

Established 1982 – Our 35th Year – Issue No 139 – September 2016

The 31st Summer Olympic Games held in Rio de Janeiro are over, and they came off without a hitch; or at least without any big hitches! Those Olympin members who were there, and there were many, had mostly praise for the pin trading, competitions and safety at the Games. This letter includes two items that have become an Olympin newsletter tradition following an Olympics: Steve Robie's NOC pin summary and Pete Wade's day – by – day blog.

OLYMPIN

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Since the 2016 Member Directory Supplement was issued with the June newsletter, another 23 new members have joined your Club. Welcome! A 3 – page Supplemental Directory follows in pages 2 – 4. We closed out 2016 with 528 members. Everyone should have their 2016 member badge by now. If you do not, please contact us as soon as possible so we can replace your lost one.

OLYMPIN BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

Pam Litz and Scott Reed won their Board seats unopposed. Their new terms run from 2017 – 2019. Thank you to those who submitted ballots. If anyone is interested in joining the Board, they should contact Sid Marantz.

We have always been fortunate to draw members to our Board who are passionate about our Club and hobby. As President, having such a dedicated group has sustained me through the years, and allowed me to keep the Club functioning and improving. It is not easy to unseat Board members who are performing so well! Before running, maybe you could show your interest and volunteer somehow.

The latest news is not all good. While at the Games, we lost two legendary members and learned of the passing of 3 others. On August 27th, long-time Olympin Secretary/Treasurer **Eddie Beaupre** died, with collecting legend **Bob Christianson** passing away September 1st. As if that was not sad enough, we learned that **Toni Papiuo Cabezes** died in December 2015, and that **Mary Jo** and **Gary Gettmann** died several months apart last year.

BUSINESS

ROBERTO CALLED – AND 50 CAME!

On Sunday, August 7th, our Brazil Olympin member Roberto Gesta de Melo invited Olympin club members who were in Rio at the time, to a Brazilian lunch at the La Cabrera Barbeque Restaurant in Barra. Also invited were members of SPI (Society of International Philatelists) and ISOH (International Society of Olympic Historians).

Collectors from the USA, Europe and Australia enjoyed a delicious lunch with a variety of appetizers, entrees and desserts. It gave members the opportunity to share their impressions of the Rio Games, and it also provided an opportunity for members to trade pins after the lunch. Everybody was very happy, and we would like to extend again a big “**Thank You**” to Roberto and his wife, who personally arranged the event and negotiated hard with the restaurant owner to take such a large group during the Olympic Games. It was wonderful!

DON'T FORGET ATLANTA SHOW IN OCT.!

Hope to see many of you at the 35th Annual Olympin Memorabilia Festival Oct. 7 – 9. Check past newsletters or EBlasts for details.

Visit our Website! www.olympinclub.com

Rio NOC Pins

Country	Dated Rio	New Gen	Old Gen	# on Team	Medals Won				Notes
					G	S	B	T	
Afghanistan	*		*	3					1 dated: Wht & Silver dual logo pebble KSG, same wht round generic as LON
Albania		*		6					1 generic: Small red and silver circle
Algeria	*		*	67	0	2	0	2	1 dated: Sm wht circle w/ dual logos, Rnd wht & Rnd pewter w/ NOC logo
American Samoa		*		4					1 generic: White with eagle
Andorra	*			5					1 dated: Vertical white rectangle with dual logo
Angola				25					Did not bring pins
Antigua & Barbuda	*	*		9					1 dated: Wht hor rec with Cristo statue KSG, 1 new generic: Sm flag w/ rings
Argentina	*		*	213	3	1	0	4	1 dated: Wht hor rec "Atleta", 2 gen: blue & wht shields
Armenia		*		33	1	3	0	4	1 generic: Small white round with NOC logo
Aruba	*	*		7					1 dated: Pebble w/ sidewalk & NOC logo LA, 2 new gen: Lg silver shield, all gol
Australia	*	*	*	421	8	11	10	29	1 dated: Gold cutout NOC logo TR, 3 gen: Gold cutout, kangaroo, yellow diamo
Austria	*		*	71	0	0	1	1	1 dated: Wht & blue ver rec w dual logos, 1 gen: blue oval w/ NOC logo
Azerbaijan	*			56	1	7	10	18	3 dated: teardrop & sparkles in silver or gold, square silver shield KSG
Bahamas	*			28	1	0	1	2	1 dated: Large with mascot and NOC logo, 1 Gen: Bahamas w/ cutout rings
Bahrain			*	35	1	1	0	2	3 generic: Wht & red ver rec, cutout gold, Red & wht round
Bangladesh	*		*	7					1 dated: Small cutout crossed flags like LON KSG, 2 gen: cutout flower, flag
Barbados	*			12					2 dated: Gold shield with cutout rings and sunglasses, Lg black with "Rio"
Belarus	*			121	1	4	4	9	5 dated: Rounded rec in yel, blu & wht, rec w/cutout gold logo or wht logo
Belgium			*	108	2	2	2	6	1 gen: Small white ver rec "Team Belgium"
Belize	*			3					1 dated: White vertical oval w/ dual logo
Benin	*		*	6					1 dated: White dual logo pebble, 1 new generic: White shield w/ NOC logo KSG
Bermuda	*			8					2 dated: Lg and sm round starburst w/ blue NOC logo
Bhutan			*	2					2 generic: Ver dragon, flag w/ rings
Bolivia	*			12					3 dated: Gold dual logo rect, wht parallelogram both with condor, red/green rec
Bosnia Herzegovina		*	*	11					2 generic: Sm wht rnd, sm gold rnd
Botswana	*	*		12					1 dated: Light blue shield w/ NOC logo, wht shield w/ NOC logo and tusks KSG
Brazil	*	*		465	7	6	6	19	2 dated: Lg NOC mascot, dual logo pebble KSG, 1 gen: green shield NOC logo
British Virgin Islands	*			4					1 dated: Lg round black and green similar to Sochi
Brunei Darussalam	*	*		3					1 dated: NOC logo over Rio script logo KSG, 1 generic: wht rnd NOC logo
Bulgaria	*		*	51	0	1	2	3	5 dated: Red/Green oval like LON, set of 4 round in wht, green, red and gold
Burkina Faso		*		5					1 generic: Wht shield w/ NOC logo KSG
Burundi	*	*		9	0	1	0	1	1 dated: Wht w/ sidewalk design & NOC logo, 1 gen: Wht shield KSG
Cambodia			*	6					1 generic: Cutout gold temple pin used previously
Cameroon			*	24					2 generics: Rnd gold w/ NOC logo & sq gold w/ NOC logo from LON
Canada	*			314	4	3	15	22	3 dated: Lg maple leaf w/ NOC logo, wht w/ sidewalk design, sq silver dual logo
Cape Verde		*		5					1 generic: White pebble design with NOC logo KSG
Cayman Islands	*	*		5					1 dated: Gold cutout turtle as previous, 1 generic: Gold shield LA
Central African Rep.	*			6					1 dated: Colored diamond like LON
Chad	*	*		2					1 dated: Lime & drink w/ NOC and Rio script, 1 gen: cutout double flags w/ ring
Chile	*	*		42					2 dated: Rnd gold w/ gold or blk banners, 1 gen: same as dated, but w/ no banr
Chinese Taipei	*			60	1	0	2	3	2 dated: Lg wht rec with NOC and Rio logos as before, mascot pin questionable
Colombia	*			147	3	2	3	8	1 dated: Wht dual logo dual pebble, yel rec and undated rnd gold questionable
Comores				4					Did not bring pins
Congo	*			10					1 dated: wht rec w/ NOC & Rio logos KSG
Cook Islands	*	*		9					2 dated: NOC logo & sun/tree, NOC logo & bird/tree, 1 gen: NOC logo KSG
Costa Rica	*			10					1 dated: Silver cutout with NOC and Rio logos
Cote d'Ivoire	*	*		12	1	0	1	2	2 dated: Map w/ NOC logo, Cutout elephant & NOC logo, 2 gen: rnd & map KS
Croatia	*	*		87	5	3	2	10	1 dated: Wht rounded rec with dual logos, 1 gen: gold NOC logo with "Croatia"
Cuba			*	120	5	2	4	11	1 generic: Same shield as used previously
Cyprus	*			16					1 dated: Wht shield like LON
Czech Republic	*		*	105	1	2	7	10	5 dated: Del badge, rnd lion, sq silver, brz flag, lion, zatopek inspired, 1 gen: fla
DPR Korea		*		35	2	3	2	7	1 generic: White diamond shape with NOC logo
Dem. Republic of Congo		*		4					1 generic: Wht round button w/ logo
Denmark	*	*		122	2	6	7	15	2 dated: Wht rec w/ NOC logo, cutout NOC logo, 1 gen: wht vert rec w/ NOC lo
Djibouti		*		7					1 generic: Cutout flag and rings KSG

