

CEP Research Report

Hiding in Plain Sight -The Transnational Right-Wing Extremist Active Club Network

Alexander Ritzmann Counter Extremism Project (CEP) September 22, 2023

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About CEP

The **Counter Extremism Project (CEP)** is a non-profit and non-partisan international policy organization that was founded to tackle the growing threat presented by terrorist and extremist ideologies. CEP develops strategies aimed at disrupting the financial, recruitment, and material support networks of terrorist and extremist groups and their leaders. One area of focus for CEP is the transnational violence-oriented extreme-right, and it has published several research papers on the matter. For further information please visit our <u>website</u>.

Contact info: <u>berlin@counterextremism.com</u>

About the Author

Alexander Ritzmann is a senior advisor to CEP. He leads the work of the CEP Berlin office on the effective prevention and countering of violence-oriented right-wing extremist (transnational) networks, offline and online. He is also a senior advisor to the European Commission's Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN).

This research was partially conducted during a fellowship at the American-German Institute (AGI) at Johns Hopkins University, Washington D.C., which was funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). An earlier version of this research was published <u>here</u>.

If not highlighted otherwise, the pictures in this report have been taken from public Telegram channels or Instagram profiles.

CEP Resources

- Financial Strategies Of Right-Wing Extremist Organizations And Actors In The United <u>Kingdom And Germany</u>, Counter Extremism Project, June 2023.
- Managing the Return of EU Extremist Foreign Fighters from the 2022 Russia-Ukraine War, CEP Policy Brief, July 2021.
- <u>Study on Violent Right-Wing Extremism and Terrorism Transnational Connectivity,</u> <u>Definitions, Occurrences, Structures and Countermeasures</u>, Counter Extremism Project, 2020.

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Executive Summary

- This report analyzes the potential threats affiliated with the largest and fast growing transnational right-wing extremist (RWE/REMVE)¹ combat sports network, called Active Clubs. It explores the objectives, strategies, strengths, and weaknesses of this network, which has spread from the U.S. to Canada and to at least 14 countries in Europe within three years.
- The overall objective of the Active Club White Supremacy 3.0 strategy² is the creation of a stand-by militia of trained and capable RWE/REMVE individuals who can be activated when the need for coordinated violent action on a larger scale arises.
- Over 100 Active Clubs have been created between late 2020 and August 2023, with at least 46 in the United States across 34 U.S. states. At least 46 Active Clubs exist in 14 European countries, and 12 in Canada. The estimated number of members per Active Club is between five and 25.
- Some Active Clubs in the U.S. are conducting or participating in military-style tactical and casualty care trainings. Members or sympathizers of Active Clubs in France and Estonia appear to be fighting in the Russia-Ukraine war.
- If Active Clubs are allowed to continue to operate and multiply, the likelihood for targeted political violence and terrorism by their members against supposed enemies of the "white race" (e.g., Jews, people of color, Muslims, and LGTBQI+ people) will increase.
- A key component of the White Supremacy 3.0 strategy is to hide in plain sight. To avoid, delay, mitigate, or withstand law enforcement interventions, Active Clubs are supposed to present a friendly face to the public. Consequently, network members are asked to avoid threatening behavior or displaying obvious Nazi symbols to appear less relevant to law enforcement. This less aggressive and more mainstream strategy is also meant to help grow the network, in particular from the general public.
- For the Active Club strategy of hiding in plain sight to work, members should look like regular guys, like the members of the (NSDAP Schutzstaffel) SS did. When recruiting, Active Club members should not talk about Jews and history. Instead, the focus in public should be on brotherhood, community, fitness, and self-defense.

¹ Officially referred to in the United States of America as "racially or ethnically motivated violent extremism" (REMVE or RMVE)

² White Supremacy 3.0, called White Nationalism 3.0 or cultural model 3.0 by the Active Clubs themselves, should be understood in reference to other forms of RWE/REMVE activism, in particular street activism by Skinheads (1.0) and alt-right "keyboard warriors" (2.0).

- Active Club narratives are driven by curated stories of white victimhood and empowerment through white supremacy. Key slogans are "A group of strong white men is a fascist statement in itself"; "The best strategy is to be as unpolitical as possible to be as appealing as possible"; "White unity at every opportunity" and "Make fascism fun".
- Active Clubs follow an open network approach, which encourages individuals to start their own independent local group. They are asked to carry out combat sports trainings and illegal political activism like banner drops, stickering, and graffiti tagging to promote a risk-taker mentality and to train operational and logistical capacities like scouting target locations and avoiding law enforcement. Creating local and national RWE/REMVE leadership figures in this process is another main objective.
- Several Active Club members are or previously were involved in other RWE/REMVE organizations like Patriot Front, Proud Boys, Oath Keepers, Hammerskins, and White Lives Matter.
- Women play no visible role in U.S. Active Clubs, while Active Clubs in Canada and France have female members.
- The recent arrest of Robert Rundo, the co-founder and main strategist of the Active Club network, seems to have no direct effect on the growth of the network. Rundo stated himself that the groups would run on their own now and would not need him anymore.
- The ongoing growth of the transnational militant Active Club network requires an exchange of local and national threat assessments, investigative strategies, and promising prevention as well as rehabilitation practices between policymakers and law enforcement officials of the affected countries.

More specific recommendations for policymakers and law enforcement are available upon request.

Introduction and Context

This report outlines and analyzes the current strategies and potential threats affiliated with the largest transnational right-wing extremist (RWE/REMVE) combat sports network known as Active Clubs. In particular, it explores the objectives, strategies, strengths, and weaknesses of this network, which continues to grow quickly and has been spreading from the U.S. to Canada and to least 12 countries in Europe.

Transnational RWE/REMVE networks pose a threat that is complex, dynamic, and reactive. In particular, the White Supremacy 3.0 strategy creates significant security challenges for governments in the United States, Canada, and Europe. This strategy aims to grow the existing RWE/REMVE combat sports networks in the United States and beyond significantly by *mainstreaming* its visible activities, in particular by making it look more friendly and less militant and thereby more attractive to white men who were previously not affiliated with RWE/REMVE groups.

The manifestation of the White Supremacy/Nationalism 3.0 strategy is the Active Club network, which was co-created by Robert Rundo, a U.S. citizen. Since Rundo was inspired and mentored by the Russian citizen Denis Kapustin (a.k.a. Nikitin), Kapustin's contribution to the transnational Active Club network will also be highlighted. Kapustin can be considered the <u>creator</u> and driving force behind modern transnational RWE/REMVE combat sports. More importantly, since the beginning of 2023, he is the commander of the <u>Russian Volunteer Corps</u> (RDK) military unit that fights on the side of Ukraine against the invading Russian army.



Rundo and Kapustin in Germany, 2018



Kapustin with key German and French RWE/REMVE combat sports actors/fighters at the <u>Schild und</u> <u>Schwert Festival/Kampf der Nibelungen</u>, Germany 2018



Robert Rundo, 2021

Dennis Kapustin, 2023

How the Mainstreaming of RWE/REMVE Combat Sports Increases the Threat Level

If Active Clubs are allowed to continue to operate and multiply, the likelihood for targeted political violence and terrorism increases. The transnational U.S. RWE/REMVE combat sports network Active Club has been implementing its White Supremacy 3.0 strategy since late 2020. Effectively putting a friendly face on RWE/REMVE combat sports not only allows RWE/REMVE actors to further train the existing pool of extremists, it could also significantly foster the recruitment of newcomers into Active Clubs, which would be necessary to build a network of violence-ready individuals to serve as a shadow or stand-by army for when the need for coordinated violent action on a larger scale arises.

