



June 2005

Newsletter

# POSTILLION



Volume 1, Issue 4, 2005

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### *Wine Tasting 2005*

*Our last event at the Swiss Embassy. Read the article on page 5.*

*Pictures courtesy of Andrea Maechler.*

Dear fellow members,

The N-Day is approaching!

The Swiss National Day will be celebrated on July 30<sup>th</sup>, on the grounds of the Kümmler farm, about an hour and a half from Washington DC. Recently, a small team went to visit the site and the party promises to be just wonderful. Rehearse the national anthem and bring your family and your friends along—and your good spirit—and join us with His Excellence Ambassador Blickenstorfer to celebrate this key event for the Swiss community.

Those wearing traditional Swiss outfits will receive a little gift. As shade and seating is very limited, please bring also chairs and umbrellas as needed.

Finally, as this event requires a fairly large number of people to manage, we are still looking for volunteers to help in various capacities. Volunteers will receive a t-shirt and will have their fee for the event reimbursed.

I hope to see you all on July 30<sup>th</sup>. I would like to express a special thank to the Executive Board Members for their work, and to Armin Tobler who postponed his vacation to help.

Following this unforgettable celebration, some other gatherings will be organized. Please check the calendar of events and honor us with your presence!

Happy summer to all!

Michel Maechler, President

## Message from the President

For more information, visit our website at [www.swissclubdc.org](http://www.swissclubdc.org)

*Most of our events are for members, however members' friends are welcome*

Swiss Club of Washington D.C.  
2900 Cathedral Ave N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20008  
[info@swissclubdc.org](mailto:info@swissclubdc.org)



## Other Swiss Groups ...

**Die Stauffacherin**  
(Swiss ladies group)  
Susanne Adams  
703-836-8247

**The Swiss Rifles**  
Alfred Kessi  
302-292-2901

**Folklore Group**  
Erwin Buerlimann  
703-548-6349

**Swiss Benevolent Society**  
Campbell Graeb  
301-652-2007

# AGENDA 2005

<b>July 30</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> of August Celebration At Kummli Farm , VA
<b>September 18</b>	3rd Jass
<b>October 1</b>	Fahrt ins Blaue
<b>October 28</b>	82 <sup>nd</sup> annual membership meeting @ Embassy of Switzerland
<b>December 11</b>	4th Jass
<b>December 18</b>	Annual Christmas Party @ Embassy of Switzerland
<b>January 14-16, 2006</b>	Ski Weekend Wintergreen West Virginia



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# NEXT EVENTS ...



## Join us to celebrate the Swiss National Day!!!

We will be celebrating at the beautiful Kummli Farm in Virginia  
4 Windsor Lodge Lane, Flint Hill, VA 22627 (for directions see page 6)  
On Saturday, July 30, 2005 - Doors open at 2 p.m. until dusk

NO RAIN DATE (when in doubt call 703-481-5810 or check [www.swissclubdc.org](http://www.swissclubdc.org))

Music by the Alte Kameraden  
Alphorn players  
Kids Corner and Games  
Lampion parade and bonfire  
Raffle and Tombola

Sodas - Wine - Beer Garden  
Swiss Bakery - Souvenirs

**FREE PARKING**

### Entrance fees (non-refundable)

(fees includes: a sausage, bread, salad, dessert; all children up to the age of 16 get 1 lampion)

### PRE REGISTRATION

(deadline: July 5, 2005)

Adults: \$15.00

Children (6-16): \$10.00

### AFTER DEADLINE & AT THE GATE

Adults: \$20.00

Children (6-16): \$15.00

A toast will be offered by His Excellence Ambassador Blickenstorfer, who will honor us with his presence. Dress is casual, however, there is a surprise for those who wear their own Swiss Traditional Costume/Tracht.

A limited number of chairs will be available for handicapped and senior citizens. Please bring your own lawn chairs. *We encourage you to bring your beach umbrellas and sun screen, as there is limited to no shade!*

When darkness sets in the bonfire will be lit and we will gather for the lampion parade. the Kummli Farm is the perfect setting for this event and will make for a very special lampion parade and bonfire. **DON'T MISS IT!!**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!!** if you can and want to help us during the event, please contact Pierre-Alain Girardin at 301-962-5076. Volunteers will receive a T-Shirt to wear and will be refunded the entrance fee.