Abbreviations and notes:

? - fakes known to exist

Brz - Bronze

Del - Delegation

Hor - Horizontal

Yel - Yellow

Gen - Generic

Gld - Gold

BJG - Beijing

w/ - with

Gre - Green

Wht - White

Blk - Black

Rnd - Round

LON - London

Blu - Blue

Lg - Large

Sm - Small

Rec - Rectangle

Trad - traditional

KSG - Kingdom Sports Group

Vert - Vertical

Sq - Square

LA - Laurie Artiss

TR - Trofe

Rio NOC Pins

Country	Dated Rio	New Gen	Old Gen	# on Team	Medals Won				Notes
					G	S	B	T	
Dominica	*			2					1 dated: Rnd w/ picture of red hibiscus flower in center
Dominican Republic	*			29	0	0	1	1	1 dated: White dual logo rec w/ scalloped edges
Ecuador	*	*		38					1 dated: Wht sq w/ flag & rings, 1 gen: Rnd wht with condor logo
Egypt	*			120	0	0	3	3	1 dated: Cutout "Egypt" and rings KSG
El Salvador	*			8					1 dated: Rnd pewter with flag
Equatorial Guinea		*		2					1 generic: Lg gold rec w/ NOC logo
Eritrea		*		12					1 generic: Sm rnd wreath and NOC logo KSG
Estonia	*			45	0	0	1	1	1 dated: Sm green ver rect like London
Ethiopia				34	1	2	5	8	Did not bring pins
Fed. States of Micronesia	*		*	5					2 dated: Blu shield w/ butterfly, Lg blu w/ butterfly & ribbon, 1 gen: gold cutout l
Fiji	*	*		51	1	0	0	1	1 dated: Wht hor rect dual NOC & Rio logos, 1 gen: Blue & silver boat
Finland	*		*	56	0	0	1	1	1 dated: Wht circle w/ cutout flag in center, 1 gen: trad cutout flag w/ rings
FY Rep of Macedonia	*			6					1 dated: Pewter oval w/ NOC & Rio logos
France		*		395	10	18	14	42	2 generic: Wht ver rect w/ coq, cutout w/ coq
Gabon	*	*		6					1 dated: Map, 2 gen: Wht ver rec w/ flag/rings, Gold cutout rec like LON KSG
Gambia	*			4					3 dated: Wht/Blue oval with NOC logo & Rio script KSG, same in gold & silver
Georgia	*	*		39	2	1	4	7	1 dated: Wht hor rect dual NOC & Rio logos, 1 gen: Wht ver rec w/ NOC logo
Germany	*	*		425	17	10	15	42	1 Dated: Wht ver rec w/ DOSB, 1 gen: Wht hor rec w/ DOSB and rings
Ghana		*		14					1 Gen: Rnd sun with flag & rings
Great Britain	*			366	27	23	17	67	1 dated: Gold cutout w/ rings & lion like LON, ?
Greece	*		*	95	3	1	2	6	1 dated: Wht hor rec w/ NOC & Rio logos, 1 gen: trad shield
Grenada	*			6	0	1	0	1	1 dated: Map w/ dial, nutmeg LA
Guam	*			5					2 dated: Map w/ "Team Guam" & dual logos, ver latte stone KSG
Guatemala	*			21					1 dated: Gold shield with GUA and BRA flags
Guinea			*	5					1 generic: Same cutout NOC logo as LON
Guinea-Bissau	*	*		5					1 dated: Blue pebble w/ NOC logo, 1 gen: Silver cutout flag KSG
Guyana	*			6					1 dated: Mascot with dual logos LA
Haiti	*	*		10					1 dated: Rnd gold with NOC logo, 1 gen: same, but with COH instead of Rio 20
Honduras		*		26					1 gen: Rnd gold with flag in middle, some versions appear to have color in flag
Hong Kong	*		*	38					1 dated: Pebble with mascot and dual logos, 1 generic: rnd gold as in LON
Hungary	*	*		160	8	3	4	15	5 dated: Trad del ribbon, cutout & oval "We are Hun", wht hor rec, cutout logo
Iceland	*			8					1 dated: Trad gold rectangle
Ind. Olympic Athletes			*	9	1	0	1	2	1 generic: Rnd wht w/ Kuwait NOC logo (Kuwait NOC barred from Rio by IOC)
India			*	124	0	1	1	2	1 generic: Cutout NOC logo used previously
Indonesia	*		*	28	1	2	0	3	1 dated: Wht sq w/ Rio logo, flag but no rings, 1 gen: cutout wavy flag
Iraq	*			23					1 dated: blue round with two logos (magnet), ?
Ireland	*			77	0	2	0	2	1 dated: Gold vert rec with NOC logo and rings
Islamic Republic of Iran			*	64	3	1	4	8	1 generic: Cutout flame NOC logo used previously
Israel	*		*	48	0	0	2	2	1 dated: Flip-flops with ISR & BRA flags, 1 generic: Wht hor rec used previously
Italy	*		*	309	8	12	8	28	2 dated: Rnd blue&wht and gold oval both w/ NOC logo, 1 gen: cutout NOC log
Jamaica	*			68	6	3	2	11	1 dated: Green & wht hor rec with NOC & Rio logos
Japan	*		*	338	12	8	21	41	1 dated: Cutout NOC logo w/ green banner below, 1 gen: sm cutout flag, ?
Jordan			*	8	1	0	0	1	1 generic: Wht ver rect with NOC logo used previously
Kazakhstan	*	*		104	3	5	9	17	2 dated: Flag w/ Rio logo, sm flag w/ Rio logo, 2 gen: Rnd gold & rnd silver
Kenya	*	*		89	6	6	1	13	3 dated: Wht ver rec, sm map, rnd gold, 1 gen: Crossed spears & shield KSG
Kiribati	*			3					2 dated: Cutout dual logos & mascot, delegation badge w/ ribbon
Korea	*			205	9	3	9	21	1 dated: Green & wht pebble w/ mascot & NOC & Rio logos
Kosovo	*		*	8	1	0	0	1	2 dated: Lg & sm blue pebbles with NOC logo, 2 gen: Cutout blue & all gold KS
Kyrgyzstan	*	*		19					1 dated: Wht shield with NOC logo, 1 generic: Cutout NOC logo KSG
Lao People's Dem. Rep.	*		*	6					1 dated: Flag w/ Rio 2016 script, 1 generic: Sm cutout flag w/ rings used before
Latvia	*	*		34					1 dated: Rnd w/ wht & red lattice design, 1 generic: same but without date, ?
Lebanon			*	9					1 generic: Sm red shield w/ cutout rings used previously
Lesotho			*	8					1 generic: Lg wht shield w/ NOC logo used previously KSG
Liberia	*			2					1 dated: NOC logo on Red/Wht background & cutout rings KSG
Libya	*	*		7					1 dated: Wht pebble w/ dual logos, 2 gen: wht pebble, wht shield

