray Hemzacek

*Editor Asks ... What is "Teach" Koleno?

Submitted by Sis. Annette Schabowski

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ASO Executive Board meets every 4th Tuesday (except July/Aug) at 7:30 PM.

ASO Board of Instructors meets every 2nd Wednesday (except July/Aug) at 7:30 PM.

To submit information for the publication:

Email Editor@American-Sokol.org
Mail Nancy Imbrone
321 Dennison Ave.
Shoreview, MN 55126
Phone: 651-470-6153



Calendar of Events

March

4	Šibřinky – Sokol MN
4	Strudel Making Class – Sokol Gr Cleveland
5	Swim Party – Sokol Gr. Cleveland
5	Spaghetti Dinner – Sokol MN
11	Exhibition – Sokol Tabor
12	Exhibition – Sokol Chicagoland
12	Pancake Breakfast & Unit Mtg – Sokol Gr Cleveland
17	Exhibition – Sokol Naperville
17	Fish Fry – Sokol Gr Cleveland
18	Exhibition – Sokol Stickney
18	Sokol/Sokolice večírek Milwaukee
19	Czech Film – <i>My Sweet Little Village / Vesničko Má Stredisková</i> Sokol MN & CSCC
25	Exhibition – Sokol Spirit
26	Flavors of Slovakia Dinner – Sokol MN
26	Sokol Sunday Dinner – Sokol Gr Cleveland

April

1	Josefska Party – Sokol Washington
1	Exhibition – Sokol USA Lodge 306
2	Spring Lunch & Dance – Sokol LA
7	Sokol MN Garage Sale
8	Slet Committee FLAGS – Sokol Naperville
8	Central Dist Special Number Competition at LTHS
16	Happy Easter
22	Czech & Slovak Cotillion Ball & Debutante Presentation – Sokol Gr. Cleveland
23	Exhibition – Sokol St. Louis
23	Czech Film – <i>Autumn Spring / Babi Léto</i> Sokol MN & CSCC
28 & 29	Rummage Sale – Sokol Spirit
29	Gym Exhibition – Sokol St. Louis

May

7	Czech Spring Festival – Lincoln, NE
13	Central Dist Little Girls Artistic Competition at Sokol Spirit
20	Central Dist Boys Artistic Competition at Sokol Spirit
20	Girls, Jr. Women Artistic Competition at LTHS
20	Tea Party Social – Sokol MN
21	Central District Sokol Day/Picnic at Cermak Woods
21	Czech Film – <i>Up and Down / Horém Paděl</i> Sokol MN & CSCC
23	Exhibition – Sokol Milwaukee



Next issue
we'll look
at Czech & Slovak
Easter traditions

Bro. Charlie Podhrasky Honored

Submitted by Larry Laznovsky 1st V-P Southern District



Bro. Podhrasky
(shown with the

At the recent annual meeting of the Southern District Executive Board, Bro Bob Podhrasky, Southern District President, presented a plaque to Bro. Charlie Petrzelka recognizing Bro Charlie's 40+ years of service to the Southern District Executive Board. Bro Charlie, Current Sokol Houston President, has served in various capacities for the district. His contributions and

dedication are greatly appreciated. Nazdar! Bro. Charlie

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UNESCO proclaims Czech "Verbunk" Masterpiece of Intangible Heritage of Humanity

Recommended by Bro. Paul Lebloch, Radio Prague[29.11.2005] - Dita Asiedu - Used with Permission

When we hear about the UNESCO list of world heritage sites we think of places like Notre Dame in Paris or here in the Czech Republic old towns like Cesky Krumlov or even Prague itself. But did you know that less tangible parts of our heritage like theatre performances, music, and dances are also supported and protected by UNESCO?

They come under the rather wordy heading of "Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity" and a traditional Czech dance, going back to the days when young men were conscripted to fight in the Austrian army, has just been added to the list.

