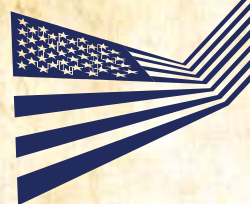


SATURDAY, JULY 1, 2017



INDEPENDENCE 2017 DAY CELEBRATION



A statistic which deserves a special mention right at the beginning is the attendance at this year's AmCham's Independence Day celebration. Over 600 people spent the first Saturday of July at this event at Divoká Voda, which means a record attendance for the past few years.

What makes this event so popular? Well, it resembles a huge garden party with something interesting for all age groups. Of course, it is the program and the menu which persuade the people to come, but ultimately it is about sharing these experiences with other friends, or getting to know new interesting people. This is why the friendly and relaxed atmosphere, so characteristic for this event, intensifies with the growing number of people.

As usual, the earlier part of the program was designed to entertain the youngest visitors. They could try their cowboy skills when riding the mechanical bull, or test their toughness with American football players who demonstrated their sport. The smaller children enjoyed the traditional wooden carousel or the jumping castle. Two very popular novelties from last year's program were included again. The opportunity to create your own lollipop was a dream come true for kids of all ages. Most importantly, they were allowed to eat their own original creation afterwards.

The other attraction — the foam fire suppression show — provided much needed refreshment on a sunny afternoon. It also kept the children entertained long enough to enable their parents to explore the temptations available in the catering tent. Words can't really describe the spectacle when kids are invited to play in a huge mountain of white foam, completely covering the smaller ones.

The weather during the first part of the evening turned out great, and since the heat was bearable, many people found the motivation to take part in numerous sports activities. Attractive prizes for the winners also served as additional motivation. The most popular among these was beach volleyball, with the Accenture team dominating the competition.

Those who felt courageous had the opportunity to try American football with players from the Bratislava Monarchs, or challenge someone in the "Warriors" battle which tested one's balance and agility skills. The more laid back types were more likely to opt for beach petang or darts, and both of these were quite popular while there was enough light to play.

Plenty of options were available also to those who preferred a more relaxing program. Musical entertainment this year was provided by Funny Fellows

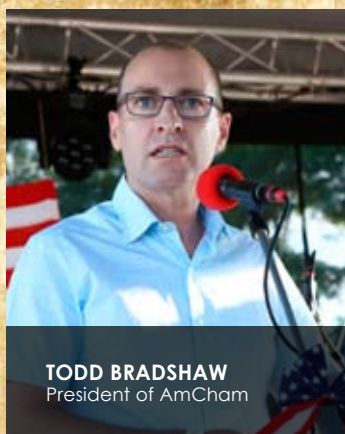


and their mixture of swing and time-tested rock 'n roll classics. And if dancing or just swaying to the rhythm with a cool drink in hand still seemed too demanding, even a free Thai massage was on offer. One of the annual highlights of the event — line dancing with AmCham's Executive Director Jake Slegers in the role of the instructor — never fails to fill the dance floor. This year, extra motivation in the form of an attractive prize for the best dancer (excluding Mr. Slegers himself) convinced even the more reserved to join. And although there was just one prize, everybody who took part felt like a winner.

The menu traditionally offers a typical American Independence Day feast and this year was no different. However, each year, a few specials are added to the offer to keep things interesting. Two of the sponsoring companies had their own item on the menu and both were extremely popular. These were the Metlife

Meat Burger and the Adient Summer Cocktail served in real coconuts.

Later in the evening, the program was slightly disturbed by rain. The fireworks had to be postponed, but in the end the longer wait proved to be more than worth it, as this year's show turned out to be truly spectacular. Most of the seasoned onlookers agreed that it was the most impressive fireworks display they remember. Of course, next year's display should change that once again...



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President of AmCham



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US Ambassador



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