Abbreviations and notes:

? - fakes known to exist

Brz - Bronze

Del - Delegation

Hor - Horizontal

Yel - Yellow

Gen - Generic

Gld - Gold

BJG - Beijing

w/ - with

Gre - Green

Wht - White

Blk - Black

Rnd - Round

LON - London

Blu - Blue

Lg - Large

Sm - Small

Rec - Rectangle

Trad - traditional

KSG - Kingdom Sports Group

Vert - Vertical

Sq - Square

LA - Laurie Artiss

TR - Trofe

Rio NOC Pins

Country	Dated Rio	New Gen	Old Gen	# on Team	Medals Won					Notes
					G	S	B	T		
Liechtenstein	*			3						1 dated: Blk & wht design like Sochi
Lithuania	*	*		67	0	1	3	4		2 dated: Sm wht shield like previous, dated green Lteam, 1 generic: Green Ltea
Luxembourg	*	*		10						1 dated: Wht ver rec w/ NOC logo, 2 generic: Wht sq & wht parallelogram
Madagascar			*	6						1 generic: Silver shield with red & green used previously
Malawi				5						Did not bring pins
Malaysia	*	*		32	0	4	1	5		1 dated: Wht torch w/ flame & dual logos, 1 gen: Cutout flag w/ rings
Maldives	*			4						2 dated: Palm tree on sun w/ NOC logo, Palm tree on wht w/ dual logos
Mali		*		6						1 generic: Wht shield similar to LON
Malta	*		*	7						1 dated: Wht hor rec w/ dual logos, 1 gen: cutout NOC logo
Marshall Islands	*		*	5						1 dated: Rnd w/ gold rim on wht dual logos, 1 generic: Cutout flag w/ rings
Mauritania	*			2						1 dated: Colored rings on gold & wht star & moon design
Mauritius	*	*		12						1 dated: Gold ver oval w/ dual logos, 1 generic: Wht rnd w/ NOC logo KSG
Mexico	*			125	0	3	2	5		9 dated: 3 gold/blk hor rec, dual flags, 2 gold ver rec, rnd pewter, rnd wht, rnd g
Monaco	*		*	3						3 dated: Trad crossed flags, dual logos on silver, NOC logo & mascot on silver
Mongolia	*	*		43	0	1	1	2		1 dated: Gold hor rec w/ ribbon, 3 gen: temple w/ yellow, blue & lt blue, ?
Montenegro			*	34						1 generic: Wht ver rec similar but larger than LON
Morocco			*	51	0	0	1	1		1 generic: Sm red & gold cutout crown used previously
Mozambique	*			6						1 dated: Cutout NOC logo on wht with Rio script banner below KSG
Myanmar	*	*		7						1 dated: Cutout NOC logo w/ blue Rio banner KSG, 1 Gen: Gold & red cutout
Namibia	*			10						1 dated: Sq NOC flag above cutout silver Rio script and rings KSG
Nauru	*	*		2						1 dated: Silver oval, 2 generic: Silver oval, wht hor rec KSG
Nepal	*		*	7						1 dated: Lg wht oval w/ dual logos, 1 generic: wht ver oval w/ NOC logo
Netherlands	*	*		242	8	7	4	19		1 dated: Wht hor rec w/ new tulip & Rio logos, 1 gen: Wht ver rec w/ NOC logo
New Zealand	*			199	4	9	5	18		1 dated: Blk tshirt w/ gold NOC logo & Rio script logo
Nicaragua	*			5						1 dated: Lg wht irregular w/ dual logos & "Nicaragua" at bottom
Niger	*	*		6	0	1	0	1		1 dated: Lg wht rnd w/ NOC logo & Rio 2016, 1 gen: same but undated KSG
Nigeria		*		75	0	0	1	1		1 generic: Sm wht rnd w/ green NOC logo
Norway			*	62	0	0	4	4		1 generic: Sm gold hor rec w/ cutout rings
Oman			*	4						1 generic: Lg gold magnet in shape of NOC logo
Pakistan	*		*	7						1 dated: Cutout wreath & rings KSG, 2 gen: 2 different gold rnd
Palau	*		*	5						1 dated: Gold semicircle w/ dual logos, 1 gen: Gold dangler as before
Palestine		*		6						1 generic: Rnd wht w/ NOC logo
Panama		*		10						2 generic: Rnd wht w/ NOC bird logo, rnd gold w/ NOC bird logo
Papua New Guinea	*	*		8						2 dated: Wht hor & ver rec w/ dual logos, 2 gen: wht oval & wht cutout TR
Paraguay		*	*	11						3 generic: Cutout gold w/ new lion logo, cutout flame logo, rings over PARAGU
People's Rep. of China	*	*		413	26	18	26	70		7 dated: Wht rec & pebble w/ mascot, silver oval, wht rec dual, 3 China house
Peru	*			29						4 dated: Wht hor & ver rec dual logo, gold rounded rec, gold pebble
Philippines			*	13	0	1	0	1		1 generic: Gold rnd used in Sochi and London
Poland	*			243	2	3	6	11		4 dated: 3 irregular ovals in 3 colors, small silver & red flag as before
Portugal	*			92	0	0	1	1		1 dated: red, yel & gre pebble, ?
Puerto Rico	*			42	1	0	0	1		3 dated: Cristo & NOC logo, ver oval w/ NOC logo, blue NOC logo
Qatar		*	*	38	0	1	0	1		2 generic: Silver round magnet, cutout NOC logo
Refugee Olympic Team				10						Did not bring pins
Republic of Moldova	*			23	0	0	1	1		8 dated: Wht ver rec w/ cutout gold crown, 7 ver rec in various colors, 25th anni
Romania	*	*		97	1	1	3	5		1 dated: Gold hor rec dual logo, 3 gen: ver rec in gold, silver & bronze
Russian Federation				282	19	18	19	56		4 dated: Gold diamond dual logo, sm cutout flag, 2 3D Flags w/ NOC logo, shie
Rwanda	*	*		8						2 dated: Silver shield w/ silver or colored rings, 2 gen: same w/o Rio logo KSG
St. Kitts and Nevis	*	*		7						2 dated: pelican, round white, 1 generic: Gold round w/ flag
St. Lucia	*			5						5 dated: wht pebbles w/ mascot, parrot, flower, "2016" and dual logos LA
St. Vincent & Grenadines	*	*		4						1 dated: blue oval shape w/ cannon, 1 gen: rnd w/ 3 diamonds logo
Samoa		*		8						1 generic: White vertical rectangle with flag and rings
San Marino	*		*	5						2 dated: Wht rnd w/ dual logos, wht pebble w/ dual logos, 1 gen: wht shield
Sao Tome and Principe	*			3						3 dated: Rnd blue w/ silver Cristo, lg cutout silver Cristo del badge, wht rnd
Saudi Arabia			*	12						1 generic: Gold rnd w/ NOC logo used previously at 2014 YOG
Senegal	*	*		22						1 dated: map in gre, yel & red w/ NOC logo, 1 gen: same w/o Rio logo KSG

