



"Sister City Friends" is the member newsletter for Friends of Friedrichshafen, official partner of the city of Peoria's Sister City Commission

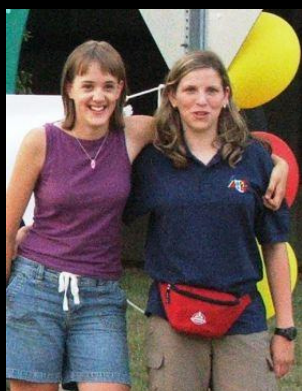
Partnerstadtfreunde



At left, US and German students do what they do best ... hang out together! Whether on the Sears Tower Skydeck (shown) or anywhere in Peoria, the youth exchange creates memories to last a lifetime. See what the students are saying and doing; link to our blog from www.peoriasistercity.org

"I am so lucky!"

- Nicole, a student from Friedrichshafen betrays her excitement for this summer's youth exchange



Friedrichshafen students will be here from July 25 to August 16 and FOF members are invited to meet them! See page 4 for a detailed calendar.

German teens eager to visit Peoria this summer

This spring, we contacted the group of Friedrichshafen students who will be visiting Peoria this summer. Their replies reveal an undercurrent of anticipation for the adventure ahead of them.

"Going to America is my biggest dream since my English teacher first spoke about this fascinating country," said Michaela. "Since then, I have wanted to see if what she said was right and I wanted to be in the middle of that daily life." It seems as if our youth exchange is perfect for her.

She, like others, are in the program for the second straight year. They hosted US students last year. "I wouldn't miss those awesome three weeks together, which made us really good friends," wrote Saskia. "Hanging around with Grace, Holly and Lee was so much fun that I am looking forward to having three weeks full of new experiences."

Others shared an openness to the exchange. Martin expects it to be interesting just to meet people from the US. Jonas is looking forward to "getting to know the American culture (sports, religion, shopping, food)." And Christian will be looking up; "The trip to the US might be good because I like big cities with skyscrapers and large buildings."

Simon's approach, however, is to see if reality differs from the perception. "I only know America from the TV, so I want to see the real America." Of course, his interests also include the basics, as he's eager for the chance "to eat an original American hamburger and see a live American baseball or football game!"

Mark couldn't agree more. His goals are simple and to the point: "I am going to buy many clothes and eat much American food." He can take along Alexander, who has a goal of buying "new jeans, shoes and shirts."

When asked about American misperceptions about Germans, a few hoped to set the record straight. Martin, for example, wants Americans to know "most Germans don't wear leather trousers and come from Bavaria!"

Nicole is upbeat about the chance to see what she's been hearing about. "I have email friends in Peoria because my grandparents were hosts of them last year." Perhaps she summed up everyone's feelings best: "I am so lucky!"

We share her excitement as we get ready to welcome new friends.

Zeppelins in Friedrichshafen: Created a century ago, an impact even today

Graf Ferdinand Adolf August Heinrich von Zeppelin was 52 when his career as pioneer began.

He gave up his post as cavalry general in Stuttgart to devote himself wholeheartedly to his passion: airships. The inventive count had the idea of constructing a metal frame with an outer cover holding gas balloons and propelled by engines.

In the next few years, von Zeppelin pestered the king of Württemberg to provide him with a site where he could build such a huge contraption. The king finally consented. A floating construction hall was built in the Bay of Manzell in 1899. And in this the first zeppelin, 128 meters long, was built. On July 2, 1900, it rose into the air and stayed up for as long as 18 minutes, under the eyes of 20,000 onlookers.

The second airship, not completed until 1906 (as funds had run out), was forced to make an emergency landing in a storm and was torn to shreds by the elements. Only the fourth, completed in 1908, flew and flew and flew.

The central government required it to stay in the air for 24 hours before it could consider ordering an airship as a military vehicle. The zeppelin flew to Mainz and back to Stuttgart. It admittedly had to make an emergency landing as, once again, a storm arose and the silver cigar went up in flames. But now another storm broke out in the land: people took pity on the poor count and felt that something had to be done to help him.

