



September 2005

Newsletter

POSTILLION



Volume 1, Issue 5, 2005

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National Day at the Kumkli Farm, VA 2005

*Our last event at the Kumkli Farm. Read the article on page 7.
Pictures courtesy of Susann Kollmar and Elizabeth Wilson.*

Message from the Board

Dear Fellow Members

The year 2005 is almost over, however lots of events have been scheduled for the rest of the year. The National Day celebration at the Kumkli Farm was a huge success. We had over 450 Friends of Switzerland and members who attended this fantastic event (read the report on page 7). Two events have been added to the scheduled, a Ticinese evening with food and drink, and a Halloween party (see the agenda on page 2). The next event is the Fahrt ins Blaue, a surprise! Please respect the deadline for the registration, thank you. Last year we had to cancel our reservation for the Ski Weekend, we hope that this year more members will register for this event. Please mark you calendar the event will be held in January 2006. We would like this opportunity to thank Christina Leveque for all her efforts surrounding the Ski weekend and hopefully we can look forward to a successful Ski weekend in 2006..

We would like to remind you about the General Assembly , four positions in the Executive board are open and need to be filled. The Swiss Club needs your support at the General Assembly and we urge you to attend this important meeting. Decisions needs to be made and important issues will be discussed.

In the meantime, we would like to thank you for your participation at our events, and we are looking forward to seeing you at a the next events

Yours truly

The Executive Committee

For more information, visit our website at 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



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 Graeub
301-652-2007

AGENDA 2005

October 1	Fahrt ins Blaue
October 28	83 rd annual membership meeting @ Embassy of Switzerland
October 29 NEW	Halloween Party
November 10 NEW	"Serata Ticinese"
December 11	4th Jass
December 18	Annual Christmas Party @ Embassy of Switzerland
January 13-16, 2006	Ski Weekend Wintergreen West Virginia

NEXT EVENTS ...


Fahrt ins Blaue

Saturday, October 1, 2005

Surprise, Surprise!!

Deadline for registration: September 29, 2005

for registration and information please call 202 829 0188 or by e-mail at michel.maechler@swissclubdc.org



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NEXT EVENTS ...



General Assembly Swiss Club

*83rd Annual Membership Meeting
Friday, October 28, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.*

*Swiss Embassy
2900 Cathedral Ave N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20008*

- Food: Pot luck, so please bring your favorite dish !

- The Swiss Club will provide the drinks.

Dear members,

It is time for the 82nd Annual Membership Meeting and the board cordially invites you to participate. WE NEED YOU. What is a General Assembly without the Club members !?

As you might know, time is up for some positions on the board. Please come and cast your vote!

Please register, so we can plan ahead, and contact: Susann Kollmar - Program Coordinator- 301 571 0977 or email susann.kollmar@swissclubdc.org

The following positions of the Executive Board will be vacant very soon:

- treasurer; program coordinator; publicity officer / web master

For information and to apply to any of these positions and become a member of the Executive Board please contact the secretary, phone 202 572 8219 or E-mail rosmarie.stucki@swissclubdc.org



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Please mark it in your calendar: The final game for the jass tournament 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.



NEXT EVENTS ...



HALLOWEEN PARTY

Wear your special Halloween costume and join us for an afternoon

full of fun, music and laughter

on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29 at 3 pm at the Embassy of Switzerland

Pumpkin carving for the children

Prizes for best children costume and adult costume

Games

Price \$ 5.00 (snacks, wine, beer, sodas included)

Children under 3 years free

IMPORTANT: Please register with Susann Kollmar at 301-571-0977

susann.kollmar@swissclubdc.org no later than

Friday, October 21, 2005

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"Serata Ticinese"

Swiss-region cantonal evening "Serata Ticinese", with regional food and Ticino tourism information on Thursday November 10, at the Swiss Embassy, 7 p.m. Information and registration during the General Assembly or Email to alberto.piffaretti@swissclubdc.org

4th Jass Tournament

Sunday, December 11th, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.

*Swiss Embassy
2900 Cathedral Ave N.W,
Washington, D.C., 20008*



Message from the "Jass board"

Dear Jasser and dear Swiss Club members!

The fourth and Final Jass Tournament is already scheduled.
December 11th, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. at the Swiss Embassy
Deadline for registration: December 5th, 2005 !

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, by December 5th, 2005.