The polka, waltz, and cardas, are not the only folk dances you find here in the Czech Republic. The "Verbunk" - a solo dance for men often accompanied by song - has a tradition going back to the 18th century in the Moravian Slovacko region. It was danced by young recruits just before they had to join the army:

"It is an improvised dance that young men used to dance as a form of protest and to some extent to express their helplessness. Today, it also has a number of other functions - it's a demonstration of vitality and happiness at feasts and dance festivities. The boys, of course, use it to show off their excellent dance skills and I should add that it also has a bit of an erotic subtext."

...says ethnologist Karel Pavlistik, who, I should add, is a master of the "Verbunk" himself and co-founded the Verbunk competition, which was started twenty years ago. It is part of the country's famous Straznice International Folklore Festival. One of the hundreds of men who have taken part in the competition is Ladislav Simecek. He's from the town of Kyjov:

"In our little town, it's luckily been upheld as a traditional part of our culture. The Verbunk is not just danced by the members of folklore organizations; it's a normal part of our men's life here. They all dance it - both young and old."

"The dance is an important part of all festivities in the region and has several variations. There are the Hornacko, Straznice, and the Kyjov verbunks, to name

just a few," says Karel Pavlistik.

It took two years for the Czech Republic to get the Verbunk on the UNESCO list. It is now one of eleven other traditional European rituals declared by the United Nations to be world masterpieces. Among other Czech rarities that the Culture Ministry hopes to add are the carnival at Hlinecko (Vysocina region) and the traditional horseback procession at Vlcnov (southern Moravia). Further traditions around the world added to the list include Malawi's Vimbuza Healing Dance, Japan's Kabuki theatre, Zambia's Makishi Masquerade, but also Slovakia's Fujara music and the musical instrument that goes with it.

Czech Artist
Alphonse Mucha
(1860-1939) is one of the most imitated artists and designers of all time.

The Mucha Museum in Prague is open daily.

If you're in Prague, try to visit.



'Verbunk' photo: CTK



Straznice International Folklore Festival, photo: www.nulc.cz



The Sokol Educator

Sis. EllenJeanne Schnabl, Educational Director

NAZDAR! Sisters and Brothers:

How much do you know? What do you know? When and how did you find out? Who told you? Why are you interested?

I'm talking about our huge Sokol Organization with its six Districts all over our country and the Units within them. AND: Let's not forget our Sisters and Brothers in Canada and Sokol USA.

Those with newsletters have many wonderful activities which could be adapted to other Units. They have educational, historical and current information available to any Sister or Brother who wishes (and must) be informed and enlightened.

Be a better Sokol: Make it a goal to read these newsletters. Immediately start by you and your Unit corresponding and subscribing to those newsletters whose addresses are shown below. You will all be surprised. There may be some slight costs involved, but please don't let that deter you.

As we get more feedback from others who may not be included, we will certainly add them to our list.

NAZDAR!

Sis. EllenJeanne Schnabl

The following Sokols are known to publish newsletters.

CENTRAL DISTRICT: Sokol St. Louis and Sokol Spirit

EASTERN DISTRICT: Sokol Baltimore, Sokol New York, and Sokol Little Ferry

NORTHEAST DISTRICT: Sokol Detroit and Sokol Greater Cleveland

PACIFIC DISTRICT: Sokol Los Angeles

WESTERN DISTRICT: Sokol Cedar Rapids, Sokol Minnesota, and Sokol South Omaha

Contact information for the above Units is located in the contact listings – see Pages 13, 14 & 15.

CANADA: Canadian Sokol, 76 Dalegrove Crescent, Toronto, ON M9B 9A9 Canada

SOKOL USA: Sokol USA, Sokol Times, 276 Prospect St., PO Box 189, E. Orange, NJ 07019

Our Sokol Credo

To build a healthy and beautiful human body; to cultivate a harmonious and total person; to develop firm character, a well-rounded disposition and a love of truth and justice; to produce strong, lovely and honorable people; that is the goal of a Sokol education.