Abbreviations and notes:

? - fakes known to exist

Brz - Bronze

Del - Delegation

Hor - Horizontal

Yel - Yellow

Gen - Generic

Gld - Gold

BJG - Beijing

w/ - with

Gre - Green

Wht - White

Blk - Black

Rnd - Round

LON - London

Blu - Blue

Lg - Large

Sm - Small

Rec - Rectangle

Trad - traditional

KSG - Kingdom Sports Group

Vert - Vertical

Sq - Square

LA - Laurie Attiss

TR - Trofe

Rio NOC Pins

Country	Dated Rio	New Gen	Old Gen	# on Team	Medals Won				Notes
					G	S	B	T	
Serbia	*	*		104	2	4	2	8	1 dated: Cutout NOC logo w/ Rio script, 3 gen: gold & colored cutouts
Seychelles	*			10					1 dated: Wht & silver shield as before KSG
Sierra Leone	*	*		4					1 dated: Cutout NOC logo w/ ver Rio script, trees, 1 gen: map w/ NOC logo KSG
Singapore	*	*		25	1	0	0	1	1 dated: Wht rec w/ cutout Rio logo, 1 gen: Red cutout shield "Singapore" KSG
Slovakia	*			51	2	2	0	4	2 dated: Ver rec w/ wht pebble in center, same w/ ribbon & "Ucastnik"
Slovenia	*			61	1	2	1	4	1 dated: Wht ver rec w/ mountain NOC logo
Solomon Islands	*			3					2 dated: Gold w/ crossed flags and NOC logo, wht sq w/ flag
Somalia	*	*		2					1 dated: Gold ver rec w/ flag, 1 Gen: Wht rnd w/ flag, ?
South Africa	*			137	2	6	2	10	1 dated: Gold rnd w/ flag in center
South Sudan		*		3					1 generic: Gold rnd w/ flag in center
Spain			*	306	7	4	6	17	1 generic: Sm cutout shield w/ gold rings, ?
Sri Lanka	*	*	*	9					1 dated: Mascot w/ NOC logo, 2 gen: Rnd gold w/ NOC logo KSG, lion & rings
Sudan	*	*		6					1 dated: Wht pebble w/ NOC logo KSG, 1 gen: Gold 8-sided star w/ NOC logo
Suriname		*		6					1 generic: Wavy flag on wht w/ colored rings
Swaziland	*			2					1 dated: beach scene w/ NOC logo,
Sweden	*			152	2	6	3	11	1 dated: Sm blue/gold with 3 crowns like previous
Switzerland	*			104	3	2	2	7	1 dated: Sm shields w/ two flag design, 1 gen: Vert rec
Syrian Arab Republic	*		*	7					3 dated: Rnd "Official", sq "Athlete" & "Palмира", 1 gen: Cutout flag
Tadjikistan	*			7	1	0	0	1	3 dated: Rnd w/ ribbon, wht hor rec w/ dual logos, lg flag
Thailand			*	54	2	2	2	6	1 generic: Traditional gold cutout elephant
Timor-Leste	*	*		3					2 dated: NOC logo w/ rnd Rio logo, ver rec flag, 1 gen: Undated ver rec flag
Togo	*	*		5					1 dated: Wht ver oval w/ NOC logo, 1 generic: Wht rnd w/ NOC logo KSG
Tonga	*			7					1 dated: Cutout shield w/ Cristo & "Team Tonga" KSG
Trinidad & Tobago	*		*	32	0	0	1	1	2 dated: Gold w/ dual logos, silver w/ NOC logo & mascot, 1 gen: Cutout logo
Tunisia		*		61	0	0	3	3	2 generic: Silver w/ "Tunisia", rings & NOC logo
Turkey	*		*	103	1	3	4	8	2 dated: Wht hor rect w/ domed epoxy & dual logo, same w/ flat enamel
Turkmenistan	*			9					1 dated: Flag w/ silver cutout rings and Rio script KSG
Tuvalu	*			1					1 dated: Cutout blue & gold boat design w/ wht pebble Rio logo KSG
Uganda			*	21					1 generic: Map used in LON
Ukraine	*			203	2	5	4	11	>20 dated: Wht pebbles w/ coach, athlete & delegation in cyrillic, >20 sports
United Arab Emirates			*	13	0	0	1	1	1 generic: Same cutout NOC logo as LON
United Rep. of Tanzania	*			7					1 dated: Giraffe w/ dual logos KSG
United States of America	*	*		554	46	37	38	121	> 35 dated: Rnd w/ crossed flags "Olympic Team", ~25 same w/ sports, ?
Uruguay			*	17					1 generic: Sm cutout flag w/ rings used previously
Uzbekistan	*	*		70	4	2	7	13	3 dated: Dual logos in gold w/ flag & ver rec, NOC logo w/ ribbon
Vanuatu	*		*	4					1 dated: Wht hor rec dual logo, 1 gen: Wht parallelogram
Venezuela	*			87	0	1	2	3	2 dated: Wht domed pebble & mascot, map
Vietnam	*		*	23	1	1	0	2	2 dated: Cutout flag w/ blue banner, cutout flag w/ Rio logo KSG
Virgin Islands	*	*	*	7					1 dated: Wht rnd w/ NOC logo & wht Rio script banner, 1 gen: Wht rnd LA
Yemen		*		4					1 generic: Sm gold rnd w/ NOC logo similar to previous
Zambia	*	*		7					1 dated: Lg pebble in pebble with NOC logo, 2 gen: Sq & cutout NOC logo KSG
Zimbabwe	*	*		31					1 dated: Lg yel NOC bird logo, 1 generic: map KSG

