

Crossroads

www.lajes.af.mil



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Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low


**"6-5...
IN THE FIGHT!"**

FY 2011

 **668
SORTIES**

**12,662
LODGED** 

 **3.7 million
gallons
FUEL ISSUED**

Appointment: 
Base: 535-3261
Off base: 295-573-261

Emergency:
Base: 911
Off base: 295-571-911

Weekend Weather Forecast (Lajes Weather Flight)

Saturday (a.m. / p.m.)
Mostly Cloudy
Wind NE 10 - 15mph
NE 10 mph

High 64F / Low 52F

Sunday (a.m. / p.m.)
Mostly Cloudy
Wind N 10 - 15 mph
N 10 mph

High 66F / Low 61F

Perspective: Life at Lajes as a defender

By Airman 1st Class Brandon Stamper
and Airman 1st Class William Fierro
65th Security Forces Squadron

The wind at Lajes Field may be strong enough to knock over houses, but it's not enough to shake the 65th Security Forces Squadron. Although we're a small unit with a large mission on an island in the Atlantic, Lajes doesn't offer the large number of off-duty distractions available at larger bases in the U.S. or Europe. However, Lajes does afford the unique opportunity to develop tight bonds, forming a close-knit family environment with extremely high morale. As a result, defenders at Lajes Field will go the extra mile for their brethren. Senior ranking unit leadership not only can be contacted 24/7, but they also encourage this to be done if there is ever a problem.

Stemming from the close-knit community environment is a deep commitment to mission. Lajes Field is critical to the mission down-range, which requires its defenders to be top-notch in morale, character, and discipline. So naturally when it comes to setting the pace and accomplishing the mission, all Lajes defenders are charged with leading from the front. Furthermore, each defender's commitment to excellence carries over to our relationship with our Portuguese brethren. The language barrier present when working with our counterparts doesn't deter us from pursuing the overall mission. Every day patrols conduct multiple security checks, Random Anti-Terrorism



A 65th Security Forces Squadron defender coordinates with a member from the Portuguese air force. Lajes defenders work hand-in-hand with the Portuguese on a daily basis. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)

Measures, and a wide-range of incident responses, all as a unified team. The combined operating environment also enables unparalleled linguistic and cultural learning, not available anywhere else. On a daily basis defenders are putting into practice bilateral relations skills required to effectively operate in deployed environments around the globe.

Lajes may be small in size, but it's large in opportunities. The Airmen of 65th SFS are seizing these opportunities daily and are committed to keeping the 65th Air Base Wing at the pinnacle of success within U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

Motorcycle safety, and beyond...

By Maj. Thomas Ringlein
65th Logistics Readiness Squadron

I recently sat through a pretty detailed motorcycle fatality brief, and got to thinking about my own riding, and how I deal with risky behavior when I am a husband, and father of three children. As I sat there thinking about what I would say if given the chance, I got to thinking about why I chose to become a Motorcycle Safety Foundation instructor a few years ago. It all falls back to a discussion I had with an Airman of mine back in 2003, after his return from the front lines in Iraq.

As a frequent member of a convoy detail, hauling cargo across the most dangerous roads in the world, he said the monotony of the task made it rather routine after awhile. Sure, he started out being on guard--ready for anything and constantly on the look-out. But that didn't last long. After

a month of being blind to the obvious risks they subjected themselves to every day, disaster struck. The convoy hit an Improvised Explosive Device, and this Airman's life was changed forever. He wasn't injured, but a friend and fellow warrior in another vehicle did lose his life. It was then he realized the nature of his duty was quite a bit more dangerous than he gave it credit. From that day on, his routine task was never routine again.

So I asked myself, when I'm taking risks, do they become routine after awhile? Unfortunately, my 30 years of motorcycle riding had become routine--and I knew it. I knew that I needed to do something to continually remind myself of the risks I take, and ensure that I'm doing all in my power to learn as much as I can about my "craft." I needed to make sure I was being a responsible rider,

To read more on "Motorcycle" see page 3

16 Weeks remaining until the... **ORI**



The Air Force Wife - Life Is a Classroom

By Loida Hagadorn
28-Year Air Force Spouse



As an Air Force spouse, I've had an incredible journey. I met my husband, Sam, in the Philippines in 1982. He was at his first duty station at Clark Air Base, living in the dormitory. Back then, single Airmen lived in the dormitory with at least two per room. Sam's roommate, Romeo, was a Filipino who had joined the Air Force and gained his American citizenship.