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NEXT EVENTS ...

Ski Weekend in Wintergreen

January 13th - 16th, 2006

Join us for 3 days filled with skiing, eating and lots of FUN.

For our 4th Ski Weekend, we once again have rented 2 houses in the beautiful “Wintergreen Resort” in Virginia.

The resort offers a lot for everyone. If you don’t ski, there is the “Wintergarten” with a spa, an indoor pool and outdoor Jacuzzis.

For those with kids, there is a babysitting service directly on the slopes. So, you can ski and check on the kids all at the same time.

Due to price increases beyond our control (houses & taxes) we had to adjust the prices accordingly. The total cost is:

- per **bedroom \$300** (priced on double occupancy = 150 per person),
- **child 3 years and older**, staying in the parents room, **\$40**,
- children under 3 are free.

The fee includes:

- 3 nights lodging
- Swiss bread for all breakfasts.
- On Saturday: Fondue dinner with appetizer, salad, white wine, soft drinks and desserts.
- For Sunday we plan an “apero” and after that each house is free to arrange their own plans for dinner.....(further details will follow after your registration)

For further information contact via email

Christina_hcleveque@comcast.net or Susann_susann.kollmar@swissclubdc.org



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National Day at the Kummli Farm



In the early morning hours the first of many ambitious volunteers had gathered at the Kummli Farm, VA, ready to turn the site into the perfect location to celebrate Swiss National Day 2005.

Everybody helped together to make sure things would be in place once the gates would open to welcome close to 450 visitors of every age and ethnicity to celebrate and honor Switzerland's independence day.

Despite hazy skies to begin with, the weather god was kind and rewarded the crowd with sunshine and high temperatures which made the water, soda and beer bar very popular. The outdoor grill and bakery booth were not less attractive offering delicious authentic Swiss food. But it was not all about food...kids activities included face painting, hay rides, ball games and more, whereas adults were able to learn more about Swiss Folklore dancing or polishing their "joddling" skills.

As the crowd chilled out on the big lawn while listening to the "Alte Kameraden" who entertained with a "Blasorchester" the official ceremony kicked in later in the afternoon and introduced several guest speakers. The Board of the Swiss Club Washington D.C. opened the series of speeches followed by a greeting of the Swiss Ambassador and a recorded speech by the Swiss President. After the Swiss National Anthem, the Swiss Ambassador invited to a wine toast to celebrate Switzerland's 714th birthday.

The anticipation rose to draw the winners of the super raffle. And who did not win the flight ticket to Zurich, could still be lucky playing the "tombola" or simply pick up some Swiss gifts at the Swiss item booth.

Visitors who dressed up in authentic Swiss costumes were rewarded with a gift certificate for the Swiss bakery Reto.



As the sun had set, all the kids became excited about lighting up their lamps and marching to the top of the hill where the grand bonfire was waiting for them to end the day singing and dancing.

As much as the Swiss National Day was the central theme of the celebration, what counted most was the interaction between people – young and old – having good conversations and meeting new friends at a beautiful location amidst a gorgeous mountainous scenery.

However, all good things must come to an end and one after another, visitors would head



PAST EVENTS ...

National Day



home after a great event.

But wait, not everything was over yet. Once again volunteers would make a final effort to put down tents, booths, chairs, tables and more to turn the event sight back into peaceful farm land.

In the early morning hours they finally found some sleep after a great event that we must all be thankful for and keep in our minds and hearts until next year when we will all come together again.

Carolin Mueller



National Day 2005

Our last event at the the Kumli Farm, VA

From left; the Ambassador of Switzerland Mr. Blickenstorfer and Mr. Kumli, our host for the event.





2th Jass Tournament

Yes, it was a Father's Day that brought back memories from back home when the family would often get together for a game of Jass. Sylvie Bertholet and Pierre Alain Girardin were our gracious hosts for the day's event. As we arrived at Sylvie's home, a big Swiss Flag on a wrought iron fence greeted us when we turned onto her street. They also welcomed everyone with tasty refreshments and delicious cakes from Reto's Swiss Bakery. Wine was available for a toast to a Happy Father's Day Swiss style.

