10th World Championships in Wheel Gymnastics
Chicago, IL
July 9th-13th, 2013

The History of Wheel Gymnastics

In 1924 Otto Feick, a German Locksmith and Union Railway worker, invented and built the Rhönrad (also known as the German Wheel), so named because he and his family lived in the Rhön region in Germany. Shortly thereafter, Otto and his students travelled all over Europe and to the USA to promote the sport. In the 1936 Olympics, over 120 wheel gymnasts performed during the opening ceremonies. After WWII, there was increased popularity of the sport in Europe and abroad. By the mid-nineties, the Internationaler Rhönradturn-Verband (IRV) was formed to oversee all international competitions and training camps. Currently, there are 7 member countries of the IRV and approximately 25 nations participating in the sport. International Training Camps and World Championships are hosted on alternate years. The 10th Wheel Gymnastics World Championship will be held in July 9th-14th, 2013 in Chicago, Illinois. This will be the first time the World Championships will be held outside of Europe. www.rhoenrad.com

The 2013 Wheel Gymnastics World Championships

The 10th World Championships in wheel gymnastics will be held July 8th-14th, 2013 in Chicago, IL on the campuses of North Park University and North Eastern Illinois University. The event is hosted by the USA Wheel Gymnastics Federation and American Sokol and will feature over 240 athletes from approximately 36 nations. There will also be over 200 international delegates, dignitaries, judges, and officials coming to the event. It is of special note that this will be the first time the World Championships will be held outside of Europe. Competition will be divided between males and females, and junior and senior competitors. Awards will be given for best All-Around, Spirale, Straight-line, Vault, and Mono Wheel competitions. For more information about the event, visit www.wheel2013.com or email Evan Brown at brown@wheel2013.com

The USA Wheel Gymnastics Federation

Wheel gymnastics has had over 80 years of presence in the US, although on a limited basis and primarily in circuses and similar shows. During the late 1990’s and early 2000’s a few athletes from the USA, led by Evan Brown, began to elevate the presence and aptitude of the sport by attending international training camps and competing in the World Championships. From these experiences and help from the Internationaler Rhönradturn-Verband, the foundation for the USA Wheel Gymnastics Federation (USAWGF) was formed. In the mid-2000’s, Wolfgang Bientzle, the most decorated wheel gymnast of all time, moved to Chicago and immediately grew the sport to new heights. The USA Wheel Gymnastics Federation currently offers classes throughout the Chicago region and the rest of the US. Important relationships with American Sokol and the Chicago Park District have been formed, and wheel gymnastics is reaching new heights. The USAWGF will be hosting the 10th World Championships in wheel gymnastics from July 9th-14th, 2013 in Chicago. For more information on the USAWGF or to sign up for classes, visit www.usawheelgymnastics.com

TurnFest and Wheel Gymnastics Training Camp

During the week of the World Championships there will be a TurnFest, including level testing in wheel gymnastics, a Festival Rythmic Competition, Group Gymnastics Displays, and several other performances. In addition, there will be a large training camp where participants can learn more about wheel gymnastics, judging, and coaching. Similar to the Big Wheel Weekend events held every March and October in Chicago, this event will bring exceptional, certified, coaches and participants from all over the world for an action packed, fun filled week of wheel gymnastics. The TurnFest is sponsored by USA Gymnastics, Gym Roots Inc, American Sokol, and the USA Wheel Gymnastics Federation. For more information may be found on www.wheel2013.com