Romeo knew the area and spoke our native language, Tagalog, better than he spoke English, and he was the perfect person to introduce Sam to the Filipino culture and customs. He also ended up introducing Sam to me. Now, before you think this fairytale ends, "...and they lived happily ever after," remember this is an Air Force wife's story, so there have to be some bumps along the way.

We married in July, 1983, and Sam immediately upgraded his lifestyle by moving from his dormitory room on base with a roommate, to our own apartment off base. The housing allowance was far more than we needed. After paying the rent and utilities, there was plenty of money to spare. So, the first thing he did was hire a full-time maid. Life was good! Sam looks back, and even today, he'll tell you his standard of living was never higher than when he was an airman first class in the Philippines!

I come from a typical Filipino family, with two sisters and six brothers—including our parents,

a family of ten. Traditionally, Filipino families are very close, and mine was no different. My brothers, sisters and parents were always close by. And soon after our marriage, Sam and I added someone new to the family—our son, Sam Jr., was born. There was so much to do with a new baby in the house! The solution was obvious: Hire another full-time maid!

I had to say goodbye to my family for the very first time in my life when we PCS'd to Castle Air Force Base, Calif. in 1985. It was here the realities of being an Air Force wife became my own. Suddenly, I was alone! I was no longer surrounded by family. I was in a foreign country, having a maid was out of the question, and I didn't drive. I had to do all of the house cleaning and laundry on my own, and Sam was working 12 hours per day, 5 days a week.

We lived in base housing, and when Sam couldn't get home in time to prepare the lawn for the "Tuesday morning white-glove" inspections, I had to rake the leaves and mow the grass myself. I soon found out I was pregnant, and had nobody to turn to for support. I cried every day, and wanted to go back home to the Philippines! I could identify with many of the wives around me who were experiencing the same challenges I was, with our husbands' hectic duty schedules. It was as if we were all single parents. My next-door neighbor was an "experienced" Air Force wife, an "older woman," in her 30s. She had six kids of her own,

To read more on "AF wife" see page 3

Taxes, death and gas prices

By David Clore
General Manager Azores Exchange

Now that the tax filing date has passed for one more year, there are still two major certainties left in life: Death, and the fact we all feel we pay too much at the gas pump. Death we hope to postpone, while the gas pump looms daily, is unrelenting and expected to get worse as the year progresses. I hope to explain how gas prices are established and possibly offer a way to save you some money.

Like every unit at Lajes, the Exchange has a mission: To provide authorized patrons with quality merchandise and services of necessity and convenience at competitive prices, while generating earnings to supplement appropriated funds for the support of Army and Air Force morale, welfare and recreation programs. Last year the Exchange returned \$347,860 to the Lajes community. Without that money, the installation command would be forced to cut programs. Every dollar you spend goes toward making your community a nicer place to live. That includes every dollar that goes into your gas tank.

In the Continental U.S. gas prices are established by local survey. Thank goodness we don't have that requirement here, or else gas would be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$7.50 a gallon. Our policy overseas is to

set prices based on the U.S. Department of Energy's weekly average for each grade of gasoline in CONUS, plus the unique incremental costs which the Exchange incurs in each overseas market. These incremental costs are bona fide costs that include (where applicable) costs related to the gas coupon management program as well as labor costs, depreciation and other miscellaneous expenses associated with providing gasoline to our customers overseas.

Based on the DoE weekly reviews, the Exchange gas prices may change weekly at fueling locations in Germany, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Turkey, the Azores, Guam, Korea, Japan and Okinawa. Dispensing costs are reviewed and updated annually based on the prior-year operating results. We are not authorized to sell fuel below our dispensed cost. This policy enables the Exchange to keep the price of gas overseas more closely balanced with sell prices in the U.S.