Abbreviations and notes:

? - fakes known to exist

Brz - Bronze

Del - Delegation

Hor - Horizontal

Yel - Yellow

Gen - Generic

Gld - Gold

BJG - Beijing

w/ - with

Gre - Green

Wht - White

Blk - Black

Rnd - Round

LON - London

Blu - Blue

Lg - Large

Sm - Small

Rec - Rectangle

Trad - traditional

KSG - Kingdom Sports Group

Vert - Vertical

Sq - Square

LA - Laurie Artiss

TR - Trofe

Olympin is again deeply in debt to Steve Robie! Researching and preparing this list was a tremendous accomplishment!

Besides Steve, also giving of their time and talent were Pete Wade and Dory Boyer. We thank them also!

All of the information gathered here resulted from Steve's work as Chairman of the NOC Unauthorized Pins Project.

This is a terrific resource for collectors, and it is deeply appreciated. Thanks to all 3 of you!

What follows in the next 8 pages is Pete Wade's BLOG of his day-to-day experience at the Rio 2016 Summer Olympic Games. It has been a tradition for the past decade, enjoyed by those who were there, and those who were not!

Thanks Pete! Every time you do this, it seems better!

RIO BLOG - DAY 1 – Friday - AUGUST 5

These are the Olympic Games that promise the best of both worlds, the beauty and spirit of Rio de Janeiro, the Marvelous City, and the energy and enthusiasm of the Olympics.

Ah, Brazil! She is like a stunningly beautiful woman who is also unpredictably temperamental. She mesmerizes you but she also makes you crazy. Rio is simply one of the most beautiful places on earth, with picture postcard views sprinkled all over the place. But, Rio is also plagued with alarming poverty and disrepair. There is a joke among Brazilians about a conversation between God and ST Peter discussing the creation of Brazil?

ST PETER - Lord, you have given Brazil dramatic mountains and dazzling beaches. You have given it unimaginable amounts of natural resources and incomparable weather. Don't you think you might have overdone it a bit?

LORD - Ah, Peter my friend. Just wait until you see what I have given them for a government!

There are three things that quickly strike Norte Americanos on their visit to Rio. First, is jarring contrasts. Mansions built literally next to slums (favelas). A donkey grazing next to a parked Mercedes 500. Dental floss bathing suits on both bathing beauties and grannies. Second, there is no other country in the world with more diversity, or where true diversity is encouraged as much. Colors, ethnicities, sizes and shapes. There are more ethnic Africans in Brazil than any other country in the world other than Nigeria. There are more ethnic Italians in Brazil than anywhere outside of Italy. There are more ethnic Japanese in Brazil than anywhere other than Japan. While over half of the Brazilian population is black, next door neighbors, Argentina and Chile, have virtually no black citizens. Third, it seems like the whole Brazilian population is over-caffeinated, moving fast and trying to move faster. You can feel the throbbing energy.

Tonight, the Opening Ceremonies will mark Brazil's hosting of the 31st Olympic Summer Games. Hang onto your seats!

RIO BLOG - DAY 2 – Saturday - AUGUST 6

The Opening Ceremonies went off without a problem. Bing, bang, boom, with lots of color and a constant thread of iconic Brazilian music in the background. It is always uplifting to see kids from 207 countries smiling and hugging each other, and it gives you hope for the world, in spite of the hourly media headlines which paint a darker picture. Anyone who watched the Ceremonies on TV got a much better view of the activities than we did from our (good) seats, but a lot of the entertainment is people-watching. The VIPs from the various countries very often wear their traditional dress to the Ceremonies and that is really a show in itself. Some National Olympic Committees (NOCs) have foreign advisors/executives on their staffs and some of them get into the act too. We were amused by a husband/wife combo, clearly from New York, all garbed up in traditional robes/headaddresses from their host NOC, Gambia, looking a bit like giraffes in a Reds uniform. All in good fun. We got to bed by 0200 on Saturday . . . ugh!

So far, the highlight of Linda's visit to Rio was the sighting of a capybara in the wild. Capybaras are the world's largest rodents. Think of a gerbil the size of a big pig. We were driving home one night and one slowly crossed (rather trundled) the road in front of us, an uncommon experience, and there was no doubt as to what it was. He went on making little chirping noises, utterly ignoring us. We watched a few minutes as he nibbled on some ground plants and then he stumbled off into the bush. We were really impressed. He was not.

Today, the real stuff starts. We had decided to go see the US - China basketball game, but the traffic was so horrific (Note: the Brazilians have perfected traffic nightmares, making Cincinnati rush hour traffic look like a Sunday jaunt along the Miami River.) that we decided to relax and go have dinner instead. Ever tried papaya cream with dribbled cassis? Now, there is a dessert for the ages.