Full of sympathy and national enthusiasm, the Germans contributed money to his cause. Over six million marks were raised, forming the basis for Luftschiffbau Zeppelin GmbH. Friedrichshafen boomed: the parent company developed into Maybach-Motorenbau GmbH (today MTU), the gearwheel factory and Dornier works. The performance of the airships improved, and they were soon deployed on regular services between towns. In the first world war, they were also used for military purposes, for which the count had, after all, intended them

Zeppelin in Botswana

The zeppelins have been all over the world, ranging into Africa and Japan. Flights around Friedrichshafen can be booked starting at 200 Euros for a 30 minute ride.



right from the beginning. In May 1915, bombs dropped from zeppelins fell on London and Paris. As many as 72 of the 96 giant craft deployed were shot down. Nevertheless, the airships became a real success only after the war. Hugo Eckener, the successor of the count who died in 1917, built a zeppelin for America—as part of German repatriations. The "LZ 126" crossed to Lakehurst in 81 hours, demonstrating that even flying over the Atlantic was no longer a difficulty.

"LZ-127 Graf Zeppelin" became a triumph: it circled the world in 1929, started on a research expedition to the Arctic, sauntered to America over 100 times. Zeppelins flew between Pernambuco and Lakehurst, Friedrichshafen and Frankfurt; traveling by airship became the sport of the rich in the 1930s. The "LZ129 Hindenburg" was even more luxurious; 245 meters long, achieving a speed of up to 125km, equipped with dining room, smoking room and even a piano of light metal.

It was already disfigured with a swastika, but that evidently brought no luck. On May 6, 1937, the "Hindenburg" caught fire while landing in Lakehurst, 36 lives being lost in the inferno.

From then on, the Nazis were unwilling to put any more money into airship technology, particularly after the first passenger aircraft crossed the Atlantic in 1939. The history of airships came to an almost abrupt end after a total of 119 had been built.

But sixty years later, the story continued. In 1997, the first "Zeppelin Neue Technologie," built for close on 7 million Euro, rose into the air in Friedrichshafen. Three new airships are meanwhile in operation. Passengers have been able to fly with them since 2001 over Lake Constance.

Text from *Guide Around Lake Constance*, photo from Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik GmbH website.

Friedrichshafen foreign exchange student “graduates” from Eureka HS

By Martha Dudzinski

My US experience all began with the FOF Youth Exchange in 2005, when I stayed in Peoria for three weeks, and ended on May 26th when I boarded the plane to leave Eureka after 10 months as a foreign exchange student. What lies in between are millions and millions of experiences, lessons, and wonderful memories and people that will stay in my heart forever.

People kept telling me it was a brave decision to leave your friends, family – your entire life for a year on another continent. But I was never scared, only excited from the very beginning. And I was proven right. Things happened I would have never even dreamed of, like not only competing at Dance Team Nationals, but this competition also taking place in the world famous Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

Having stayed at two different families I also got to know how much impact your home has on you, as I experienced two totally different semesters and saw how easily people you barely knew can become part of your life.

Getting used to people throwing away recyclable paper was harder than it sounds, however regular visits to fast food places to get my beloved milk shakes were not as hard to include in my daily life. Gaining weight was as easy as I had expected, finding friends for life easier than I had dreamed of.

In order to get not too emotional on remembering my fun times and the fact that I most likely will not see many of the people I met again, I'll concen-



Martha Dudzinski (at left in photo) and her American “sister,” Colleen Tolliver, pose for a photo used on their graduation party invitations. The girls were a good match for Martha’s second semester at Eureka High School, as they shared a sense of energy and optimism, as well as a love of marshmallows! Martha will attend another two years of school in Germany before graduating for real. As she submitted her story, Martha wrote, “I am leaving for good today ... and there is something very wrong about that!” She had a big impact on the lives of her adopted families and new friends during her short stay in Central Illinois.

trate on the basics often mentioned in small talk.

“How was school?” Amazing. Since EHS I can imagine having a favourite teacher. Correction, a lot of favourite teachers. The classes were fun and easy, the lunch was delicious and the after school activities were incredibly much fun.

“How was your family?” Even more amazing. My host family was not only the people that gave me a bed and (as they realized, a whole lot of) food, but a worthy substitute for what I had left in Germany. I never thought I would find another person to see as my sister, but I did, and also my new parents were as wonderful as I had vaguely hoped, and I can’t imagine what my stay in Eureka would have been without them.