There are more costs involved in pumping gas than just the cost of oil. After paying the local bills last year, slightly more than two cents on every dollar was left to pay the non-local bills and support the MWR dividend. On a \$30 fill-up (I have a small car), \$0.66 was left to complete the mission. Contracts have been awarded to replace the defective Lajes gas pumps and

To read more on "gas prices" see page 3

Commander's Action Line
535-4240
65abw.actionline@lajes.af.mil

The Commander's Action Line is your link to the commander for suggestions, kudos and as a way to work problems or issues within the 65th Air Base Wing for which you can't find another solution.

Your chain of command should always be your first option — but when that's not the answer, call or e-mail the Commander's Action Line at 535-4240 or 65abw.actionline@lajes.af.mil.



Col. Jose Rivera
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing

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The 65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs staff prepares all editorial content in the Crossroads.

The Public Affairs Office (Unit 7710, APO, AE 09720) is located in Bldg. T-100, Room 240.

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"Motorcycle" from page 1

not just for me, but for my family. That day, I started my 6-year journey to becoming an MSF instructor--and now have an opportunity to continually remind myself, and others, about taking risks responsibly. Whenever I start feeling like the short ride to the softball diamond is routine, I take out my MSF handbook and remind myself to be on the lookout, because, as Col. Rivera says... "Fate is a hunter."

"AF wife" from page 2

but eventually took me under her wing and helped me through the tough times. She was the only person I had to lean on for support. Back then, there was no spouse support system, much less, a Key Spouse program. Finding support was hit-and-miss.

Nine months into our assignment at Castle, Shannon was born, and Sam was tasked for a 6-week TDY, departing the very next day. I was still crying every day--but now, even more. When he returned from his TDY, his shop's work schedule had changed. Now, they were working 12 hours per day, 7 days a week, with no days off at all! Sam filled out a "Dream Sheet" to try and get an assignment out of Castle. He was so desperate, he asked for every remote assignment he could think of, and then we prayed real hard!

Just 10 days later, he was notified that we were headed to his sixth choice, Spain! To prepare for the PCS, I learned to drive, but only an automatic, and after many attempts at parallel parking, I finally passed the driving test the day before we departed the states. We accepted base housing at Torrejon Air Base, Spain, and for the first time, I began to experience the "Air Force family" environment that exists only at overseas locations. I found that we all are faced with the same challenges, and instead of reaching out to family in time of need, we only have each other--military spouses--to get through the tough times.

Soon, Sam was selected to go TDY for several weeks. This would be a big problem, because all of the support facilities, including the BX, commissary, and hospital, were on the base, 23 miles away, and I couldn't drive our only car, a stick-shift! It was an Air Force spouse who recognized my predicament, and offered to teach me to drive. When Sam returned from Turkey six weeks later, I was proudly driving our stick-shift car up and down the hills of Madrid!

In Spain, I learned two important lessons that are vital to the sanity and survival of every military spouse. First, leaving is good. It can be painful, but a healthy and strong marriage can't fully develop until the apron strings are cut. A marriage will only be stifled if it remains



65th Air Base Wing Command Chief Samuel Hagadorn and his wife, Loida, pin second lieutenant bars on daughter Shannon Hagadorn at an AFROTC commissioning ceremony May 14 at the University of Arizona in Tucson. (Photo by Jacquelyn Gentz)

under Mom and Dad's supervision. Although leaving my family behind in the Philippines was very difficult, getting away from my family was the best thing we could have done to develop and strengthen our marriage.

The second big lesson I learned was that our home is where the Air Force sends us! I feel that my husband and I are a team. We depend on each other, and when we have challenges, we deal with them at home. We're not looking for somewhere else we call 'home' to escape to. During our assignment at Castle, I wanted to go 'home.' What I meant was, I wanted to escape my reality and not deal with it. Now I know that no matter where we are, we can turn a house into a home, and that's where we belong!

Let's fast forward to 2007, Aviano Air Base, Italy. Sam was the first sergeant of a very large maintenance unit with 630 military members, plus their families, and the commander asked me to be the key spouse for the squadron staff. Our squadron had nine flights, and each had a key spouse. Now I was that 'experienced' Air Force wife, an "older woman," in her 30s. I had the privilege of sharing my experiences with other spouses, most of them younger than me, as well as consoling those who had lost loved ones--even our own active duty members. We met often and learned from each other every day.