Operating under the radar of law enforcement until then is a major strategic objective of Active Clubs. Violent acts against supposed enemies of the "white race" (e.g., Jews, people of color, Muslims, Liberals, Feminists, LGTBQI+, and CSO activists) are usually not (or no longer) being perpetrated by RWE/REMVE leaders, nor do they explicitly call for violence. They rather propagate victimhood narratives like "we are under attack and need to fight back," and facilitate and organize the testosterone-driven *Erlebniswelten* (spaces for collective experiences) that foster a sense of victimhood, urgency, agency, and militancy. This <u>stochastic violence</u>, perpetrated by members of these networks, can then appear to be random "lone actor" attacks, bar fights, or spontaneous violent conflicts at protests or rallies, since the Active Club strategy requires that such incidents would occur without subsequent claims of responsibility.

Not understanding this "hiding in plain sight" approach can lead to a dangerous misunderstanding of the scope of the threat posed by Active Clubs in the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

Additionally, members of different RWE/REMVE combat sports networks, including Active Clubs, are currently fighting on both sides of the Russian war on Ukraine. Therefore, RWE/REMVE individuals have access to military combat training and state-of-the-art weapons of war, and some are gathering battlefield experience. This development can lead to the *militarization* of RWE/REMVE combat sports networks and can have serious implications for the threat Jewish, Islamic, LGTBQ+, and other communities in the EU and beyond.

The Geographical Spread and Distribution of Active Clubs

<u>Reportedly</u>, in April 2023 "at least 30 Active Clubs in 17 [U.S.] states" were operational. The research for this report, which ended in August 2023, has identified 46 Active Clubs in the United States, located in 34 states. This increase indicates a growth of about 50 percent in the span of five months. Additionally, at least 46 Active Clubs exist in 15 European countries, and 12 in Canada. The estimated average number of members per Active Club is between five and 25, based on their self-reporting. In summary, since the creation of the first Active Club in late 2020, at least 100 Active Clubs have been created in the U.S, Canada, and Europe. A list of all identified Active Clubs can be found in appendix A.



Map of the geographical presence of Active Clubs in the United States (August 2023)

"The Active Clubs run on their own. They don't need me anymore." Robert Rundo, May 2022.



Mainstreaming RWE/REMVE Combat Sports: The White Supremacy 3.0 Strategy

The White Supremacy 3.0 strategy was developed predominantly by <u>Robert Rundo</u>. Born in 1990 in Queens, New York, Rundo co-founded the U.S. RWE/REMVE Rise Above Movement (RAM) in 2017, which served as a key steppingstone for his later actions. In the following years, Rundo was also a driving force in the creation of the Will2Rise clothing brand, the Media2Rise propaganda network, and the transnational RWE/REMVE combat sports network <u>Active Club</u>. The White Supremacy 3.0 strategy aims to grow the existing RWE/REMVE combat sports network in the United States and beyond by *mainstreaming* its visible activities, in particular through focusing on the promotion of athletic aesthetics, fitness and combat sports, RWE clothing, and music and by <u>promising</u> status, agency, belonging, and purpose to white men.

White Supremacy 3.0, called White Nationalism 3.0 or cultural model 3.0 by the Active Clubs themselves, should be understood in reference to other forms of RWE activism, in particular street activism by Skinheads (1.0) and suit-wearing alt-right keyboard warriors (2.0).

White Supremacy 3.0 is also strongly inspired by Rundo's time in Europe. In 2018, he participated in the RWE/REMVE Kampf der Nibelungen (KdN) combat sports tournament in Germany and met his mentor, Denis Kapustin (a.k.a. Nikitin). They later produced the Active Club <u>podcast</u> together.





Rundo also visited several other <u>European countries</u> then and in the following years, including Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Ukraine, and Serbia, and took inspiration from different RWE/REMVE groups during this time, <u>in particular</u> from the Russian <u>White Rex</u>, the Ukrainian <u>Azov</u> <u>movement</u>, the Italian <u>Casa Pound</u>, and the French <u>Generation Identitaire</u>.

Rundo has curated and propagated a comprehensive autobiographical narrative of victimhood and humiliation as the main justification for his extreme-right activism. He has described his radicalization pathway in various podcast interviews and conversations hosted by RWE/REMVE groups and Individuals. He also <u>described</u> that "meeting the boys and doing sports" allowed him not to bring his emotional issues home to his girlfriend. His curated life story appears to be designed to justify and promote combat sports as a form of self-therapy and empowerment.

Rundo spreads a curated story of victimhood, humiliation and then empowerment through white supremacy

In the following years, Rundo co-founded Rise Above Movement (RAM), the predecessor group of the Active Clubs (AC). In 2019, members of RAM were <u>sentenced</u> for violent acts during the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. <u>Reportedly</u>, they were also practicing drive-by style shootings at the time. That same year, RAM members including Rundo were charged with inciting violence during a pro-Trump rally in Huntington Beach, California. In the aftermath, Rundo lost his job as a unionized laborer trainee and his fiancée left him.

While in the Los Angeles County jail awaiting his 2019 court hearing, Rundo <u>reports</u> that he had been welcomed by the RWE/REMVE criminal gang Aryan Brotherhood, which controlled the white inmates. In June 2019, a federal judge <u>dismissed</u> the case, which was reopened in 2022 and led to his <u>arrest</u> in Romania in March 2023. He was <u>extradited</u> to the United States on August 2, 2023 and is facing trial in California.



Arrest of Robert Rundo in Romania, March 2023.





On different occasions, Rundo has claimed that he <u>suffered significantly</u> from the U.S. law enforcement response to the violent acts (allegedly) committed by RAM members.

This included, according to Rundo, an unlawful extradition by U.S. officials from El Salvador where he was hiding from the prosecution in 2017, as well as a raid by a FBI SWAT team of his apartment, where he claims that the FBI agents looked for a justification to shoot him.

His frequent encounters with law enforcement lead Rundo to hide in Cuba and in several European countries on and off between 2017 and 2023 (see above), where he educated himself about different national and local RWE/REMVE strategies, and connected with various RWE/REMVE groups. This "Jason Bourne experience,"³ as Rundo calls it—referencing a series of Hollywood spy and action movies - appears to have strongly influenced the creation of the White Supremacy 3.0 strategy, which can be understood as an essential "lesson learned" from the previous, more openly aggressive RAM approach.

In May 2022, Rundo, the co-creator and figurehead of the Active Club network, <u>stated</u> that "the Active Clubs run on their own. They don't need me anymore."



Telegram postings in solidarity with Rundo in Russia, Canada, Scotland, France, Sweden and the Netherlands

³ Rundo's Spot Chat, Jason Bourne life, Telegram

The Active Club Network: Objectives and Main Components of the White Supremacy 3.0 Strategy

The overall objective of the White Supremacy 3.0 strategy appears to be the creation of a shadow or stand-by militia of trained and capable RWE/REMVE individuals that can be activated when the need for coordinated (violent) action on a larger scale arises, as Robert Rundo explains:

"It's a strong nationalist street subculture that I see coming from the Active Clubs. Some people do not really understand the counterculture of it or really the concept of it. Having all these little local clubs all over the place. I had people mention how does this work, there is no leadership, this can't work, this needs to be done in a more traditional style organization, with a central leadership, one big organization. How can this work? Really, Active Clubs are the leaderless resistance, when all these clubs are engaging in the same kind of style activism, pushing for similar goals, those create a unified front, and it doesn't even need a leader to it. It's kind of like the minutemen (militia) in the early stages of the revolutionary war. There were different bands of minutemen in the different states but they acted all in conjunction with each other. ... So this is not such a fresh concept, it has been done before in history.

I definitely do believe that in the future there needs to be a mass movement, a mass organization, but when it comes for that, do you really want a bunch of guys coming strictly from the online world to come join a mass movement without having any experience or skills? Active Clubs are a great local way to start guys of as they come from the online world into the real world, to learn actual skills. A lot of people don't understand but doing activism does really give you skills like coordination, planning, leadership, following rules and directions, getting guys in and out of places. For a night of stenciling or a banner drop, guys have to learn how to coordinate so they don't get arrested, get spotted by opponents, that they get in and out of there safely. All skills that you learn within the Active Club are on a very local level, and when the time comes for a mass movement, right there you got a solid base that's all over it.