**RIDE SHARE:** Do you need a ride or do you have room in your car for a fellow member? Call Pierre-Alain, so we can arrange for car pooling.

**NO-FIREWORKS,** please fireworks are strictly prohibited, due to the presence of animals on the farm. Anyone who violates the rule will be removed from the grounds.

For more information call Susann at 301-571-0977

Send check (make payable to Swiss Club of Washington D.C.) and registration to Susann Kollmar,  
5423 McKinley St. Bethesda, MD 20817

.....  
Name and Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Children: Under 6: \_\_\_\_\_ 6-16: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of EACH guest including children and ages: \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution to the Swiss Benevolent Society: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please make check payable to the Swiss Club of Washington D.C.



## NEXT EVENTS ...

# 3rd Jass Tournament

*Sunday, September 18th, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.*

*1615 Varnum St. N.W.*

*Washington, D.C., 20011*



Message from the "Jass board"

Dear Jasser and dear Swiss Club members!

The event will be held at Andrea & Michel Maechler's place in Washington D.C.

**Deadline for registration: September 11th !**

### Come join us and have fun!!

Registration fee \$ 5.

If you want to join the game please register with Susann Kollmar (301) 571 0977 or [susann.kollmar@swissclubdc.org](mailto:susann.kollmar@swissclubdc.org), by Septmeber 11th, 2005.

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Please mark it in your calendar: The final game for the championship will take place on December 11th.

Would you enjoy to host one of these events? Please let me know:

Susann (Program Coordinator) @ 301 571 0977.



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## Wine Tasting

**I**t was great to see many of you at our Wine Tasting event on May 20<sup>th</sup>. We had a wonderful experience learning the basics of enjoying and understanding wine. (a little “Wein-Kunde”) Each of us is evolving in our personal cultural experience. Perhaps you too have come to the place where you’re ready to experience more adventure as a connoisseur. There is culture in wine. It can be found in the ritual of drinking it, appreciating the craft of the winemaker, and in the wine’s stimulation to our taste buds. And now, let us pursue the pure taste enjoyment of wine.

When we drink wine, our taste buds are stimulated in a unique way and the alcohol has a calming effect on the brain. Human taste has four components: sweetness, saltiness, acidity and bitterness. The acidity and sweetness in wine are the two factors that balance together to produce a pleasant sensation on our sense of taste. We taste the acidity with the middle of the tongue and sweetness with the tip of the tongue.

Wines with excessive acidity taste harsh, those with insufficient acidity taste uninteresting and their flavor does not linger in the mouth long enough. Tannins contribute to the relationship of bitterness on the tongue. If you’ve ever chewed into grape seeds, then you’ve tasted the dry bitterness of tannin. Wine with too much tannin is unpleasantly bitter. The right level of tannin has an effect of bringing all the flavors together with a good “grip” in the mouth. The various fruit-like flavors detectable in wine contribute nuances to the sweetness we taste. It’s fun trying to detect different fruit characteristics, such as berries, plums, apples, pears...

Our other senses are involved as well. Our sight enjoys the color and our sense of smell enjoys the fragrances. Much of a wine’s character is revealed only through the aroma it



*Pictures courtesy of Andrea Maechler.*

exudes. This adds richly to the dimensions found in wine.

Sincere thank-you go to the Swiss Embassy who hosted the event; to Susann Kollmar who prepared great foods to keep our senses in check! - Also much appreciation and thank-yous to Centre-Ville Imports, (121 Banjo Lane, P.O. Box 370, Centreville, MD 21617; Tel., 410-758-8700 or [info@cvilleimports.com](mailto:info@cvilleimports.com)) who presented a superb selection of Swiss, French, California and Argentina Wines.

It was a terrific evening with plenty of great wines, terrific food and conversation, a healthy dose of humor and a great deal of information to take away and put to good use during your next wine shopping spree.

Heidi Amstutz-Zingrich

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## First of August

*Saturday, July 30, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.*

As you may know the Swiss embassy is under construction and there is no space left for the Swiss Club to set up a tent, a barbecue or a bonfire..... That's why we asked Alfred Kummli whether the Swiss Club could come again to his farm like we did years ago, as "older" members might still remember. We were very pleased, when we got a YES from Alfred and once again he opens his barn in Virginia and wonderful land to celebrate our National day.