Our club's greatest triumph was probably the squadron's version of the Amazing Race. It was a series of different events on six consecutive Fridays, and the spouses put together a team and entered, too!

Each event took about one to two hours to complete, and included a base history scavenger hunt, mini-triathlon, and construction of a large military tent without instructions. Nobody expected it, but at the end of the event, the spouses' team won!

During my 28 years as a military spouse, some seasons have been tough, but it's all I've known. I've had so many opportunities living around the world, and our children have grown up to be exceptional young adults and citizens. I wouldn't trade my life as a military spouse for anything!

"gas prices" from page 2

computer systems. The costs of those items are charged locally to the Car Care Center. Even with the expected increases in price per gallon, we're expecting to lose money at Lajes due to increased costs.

No military unit gets to choose which part of the mission they will support and which part they will ignore, and the Exchange is a Department of Defense unit. We must provide goods and services at a profit to generate the MWR dividend. This includes items of necessity such as gasoline. That is a hard fact of military life, but there is a way to soften the blow. You can help cut expenses at the Car Care Center and reduce your gas budget by using your Military Star Card to pay for gas purchases.

The Exchange has to pay Visa, Master Card, American Express and all other credit card vendors a fee for the purchases made with

their credit cards. Last year this credit card fee cost the Lajes Car Care Center \$11,512. Referring to the pricing strategy spelled out above, "Dispensing costs are reviewed and updated annually based on the prior-year operating results." Using your Military Star Card saves the credit card fee, which helps cover the expense of the new pumps, thus helping to keep next year's gas prices as low as possible. As an extra incentive, the Exchange is offering a 5-cent discount on every gallon of gas paid for using your Military Star card. We hope that you would help save us the credit card fee by using your Military Star card at all Exchange operations; but if nothing else, then save yourself at the gas pump. Who knows how much gas and taxes are going to cost this time next year...

Need a Military Star Card? Visit the Lajes Exchange Customer Service counter for assistance.

Team Lajes welcomes newest members!



Oluwatamilore Jaysa Owolabi was born Sunday, the 22nd of May to Staff Sergeant Olufemi Owolabi and his wife, Temmy.
Congratulations!

Nora Preslie Wells was born Monday, the 9th of May to Master Sgt. Andrew Wells and his wife, Kari.
Congratulations!



Share your newborn's photo! Just send it to 65 ABW/PA, and we'll happily place it in the Crossroads Xtra.

AFN Europe moving to new satellite

AFN's satellite delivery platform is changing, requiring viewers who have an AFN decoder and satellite dish in their home to make some changes by July 31 to continue to get AFN TV.

The AFN Help Desk will be manned starting May 21. From May 21-July 31 the desk will be manned Tuesday-Friday from 1-9 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. (Central European Time). Viewers from Germany, Italy, Belgium, the UK and most other European countries will be able to call in via a toll-free number, 00800-2362683662 (00800-afnantenna).

Since the process of setting up a dish and re-adjusting a decoder varies according to decoder model, location and other variables, the help desk and on-line materials are especially critical. AFN Europe

has posted manuals and how-to-videos in English, German and Italian at www.afneurope.net. Click on the Eurobird 9A icon for the manuals and videos.

Direct-to-home viewers will need to reconfigure their home decoder and realign their satellite dish from the current satellite Hotbird 6/9 at 13 degrees East, to the new satellite, Eurobird 9A (EB9A) at 9 degrees East.

The move to the EB9A satellite positions AFN to better serve the audience in the future. If you have questions about whether this satellite change affects you, please visit www.afneurope.net or give the AFN Help Desk a call.

LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



Name: Andrew Wells
Rank: Master Sergeant
Unit: 65th Civil Engineer Squadron
Hometown: Omaha, Nebraska
Duty Title: Assistant Chief of Health and Safety
Accomplishments: Master Sgt. Andrew Wells served as a wing safety augmentee from Jan. 17, 2011, until May 15, 2011. During this time, he co-investigated 21 mishaps, assisted

with 12 unit annual inspections and conducted 28 ground and flight safety spot inspections. Additionally, he created the wing motorcycle safety mentor program and designed briefings detailing hazards and conditions associated with the two routes. Finally, Master Sgt. Wells' poise led to his selection as the 65th Air Base Wing's representative to the European Command Quality of Life conference in March, 2011.



Name: Maria Nunes
Rank: LGS-4
Unit: 65th Air Base Wing Safety
Hometown: Fontinhas, Praia da Vitoria
Duty Title: Safety Clerk
Accomplishments: Since starting work on May 1, 2011, Sra. Nunes has filled a crucial administrative void in the wing safety office. She is responsible for organizing office records and scheduling various training

courses. During the May aircraft mishap exercise, she orchestrated the emergency response of 16 units from around the base. Additionally, she is currently coordinating a \$115,000 flight safety program contract. Her versatility has quickly proven to be an immense asset to the Wing Safety team.

"6-5...IN THE FIGHT!"



New Master Sergeants

Twenty of Lajes Field's master sergeant selects were honored at a promotion party presented by the Lajes Field Top III at the Top of the Rock Club, Lajes Field, Azores, May 20, 2011. Lajes Field's master sergeant selection rate is 40 percent, which is seven percent higher than the Air Force average. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Host Nation Relations

The 65th Air Base Wing and 729th Air Mobility Squadron supported the Portuguese air force mission by helping load Puma helicopter components on a Portuguese C-130. The Puma, the Portuguese search and rescue workhorse, was retired recently after several decades of distinguished service. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

Chief Bennett's Retirement



Chief Master Sgt. Glen Robinson hands the flag to Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Bennett during his retirement ceremony on May 19, 2011. Chief Bennett retired with more than 29 years of honorable service to the Air Force. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Kids Run

The Lajes Youth Center hosted the 9th Annual America's Armed Forces Kids Run at Lajes Field, Azores, May 21, 2011. The run was celebrated at 178 Navy and Air Force bases, Army Forts and garrisons worldwide. The event provides military children the opportunity to participate in a half mile, 1 mile or 2 mile run. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)

Quote from Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Bennett:

"I started my Air Force career as an airman basic 29 years ago, and as I grew into an enlisted leader I wanted to live by the philosophy of a 'Don't forget where you came from' attitude, because it is our Airmen who are the future of our Air Force. Always take care of the Airmen."



Mark your calendar

MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING FACILITIES

EXCELLENCE: May 26-27, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Building T-521 MFH residents are encouraged to take pride in their units. Housing maintenance is providing FREE flowers and shrubs, lava rocks, stepping stones and potting soil to enhance your exterior. They're also providing a variety of hand and garden tools to help residents take care of their units. Please contact Randy Phillips, 535-2363 if you have questions.



ENLISTED PROMOTION CEREMONY: Team Lajes, come out and congratulate the Air Force's newest junior enlisted, noncommissioned officers, and senior noncommissioned officers at the monthly promotion ceremony scheduled for May 31 at 3 p.m. in the TORC Ballroom! Please contact Tech. Sgt. Matthew Pease at matthew.pease@lajes.af.mil or 535-3423 if you have any questions.

65 ABW PRODUCTS EXPOSITION: The purpose of this event is to provide local and regional vendors the opportunity to showcase their products to the American and Portuguese populace. It is sponsored by the 65th Contracting Squadron, and will take place at the Top of the Rock Club on June 8, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Come out and see the displays of products and services available from local Portuguese vendors. It is open to everyone, and no items will be bought or sold at the exposition.

TRADITIONS FAIR: There will be a Traditions Fair located next to the Yacht Club in Praia. Below is the schedule of events:

- Friday, 27 May -- 7:30 p.m. - Parade of folklore dancers
 - 9:15 p.m. - Performance of Folklore dancers, wine and cheese tasting
 - Saturday, 28 May -- Noon - Opening of Fair / 2:30 p.m. - "Bodo de Leite" (parade of decorated cows followed by the milking of cows), 3:30 p.m. - Traditional games / 5 p.m. - Concert by local band, 8 p.m. - Performance of local Mardi Gras groups
 - Sunday, 29 May -- Noon - Opening of Fair / 5:30 p.m. - Performance by local concert bands / 6:30 p.m. - Performance by folklore dancers.
- There will also be arts and crafts booths and food booths available featuring the local artifacts and cuisine.