I say engage in the what I call 3.0 culture Active Clubs, this counter culture, learn all these skills, and when it is time for big movements and such like this, when this comes along, you already have guys who have this experience, guys who know how to lead locally, guys who know how to follow directions etc. etc."

(Transcript, minute 1:35 to 4:47, edited for clarity)

A nationally relevant mass event in the future could be a scenario similar to the storming of the Capitol building in Washington, DC, on January 6, 2021. Rundo and Kapustin discussed the lack of operational planning, strategy, and leadership by the perpetrators of that attack on their podcast (see page 19).

The White Supremacy 3.0 strategy aims at creating a hidden stand-by militia of trained and capable RWE/REMVE individuals.

Two more main objectives can be identified. Firstly, to avoid, delay, mitigate, or withstand law enforcement interventions, the network is supposed to present a friendly face to the public. Consequently, network members are asked to avoid engaging in threatening behavior or displaying obvious Nazi symbols. Secondly, this less aggressive and more mainstream strategy is supposed to help grow the AC network, in particular by widening the social strata of society the network is able to reach.

"A group of strong white men is a fascist statement in itself."

Snapshot: Traditional (extreme) RWE/REMVE Combat Sports

Objective:

- to train "white warriors" for combat
- to project power and intimidate opponents
- to attract openly violent individuals

Strategy:

- to appear powerful, aggressive, brutal, threatening



Programme 2023 Re match ACAB BARE KNUKLE ERIC OLSEN AND MORE 2yt4u.com





Snapshot: Active Clubs - Hiding in Plain Sight

Objective:

- to train a stand-by army ready for violence when needed
- to significantly increase the number of fighters
- to avoid/delay/mitigate law enforcement measures

Strategy:

- mainstreaming, by focusing on aesthetics, <u>fun, community</u> and <u>music</u> for white men
- putting a friendly or attractive face on RWE/REMVE activities



The main Active Club Telegram channel posts mostly mainstreamed content but also contains some more violent or intimidating pictures. This inconsistency might be due to the fact that the channel serves as a recruitment tool for new members, but also as a major communication tool for the existing network.

Since <u>August 2022</u>, Active Clubs in the U.S. have organized at least <u>three</u> closed door combat sports <u>tournaments</u> with the participation of fighters from <u>Patriot Front</u>. The most recent one, which again took place again in southern California, happened in late <u>August 2023</u>.







Indicators for Future Targeted Violence

The underlying militant strategy of the Active Club network is visible throughout their own communication. For example, the podcasts by Rundo, as well as the Active Club podcasts he did together with Kapustin, are easily accessible on Telegram, <u>Odyssey</u>, and <u>Bitchute</u>. A main narrative promoted there is the necessity of, and glory and fun in, brutal violence as a pathway to manhood and brotherhood. In particular, fist and knife fights by street gangs and soccer hooligans are glorified by both RWE/REMVE leaders through personal stories and anecdotes.⁴ The storming of the U.S. Capitol building on January 6, 2021 is also discussed by Kapustin and Rundo. Their assessment is that it was done unprofessionally. They later <u>elaborate</u> in detail how to make "street activism" more effective:

Kapustin: "The storming of the capitol building ... what we see as people who caused civil unrest pretty often in our lives, of course I see that guys who stormed the capital building were very naïve - you are obviously committing a very serious crime and you not even wear a mask and you are making selfies (Rundo interjects: "tagging yourself"), and put it all online – again, guys, what did you expect? We will get back on how to behave during street activism in our next episode." (Transcript, minute 5:50 to 6:30, edited for clarity)

In different podcast episodes after these remarks, Kapustin and Rundo discuss in detail how to prepare for and conduct acts of violence at <u>demonstrations</u> and when encountering <u>police</u>, referencing Rundo's personal experience and violent acts, the Rise Above Movements violent acts, and Kapustin's Russian and European violent soccer hooligan experiences and tactics.

During the riots in Paris and other French cities in June and July 2023, select content of "white victims" and French nationalists patrolling the streets of Paris and fighting with alleged French Arabs and Muslims has been shared within the various Active Club network Telegram channels, including commentary that is highlighting the need to "train and tribe." Train and tribe refers to preparing for combat and building strong (white) groups and networks.

The Heartland Active Club in Missouri publicly documented that two of their members were attending a tactical military training course in full military gear, including semi-automatic rifles. The Tribal Arizona Active Club posted extensively about a military style tactical casualty training they were organizing.

⁴ Active Club Podcast episode: off the record – recalling street actions, Telegram





The Rainforest Active Club (Pacific Northwest) published a video on their Telegram Channel of their burning of a Quran in August 2023, which could be used to instigate polarization or violence by intentionally provoking Muslims. If violent altercations would occur, Active Clubs could be claiming self-defense and escalate the conflict further.



@RainforestAC bois lit up a summer fire and cleansed our region of degenerate filth.

We'd like to thank all the men and women who contributed such a bounty of materials for the fire, your sacrifice is a Testament to our race.

Keep the habitat clean
21

The Northern California Active Club profile posted an antisemitic threat on Twitter/X in September 2023:



Antwort an @NancyLowell, @frogfren22 und 2 weitere

If you're jewish (especially if you're a woman) and you think you're the victim of persecution, I promise, you haven't. You have no clue what persecution is. But you soon will. Post übersetzen

17:32 · 09 Sept. 23 · **115** Mal angezeigt

Recruitment and Profile of a Prototype Active Club Member

Active Clubs are <u>advised</u> to recruit from the following target groups and events:

"WN 3.0's (White Nationalism) strong emphasis on fitness, self-improvement, and brotherhood offers tools of persuasion that are completely immune to preconceived political bias. Flyers and stickers extolling these virtues could target boxing and MMA tournaments, gyms, and motocross courses. Messages targeting, for example, a hockey game will reach people who are primed to receive our message but are more likely to be apolitical and thus untainted by prior allegiances. Activism at events like concerts, NASCAR races, and local festivals are also much more likely to reach young and active people."

Active Clubs are also asked to focus on the art and aesthetics of the movement when appearing at art exhibitions or a coffee house open-mic night. Also, high schools should also be <u>targeted</u>:

Ground-level intelligence collection might then inform that same activist crew that changing demographics at a local high school have led to gang-beatings of minority White youth. The cunning and resourceful activists see this news as opportunity for a campaign focusing on the importance of a Brotherhood of young White men having each other's backs. By freeing their minds from the depressing carousel of face-value national politics, WN 3.0 activists discover an endless variety of options for outreach and awakening."

When recruiting, Active Club members are instructed not to talk about "<u>the Jews and history</u>". Instead, the focus in public should be on "positive things and activities," for example brotherhood, community, fitness, and self-defense. Rundo <u>highlights</u> the importance of being sociable and that Active Club events need to be fun, and to show that in videos.

"Make fascism fun!" "

"Nationalists in America and elsewhere must inscribe on our banners the slogan of our past German comrades: Strength Through Joy!"





SS-Regiment I Munich, 1932

When <u>describing</u> the profile of a prototype Active Club members today, Rundo clearly speaks out against odd, edgy, anti-social, nihilist, or threatening looking individuals. Rather, he says, they should look like members of the Schutzstaffel (SS), "not over the top, normal guys with families." Someone who <u>says</u> "I am just a white boy and prefer to train with my own," that is a good enough recruit for Rundo. These components of the White Supremacy 3.0 strategy were summed up by Rundo as follows: "A group of strong white men is a fascist statement in itself."⁵ Several of the existing AC members were <u>reportedly</u> previously involved or are <u>parallel</u> members of other U.S. RWE organizations like Patriot Front, Hammerskins, Proud Boys, Oath Keepers, and White Lives Matter.