And finally, “How are you?” I grew. A lot. Not only around my waist, but also on my thighs. But most of all, within. I watched myself actually enjoying building up a social life from scratch, improving my English to the degree of knowing the expression “from scratch” and finding that life might not be too bad after all, even if you have to give up recycling every bottle or can you drink out of. The thought of leaving is still so unrealistic, and I probably won’t accept the fact that I’m gone even after I

moved back to Germany. A friend told me to not be sad that it’s over, but to be happy that it happened. So I will stick with that, and wait for my new friends and family to visit me in Friedrichshafen.

FOF donates Zeppelin DVDs to Peoria Public Library



The History Channel has an outstanding special on airships. This masterful DVD captures the essence of the most romantic machines ever built and mentions Friedrichshafen from a historical view as well as the production of the Zeppelin NT.

Two DVDs of this program have been donated by the Friends of Friedrichshafen. Any of the 264 libraries from the Alliance Library System can loan them out. A sticker inside the DVD cover credits the FOF donation and directs viewers to our website.

Friends of Friedrichshafen

Contact Information

Mailing address:

Friends of Friedrichshafen
8124 N. Blackbridge Road
Edwards, IL 61528-9625

FOF phone:

(309) 691-5754

E-Mail:

info@peoriasistercity.org

Web Site:

www.peoriasistercity.org

**Promoting friendship
and understanding
between Peoria and
Friedrichshafen**

A busy student calendar

This summer will be no different from past youth exchanges: we'll keep our guests hopping! Here are details.

July 27—Welcome Party
Shore Acres Park, Chillicothe
All FOF members welcome!*

July 30 - Limousine Scavenger Hunt

July 31 - Chicago Daytrip

August 2 - Beach Party

August 3 - Lakeview Museum

August 4 - Family House Service Project
(giving back to Peoria!)

August 5 - Paintball (unofficial)

August 7 - Peoria Chiefs Baseball

FOF members invited to visit Friedrichshafen

This year is the 25th anniversary of the Peoria Club, our sister organization in Friedrichshafen. They will be celebrating this occasion with a Jubilee Banquet on November 30, and all FOF members are invited!

The Friends of Friedrichshafen looked into booking group travel. But quite frankly, the prices we found were higher than those on Travelocity, Orbitz or other Internet travel sites.

Veteran Traveler Advice

Start by booking your own travel. This will give you the most flexibility in scheduling side trips or extended tours. If you've traveled to Germany before, we know you want maximum freedom to do as you wish.

For anyone wanting to stay with a local family, please work through us. It is better that we make one request for all, rather than all make separate requests! Of course, when you call us you are welcome to request a family you have befriended on prior trips.

If you prefer a hotel, you can find many hotel options on the Friedrichshafen tourism website, www.friedrichshafen.ws. Two centrally located hotels FOF members have enjoyed are:

Seehotel Friedrichshafen
www.seehotelfn.de
P: +49 7541 3030

August 8 - City Hall Visit

August 9 - Bowling/Mini Golf

August 14—Farewell Party
Eastport Marina, East Peoria
All FOF members welcome!*

***FOF members RSVP due July 9:** \$10 per person. Send check and names of attendees for each event to Eric/Theresa Hoadley, 243 S. Ohio Ave., Morton IL 61550.

Buchhorner Hof
www.buchhorn.de
P: +49 7541 2050

First-Time Travelers to Germany

If this is your first trip to Germany, we are only too glad to help! Start by booking your own air travel (United/Lufthansa flies Peoria - Chicago - Frankfurt - Friedrichshafen). Apply for a passport immediately, if needed.

For lodgings, the info above about local families or hotels applies to you as well. We highly recommend staying with a local family to make your trip a personal experience!

We can also help you schedule side trips to Munich or other areas of interest. You won't want to miss the fabulous Christmas markets!

Just to be clear: there will be a charge to attend the Jubilee Banquet, and all expenses will be on your own. Instead of coordinating an extensive itinerary, we are just facilitating the experience.

If you are planning to go, please let us know. We will hold an info meeting prior to departure. We will also circulate a list of everyone traveling so that you can be in touch while in Germany. Call FOF VP, Membership, Matt Allen at 369-9519 or email travel@peoriasistercity.org

We need help at the Peoria WorldFest

Want to make friends while you get involved in a Friends of Friedrichshafen activity? The Peoria Worldfest is for you!

On September 15, FOF will man a booth to show off our wonderful sister city. Help is needed in one-hour shifts from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Setup and tear down help is also needed.

To volunteer, call FOF Events Coordinator Kathy Dougherty at 693-1374. It won't be hard work and you can see all the other exciting exhibits as well. Please join us!