Note from your Editor:

I received quite a few contributions this month, including a lovely note from Sis. Ellie Babka which contained the lyrics for the 2006 Sr. II COS Calisthenics number – **“Ta naše písnička česká”** – music composed by Karel Hasler. I will publish them in the next edition. I ran out of room listing all the District and Unit information. I truly appreciate all the articles and ideas I receive. Please keep the letters, emails and photos coming.

Nazdar!

Sis. Nancy Imbrone

American Sokol Performance Team *Progress and Fundraising*



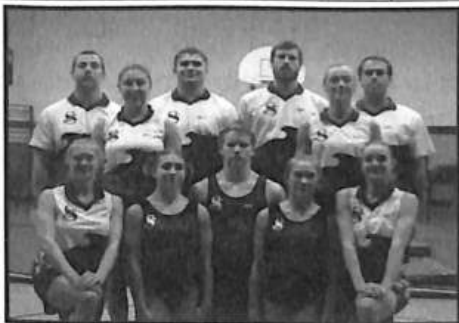
Even if you don't get the chance to attend the 2006 Prague Slet, the team assures you that a part of you is going along with them. The team's main concern is representing the American Sokol, all of its members, and the spirit of America with the highest of standards. With this article, we hope to keep you informed of everything the team is doing to properly prepare and to honorably represent you. This month, the excitement of the new number coming together is building confidence and spirit among the team members. We are not at performance caliber yet, but are getting closer. Outside of the physical work, our Czech lessons are going great thanks to the help of Bob Baumruk, Angie Bultas, Blanche Wostratzky and Helen Sevcu. In addition, we have all applied for our passports and should be getting them this month. We are coming along with our fundraising but have a long way to go. We appreciate those that have already supported us. We hope that everyone who can, will pitch in with the "Adopt a Team Member" fundraiser and/or the "Pyramid Donation" fundraiser, and the other opportunities listed below.

The target goal for the team is \$25,000. Currently, the team is this far...



Upcoming fundraisers for the team are as follows:

<u>April</u> Souvenir DVD	<u>May</u> Art Raffle	<u>June</u> Cash Raffle and Dinner
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Thanks for all your support!!!
The American Sokol Performance Team

Bro. John Fiala Nominated For the 2006 Jan Masaryk Gratias Agit Award

American Sokol is much honored that Brother John Fiala (T.J. Sokol, Wilber, NE) has been asked to submit a resume of his Czech activities for consideration of this prestigious award. Word of his nomination was received in December of 2005. Brother John's nomination is based on his founding the Miss Czech-Slovak USA Pageant 20 years ago, with the pageant being held during the Czech Festival in Wilber, Nebraska. He is also a founder of the Czech Language Foundation which supports the Czech language at the University of Nebraska, by furnishing course books and materials to the students, along with a \$300 scholarship each semester they take the Czech language course. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences chapter, plus past President of the Nebraska Czechs, Inc., along with being involved in the annual Czech Festival in Wilber.

CONGRATULATIONS BROTHER JOHN FIALA

John Fiala, and Frances Brit,
Miss Czech-Slovak Florida 2003



SOKOLights take puppets in hand and March!

Submitted by Bro. Joseph Landsberger – Sokol MN Public Relations Chairman

The St. Paul (MN) Winter Carnival was the scene of a merry troupe of SOKOLs marching through the streets of downtown St. Paul for its Vulcan Victory Torchlight Parade.



Jarda and Jitka

(Sokol MN's puppets, shown here at the Dozinky Days parade in New Prague, MN – not the Winter Carnival!)