Thirteen members participated in the event. We were happy to welcome Gail and Mark Stettler as our novice players. The social event as well as the Jass games concluded at 4:30 p.m. and Pierre Alain announced the score points of each player. Marlies Hazan won first prize with the most points. Rosemarie Suitor came in second and our new member Gail Stettler was third. Delightful bottles of wine were given to our winners. Congratulations to everyone who participated and supported this traditional Swiss card game.

Last but not least, we have been informed that Sylvie and Pierre Alain are leaving the area to pursue a new job assignment. On behalf of the Swiss Club, I would like to

wish them all the best in their new endeavors and thank them for all their support and contributions to the club.

Please mark your calendars for the next Jass challenge on December 11th, 2005. If you are interested in joining the "Jassers" or would like to obtain additional information regarding the group, please feel free to call our coordinator, Susann Kollmar at (301)571-0977.

With kind regards, auf Wiedersehen,

Margrit R. Zeender

News ...

The fourth annual Washington Mushroom Fair

When: Sunday October 2, 2005 Noon to 5 pm

Where: Brookside garden Visitor Center, 1800 Glenallan Ave. Wheaton MD

Directions: from the Beltway, take Georgia Ave north, turn right onto Randolph Road, turn right at the second traffic light onto Glenallan Ave turn right into Brookside Gardens Visitor Center

Admission: Free

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Pierre Estoppey

Phone 410-924-4908

E-mail pestoppey@comcast.net



Results of the Survey

This spring the new Board edited a questionnaire of which the aim was to focus on the activities that capture the areas of interest of our members. Moreover new propositions have been added in order to find out what your preferences would be, should the Board organize new activities and new events.

Here are the results of the survey.

About 20 % of the club's members sent back the form. This is a good result and we are pleased to see that a few new members participated to the survey as well. The profile of the people who responded to the questionnaire is the following: on average the surveyed have been members for 19 years and have on average attended 2 events in 2004; moreover about 45% are willing to help the Board in organizing events and activities.

What drives most of the willingness to participate to the club's events are 1) to share the same values, background and culture, 2) to keep-up the traditions and, of course, 3) to have fun... Whereas helping to integrate and the finding network opportunities seem to be less relevant than expected. Furthermore it appears that smaller events are slightly preferred to large ones.

Concerning the events, the 1st of August Swiss National Day is by far our main event: 80% of the surveyed expressed very high or high interest for this event in which 77% of the surveyed participated last year. The two other events praised by as many as 2/3 of the surveyed are the Fondue-Raclette evening (with a participation rate of 54% of the surveyed in 2004) and a day at the Kummli Farm (with a participation rate of 57 %).

A majority of the surveyed expressed none or low interest for the following events: Jass tournament (60%), Ski week-end and Eastern Brunch (both of 51 %).

What about new events?

After the brain-storming session, the board came up with a short list of new events and these are the results. According to the survey, the Canton/ Regional evenings and the performing art related to the Swiss club are by far the most appealing new events. Nearly 66% of the

surveyed revealed a very high or a high interest for these events.

Evenings like wine or chocolate tasting are also a members' favorite choice with high to very high interest combined of slightly more than 50% of the surveyed. As to the outdoors' activities, hiking is by far the most preferred by the surveyed with a 70% interest from very high to moderate.

Finally a few interesting comments have been posted at the end of the questionnaire. The first one being the idea of a day trip organized by bus – as the Club used to do – to Charlestown for the Horse-Races or to Hershey (PA) for the Chocolate industry. The second interesting idea is a boat trip on the Potomac River, coupled with a dinner. Another suggestion mentioned a couple of times at the end of the survey is a Gala dinner like the one organized by *Die Stauffacherin* at the Tivoli Restaurant. Concerning new activities not present in the questionnaire, one member posted the idea for ice-skating events in Virginia, in a location built especially for this sport. Furthermore, someone wrote about inviting Guest Speakers to talk about "life experiences" in the US as a Swiss citizen.

Eventually a few members complained about the distances and the lack of parking places for club activities held at the Embassy in D.C. Yet, and that is a common opinion among the surveyed, the idea of organizing a couple of new



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Results of the Survey

activities outside DC every year seems to be the best way to renew interest in the Swiss Club. The Board will certainly take into consideration all these results when putting this survey into action and wish to thank everyone for the time spent to formulate their wishes and concerns about the future of our Club.

Welcome to the club

Simona Regazzoni Kwenda and Family

Bethesda, MD

Susan Adams

Alexandria, VA



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