Operational and Logistical Strengths and Weaknesses of the Active Club Network

The operational implementation of this strategy takes place through an open network approach, where RWE/REMVE individuals and groups are encouraged to start their own local Active Clubs. These serve as network nodes. In public telegram channels and through videos, interviews, and voice recordings of Rundo, these ACs are <u>asked</u> to carry out combat sports trainings and political activism like banner drops, stickering, and graffiti tagging on public or private property.

⁵ Rundo's Spot Chat, Telegram

Such activism, which is illegal in most cases, is supposed to train the local AC's tactical military like skills and operational and logistical capacities such as scouting target locations, transportation, and avoiding law enforcement.

Additionally, it is also supposed to foster a sense of identity, agency, brotherhood, excitement, a chance for members to prove themselves, and build a risk-taker mentality. Creating RWE local and national <u>leadership</u> skills and figures in this process is another key objective. Rundo considers this approach a lesson learned from the, in his <u>words</u>, disorganized alt-right keyboard warrior movement in the 2010s.

Such operational capacities can be considered necessary to become a functioning part of an RWE/REMVE network that claims to be just doing sports but in reality, prepares the movement for organized and targeted violence on a larger scale. Contrary to a standard leaderless resistance strategy, which is based on fully independent cells that do not know about each other, Active Clubs are supposed to connect and <u>cooperate</u> but stay operationally independent. As a result, infiltrations and arrests of leadership figures, or even the shutdown of an Active Club, should have little if any effect on the Active Club network itself.

Command and Control of the Active Club Network

The advantages of an flexible open network approach also create challenges for the command and control of the Active Club network and its various local nodes. <u>Reportedly</u>, Robert Rundo has been operating an encrypted messenger channel that includes two members of each Active Club in the U.S. It is unclear if Active Clubs outside of the U.S. have access to that channel.

According to the Crowd Counting Consortium (<u>CCC</u>), Active Clubs were involved in at least 27 protest events since March 2022. Most of these protests took place in 2023 and spanned across the U.S. with clusters in the Pacific Northwest, California, Tennessee, and the Mid-Atlantic. Active Clubs have also organized or participated in protests in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Alabama, Ohio, and Virginia. The majority (60%) of the protests included explicit anti-LGBTQ+ claims, five were explicitly antisemitic. Except for one event in Bozeman, Montana, the protests were non-violent.

In a rare attempt to publicly steer the growing network, the AC Southern California, which appears to have the command role in the Active Club network during Rundo's incarceration, published the following post in late April 2023:

"While all active clubs are autonomous and act independently of each other, there still is the 3.0 cultural outline to follow. Any self-claiming active club which strays from the 3.0 cultural model and promotes an image of themselves as menacing terrorists or spends all day sharing memes and prophesizing online should not be recognized as a legitimate active club, but rather as an imposter group hijacking the active club name for recognition."

It is likely that this post was targeting at least one specific Active Club at the time that had been displaying Nazi salutes and swastika symbols as well as threatening behavior during an antidrag show demonstration, thereby not following the "3.0 cultural model." That Active Club in Tennessee has not changed its <u>behavior</u> at the time of writing of this article.



AC Tennessee, January 2023

AC Tennessee, June 2023

Some Active Clubs have joined the Northwest Nationalist Network (<u>3N</u>) and cooperate openly with a regional White Lives Matters chapter and local RWE/REMVE groups that do not follow the 3.0 cultural model and are thereby contradicting the "hiding in plain sight" 3.0 strategy.

Financial Activities and Strategies of the Active Club Network

Rundo has co-created the mail-order clothing business Will2Rise/Shop2Rise ("*Identity-Style-Revolt*") which offers an array of products online "made by our people for our people," and the Media2Rise ("*Nationalist Entertainment*") media service. The latter has produced a series of video documentaries. Some of those appear to have been commissioned and paid for, e.g., by the <u>National Justice Party</u>, while others were produced with the aim to subsequently solicit donations. The Media2Rise website payment options, credit card and cryptocurrencies, do not work. Supporters are asked to reach out to discuss alternative payment methods. The Will2Rise shop had an <u>average</u> of over 10,000 visits per month between May and July 2023, with visitors spending an average of 15 minutes on the website. The monthly average visits of the shop in 2021 was reportedly around 5,000.

The shop claims to have <u>an "ethical" supply chain</u>:

"We go out of our way to make sure all products and designs are created by those who share our values and identity. All products are made in Eastern Europe, so not a single hand touches the production that is not of like mind. In doing this, we keep Our people employed and keep all funds within our ranks, something that not many other brands can claim."

Customers can use VISA, PayPal, stripe, Mastercard, and cash on delivery as payment services.



Rundo has also recommended Active Club members to start their own <u>businesses</u>. For example, associates of his started a moving company and a tree trimming business, where RWE/REMVE individuals work, work out together and draw salaries to fund their activities.

<u>Reportedly</u>, members of Evergreen Active Club in Idaho are involved in the illegal trafficking of steroids across state lines. Such illegal activities contradict the overall objective of the strategy to avoid or delay law enforcement measures.



The Canadian Active Clubs are affiliated with the clothing brand and mail-order business Vinland Battlewear that sells t-shirts and hats. Customers can pay with a credit card.

The Active Club's Ideological Foundations: Revolt Against the Modern World?

Active Clubs have not published a comprehensive ideological manifesto on their official websites. In articles, they <u>criticize</u> Western capitalism, claiming it has made nationalists too comfortable, and articulate various grievances:

"You will work for a boss who passes you over for a promotion in-favor of a diversity hire, your taxes will go to funding a system that is working to replace you, the interest you pay on your mortgage will pay for the lavish lifestyles of bankers. Your missus will walk all over you whenever there is a disagreement as your spineless nature means you never stand up for yourself. Your kids will grow up resenting you, they will be taught in school white guilt and convinced that they're non-binary; they will be beaten by ethnic bullies, and you'll just sit back and do nothing. That is the life of a coward."

Additionally, severe and continuous criticism towards the U.S. Alt-Right movement, which in the language of the AC network is referred to as <u>"consumer nationalism</u>," is articulated in different articles, podcasts, and voice messages, highlighting the infighting and "endless circle jerk of posturing and commentating" of "keyboard warriors." This criticism also has a personal dimension. A recording of Alt-Right figurehead <u>Richard Spencer</u>, in which he says that he is glad RAM members are in prison "because they are thugs," has been shared by the main Active Club on Telegram. Rundo has called Spencer out for his lack of effective activism.

A version of a motivational program of the Active Clubs can be found here:

"Then there is the life of an activist: this is the life of someone who has understands [sic] their worth, who respects themselves and lives, as best they can, according to their principles. They work to subvert and undermine the system that is trying to destroy them everyday [sic]. They live their life for a cause, and that cause gives their life a purpose. Beyond simply satisfying whatever craving or desire they have; they deny instant gratification, instead they focus on higher achievement. They live a life worthy of emulation. Whilst the coward lives the life of an ant, the activist lives the life of an outlaw. The modern day [sic] Ned Kelly (Shout out to Tom Sewell!) or Wat Tyler; the activists actions will echo through time and, in due course, become the tales of the new folklore. The coward dies once we [sic] takes his last breath, the activist lives forever. [...]

We start small, we plant seeds, nurture them and watch them grow. The Revolution will eventually flower, but only once firm foundations have been laid! [...]

This is where the Active Club concept comes in: the Active Club is the vehicle through which we can begin to build a movement in the real world. We don't wait for leaders to come and build a movement for us, to create organizations and write manifestos. We do it ourselves."



Discussion in "Rundo's spot Chat" on Telegram

"Being handsome and jacked is more important than being right when it comes to politics."

