MEMBERS BULLETIN '2011

Avalon Historico-Geographical Society

www.guide.kz

Editor's note >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

Dear members of "Avalon"!

We are glad to present to your attention the first issue of the Members bulletin which is now available annually in electronic form (later it will most likely be issued quarterly and in printed form).

In the present edition we have made our best to give an account of all the activities in which our organization was engaged in the passing year of 2011, as well as to expound our progress, achievements and future plans in a brief.

By the way, we kindly ask you to inform us if your contact e-mail had changed, so that we could always keep you updated.

The present bulletin is distributed solely among the members of "Avalon" and is theoretically not available for the third parties. However, if you have friends or acquaintances who, in your opinion, might be interested in our Society's activities, please forward them this publication and so the number of our followers will maybe increase even more.

Vitaliy Shuptar,
President of "Avalon" HGS" PA

Organizational issues >>>>>>

The year 2011 has become the period of change for "Avalon". The Society has finally lost its status of youth public association, important changes have been introduced in the list of kinds of activities, competence and structure of management bodies, as well as the number of rights and duties of the Society's members. In particular, we made the decision of introducing the membership fees which at the moment come to 2400 tenge a year.

During this year a lot of new people have joined us. In this fairly renewed company it was quite interesting to celebrate the seventh anniversary from the day of the Society's foundation in Dariya.

Cycling Karaganda >>>>>>>>

The past year will go down in history of the cycling Karaganda as a kind of borderline. The activity of the Karaganda society in this direction has never been so obvious.

On April 30, with the financial support from the US Department of State, we installed the first public bicycle parking in Karaganda city, at the entrance to "City Mall" shopping center. Later on in September the second bicycle parking was installed at the building of the regional Center of Blood, whose administration showed keen interest in the development of cycling infrastructure. By the way, in the spring the decision was made to celebrate April 30 as the Day of Karaganda cyclist.

On June 5, just as usual, now with the help of the international project SPARE, the bicycle festival "Karaganda VeloCity" was held in Karaganda city. Its central part was a 8-km-long bicycle march.

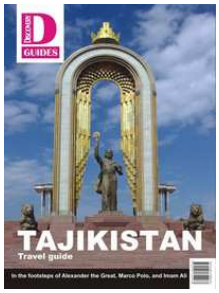
In August the bicycle cross-country race "Avalon-Trophy" – the first of its kind in Central Kazakhstan – was held in the neighborhood of the Soran mountains, by Karaganda with the support of the "PAThWORD' brand.

In September of 2011 with the help of the regional Center of Blood, in the Karkaraly mountains, the cycling cross was held to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the independence of Kazakhstan. A little later the cyclists of Karaganda took an active part in the republic-wide project of "Baiga 2.0".

Traditional trips to Dariya and Soran, as well as usual cycling tours were complemented with the night rides around the city and beyond its bounds.

This summer the number of bicycle forum participants has exceeded two hundred and at the moment comes to 228 persons. The number of new members of the cycling society is even more significant. Let us hope that sooner or later they will become the official members of "Avalon".

Publications >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>



In cooperation with "Silk Road Media" publishing house the first issue of "Discovery Tajikistan" guide-book in Russian has been issued, as well as the English version of the magazine was re-issued. Just as usual, we participate in the creation of the Kazakhstani part of "Discovery Central Asia" magazine and are the official representatives of the publishing house in the territory of Kazakhstan.

By request of "Ecological-Tourist Information Systems" (Ust-Kamenogorsk) one more series of informational packages and tours of the system of virtual travels in Kazakhstan "Wanaway.KZ" has been created.

The articles and photographs of our Society's authors have been published in "Industrialnaya Karaganda" news-paper, as well as the following maga-zines: "Discovery Horizons", "Tengri", "Veter stranstviy" and "Nevada Magazine".