Volunteers included Louise and Chuck Wessinger, Dennis and Mary Cahill; Joyce and Norm Petrik; Nancy Imbrone; Elizabeth, Preston and John Mansfield; Tom, Kathy, Ethan and Ellen Ferry; Doreen McKenney, Danita and Quint Larson, and Joe Landsberger. West Ender/neighbor Andrew Hine carried the puppets for the fourth time and is deserving of our appreciation! This is the second Winter Carnival that SOKOLights and puppets carried our name and banner, representing our organization with other civic groups to greater St. Paul. The Glockenspiel was the scene of the après-parade party for the participants. In good Czech-Slavic tradition, hopefully this *krátký masopust* (short parade) will be the antidote for our *dlouhá zima* (long winter).

Sis. Henrietta Milan & Julie Barcal enjoy the day at the Sokol Town of Lake Camp Reunion

The Strnad Sisters of Sokol St. Louis

Submitted by Sis. Carla Strnad (proud Mom!)

We are all very proud to be 3rd and 4th generation Sokol members. I was Director of Women for Sokol St. Louis, taught 1st, 2nd class and juniors and won a gold medal at the 1997 Slet (at age 40!)

Lauren and Kara Strnad (pictured here) are students at ISU (Illinois State University). Both girls earned full-ride athletic gymnastic scholarships.

Lauren is a senior, and Kara

is a sophomore. Both girls are current Sokol members and are proud of their heritage and beginnings in the Sokol Tot classes. They participated for many years, into their junior classes, and Lauren was our National Slet National Champion in 1997.

If you're interested in college gymnastics and are in the area to watch, their home meet schedule is posted on the website at www.goredbirds.com.



AMERICAN SOKOL GYMNAST

Kandi Pajer – 117 Oakland Grove, Elmhurst, IL. 60126
kandi@pajer.us

2006 American Sokol Organization Instructor School July 17 to July 31

Novice, Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced,
and Advanced II Level Schools

Hosted by: Sokol South Omaha

Students should plan to arrive on July 17, before 6:00 p.m.

Graduations ceremonies will be the evening of July 30.

Flight arrangements should be no sooner than 1:00 p.m. on July 31.

District and Unit Directors received application materials in February.

Do not delay. Contact your District or Unit Director for application forms.

Application Deadline is June 1.

For additional or immediate information contact:

Sandra Benak

Instructor School Secretary

Phone: (402) 731-2665

Email: vbenak@earthlink.net

Extra curriculum offerings to include:

USAG Safety Certification

PDP Level I

**Instructors in Training
for
The 2006 National Instructors School
Sokol South Omaha
July 17 thru July 31, 2006**

Instructors in Training Selection

- 1) Must have attended and passed three instructor schools (beginner, intermediate, advanced) or equivalent teaching experience.
- 2) Must be a minimum of eighteen years of age.
- 3) Teaching experience of at least five (5) years in the unit of which they are a member (past or present).
- 4) Recommend taking the U.S.A.G. Safety Certification and PDP Level 1.
- 5) Submit a short paper: "Why I want to be an instructor in training."
- 6) Upon receipt of application, the school director will consult with the unit and district director of the unit and district which the applicant is a member.
- 7) Selection is at the discretion of the school director and other instructors of the school the applicant is applying for.

Duties of the Instructor in Training

- 1) Teach a class under the supervision of a senior staff member.
- 2) Evaluate practice teaching with a staff member.
- 3) Teach and assist in spotting and progressions and marching.
- 4) Group activities. (Special Number competition.)
- 5) Be an officer of the day.
- 6) Attend all staff meetings.
- 7) Help students with homework assignments.
- 8) Assist at self-improvement.
- 9) Choose a class and sit in on, or do all classes.