On Telegram, content referencing Julius Evola, Adolf Hitler, Ernst Jünger, and other philosophical or political figures of the 20th century is being shared between the different Active Clubs. Most of those, however, are being forwarded from Telegram channels outside of the network and have the character of slogans or inspirational quotes.

The posts also <u>include</u> references to Greek, Roman, or North European (Nordic) culture, myths, and historical figures with a focus on the glorification of heroism:

"The foundation of Western culture is of course Greco-Roman culture, which stressed the ideals of strength, beauty, heroism, power, and inequality. This is why leftism and liberalism are fundamentally incompatible with our race."

Julius Evola is a particularly curious reference here. Evola, a 20th century elitist, esoteric, and eccentric Italian right-wing aristocrat, advocated for a state based on a sacred monarchy set in a strict Indian-like caste system. Some of his best-known works are titled *Revolt Against the Modern World: Politics, Religion, and Social Order in the Kali Yuga* and *Ride the Tiger: A Survival Manual for the Aristocrats of the Soul.* These titles were turned into slogans like "Surf the Kali Yuga" or "Ride the Tiger" by some on the extreme right. Evola described modernity as the Kali Yuga, the age of strife and conflict, the final of the four ages in Hindu cosmology.







Picture shared in "Rundo's spot chat "Telegram channel



Rundo in Greece in front of an Achillis statue

Evola prescribed ideas on how to return to a so-called golden age of traditional, spiritual, and anti-liberal order. The self-titled *superfacist*, transformed from an early supporter of Bennito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler to an outspoken critic of both due to their focus on vulgarity and populism and their lack of spirituality. In Evola's propagated state of sacred aristocratic and spiritual elites, working-class born individuals like Rundo would be confined to lives as workers, peasants, or foot soldiers, with no political voice and no right to be involved in the matters of the state.

Evola's *superfacism* might be a reason why Rundo himself rather references Adolf Hitler and Josef Goebbels in some of his podcast statements and interviews. For example, he paraphrases Hitler's chapter in *Mein Kampf* on the creation and importance of the national-socialist Stormtroopers (Sturmabteilung/SA) by saying that many more boxers are needed than thinkers. <u>Referencing</u> Goebbels from the propaganda novel *Conquering Berlin*, which glorifies Goebbels' attempt to take over the Berlin of the 1920s with just 600 brown-shirted SA-men, Rundo highlights the importance of organizing men for and with a purpose. The SA was recruiting unemployed, working-class men, preferably veterans of World War I, for targeted political violence.

"The best strategy is to be as unpolitical as possible to be as appealing as possible."

The absence of any coherent ideologically unifying narrative for Active Clubs beyond the socalled <u>white genocide</u> or <u>great replacement</u> conspiracy theories and the <u>14 words</u> is not necessarily a sign of weakness. Rundo <u>points out</u> that a key lesson learned from the success of early national-socialism in Germany is to focus on reinstalling "an identity, white selfrealization, white awakening, white tribalism and white masculinity."

He further <u>claims</u> that as soon as white people realize that they are one tribe that has needs, ambitions, and wants, everything else will fall into place. The infighting in and between extreme-right groups, Rundo highlights that the alt-right, should be avoided at all cost. The slogan "white unity at every opportunity" is widely shared between the various Active Club Telegram channels.

Rundo's <u>strategy</u> concerning an ideological foundation of the Active Club network can therefore be understood as to first massively increase the number of members and sympathizers by promising to satisfy their needs, and only later introduce ideology: "The best strategy is to be as unpolitical as possible to be as appealing as possible." The principles required for joining Active Clubs are intentionally minimal in an attempt to create a large fascist youth counterculture.

The Absence of Women in U.S. Active Clubs

Women seem to have no role in the White Supremacy 3.0 strategy or practice in the U.S. They are not meaningfully present in public photos, videos, statements, or discussions. The arguably most prominent propaganda and recruitment <u>video</u> of the U.S. Active Clubs, which features their first official combat sports event in California in August 2022, shows about 50 to 60 men and a total of about six women. Three women have an active role as a "beach girl," a "ring girl," and a person handing medals to the winners of the fights. About three more women can be seen as attendees in the background. The visibility of these women in total lasts around 15 seconds in the more than 26 minutes long video.

The main Active Club Telegram channel has posted more than 3,200 pictures since December 2019, less than one percent of which include women. Of those less than 20 pictures, the majority show female models for the Will2Rise shop or are reposts of pictures of female activists from European RWE/REMVE groups like the Nordic Resistance Movement or the German Der III. Weg, which are not Active Clubs.



Advertisements for the Will2Rise shop. The displayed T-Shirts seem to be discontinued.



None of the pictures on the Will2rise shop website currently show women.

Even on the few occasions where families and children are addressed in Active Club publications, women are not mentioned. As an example, this is part of the advice series on how to set up an Active Club for different age groups on the <u>official website</u>:

"A group of older guys with families might want to get involved in opposing degeneracy being taught in the local primary or elementary school; maybe organize picnics and barbecues that you can invite others to. As you start to build in numbers, resources and confidence, start thinking about homeschooling and removing your kids from state education altogether."

The other more than 40 Active Club in the U.S. also very rarely show or address women in their public Telegram channels. No open misogyny and few antifeminist comments, usually in reference to (alleged) female Antifa activists, were found during this research. This is noteworthy, since many RWE/REMVE Telegram channels post at least some sexist or antifeminist content.

White Lives Matter post August 2023





Posting of an Active Club France affiliated youth group with several females.

The almost complete absence of women in any form in the public communication of U.S. Active Clubs, be it as fighters, athletes, mates, girlfriends, partners, wives, mothers, sisters, historical or mythological figures such as queens or goddesses, or as sex objects, seems to be a statement in itself.

However, there are no references to the role of sexuality for white supremacists/nationalists or to abstinence as a form of straight-edge living, nor are there recommendations for or posts about how to help organize any activities for women to grow the network into a movement.

Put in categories, semi-nude pictures of athletic men would likely be the most popular type of content on many of the Active Club channels. In a podcast episode, Rundo and Kapustin respond to allegations that Active Clubs were actually homosexual groups by stating that their enemies would try to use their masculinity and camaraderie against them. They would all be "bros and have girlfriends"⁶.

The lack of women in the White Supremacy 3.0 strategy can therefore be interpreted as another indicator that the Active Club network in the U.S considers itself a national-socialist Sturmabteilung/SA or Schutzstaffel/SS inspired stand-by army, as mentioned by Rundo (see chapter on ideology).

Women in Active Clubs Outside of the U.S.

The two fastest growing Active Club networks outside the U.S. openly include women. Canada has a women's chapter which seems to be designed for spouses, girlfriends, and children. That network appears to be composed mostly of men older than 30 years, many of them Hammerskins (see country case study). The Active Club network in France describes as their objective to "train young sportsmen and women with a taste for effort" and has shared some pictures showing a female wearing boxing gloves and females posing in group pictures to promote their youth chapters (see country case study).

The Curious Role of the Hammerskins in RWE/REMVE Combat Sports

For many years the Hammerskins Nation (a.k.a. Hammerskins) was <u>reportedly</u> one of the largest, most organized, and most <u>violent</u> neo-Nazi skinhead gangs in the United States. The group launched in 1988 and has since spread internationally. Hammerskins have been arrested on charges of murder, assault, arson, vandalism, harassment, and other hate crimes. In the last 20 years, following rumors of it dissolving, the group <u>transformed</u> into a more clandestine transnational network organizing public and private (music) events. Hammerskins are organizationally structured similar to outlaw motorcycle gangs, with relatively few full members and a supporter group called Crew 38.

