

## Fitness & Sports

# The future is now at Starlifter Lanes

By Staff Sgt. Michael Duhe  
437 AW Public Affairs

Starlifter Lanes Bowling Center has gone from the Flintstones to the Jetsons. Its new, uncluttered modern look was unveiled during a grand re-opening ceremony Monday.

Before a crowd of approximately 75 people, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Commander Col. Rusty Findley delivered some brief remarks and snipped a ribbon to mark the re-opening of the renovated facility. That being done, he grabbed a bowling ball, rolled it down a lane twice and picked up a spare to get things going.

Within minutes, the lights in the center were turned off and a day of cosmic bowling kicked off. Colored lights and lava lamp displays danced on the walls, top 10 hits blared from the speakers and glow-in-the-dark pins fell in every lane. Circular designs on the tables glowed under the black lights, as did the bowling balls.

"It's psychedelic," said Senior Airman Karlton Chesson, who was bowling with several co-workers. "I like the special effects on the monitors. This place has a lot of character. It seems like a nice place to hang out."

Free breakfast snacks, hot wings, beverages and giveaways such as a bowling towel were available at the grand re-opening. Many of those attending registered to win prizes that included bowling balls, bags, shoes, lunches and passes for bowling parties and cosmic bowling. Plenty of ATWIND game pieces were handed out as well.

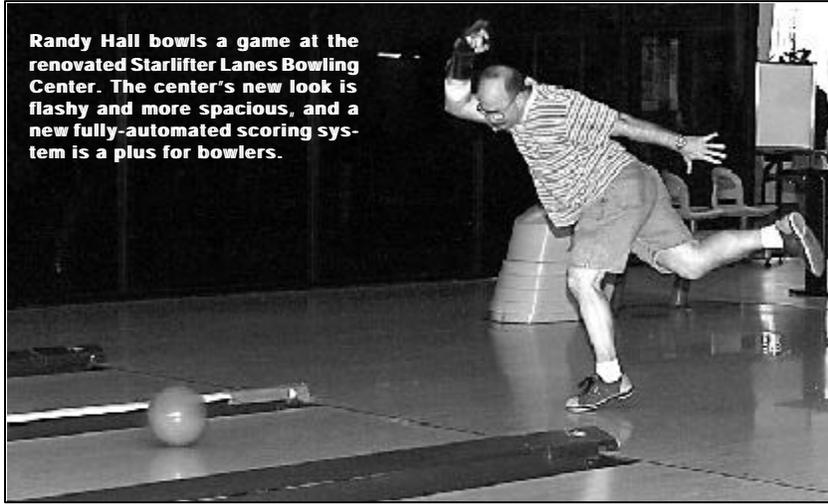
The re-opening drew a diverse crowd. There were military members, spouses, retirees, teenagers and children at the bowling center Monday. Pam Lemon was one of many parents who brought their children to the event.

"I think it's a neat way to show it off," she said of the grand opening. "I like the futuristic look of the place. It looks like a place where the Jetsons would bowl."

Staff Sgt. Leon McFadden said, "I like the new facelift. I like the lights and I like the way the chairs swing around."

One of the most notable differences in the newly renovated center is the new style of scoring tables. Gone are

**Randy Hall bowls a game at the renovated Starlifter Lanes Bowling Center. The center's new look is flashy and more spacious, and a new fully-automated scoring system is a plus for bowlers.**



photos by Staff Sgt. Michael Duhe

the bulky tables that looked like consoles from the set of the original "Star Trek." Thanks to a new fully-automated scoring system, the new tables are little more than a keypad on a thin stand.

Other improvements at Starlifter Lanes include:

- New seating and tables in the bowling area that takes up less space
- New overhead monitors with flashy graphics
- Automatic electronic scoring
- A new ball retrieval system
- New seating and tables in the game room area
- Three points of sale - the snack bar, bowling center and back office, offering a wide variety of services
- New carpet (to be installed in several weeks) that glows in the dark

A number of people from the 437<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron attended the grand re-opening, including Al Poirier, Business Operations Flight chief.

"I think the grand re-opening is fantastic," Poirier said. "Now we have a first-class bowling center. For the past three-and-a-half years, we've done a lot to improve the bowling center, and we'll continue to improve in every area."

Lt. Col. Bruce Alexander, commander of the 437<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron, was also pleased with the response to the re-opening.

"We had an outstanding turnout," he said while bowling a game with Findley and Col. Karl Young, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing vice commander. "We

couldn't have asked for a better crowd. We want to keep people coming in and enjoying the facility."

Starlifter Lanes will sponsor a grand re-opening tournament Aug. 12-13, Aug. 19-20, and Aug. 26-27. The prize for the first place team will be \$300, with \$200 going to second place. Team, doubles and singles play for men and women will be included. The entry fee is \$15 per person. Entry forms are available at the center.

A mixed doubles league will be offered on Fridays during fall, and a retired officers league will be held every Thursday. Cosmic bowling will be offered in September.

Details on coming events at Starlifter Lanes will be published in future issues of the Airlift Dispatch.

For more information on upcoming leagues, or for information about reserving the center for special events, call Starlifter Lanes Bowling Center at 963-3315.



**Pete Marchewka (sitting), wife Karen and son Chris check out the new monitor scoring system at the bowling center.**

## CAFB to host men's basketball camp, tournament

By Staff Sgt. Michael Duhe  
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It's going to be another banner year for basketball at Charleston AFB.

For the third consecutive year, CAFB has been selected to host the Air Force Men's Basketball Camp, set for Oct. 26-Nov. 12.

On top of that, the base will host the Men's Armed Forces Basketball Tournament Nov. 15-17. Two new events, a shoot out and dunk contest, will precede the tournament.

"We'll take two participants from each branch of the service for each event and showcase their abilities," said Eddie Goad, CAFB sports director.

The decision for Charleston to host the events was made last year.

"I think they were impressed with what we did in the past," Goad said.

The Air Force team will play area Division I-A college teams, including Charleston Southern, South Carolina State, Coastal Carolina, The Citadel and College of Charleston, during camp.

"That's pretty notable for an 18-day camp," Goad said. "It helps them prepare the team, and that's our main objective of the camp."

The team will again take part in several promotional events during camp, including visits to the Charleston Veterans Administration Hospital and area junior Air Force ROTC units.

Goad said the outlook for the Air Force's team is good.

"Last year, we had a very inexperienced team, but this year we have many people returning from previous teams," he commented.

Don Fellers and Bonnie Day return as head coach and assistant coach, respectively. Also acting as assistant coach will be John Bailey, who played with the University of Wisconsin for four years and was once selected as the Chicago Tribune's Player of the Year. He also has years of experience with Air Force and the U.S. Armed Forces teams.

"I think we have the 'A team' of coaches coming out this year," Goad said. "We certainly have the experience factor. A lot of people are enthused about it."