RIO BLOG – DAY 3 – Sunday - AUGUST 7

Windy and rainy today so all outside activities were muted. And, a lot of visitors and athletes looked at it as a day of rest after a hectic first two days. USA rooters were encouraged by our basketball team's huge win over China, a nice way to start. USA's historic lazy performance against weaker teams may be a thing of the past. We hope.

One of the things that visitors marvel at in Rio are the acrobatics performed by motorcyclists in the thick of traffic. In the midst of two- and three-lane traffic, they will zip between lines of cars at speed, often dodging pedestrians and lane-changers with truly athletic competence. We have seen more than one near-death experience. One bike in front of us a few days ago had a license plate numbered "R I P 790", truly a fitting epitaph.

If Brazil had a "national drink", it'd be the the "CAIPAIRINHA", pronounced "cay-pair-inn-yah", a sort of a sourish margarita made from cachasa (a rough early cut of rum), loaded with several cut limes (they call limes lemons here) and lots of ice. Some drinkers add a bit of sugar but I like it unsugared, especially since it is very easy to confuse the little packet of sugar in the middle of the table with the little packet of salt of exactly the same color. You REALLY don't want to do that.

RIO BLOG - DAY 4 – Monday - AUGUST 8

I doubt that many people realize the size and impact of Brazil. Brazil is the 5th largest country in the world with 200 million people and a land mass about the same size as the Continental US. It also has the 5th largest economy in the world, larger than the UK or France. Oddly, its wealth is dramatically skewed to a very few. It is hard to believe, but just 12 families own 50% of all of the publicly-held land in the country. And, while China gets all of the economic headlines as far as the major developing countries are concerned, Brazil had economic growth in the period of the first decade of the 21st Century of between 7 and 10% per year. Since 2014, however, Brazil has had a real wake-up call with its worst recession since WWII.

In the early days of the Modern Olympic Games, Olympic planners wrestled with the problem of how to get participants from different countries to mingle despite differences in language and culture. One of the ways that worked pretty well was the trading of "friendship pins". Each country provides its athletes and officials with small lapel-style pins. Then the Chinese guy has a reason to go up and talk to that girl from Germany . . . an effective "ice breaker". (Note: None of the male athletes need a reason to go up and talk to the females from Sweden.) And, it really works. At any time of day, you can see hundreds of kids trading pins

together in the Athletes Village. And, sometimes even non-athletes join in. Great fun between the events.

USA Basketball beat Venezuela by 50 points last night in a game that was much more exciting than the score would suggest.

RIO BLOG - DAY 5 - Tuesday - AUGUST 9

Hot day today. Only 84F but with 90%+ humidity, the air hangs heavy.

Spent some time with some of the Jamaicans. What a fun bunch. Usain Bolt was around the OL Village with a big entourage, like rock star. Surprisingly he is a pretty tall guy, unusual for a sprinter. I'd guess about 6'3" and he looks like an NFL wide receiver. The other key Jamaican runner are short. Like me without the fat part. The female runners are very small and very young, acting like groovy high schoolers (which they probably are)

I have been surprised at how many very tall athletes there are here. I'd guess I may have seen 40 - 50 kids that are 6'-10" to 7'-2". And some ladies easily over 6'6". We met the youngest athlete in the Games, a Nepalese girl, 15 years old and about 4'10" tall, a little squirt.

The overriding theme of these Games is 'protecting our environment'. While it is, and should be, on everyone's mind, it has a special meaning in Brazil. Brazil's vast Amazon jungle provides 20% of the world's oxygen supply and 25% of the world's fresh water. Having been on the Amazon River, it is really humbling to see just how wide this body of water is. Comparing it to our Ohio River, one the largest US rivers, you can still stand on the Cincinnati side and distinguish the makes of cars on the Kentucky side. At just past Manaus in Amazonia, you can be out on the water and not even see either side.

RIO BLOG - DAY 6 - Wednesday - AUGUST 10

USA Mens Basketball got a big scare last night from under-manned Australia due to sloppy defense (and probably over-confidence). Wake up call! Gymnasts and swimmers rule!

Rain put a damper on all outside activities. Since there is virtually no shelter in the Olympic Village Plaza, a large open space where everyone congregates, sodden folks were coming up with creative ways to keep dry. They hid in the post office, internet center (already too crowded) and the bank (where there was free espresso/cappuccino). The athletes/officials are entitled to free meals in the huge pair of dining halls, but the food is reportedly so-so. The result is large queues at the McDonalds restaurant in the Plaza, sometimes as many as 200 deep for America's most popular export. BigMac/fries/drink? \$8.00!

A Brazilian highlight is the churrascaria (barbecue-style restaurant), and especially the "rodizio" version. You get a salad/appetizer cafeteria-style, then when you sit down, wandering waiters walk around the room with large skewers of various meats, slicing off as much of anything you want (steaks, chops, chicken, various sausages, etc.). They continue to come around as long as you are willing. You also have a small red/green light device. Green light? "I'm ready for more". Red light? "Not just now . . . I need to rest". They should add a black light for "Call an ambulance!".

In the Village's Internet center, Samsung is demonstrating its newest VR (virtual reality) technology. I haven't tried it yet, but those who have say it is really phenomenal. Their demonstration features a 5-minute, 4-person roller coaster ride where the visual effects are emphasized by "motion chairs", and you can tell from the reaction of participants that it is like the real thing . . . lots of screaming and laughter.

RIO BLOG -DAY 7 – Thursday - AUGUST 11

We ventured into the Olympic Parque today and took a look at the stadia and venues. It is a vast area, basically a pave-over of an old auto racing track and site. Big distances between venues and huge queues. Brazil has a history of brilliant, creative architecture, but I was disappointed in the Parque, bland and not exciting. Some of the stadia are temporary and will be torn down or relocated after the Games, and perhaps this was one reason for the lack of sizzle.

Brazil's history has been peppered by a series of boom-or-bust events largely based on harvesting natural resources. First, it was sugar. Then someone stole some sugar cane seeds and planted them throughout the Caribbean. Whoops, there goes the sugar trade. Then, it was gold, but oh oh, the mines ran dry. Then, it was natural rubber when the rubber tire industry blossomed following the advent of the new automobile industry in the early part of the 20th Century. (Note: Henry Ford 'purchased' an enormous tract of jungle - about the size of Connecticut - in the 1930s to build an efficient and predictable source of tire rubber). But, then someone stole some rubber seeds and built a cheaper industry in Malaysia and Indonesia. Whoops, there goes the rubber trade. Next was coffee, and while Brazil is still a key player in the coffee trade, others (notably Colombia) have copied, and Brazil's coffee trade has flattened. The latest is oil where Brazil invested big time in deep sea extraction and became an oil power. This lasted for a while anyway, until shale extraction and fracking created a worldwide excess of petroleum supply. So, here we are again. The problem is that as each of these "booms" flourished, the country projected that the boom would last forever and borrowed money against future revenues. Then, when the "oh s**t" moment occurred and debts came due, the economy crashed and international investors were crushed yet again. Brazilian long-term economic planning is probably run by PeeWee Herman.

