



At the Archives with Jon Becker, Karen Rosen, Stan Schneider, and Teri Hedgpeth.



Gail and Don Bigsby, Diane Goddard, and Teri Hedgpeth at the Welcome Reception.

Colorado Springs Welcomes 2022 Olympin Festival

By Jim Goddard

The 2022 Olympin Collectors Club Festival attracted around 65 members and guests to Colorado Springs from November 3-6. Along with the usual buying, selling, and trading, the group enjoyed the Club's traditional welcome reception, a reception and tour of the USOPC Archives, and an evening at the new USOP Museum that included appetizers and a silent auction. Held in the historic City Auditorium in downtown Olympic City USA, the show offered 42 tables of memorabilia in this classic building next door to the "home hotel," the Hyatt Place Downtown.

Local promotion of the Festival was expansive, including two radio interviews, ads in the local Gazette newspaper, and online and social media exposure well before the event. A media event at the show resulted in television interviews and images on two stations and stories in the newspaper and online. The attendance by the general public was moderate, but those who came had a heavy interest, did some buying and trading, and even brought some items to sell. Among those items were IOC badges, a Berlin 1936 espresso cup and saucer, and a good variety of pins, patches, and tickets as well as a large bid flag from Sydney 2000 autographed by multiple USA athletes that was viewed by collectors who felt it should go to an auction.

Colorado Olympians and other athletes, who were offered free tables, sold some of their goodies from past games. Cindy Stinger (Team Handball Olympian, '84, '88, '92) arrived with two carloads of pins and other items from her garage, pleasing all the attendees with



(Left) Olympian Cindy Stinger's items generate lots of attention. (Center) Jack Chestnut and Karen Rosen take aim at the USOP Museum. (Right) During the silent auction at the Museum, Frances Carey and Pete Wade place their bids.



USOPM archivist and Paralympian Amanda McGrory leads a behind-the-scenes tour.

brisk sales and fun stories. Greg Louganis (Diving, '76, '84, '88) signed autographs and conversed about his amazing diving performances and new endeavors. A past employee of the USOPC also brought a large stash of pins that sold during two days of the show. Michelle Dusserre-Farrell (Gymnastics '84) displayed her silver medal, her ceremony outfit, and other apparel from LA '84. And USA Shooting and USA Figure Skating also had apparel for sale throughout the show.

The Festival's evening events featured many highlights including on Thursday at the welcome reception a wonderful tribute to the late Sid Marantz by his travel and Olympic pin trading buddy, Bud Kling. On Friday night at the USOPC Archives, all were treated to a delicious spread and a good amount of Olympic swag along with a video and presentation, capped by tours behind the scenes that featured a view of the most recent gift of an extensive badge collection from Gordy Crawford. Finally, on Saturday night, everyone enjoyed a variety of appetizers, a silent auction, and time in the USOP Museum sponsored by Mr. Crawford. There was also a three-day auction of bags of pins at the show, offering some great value from an in-kind donation to the Club of NOC and media pins from Mr. Crawford's collection.

The show further included two interesting exhibits from members' collections: Michael Bowlby laid out a huge collection of photos and autographs of Olympians, many outside their competitions, and an extensive Denver 1976 memorabilia collection was displayed by Jim Goddard.

The Festival was supported logistically by fifteen volunteers from the Club membership, along with many volunteer hours from **Diane Goddard**.

The following partnerships made the event possible and a great success, and sponsorships made it affordable for all members:

- **Mr. Gordon Crawford**
- **Ingrid O'Neil Auctions, Inc.**
- **RR Auction**
- **Olympin Board of Directors – Don Bigsby, Sid Marantz, Pam Litz, Jon Becker, Ingrid O'Neil, Ron Finnigan, Jim Goddard**
- **Past-Board member, Scott Reed, with logistics guidance**
- **Online help from Mark Maestroni and Rick Holman**
- **US Olympic & Paralympic Foundation**
- **US Olympic & Paralympic Training Center**
- **US Olympic & Paralympic Museum**
- **US Olympic & Paralympic Committee**
- **Visit Colorado Springs**
- **Community Cultural Collective – City Auditorium**
- **Colorado Springs/Olympic City USA**
- **US Shooting**
- **US Figure Skating Association**
- **Colorado Springs Sports Corp**
- **KRDO Radio**
- **Hyatt Place Downtown Hotel**
- **Hilton Gardens Hotel**
- **Kinship Landing Lodge**
- **American Numismatic Association**
- **Estate of Jay Hammerman – auction items donated by Melanie Hammerman-Vogel**



(Top) Karen Rosen visits with Olympic diving legend Greg Louganis. (Above) A beautiful night and a convivial gathering at the USOP Museum.