The Kazakhstani tourism >>>

This year we have finished the implementation and presented the official report on the first phase of project "Ecotourism in Central Kazakhstan: conservation of the PA Natural resources and creation of economic opportunities in the rural areas" which was implemented by "Avalon" Public Foundation in cooperation with the Karaganda EcoMuseum and with financial support from the GEF/UNDP Small grants programme. In the framework of the present project conference on ecotourism was held, as well as seminars on theory and practice of ecotourism (including the seminars on felt manufacturing) were held in Ulytau and Kyzylarai regions. The work aimed at promoting Central Kazahkstan as a tourist destination was done.

The activities of "Avalon" and its partners in the sphere of ecotourism were widely covered in the framework of several events held in Kazakhstan and abroad. Here are just a few of them: Round-table discussion "Community-based ecological tourism in Kazakhstan" (Almaty, April 2011, report on "Development of community-based ecological tourism in Central Kazakhstan as exemplified by the Shabanbai Bi); Conference "Environment for Europe" (Astana, September 2011, report on "Bicycle tourism in Central Kazakhstan"); Professional Fellows Congress (Arlington, October 2011, stand about ecotourism in Central Kazakhstan); Bonn Symposium on "Mobility-Development-Culture" (Bonn, December 2011, report on "Bicycle tourism in Central Kazakhstan: how to link business with social welfare and environment").

In July the Department of tourism and sports of Karaganda region in cooperation with "Avalon" organized and held the infotour in Ultytau region for the representatives of the Kazakhstani mass media outlets.

In May the movie "Due East: from Berlin to Vladivostok" was shown on Channel ARD in Germany. One of its parts had been shot in the summer of 2010 with the cooperation of "Nomadic Travel Kazakhstan" company, Karaganda EcoMuseum and "Avalon". The Kazakhstani part of the movie was shot in Shabanbai Bi village (mountain oasis of Kyzylarai), as well as in the vicinity of Seimipalatinsk test-site area.

Expeditions >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

In August was organized a 7-day-long bicycle trip, aimed at exploring the Kazakh steppes (Karaganda – valley of the Taldy river – Aktogai – Balkhash). In the course of the trip V.Shuptar and A.Mironov had localized and photographed the stone statues, as well as a number of burial grounds, dating back to the Bronze Age and the period of Turkic rule.

In some reasons, we were forced to postpone the cycling expedition of "The Jade Gate" to April 2012.

In September the independent exploration of the "Pustynnoye" field territory (Northern Balkash area) was made with the object of finding the objects of historical significance.

Other events >>>>>>>>>>>>>

In April "RedBull" brand and "Cheeese" ltd. with the support of "Avalon", "Nomadic Travel Kazakhstan" company and "City Mall" shopping center, held the event "Kazakhstan Motor Trip Red bull edition" in Karaganda. Performance of the thrice-repeated champion of the world and Europe in motoacrobatics Chris Pfeifer took place.

Our guests >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

From July to October 2011 "Avalon" was glad to welcome Christina Lokk and Britta Steinwachs as its guests in the framework of "ASA" programme. Having written a number of articles about Kazakhstan, they made their contribution to the promotion of Kazakhstan abroad.

We were happy to meet our colleagues-travellers in Karaganda, namely Askar Syzbayev on his bicycle ride from Astana to Almaty, as well as Yevgeniy Ostapenko, who traveled from Moscow to Vladivostok by bicycle.

Plans for 2012 >>>>>>>>>>>>

- Cycling expedition "The Jade Gate" (Kazakhstan-China);
- Publication of a noncommercial travel magazine;
- Shokan Valikhanov literary prize;
- New edition of the guidebook "Avalon Kazakhstan eBook";
- Further cooperation with the city's authorities and other interested parties concerning the development of Cycling Karaganda;
- Organization and holding of the events "Avalon-Trophy" and "Karaganda-VeloCity";
- PR-campaign aimed at the promotion of Central Kazakhstan, as well as support of the Tourist infocenter in the Karaganda Ecomuseum.

Detailed information about the "Avalon"s activities is available on www.guide.kz, as well as on our Facebook-page: www.facebook.com/avalongeographic

In the issuance of the present bulletin were used the photographs by V.Shuptar, A.Yermolyonok, O.Belyalov and I.Ignatovich