Now, lets talk about the huge (yuuge?) increase in obesity in Brazil. Ohh, lets not.

RIO BLOG - DAY 8 – Friday - AUGUST 12

There were so many achievements and disappointments today that the mind reels. Michael Phelps got the most headlines for (gasp!) coming in second. After 24 career Gold Medals, the media makes it sound like a catastrophe if he "only" comes in second. And, at 32 years old! reading between the lines, Phelps was so humble in responding to the press's questions that he probably did more good for his reputation in that interview than if had won the race. This was supposedly his last individual race of his unparalleled Olympic career. A personal highlight of my Olympic week was watching the Gold Medal rugby match between Fiji and Great Britain. Fiji absolutely crushed GBR 43 - 5 in what had to be one of the most dominating Gold Medal efforts in OL history. It was Fiji's first ever Medal in its OL history and its prime minister declared a national holiday in its honor. It was the first rugby game I had ever seen and I was really surprised at what a great spectator sport rugby is. With the stands full of Fijiers raising quite a ruckus in the background, it was truly an event to remember. Rugby?? Yup.

RIO BLOG - DAY 10 – Sunday - AUGUST 14

It is difficult to put the proper perspective on Michael Phelps' fantastic OL career. For years, Olympic trivia experts have known that female Soviet gymnast Larisa Latynina held the OL record for Medals at 18 and that Mark Spitz held the US record for Gold Medals at 8. These long-held records were analogous to Babe Ruth's career record of 60 home runs. But in Sydney in 2000, along comes Phelps. Today, as his OL career comes to a close, Phelps holds 23 Gold Medals and 28 career Medals

obliterating Latynina's/Spitz's revered records. You could say this is like hitting 100 home runs in baseball. Truly unbelievable.

The USA has now won 1000 Gold Medals in its 120 years of Olympic competition.

The poor Brazilians just don't seem to get a break. First, its historic recession that started in 2013. Then, their failure to repair 500 years of damage to its beautiful, but littered, Guanabara Bay. Then Zika. Then their President was shoved aside. And just as all of those headlines seemed to fade, visiting OL athletes moved into their new quarters to find electricity, toilets and air conditioning that didn't work, which further churned the evening news and earned a censoring by the International Olympic Committee. It seems that after their victory to host the current Games in 2009, they spent the next 4 years celebrating, giving them only three more years to actually get the preparations done. In the OL Village's International Plaza, you are not supposed to put toilet paper into the toilets. To half of the civilized world, this is counter to culture. So, to avoid problems, Games organizers put up large signs in all of the toilets . . . in Portuguese! Then, since 90% of the toilet visitors don't speak Portuguese, the toilets were all clogged up by noon on the first day. Boy, was that a mess!

RIO BLOG - DAY 11 – Monday - AUGUST 15

Brazil's history is sprinkled with all kinds of unique events. Portugal first settled Brazil in the early-16th Century, a real "minnow-ate-the-whale" situation since the land mass of Brazil today is over 100 times that of Portugal. The hassling between Spain and Portugal during that period was so intense between these two (then) most powerful Euro powers, that the Pope intervened and took out a pencil and drew a line down the (then) map of South America and said, "everything east of the line is Portugal's and everything west is Spain's". Everything east was basically Brazil, and everything west was everything else. And, we thought that the Jefferson's Louisiana Purchase was a big deal. Brazil's independence was also unique because it became independent when the royal family of Portugal, then living in Rio, overthrew its colonial masters in Lisbon.

USA Mens Basketball again barely ducked a bullet as they hung on to defeat a pesky, sticky French squad. Again, sloppy defense, poor free throw shooting and a lackadaisical attitude almost meant a loss. The women's basketball efforts have been significantly more impressive, still undefeated. The most eye-opening thing about the Mens' team is Kevin Durant, clearly the dominant player on the floor, and it is remarkable how such a big guy can be so nimble. He can easily bring the ball up the court like a point guard, then shoot a three-pointer and still get his own rebound.

Usain Bolt. Third straight Games that he has won the 100m sprint, an unprecedented feat. A real character, he can light up the show as well off the track as on it.

RIO BLOG - DAY 12 – Tuesday - AUGUST 16

Went to Copacabana yesterday to watch the US play Brazil in Beach Volleyball, a 1 1/2 hour trip each way. When we arrived at just past 1200, the temp was 32C, about 86F and humid, really unpleasant. By the time the game started at 1600 (4P), the temp had dropped to 17C, about 64F and the wind was blowing about 25 mph, maybe more. Brazil whopped the US as the crowd of about 16,000 went nuts waving flags and singing songs. The crowd was much fun to watch, the game not.

We always design pins and badges for some of the tiny countries competing at the Games. This year, the TV coverage caught the flag-carrier in the Opening Ceremonies from Micronesia, an attractive young woman wearing a grass skirt. I would have even added the

adjective 'provocative' but she was probably only 18, so scratch that. And, as the TV cameras panned in on her chest, there she was in full-bloom wearing her big Micronesia delegation Badge, ribbon fluttering. And the week's reruns have shown her over and over. Good advertising for a diminutive nation that no one has ever heard of.

Andy Murray. Gold Medal. Mens Tennis. Justin Rose. Ditto in Mens Tennis. A big year for both of them, and for the Brits who are having an unusually good OL Games, one of the top three Teams in Medal count so far, an extremely rare event for them. The host nation usually does very well in Medaling, but not this time. Brazil has 6 Medals so far, 24th in Medal count among the nations.

RIO BLOG - DAY 13 - Wednesday - AUGUST 17

There is only one 'express highway' that runs east-west through the Rio suburb of Barra (pronounced "bah-hah"). This highway is not an expressway in the US sense but more of a two-lane boulevard with an additional two lanes of 'access road' on either side. And, one of the two boulevard lanes in either direction is reserved for OL traffic. And, there are no alternative side routes. The traffic through Barra, where 70% of the events are being held, horrific before the Games, is now a disaster. Any small fender-bender freezes traffic and the queues can go all the way to Uruguay. One wonders what sort of a genius planned this one. Host country Brazil has now slipped to 31st place in the Medals count, behind athletic super-powers like Thailand, Belgium and Croatia, . . . quite an embarrassment. Most visitors, when not rooting for their home country, root for Brazil. But, it isn't helping. Cariocas (Brazilians living in Rio) have been wonderful, energetic hosts, despite the traffic and broken toilets, making the imperfect Games fun anyway. The spirit of the host country volunteers are always the key determinant of any Games, and the Brazilians score well here. Some of the larger (read: richer) countries like the US, Canada, Germany have "houses", basically entertainment centers for visitors. Some are big and fun, others less so. But, the hit here is Jamaica House in Gavea, clearly the hottest spot of the Games.

