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**CHICAGO HOSTS 10<sup>TH</sup> WHEEL GYMNASTIC WORLD  
CHAMPIONSHIP JULY 8 – 14, MARKING THE COMPETITION'S  
FIRST LOCATION OUTSIDE OF EUROPE**  
**Team USA Wheel Gymnastic Trials Held March 7 - 10**

**CHICAGO – German-born** Chicagoan and World Champion Wheel Master **Wolfgang Bientzle** is proud to announce the **10<sup>th</sup> Wheel Gymnastics World Championships** taking place in Chicago, **July 8 – 14**, at the **North Park University Gymnasium**, 3225 W.Foster Ave. Hosted by the USA Wheel Gymnastics Federation and American SOKOL, the championships feature more than 240 athletes from nearly 36 nations. General admission tickets are available for \$10, Junior Finals for \$15, Senior Finals and Team Finals for \$20 each and All Event tickets for \$50. Also available are tickets to the Opening Gala at the Athenaeum Theatre (2936 N. Southport Ave.) on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 for \$25. For more information on the **10<sup>th</sup> Wheel Gymnastics World Championships** and to purchase tickets, please visit [www.wheel2013.com](http://www.wheel2013.com).

Prior to the world championships, the **8<sup>th</sup> USA Wheel Gymnastics Open Championship** and **first ever qualification trials for TEAM USA Wheel Gymnastic** occur March 7 – 10 at **Willye White Park**, 1610 W. Howard St. Dubbed the “Chicago Big Wheel Weekend,” the USA Wheel Gymnastics Federation and American SOKOL host a weekend of training courses with esteemed instructors and competition trials to qualify for TEAM USA in the World Championships. For more information, including registration and scheduling, please visit [www.usawheelgymnastics.com](http://www.usawheelgymnastics.com).

**About the Wheel Gymnastics World Championships**

In 1924 Otto Feick invented and built the Rhönrad (the German Wheel), and shortly thereafter traveled all over Europe and to the USA to promote the newly-created sport of wheel gymnastics. After a surge of popularity in the sport post-World War II, the Internationaler Rhönradturn-Verband (IRV) was formed to oversee all international competitions and training camps by the mid 1990's. Seven member countries comprise the IRV and approximately 25 nations participate in the sport, with international training camps and World Championships being hosted on alternate years. The initial World Championship was held in Den Helder, Netherlands in 1995.

The **10<sup>th</sup> Wheel Gymnastics World Championships**, July 8 – 14, will mark the event's first time taking place in a location outside of Europe and will feature more than 240 athletes from approximately 36 nations. In addition, 200 international delegates, dignitaries, judges and officials will attend the event, with public attendance being estimated at more than 10,000. 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.

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**About the USA Wheel Gymnastics Open Championship and TEAM USA Trials**

Starting March 7 – 10, the **8th USA Wheel Gymnastic Open Championship** features American contenders participating in the **premiere qualification trials for TEAM USA Wheel Gymnastic**. Renowned wheel gymnastic instructors, including USA Wheel Gymnastics Federation's **Wolfgang Bientzle**, lead a variety of workshops and classes leading up to the qualifying trials. Athletes will be judged upon their precision with the mono wheel or their gymnastic wheel skills in the disciplines of vault, spirale and straightline with music. Judging will be based upon the latest competitive regulations of the IRV.

**About World Champion Wheel Master Wolfgang Bientzle, TheCirquesExperience WHEEL JAM**

German-born Chicagoan, director, choreographer and professional German Wheel Acrobat Wolfgang Bientzle is credited with being the most successful German Wheel Acrobat worldwide as a competitor, performer and coach, holding eight World Champion Titles, 11 European Champion Titles, and more than 60 German Champion Titles. As a performer, coach and choreographer, he has worked with Cirque du Soleil, Disney and Holiday on Ice. He has contributed to productions in more than 50 countries and is highly respected among the Monte Carlo Circus Festival and World Circus Festival in Moscow.

As a performer, Bientzle's work has been seen during NBA, NHL, and NFL halftime acts, as featured performances on various Royal Caribbean cruises, on numerous national and international television shows, and Cirque du Soleil, among many other events. As a professional coach, his credits include having coached the current reigning male and female wheel gymnastics world champions and many Cirque du Soleil performers. He is also head coach of TSV Taunusstein, the German champion wheel team with 29 World titles, 26 European titles and over 200 National titles, and being head coach of the USA Gymnastic Wheel National Team, among many more credits. Bientzle is currently the director of operations of the USA Wheel Gymnastics Federation, a freelance choreographer and the executive producer, director, creative director and head coach for the Chicago Youth Circus.

Additionally, Bientzle is the owner and lead educator of TheCirquesExperience WHEEL JAM, a Chicago Wheel Gymnastic training company which offers recreational, fitness and competitive Cirque style Gym Wheel and Mono Wheel classes for kids, teens and adults in 6 different venues within the city. It is the first organized competitive and recreational Wheel Gymnastic program in the USA, is a member of the USA Wheel Gymnastics and is supported by the International Wheel Gymnastics Federation. Many of the training staff are world-class and renowned competitors and performers in the World of Cirques and Sport. For more information on TheCirquesExperience WHEEL JAM, please visit [www.wheeljam.net](http://www.wheeljam.net).

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