⁶ Active Club podcast episode : off the record – street actions, Telegram

Since 2013, the transnational Hammerskins network has played a significant role in the creation of RWE/REMVE combat sports groups. According to the German federal government, the first Kampf der Nibelungen RWE/REMVE combat sports event in 2013 can be considered a Hammerskins event, since the main organizers were Hammerskins. Hammerskins members in San Diego were reportedly involved in the creation of RAM in 2016 and of the first Active Club in 2020. Hammerskins are reportedly also running the Active Club Network in Canada and are involved with the RWE combat sport group Gym XIV in Sweden, which also serves as a network hub for smaller Swedish RWE groups. GYM XIV appears to have good relations with Active Clubs in Scandinavia.

In September 2023, the federal government of Germany issued a <u>ban order</u> for the German chapters of the Hammerskins Nation.



Western Hammerskins flag at the Active Club tournament in California, August 2023.

Gym XIV

In all parts of Scandinavia we see ACs poping up. Guys form crews. Crews that connect to the network already established.

We will not say much. Time will tell. Action speaks louder than words. But, big things are happening. And if you Tribe and train, are in a constelation of friends that acts against the modern world, sings, fight, create and live a full life. You are part of this. You are the resistance.

What we tought to be unimaginable is now happening.

Future belongs to the brave!





It is unclear at the moment if the above mentioned actions by Hammerskins in different countries are evidence of a reemergence of the Hammerskins Nation as a major RWE/REMVE global player with a new strategy of mainstreaming RWE/REMVE combat sports, or if individual Hammerskins members or chapters are acting independently.

Active Club Network Links to the Russia-Ukraine War

The public connection between Rundo and his mentor Kapustin appears to have cooled since the start of the second phase of the war in February 2022, which has damaged the previously existing transnational cooperation between RWE/REMVE groups in the EU, the U.S., Russia, and Ukraine. Several key actors have taken the side of either Russia or Ukraine, while those who proclaimed neutrality were often criticized by everyone else. This has also led to a situation where some (former) members of the RWE/REMVE Russian Imperial Legion (RIM), a designated terrorist organization in the U.S., are fighting in the Russian army, for example with the Rusich assault and sabotage military unit. Other former RIM members have joined the Legion of Freedom of Russia (LSR), which is fighting against Putin's regime on the Ukrainian side. Several German right-wing extremists have reportedly received paramilitary training at a RIM camp near St. Petersburg in 2017. Finns and Swedes have also trained there before joining Russian militias in eastern Ukraine.

Since early 2023, Denis Kapustin has been the leader of the Russian Volunteer Corps (RDK), a RWE/REMVE <u>military unit</u> that claims to be associated with the Ukrainian army but seems to operate independently. Kapustin has <u>called</u> for international RWE/REMVE volunteers to come to Ukraine to fight since the Russian invasion in early 2022. Active Club Estonia currently appears to have at least two members or sympathizers fighting in the Russia-Ukraine war for Ukraine (see Estonia country info). The French Active Club has shared the picture of a sympathizer that seems to be fighting in Ukraine (see France country info). It is unclear if they are connected to Kapustin.

Direct linkages between Active Clubs in the U.S. and both sides of the war in Ukraine have not been found during this research. The <u>infighting</u> in an Active Club in Fort Wayne, Indiana, over which side to take in the war, led to the "breakup of a tight six-man crew (which) is a devastating loss at this stage of the game" according to the Active Club website in March 2022. The Active Club network and Rundo have since been taking a <u>neutral stance</u> saying "when it comes to the mission of WN (White Nationalism) 3.0 activists, this event shouldn't matter at all".

How RWE/REMVE Combat Sports Networks and the Russia-Ukraine War Increases the Threat Level in the EU and the United States

While the overall effects of the Russian war against Ukraine on the RWE/REMVE milieus in Europe and the United States are not fully clear yet, one very likely scenario is that RWE/REMVE volunteer foreign fighters will <u>return</u> to their home countries. The actual number of such fighters remains unclear, though conservative estimates based on <u>government</u> <u>information</u> of EU member states from mid-2022 speak of at least a few hundred RWE/REMVE EU nationals in the conflict zone. Some of those have already returned home, and many more are likely to eventually do the same.

At that point, they probably have received military training and might have gathered combat experience. This is already the case with members of the RWE/REMVE networks who fight in the different parts of the Ukrainian and Russian military forces. The long border Ukraine has with EU member states like Poland, Slovakia, or Hungary makes the illegal transport of modern weapons into the EU a likely <u>scenario</u>.

The effects of the Russia-Ukraine war could hence lead to a (further) militarization of the RWE/REMVE mixed martial arts scene in Europe and the United States. The expected enhanced availability of arms, ammunition, and explosive material in Europe as a result of the war could outmaneuver some of the strict gun control legislation in place. Combined with combat-experienced returning RWE/REMVE actors, the risk of targeted political violence and terrorism is therefore likely to increase.

The Transnational Dimension of the Active Club Network - Country Case Studies

The brief country case studies below give an overview of the transnational dimension of the Active Club network. Active Clubs exist in at least 14 countries outside the United States, namely in Canada, Estonia, France, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Scotland, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Canada and France have the largest and fastest growing Active Club networks outside the U.S.

Canada

Canada's Active Club network seems to be growing quickly and continuously. Currently 12 clubs can be identified. This includes a women's group, which is presumably predominantly populated by female partners and children of the male AC members. <u>Reportedly</u>, members of the Canadian Vinland Hammerskins and their support group Crew 38 are the driving force behind the Active Club network in Canada. The Canadian Active Clubs are affiliated with the clothing brand and mail-order business Vinland Battlewear that offers t-shirts and hats.



"We recently held a National Active Club Canada Meet. Despite the immense distance between our clubs, many participants were able to meet in one place. We had a party one night, and then an Active Club meet the next day. Participants were divided into four classes and got to spend time with four teachers, rotating between. There was a boxing class, a kickboxing class, a physical fitness class, and a street awareness and self-defence class. Afterwards we held a physical fitness competition, with the winner receiving 12 pro-White music CD's and 200 Nationalist stickers from SHOPW2R (https://shopw2r.com/), and then we all had a barbeque together.

Everyone who attended had an amazing time meeting new comrades and forming relationships that will last for life, as well as learning new skills. Get active, get off the sidelines and into the game. Click on the pinned message in our channel to get vetted and join the Active Club Canada community."

July 2022


Telegram, January 2023

"Active Club Canada's Women Group got together for a Women's Retreat. We spent the first day with the kids. We had a Trail Hunt and placed treasures for them at each marker. They collected various nature items to take home. The next hike was for the women only, despite the freezing rain conditions we completed the advanced trails. We set up a fire, using one match, and a survival pocket chainsaw. An impressive feat, considering the wet conditions. After the fire we forged our own trail. We walked right onto a frozen creek and didn't notice until the ice beneath us cracked. We had to lower ourselves, spread our weight and crawl the rest of the way. Although we sometimes feel we have it "better" than our ancestors, their struggles is what made them great. Make your children struggle. Make them climb mountains. Help them to become great like our ancestors. Active Club Canada Women's Group. Like minded women dedicated to the continuation of our people and community. Join here!"

Denmark



We Danes descend from a proud people of adventurous warriors, who have often been faced by much stronger enemies, but regardless we have never backed down from the fight and always persevered in the end. In ACTIVE CLUB DENMARK we carry on the torch of our ancestors and the very same values that made them great. Determination and grit, an adventurous spirit, strength and cunning and of course and undying love for our people and culture. These values are inculcated in the heart of every member of our newly founded Active Club.

We offer activism, martial arts, hiking, urban exploration and much more, all in the spirit of brotherhood with the intention to raise each other up.

We urge every Dane who recognizes these values in himself to contact us and get active, because we know that the lifestyle currently presented by modernity is not worth living."

Telegram, September 11, 2023

Finland

There seem to be currently 4 Active Clubs in Finland: Finland AC, Active Helsinki, Uusimaa AC and Oulu AC.