Applications may be requested by contacting:

Bud Benak
5919 South 15 Street
Omaha, NE 68107
(402) 731-2665
vbenak@earthlink.net

AMERICAN SOKOL
122 West 22nd Street
Oak Brook, IL 60523-1557
(630) 368-0771
ASO@American-Sokol.org

Applications must be received by April 1, 2006

INSTRUCTOR SCHOOL STAFF
Assistant Instructors
for
The 2006 National Instructors School
Sokol South Omaha
July 17 thru July 31, 2006

- I. Assistant Instructors may be selected from former Advanced or Advanced 2 students or Instructors in Training.
- II. Responsibilities:
 - A. Assist regular staff instructors with classes.
 - B. Teach a class of their expertise.
 - C. Conduct evening group competitions.
 - D. Supervise students when necessary.
 - E. Supervise or conduct portion of the graduation program.
 - F. Officer of the Day duties.
- III. The School Director may seek out "assistant instructors" or interested individuals may apply to the School Director.
- IV. Anyone being considered for an "assistant instructor" position will be at the discretion of the school staff and the American Sokol National School board.
- V. A weekly salary of \$100.00, plus transportation.



See anyone you know?

National Sokol Summer Camp 2006

Sponsored by

**Sokol USA,
DA Sokol and American Sokol**

Sokol St. Louis Camp, St. Louis, MO
Monday July 31 – Sunday, August 6, 2006

Ages 12-17

\$300 per camper

Registration Deadline May 1st 2006
*\$75 Deposit will hold your spot
balance due May 1st 2006*

Sports, Games, Arts, Outdoor Activities,
Water Sports, Special Events, and Sokol Fun!

Look for additional information on the American Sokol Website at www.american-sokol.org or email questions to Camp Administrative Assistant at ckalat@aol.com.

Czech mates

Deweyville (Texas) receives visit, \$100K gift from Czech ambassador

By Tommy Mann Jr. /The Orange Leader (SE Texas) reprinted with permission

It is not very often a small town like Deweyville (TX) receives a visit from an international government official, but Hurricane Rita made sure 2005 was anything but normal for this community.

On Tuesday morning, **Ambassador Petr Kolar of the Czech Republic**, along with his wife and an entourage of five others, made his way to Deweyville for a first hand view of the damage.

"This all started when Governor Perry visited us on November 1st after the storm," said Rick Summers, superintendent of the Deweyville Independent School District. "I received a call a couple of weeks later from a person in the governor's office about an official from the Czech Republic expressing interest in our community."

Summers said the Czech embassy in Washington, D.C., contacted the school district in December and expressed interest in possibly helping the school. Summers said they requested some basic information about the damage sustained at the elementary school and pictures of the damage.

"The ambassador told me the pictures we sent really did not do justice to the damage that was still visible during his visit," Summers said.

The group toured the elementary campus and some of the classrooms. Students made signs and posters welcoming the Czech official to the school. The tour lasted about 90 minutes and concluded with refreshments in the teachers' lounge.

"We were told to expect a gift of around \$50,000 on behalf of the ambassador from the Czech Republic," Summers said. "I was quite surprised when Ambassador Kolar presented us a check for \$100,000."

Of all the Deweyville schools, the elementary school suffered the heaviest amount of damage from the hurricane.

"The school had total roof damage, so all of the inside ceiling tiles and insulation was a total loss also," Summers said. "We lost classroom furniture, everything in the office, the floor in the cafeteria, and we will have to totally rewire the entire campus for electricity and the p.a. system."

So far the roof has been repaired and the cafeteria floor replaced.

The school originally housed students in pre-Kindergarten through fifth grade.

"The children in pre-K through second grade were able to stay in their building after we got a new roof for them," Summers said. "We had to move the third- and fourth-graders to the old high school, and the fifth-grade students to the middle school."

The Deweyville Independent School District did not return to class until early November after Hurricane Rita. The district missed a total of 29 school days, 10 of which were "forgiven" by the state, leaving a total of 19 days that had to be rescheduled.

"We felt we needed to keep the school year calendar as normal as possible for the students," Summers said. "So, we extended each school day by an extra 30 minutes, which now puts school dismissing at 3:30 p.m."

Summers said the school year was also extended by one week from the original end of school date, and this Saturday is a teacher workday for district educators.

"We only cut out two days of Christmas vacation, but the rest of the year should follow the scheduled holidays as listed," he said.