Our "celebration master" Pierre-Alain, Armin, Evaldo and Martin Von Arx went out on June 11th for a "recognition mission" and took some impressions of the farm. Check it out on our web site: [www.swissclubdc.org](http://www.swissclubdc.org). Click on the "Gallery" and get an idea of the Kummli farm. The Kummli farm is about a 90 min drive from DC, south of Front Royal, and has a spectacular view of the Shenandoah Mountains. You can also find driving direction on our web site.

On the program: Music, food, kids games, activities around the farm, vendors, our lampion parade to the bonfire and much more.

Can you imagine what it takes to get this work done !? A lot of logistics, because we have to bring everything, (even the toilets have to be rented !)

But after some board meetings we finalized our "national project" and now we are ready to invite you to join the party. Last Monday, part of the board and friends, gathered for a "sticker party" and labeled 2500 flyers with the invitation. I hope you already got it in the mail and you will register soon.

Yes, PLEASE register in time, we have to order the food.... the bratwurst and cervelat ...and one more thing : If you are willing to volunteer for two hours or even more please let us know!

We are all volunteers and together se can make this club work!

Susann Kollmar

### Directions:

*Take I 66 west to Front Royal. Take Exit Linden (Exit 13) and follow Route 55 West, go 4.5 miles, at the traffic light make a left turn onto Rt. 522 South, go 9.6 miles turn left onto Rt. 637 East (marked with a Swiss flag (Jericho Rd). After approx. 1 mile you will see on your left the Farm sign "Windsor Lodge". Look for a Swiss flag and lots of people.*

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# Swiss Benevolent Society

## CALL FOR HELP

### A Message from the Swiss Benevolent Society

Last year's message in the Postillion describing the Swiss Benevolent Society's history, objectives of its charitable functions and asked for financial support from the Swiss community. At total of \$1,000 was raised from direct contributions and the sale of water color paintings of deceased local Swiss artist Fred Sigerist. We extend a sincere word of appreciation to those who supported the cause.

A brief summary of the Swiss Benevolent Society (SBS) is again in order. Founded in 1865, the Society is the oldest Swiss organization in Washington, with the mission of helping Swiss in need that reside in the Metropolitan area. Over the 140 years of its existence direct help was provided individuals who encountered financial difficulties while some were extended travel assistance to return to Switzerland. Frequently this was done through loans, expected to be paid back.

In 1980 a scholarship program was initiated to help Swiss and descendants of Swiss with the ever increasing costs of college education. Eligibility to apply for grants has been extended Swiss descendants residing in the tiny West Virginia community Helvetia.

While the scholarship program is now the major focus, limited assistance to individuals in need, and attention to elderly and shut-ins has continued as cases have been brought to the Society's attention. The assets currently stand at \$120,000, invested in the Washington Mutual Investors Fund and in a Vanguard Fund. It has been a long-standing policy to maintain a strong assets base, allowed to slowly grow with inflation, while expending annual earnings and donations for aid and grants. While conservative management of assets has been adhered to, e.g. in 1980 the total assets

were \$40,000, yearly expenditure for scholarships has been as high as \$7,000. Since inception of the program a total of \$100,000 in grants has been awarded to dozens of recipients. Last year, the Society was called on for some special assistance that resulted in the total expenses of over \$10,000.

The Society is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization allowing contributions to be fully tax deductible. Board of Trustee members are volunteers and there are literally no overhead expenses, which means that all contributions flow directly to the needy.

As we celebrate the 764th anniversary of the founding of the Confederation it is also timely to think of a way to extend help to Swiss compatriots. The Board of Trustees asks for your generous response to this once-year call for help. Checks made out to the Swiss Benevolent Society should be mailed to Cassandra Wait, SBS Secretary, 841 Lower Marlboro Rd., Huntington, MD 20855.

Many thanks in advance, Campbell Graeb, SBS President

## Protestant Church

For the second year in a row, the French-Speaking Protestant Church of Washington, DC will celebrate the "Jeûne Fédéral" on Sunday, September, 18, 2005, at Wesley Theological Seminary, 4500 Massachusetts Avenue in Washington, DC. 10:30 am: Worship of Repentance and Thanksgiving (in French) 12:30 pm: Light Meal: Come and share your plum or fruit cake!

Offering to be taken for a designated charity project Every one is welcome! For more information, please contact The Rev. Dr. Olivier Bauer, Pastor, at 301-320-3955.

## *Français !*

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