"Some see street activism as a mere tool to spread a political message. They are not entirely wrong, getting the message across to the masses is of course the main concrete objective, whether it is displaying banners, distributing stickers, painting walls or any other means of activism. But activism has many other useful effects. For example, making and displaying banners usually requires cooperation to be effective.



It's even meaningful and fun when done with a group of friends, and it creates a sense of community and strengthens bonds among the group. There will be occasions when you need to rely on your brother-in-law, and these occasions will strengthen the bonds and team spirit mentioned above. Street activism is only one part of Active Club activities, but it is central to creating purposeful activity among likeminded people at the local level.

In the exuberance and softness of the modern world, many young men crave adrenaline, excitement and activity, which goes against the rotten and slaggy atmosphere of the mainstream.

Street activism offers this and much more. Get active! XIV I "" Telegram, August, 2023

France

The Active Club network in France seems to be the biggest and fastest growing one in Europe. In a <u>conversation</u> with Rundo in March 2023, the alleged French co-founder claims that their activities started in April 2022 with two activists who lived in different cities. According to him, after implementing the White Supremacy 3.0 strategy from the U.S., their number grew to more than 150 active members within 12 months, not including sympathizers. The number of visible Active Clubs in France has increased from 10 in January 2023 to at least 23 in August 2023, based on their self-reporting on Telegram. Photos posted by the different local clubs show an average of around 10 men. The alleged French AC co-founder describes their target group as men "who are alone, have a few common beliefs with them and want to belong to something." They focused on producing good quality video with appealing aesthetics and music. Rundo highlighted the importance of being sociable and that AC events should be fun.

In this conversation, Rundo offered to sponsor French AC members so they can participate in transnational combat sports events.

Public Q&A from Active Club France	22:04 🔌 🤋 اال 56% 🖨		
(Telegram/translated)	← Active Club France 07 Jan. um 12:45		
- What are Active Club's objectives?	Nous sommes présents dans plusieurs régions en France :		
To train young sportsmen and women with a taste for effort.	- Active Club Occitanie (Nîmes, Perpignan, Montpellier)		
- Is there a political doctrine?	- Active Club Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (Marseille, Carpentras, Avignon)		
We accept sincere patriots and nationalists, and we want to bring people together, not divide them. Although we are aware of European issues, we remain above all French nationalists: France first!	 Active Club Franche-Comté Active Club Bretagne (Nantes, Saint-Malo et alentours) Active Club Île-de-France (Paris et alentours) 		
- Do I have to be a mountain of muscle to join the movement?	- Active Club Haute-Normandie (Rouen et alentours)		
No, you can join us regardless of your physical condition. What we do ask is that you have the will	- Active Club Centre-Val de Loire (Orléans et alentours)		
to rise, to be active in your approach, to genuinely want to change. The overriding objective of every	- Active Club Bourgogne (Saône-et-Loire)		
Active Club member is to become a better version of yourself, physically, spiritually and intellectually	- Active Club Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (Grenoble et alentours)		
	- Active Club Nouvelle-Aquitaine (Bordeaux et alentours)		
- Style 3.0, what's it all about? Style 3.0 corresponds to an aesthetic as well as a	Cette liste sera mise à jour au fil du temps		
desire to strive for the healthiest lifestyle possible, to correct one's faults and move forward to become	Vous pouvez nous contacter par courriel :		
a better version of oneself.			

The activities of the French ACs mostly take place on the countryside and in smaller cities due to the existence of established RWE groups in the bigger cities. They also aim to serve as a hub for sports activities for different RWE groups with different political agendas with the aim to create a parallel society and counterculture.

For example, the AC France Telegram channel shows meetings with the RWE groups Division Martel (Paris), Korrigans Squad (Rennes), Infréquentables (Dijon), and Vandal Besak (Besançon) in May 2023.

In December 2022, the leadership of the U.S. RWE group Patriot Front, which is affiliated with the U.S. Active Club network, met with Active Club members in Paris.

According to a French expert interviewed for this report, French AC members have been involved in violent acts during demonstrations and riots in France in 2023 and are under police investigation.



Active Club Nantes, June 2023



AC France promotes an "old school" French RWE/REMVE fighter and leader of Pride France, December 2022



This picture is also being used to promote the AC France youth group.



An AC France member is receiving a warm welcome from right-wing hooligans of Levski Sofia, Bulgaria, August 2023



<u>Reportedly</u>, French authorities know of at least 120 French RWE individuals who traveled to Ukraine to fight in the war. Active Club France members or sympathizers appear to be among them.

Germany

Germany currently does not have a publicly visible Active Club. An Active Club Deutschland profile on Instagram and TikTok that was online for a few weeks was removed together with other Active Club profiles in July 2023. A related Twitter/X profile has zero followers, while a Telegram channel with the same name has three subscribers.



activeclubdeutschland

3 posts 219 followers Active Club Deutschland Community Tiktok:activeclubdeutschland Followed by limburgish patriot, nation

The Will2Rise/Active Club merchandise is distributed in Germany through Kampf der Nibelungen (KdN), which is the dominant RWE/REMVE combat sports group in Germany and a major player in the transnational RWE/REMVE combat sports scene. According to the German federal government, the first KdN RWE/REMVE combat sports event was held in 2013 and can be considered a Hammerskins event, since most of the organizers were Hammerskins. KdN has an ongoing cooperation with their French (Pride France) and Hungarian (Legio Hungary) counterparts. For example, they co-hosted the "European Fight Night" in May 2023 in Hungary.



Other main RWE/REMVE combat sports actors in Germany are the TIWAZ network in Saxony and the RWE/REMVE micro party "der Drite Weg." Various other smaller groups, gyms, and networks exist.

The current absence of an official Active Club Chapter in Germany could be due to the fact that the RWE/REMVE combat sports market is currently saturated. However, given the <u>legal</u> difficulties <u>KdN</u>, other RWE/REMVE combat sports <u>groups</u> and the <u>Hammerskins</u> are currently facing in Germany, creating Active Club chapters that are following the "hiding in plain sight" 3.0 cultural model could be seen as the logical next step.

Great Britain



"Here is the plan. Currently we are isolated online, spread around the country and training alone. This is not good practice, nor will it secure the existence of our people. I propose that we form a network of active clubs in Britain. In these regional active clubs you will train with likeminded people, explore our wild places, become what you were born to be.

We fight degeneracy through honour, tradition, and brotherhood. We must live up to the examples and expectations of our ancestors and our homeland.

Naturally, many people will not want this to happen- which is why we have a stringent vetting procedure and physical standards. You will also hold yourself and your brothers to our high standards of physical, spiritual, and social conduct.

The most important part of White Stag is physical training. Through this struggle we forge ourselves into greater men." Telegram, October 2021

This Telegram channel ceased posting new content after the <u>arrest</u> of the presumed leader in May 2023.

Founding statement on Telegram from August 6, 2023: "We are not about politicking or engaging in the current nonsense plaguing the right in our nation, the soul [sic] aim is to create a strong band of brothers to tribe and train. We don't do active recruitment and are a semi closed group but we shall use this page to share our nations story and embrace the shared struggle of the European race across the world. Hail Victory & Soar Alba!" Action today, victory tomorrow XIV" Telegram



Through this we forge solid bonds with our brothers as well as building confidence, fitness & lifting each other up in the age of decadence.

Tribe & Train Action today, Victory tomorrow **30**

@ 3571 edited 19:47

Ireland



Latvia



"Active Club Latvia - remedy against weakness, hyperindividualism and the decadent ideas of modernists!

Young men all around have been raised up within the same framework as women, and having grown up act as girls.

Young men, full of potential, are living with groundless bravado about abilities they do not possess, which results in them crumbling under the stress of confrontation in the most decisive moment. Young men, unable and unwilling to find valuable comrades in arms and in their ideals, instead choose people, who drag them closer to the abyss of self-destruction.