The STEM polling agency (a Czech polling agency) recently asked Czechs to say what they were most proud of and what they were most ashamed of in relation to their country. The results suggest that Czechs are proud of their sportsmen and women, of their history, literature and music. They are ashamed of their politicians and the crime rate. With (Czech) elections coming up in June - politicians should take note of that.



In accordance with the American Sokol Bylaws, Article 22, Paragraph 16 – A directory listing the Districts and Units of American Sokol, with their addresses, phone numbers and email addresses or websites, if appropriate, shall be published in the American Sokol, along with the names only of the current District and Unit officers.

District:	CENTRAL
District Address:	c/o Sokol Spirit - Brookfield
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I Vice-President	Andrea Scheirer
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Corres. Secy.	Beverly Domzalski
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Educ. Co-Dir	Michael Dropka
Educ. Co-Dir	Kennan Seda
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Pub.Rel. (English)	Lynda Bazata
Wos. Director	Lynda Bazata
Men's Director	John Bazata
Properties	Juanita Logiudice
Unit	Ceska Sin
Unit Phone:	216 228-0027
Unit Address:	4314 Clark Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44109
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I Vice-President	Dale Kotlan
II Vice-President	Brian Howard
Recording Secy.	Carol Siekaniac
Corres. Secy.	Doris Kotlan
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Educ. Director	Nadia Nakonecznyj
Membership	Brenda Nakonecznyj
Pub.Rel. (English)	Anne Howard
Wos. Director	Nadia Nakonecznyj
Men's Director	Don Kotlan
Unit	Sokol Chicagoland
Unit Phone:	(630) 852-3467
Unit Address:	6360 S Belmont Ave, Downers Grove, IL 60515
President	Mary Ellen Newsom
I Vice-President	Andrea Scheirer
Recording Secy.	Beverly Domzalski
Corres. Secy.	Beverly Domzalski
Treasurer	Jack Scheirer
Financial Secy.	Jack Scheirer
Educ. Director	Frank Michalek
Membership	Mary Ellen Newsom
Pub.Rel. (English)	Beverly Domzalski
Wos. Director	Sally Bukovsky
Men's Director	Matt Kocek
Unit	Sokol/Sokolice Milwaukee
Unit Phone:	(414) 321-2637
Unit Address:	Norway House, 7567 W Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee WI 53219
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I Vice-President	Patricia Hron
II Vice-President	Mary Anne Gross
Recording Secy.	Rosemary Zelenka
Corres. Secy.	Same As Above
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Financial Secy.	Harold Kralik
Educ. Director	Mary Anne Gross
Membership	Harold Kralik
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Pub.Rel. (English)	Jarka Axtell
Wos. Director	Denise Stevens
Men's Director	James Hron Jr
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Central District Continued:

Unit	Sokol Naperville
Unit Phone:	(630) 717-1631
Unit Address:	4401 Fender Rd., Lisle, IL 60532-3625
Unit Website:	Link to www.american-sokol.org
President	Lynda Filipello
Treasurer	Lynda Filipello
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Wos. Director	Barb Kucera
Men's Director	Bob Kucera
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Unit Address:	3909 S. Prairie Ave, Brookfield, IL 60513
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Sunshine Chairlady	Helen Caldwell
Cent. Dist. Delegates	Diane Barda Rus
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II Vice-President	Charles Borvansky
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Financial Secy.	Audrey Austrevich
Educ. Director	Jane Sterba
Membership	Audrey Austrevich
Co-Wos. Director	Patti Vondra
Men's Director	Russ Vondra
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Unit Phone:	(708) 387-1585
Unit Address:	1602 S Clarence, Berwyn IL 60402
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I Vice-President	Michael Mc Gill
II Vice-President	Kennan Seda
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UNIT: Sokol Baltimore
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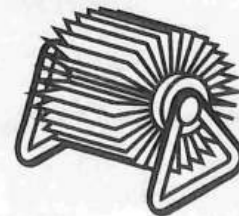
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