BULLFIGHT SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 28: 6:30 p.m. Canada do Rego, Biscoitos
 Saturday, May 28: 6:30 p.m. Rua Prof. A. Monjardino, Angra
 Saturday, May 28: 6:30 p.m. Poço da Areia, Praia da Vitória
 Monday, May 30: 6:30 p.m. Canada de Belém, Terra Chã

Phrase of the Week

A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE

ENGLISH: What is the special of the day?
PORTUGUESE: Qual é o prato do dia?
PRONUNCIATION: Koowahl eh oo Prahtoo do deeya?

At the Movies

7 p.m. Friday - Hop
7 p.m. Saturday - Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules
4 p.m. Sunday - Hop
7 p.m. Sunday - Limitless

Hop: *Blending state-of-the art animation with live action, Hop tells the comic tale of Fred, an out-of-work slacker who accidentally injures the Easter Bunny and must take him in as he recovers. As Fred struggles with the world's worst houseguest, both will learn what it takes to finally grow up. Rated PG, 95 min.*

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules: *Back in middle school after summer vacation, Greg Heffley and his older brother Rodrick must deal with their parents' misguided attempts to have them bond. Rated PG, 99 min.*

Limitless: *An action-thriller about a writer who takes an experimental drug that allows him to use 100 percent of his mind. As one man evolves into the perfect version of himself, forces more corrupt than he can imagine mark him for assassination. That all vanishes the day an old friend introduces Eddie to NZT, a designer pharmaceutical that makes him laser focused and more confident than any man alive. Rated PG-13, 103 min.*

Movie times and schedule are subject to change.
 Call 535-4100 for the latest update.

AFN LAJES

ISLAND 96

CH. 40
(ON-BASE CABLE)
CH. 7
(OFF-BASE SATELLITE)
& 96.1 FM

ASK ED

A column that looks at the culture and history of the Azores.
 By Eduardo Lima
 Community Relations Advisor



Exploring Terceira Island's caves, Part 1

Terceira Island has at least four caves that can be visited and explored by enthusiasts of Mother Nature, especially during the summer months.

The two most visited caves are Algar do Carvão, the second largest cave located in the heart of the island near Cabrito and the Gruta de Natal (Christmas cave) located near Lagoa do Negro (Black's Lake), also in the center of the island.

The two other caves are Balcões, the largest one, located near the town of Biscoitos and Agulhas in the town of Porto Judeu. Algar do Carvão is actually an extinct volcano chimney not totally filled with lava in the form of a cone, which encompasses the remains of a 2000-year old volcanic eruption. The cave's name means "coal pit" because its walls are formed from black lava.

Access to the cave is nowadays made through a tunnel and stairs. At its end there's a small pond formed by crystalline rainwater at a depth of approximately 328 feet. Depending on the season and the amount of rainwater, the pond can be up to 50-feet deep. The whole cave is spacious and contains magnificent stalactites and stalagmites. The cave and surrounding area were declared a natural monument after the initiative of the local spelunking group "Os Montanheiros."

The "Christmas" cave, although less known, is also worth a visit. It was named "Christmas" because it held a live nativity scene and a Christmas cantata shortly after it was discovered.

In addition to the caves, Os Montanheiros also maintains a volcanology museum, open to the public Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. – noon and 2-5:30 p.m. Admission is free.

The Algar do Carvão and Christmas caves will be open daily 26 March to 31 May from 3-5:30 p.m., June 1-30 from 2:30-5:45 p.m., July 1-Aug. 31 from 2-6 p.m., Sept. 1-30 from 2:30-5:45 p.m. and 1-16 Oct. from 3-5:30 p.m. The admission cost to visit the Algar do Carvão and Christmas caves is 5 euros. **More to come on the caves in next week's issue.**