RIO BLOG - DAY 14 - Thursday - AUGUST 18

Toward the end of the 17-day Olympic Games, everything starts becoming a blur with missed meals and too little sleep. Reminds me of working.

Watched yet another basketball game where the US played Argentina in the QuarterFinals. The US characteristically started slowly being behind by ten points five minutes into the Game with a huge Argentine/Brazilian crowd screaming. Then they stopped screaming. The US won by 25.

Next game will be the semi-finals. International basketball is different from the NBA, a smaller court with everyone getting tangled up a lot. And a lot more physical contact is tolerated. Teams like Spain, Italy, Argentina, Australia, Lithuania and Serbia have a fair contingent of NBA players and none of them are pushovers. Kevin Durant!! Kylie Irving!! Wonderful to watch.

The Womens Beach Volleyball lost to Brazil, the first time they have ever lost an Olympic match. That disappointment was muted by stunning performance by both Mens and Womens gymnastics and athletics.

We are fortunate to have a superb condo overlooking a jungle and the broad and beautiful Barra beach. It also has four restaurants and a dry cleaners and a (gasp!) wine shoppe in the complex. Maybe we will stay here forever.

RIO BLOG - DAY 15 – Friday - AUGUST 19

Security was a concern for visitors as they prepared to come to Rio. In actuality, while there have been no significant security issues here, security is a bit of a paradox. There are security folks, volunteer gate-keepers, armed guards and soldiers all over the place. However, their scrutiny is at best uneven. At some checkpoints security people are more concerned with their cellphones than those being screened. In some places, I felt like I could have walked in dressed in a gorilla suit.

A favorite topic here among the media has been the availability of 42,000 condoms to athletes, a headline that is apparently true . . . although no one offered me one. Since there are 11,000 athletes in Rio (a record, by the way), that doesn't leave much time for training and competition.

The biggest event of the Games is the Football (read: that's soccer to us pagans) Gold Medal match tomorrow afternoon between Brazil and Germany. Brazil has won more World Cups (5) than any other nation, but strangely, has never won an Olympic Gold Medal. Everyone in Brazil over the age of two knows that, and the mood is tense. The rumor is that you had better not need a taxi while the game is on because the drivers will be parked somewhere with an cafezinho watching The Game.

RIO BLOG - DAY 16 – Saturday - AUGUST 20

Things are winding down here. Athletes are slowly packing their stuff and leaving . . . a sad sight indeed. But, it always happens. Today marks two weeks since the Opening Ceremonies. With temps in the high 80s and 80 - 90% humidity it's a grueling march (but somebody has to do it). It is unfair to complain when you are in one of the most beautiful places on earth surrounded by lots of people having fun 24/7.

The US Mens Basketball Team won another tough match against talented Spain and advance to the Gold medal Game against Serbia on Sunday. They have already beaten the Serbs in the preliminary rounds, but this will be a tough game for sure. US Basketball has already learned a grim lesson from the Balkan Ballers when Serbia beat the heavily-favored US Womens team on Thursday. Balkan Ballers? Really??

There is always controversy about who gets the most Medals during the Games. Some feel that this is contrary to the spirit of the Olympics (essentially to draw the world together through sports), but, of course, everyone is going to do it anyway. The US is way ahead but surprising Great Britain is neck-and-neck with China for second place. The US, Russia/USSR and China almost always duke it out for the top spot. This year, however, with a third of the Russian Team staying home and the Chinese not performing as well as expected (too many McDonalds Big Macs?), the Brits are far exceeding expectations.

The mood in Rio has relaxed completely after two weeks of an incident-free Games. Most of the events are decided, and most athletes' stress levels are down. This is when the Olympic Spirit really glimmers, with athletes from different nations walking around holding hands and back-slapping. It almost makes you forget Crimea, Syria and ISIS.

One of our personal highlights is when the sun is gone and things are winding down, we retire to one of our favorite restaurants for a relaxed meal and a bottle of Argentine chardonnay. (not Brazilian) While neither one of us is a dessert fancier, there are things with exotic fruits on every menu and you just need to see what each is like. Passion fruit mousse (wow!!). Creme papaya drizzled with cassis (seconds, please!). Brazilian cheese ice cream with maracuja or guava sauce (unmatched anywhere). So, we walk 6 - 8 miles a day, but still have not likely lost a kilo (that's just over 2 pounds BTW).

RIO BLOG - DAY 17 - Sunday - AUGUST 21

Flame out. Games done. We're sad.

Despite some well-reported shortcomings, these were good Games. If Rio had another year to prepare and was not struck with a shattering recession, it might have been one of the best. But, it is what it is.

Our highlights:

- 5 Mens basketball games watched, all victories, and then finally the Gold Medal. The Womens Team matched it. Great to watch despite some tense moments.
- Superb hosting by Brazil, Brazilians and especially the Games Volunteers. That made the Games a success for us.
- The US won more Medals (121) that at any other Games held outside the US, somewhat due to so many more sports today than, say, 20 years ago. The US does unusually well in newer events (i.e., mountain biking, trampoline) and is basically starting to lose its luster in more traditional sports (i.e., boxing, athletics).

We're thankful:

- We didn't wreck our rental car, YET!
- We didn't go out boozing with Ryan Lochte.
- For the mind-blowing view from our condo balcony, a lifetime spectacle, esp at sunset.
- Linda is the best pin trader of all time, ever.
- We avoided mosquitoes and no one got pregnant, YET!

We're disappointed:

- We missed seeing any Athletics events.
- (Me) Leaving the world of 'dental floss', and if you have to ask what that is, you haven't been paying attention. You would be paying attention if you were here, even the ladies.
- Seeing Christus Redemptor on a cloudy day. Note That's 'Big Jesus' to some people.

We won't miss:

- 18-hour days.
- Crappy mobile phone service.
- The constant "aura" of sewage fragrance 24/7. There is very little drainage on the roads and a big storm will leave puddles the size of Lake Erie. When does it go away? When it evaporates. You expect to see gondolas along "highways".
- So many people asking, "Pleeze geeve me a peen!!".
- Trying to speak "Span-guese", with so few people speaking "da Eenglaise".

Thanks for tuning in!! It was really fun. See you next time.