Active Club Latvia is a challenge and a solution simultaneously.

A challenge to take upon the task of selfimprovement and become the embodiment of ones self masculine potential.

A solution to find fulfillment in being with likeminded people and together increase strength and improve skills.

In practice, this is not only a sport club.

It's a devotion to reach higher ideals.

Active Club Latvia offers:

>to become stronger and mentally resilient
>to develop the ability to fight in the format of
contact sparring

>a chance to develop brotherly bonds with other members, who have accepted this challenge

If you believe you are lead by the right motivation, contact us and find out more.

With this first post, Active Club Latvia reveals it's public presence.

See you soon!"

Telegram, June 2023

Lithuania



The Netherlands

There seem to be currently two Active Clubs in the Netherlands: Dietsland AC and Limburg AC.



Norway

Currently there seem to be at least three Active Clubs in Norway: Norway AC, Oslo AC and Østfold AC.



Founding statement from August 6, 2023: "Active Club Norway is now officially established. We have, for a considerable period, been recruiting members from all across our vast country and are now entering a phase where we wish to publicly demonstrate through our propaganda that we exist as an alternative here in Norway. We want to thank our Swedish friends who have provided us with a great deal of motivation during the development of Active Club Norway. All members are autonomous, and our structure primarily focuses on local activities. Contact information for those who wish to apply for membership in our Active Club will be shared later. In the meantime, stay tuned to our channel for more details and reports on our activities across the entire country.

We deemed it natural to start our first post by standing at the top of our long, beautiful country and declaring: "United and faithful until Dovre falls!" - in the true Norwegian spirit."

August 9, 2023: "Several local groups are already active around the country. We are working on sending out stickers to new members and supporters, as well as organizing recruitment meetings. There is some waiting time due to the large number of people getting in touch." Telegram

Poland



"We are creating a cross-organizational space to promote nationalist activism, sports and a broadly healthy lifestyle. Graphics, recordings, ideological articles and motivational quotes everything you need to sustain and ignite the flame of activism in one place. If you have your own team or are a representative of some organization and want to cooperate with us"

Telegram, September 3, 2023

Sweden and Estonia



"⁴ Midsummer check-in Swedish youth se⁴ Folk costumes, midsummer pole, herring, flowers and dancing in all their glory. The symbolism of life, vitality and tradition is present during our Midsummer. And also within our people. A return of life and vitality in Swedish youth as the wheel turns. And the darkness will come. The cultural resurrection, the life-giving force within us, the camaraderie required in increasingly challenging times and the determination to change the future. It will not come simply by embracing our traditions. It requires precisely a return of life. Of movement.



The boys in Aktivklubb Sweden ran a 5+1 game including: swimming, rugby, football, boxing, wrestling and tug-of-war. In a time where young people either drink themselves into oblivion or sit in front of a screen, AKS shows what it means to live as you learn. That you would rather forge your sword than take

They are more than just young people. They are life. They are the future."

Telegram

In Sweden, there are at least three Active Clubs that follow the White Supremacy 3.0 strategy from the U.S. In addition, a group called Gym XIV, which also serves as a network hub for smaller Swedish RWE groups, seems to have been inspired by Rundo's AC model and to cooperate with Swedish ACs. The Nordic Resistance Movement (NRM) interviewed Rundo in May 2022 and demonstrated in front of the U.S. and the Romanian embassy for his release after his arrest in Romania on March 31, 2023. The NRM is also providing combat sports training to its members.

According to Swedish experts interviewed for this report, the growth of the Active Clubs is being criticized by the NRM since they are struggling to recruit and to keep the relatively few people who are willing to be activists in the streets, and not just ideological consumers or propaganda activists on the internet. This is also reinforced by the fact that many in the Active Club scene have a background in NRM.

An Estonian national, who was involved in the creation of the first Swedish Active Clubs, was deported to Estonia in 2022, where he also founded an Active Club. In April 2023, AC Estonia was raising funds to support some of their members or sympathizers who fight in Ukraine.



Appendix A – List of Active Clubs in the U.S., Canada and Europe

Active Clubs (AC) in the United States of America by September 9, 2023, based on Telegram profiles: 46				
Alabama: - Alabama AC Arizona: - Tribal AC Arizona - Arizona Action, Phoenix California: - NorCal AC - CentralCa AC - CentralCa AC - SoCal AC Colorado: - Front Range AC Florida: - Florida AC - Gulf Coast AC Georgia: - Atlas AC, Atlanta and North Georgia Idaho: - High Desert Legionaries AC, Boise Indiana: -Hoosier Nationalists AC	Cross state border AC: Iowa, North & South Dakota, Minnesota, and Nebraska - Great Plains AC Illinois: - Riverland AC -Sons of Columbia AC, Springfield Kansas: - Heartland AC Maine: - Wild Rose AC Maryland: - Old Line AC Massachusetts: - Bay State AC Michigan: - Great Lakes AC <i>Cross state</i> <i>border AC</i> : <u>Minnesota</u> , North & South Dakota, Iowa, and Nebraska - Great Plains AC	Missouri: - Missouri Ultra Nationalists AC - Heartland AC Montana: - Big Sky AC <i>Cross state</i> <i>border AC</i> : <u>Nebraska</u> , North & South Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota - Great Plains AC Nevada: - Las Vegas AC - Sagebrush AC, North Carolina: - Old North AC, Western North Carolina <i>Cross state</i> <i>border AC</i> : <u>North</u> Dakota, Iowa Minnesota, and Nebraska - Great Plains AC Ohio: - Ohio AC - Cincinnati AC	Oregon: - Portland AC Pennsylvania: -Embrace Struggle AC - Pennsylvania AC South Carolina: - Southern Sons AC <i>Cross state border</i> AC: <u>South Dakota</u> & North Dakota, lowa Minnesota, and Nebraska - Great Plains AC Tennessee: - Tennessee AC Texas: - Alamo AC - North Texas - San Antonio AC - Parker County AC - Texas Tech AC Utah: - Wasatch AC Virginia: - Dominion AC - Sons of Virginia AC	 West Virginia: Bronze Age AC Washington: Evergreen AC, Pasco Rainforest AC, PNW Wisconsin Badger State AC Wyoming: Wyoming AC, Cheyenne

Active Clubs in Canada and Europe by September 9, 2023, based on Telegram profiles: 58		
Canada: - Canada AC - Calgary AC - Edmonton AC - Frontenac AC - Hamilton AC - Kelowna AC - Lambton/Middlesex County AC - Maritimes AC - Ottawa AC - Saskatchewan AC - Vancouver/Vancouver Island AC - Vancouver/Vancouver Island AC - Women's Group AC Nationwide Denmark - AC Denmark - AC Denmark Estonia - AC Estonia Finland - Finland AC - Active Helsinki - Uusimaa AC - Oulu AC France: - Avignon AC - Bourgogne AC - Bordeaux AC - Centre-Val de Loire AC - Clermont-Ferrand AC - Carpentras AC - Dauphine AC	 Franche Comté AC Grenoble AC Jeunesse AC Jeunesse Angevine AC Marseille AC Nantes AC Nîmes AC Nîmes AC Normandie AC Nouvelle-Rhodésie AC Occitanie AC Orléans AC Provence AC Paris AC Rouen Saint-Malo AC Saône-et-Loire AC Tenesoun AC Vaucluse AC Ireland Ireland AC Latvia AC Latvia AC Lithuania AC Lithuania Netherlands Dietsland AC Limburg AC 	Norway AC - Norway AC - Oslo AC - Ostfold AC Poland - Poland AC Portugal - Portugal AC United Kingdom - White Stag AC - Scotland AC Sweden - Sverige AC - Hälsingland AC - Småland AC - Skane AC