



May 2011 Print Edition

Message from the President

Dear Swiss Club Members:

short and happy news: on a bright and sunny spring day, 42 children (that's more than half of all small children we have as club members) and 30 parents and grandparents were hunting abundant Easter eggs and chocolate bunnies at the embassy and caught all of them, carrying them home in beautifully decorated baskets. Thanks to Claudia and her helpers for organizing that great family afternoon. The next, very popular event is the Billy Goat Trail hike (registration in this Postillion), again for the whole family, featuring a slightly challenging trail along the river for the sporty ones (good hiking shoes recommended), and a pleasant, but not less scenic, walk along the canal for all who prefer or have to take it easy (sneakers will do), followed by a delicious Swiss wurst barbeque at the nearby picnic place.

By its nature, the Fahrt ins Blaue is still somewhat of a mystery, but as far as I know, it will be in the second half of June, also for the whole family, to the Baltimore region, and related to harbor and history and, as you would hope and expect, good food.

While we are fortunate to enjoy all these happy gatherings, lets not forget to think what we can do for those hit hard by violent nature recently (it reminds me of avalanches in Switzerland), and, more close by, how we can find out who of our members need some help, maybe a ride to an event, some other assistance, or just a chat on the phone, and (typically Swiss) are too proud to ask; but we should not be too shy to offer.....

Until I'll see you next time, with best regards

Christian Haudenschild,
President, Swiss Club of Washington DC

Swiss Club Agenda for 2011...

Billy Goat Trail, Saturday May21, 12 noon at Angler's Inn, 10801 MacArthur Blvd, N.Potomac

Fahrt ins Blaue, Saturday June 18, meet at Swiss Embassy at 9am

Swiss National Day, Saturday July 30: Swiss Embassy

3rd Jass Tournament, Sunday September 4: Leveques Residence

Fall Festival Picnic with Swiss Rifles, September 11: Thurmont, MD

Annual General Meeting, October tbd

Raclette Evening, November 5, Swiss Embassy

4th Jass Tournament, November 13?, Swiss Bakery

Metzgete, November 13?, Swiss Bakery

Grittibenz Baking, Sunday December 4, Swiss Bakery

Samichlaus Party, Sunday December 11, Swiss Embassy

Who is willing to help with a new Event? Please contact Reto at tel. 703-624-6880

MEMBERS CORNER.....This section is created for anything such as recommendations, hints, thank yous, congratulations, requests, suggestions for discussion or activities, historical reminiscences etc.ouble Room \$3,000.00 (without airfare)

By Ursula Banzhaf: A pillar of the small **Swiss settlement of Helvetia**, West Virginia, established in 1869, is gone. Eleanor Fahrner-Mailloux died on March 9th 2011 of Pancreatic Cancer which was diagnosed in the fall 2010. During her illness her staff carried on running the Hutte restaurant and the Beekeeper's Bed and Breakfast expertly.

Eleanor was born near Farmville, VA on March 29 1917. The night Eleanor was born, her parent's house caught fire. In desperation her mother walked to the nearby ballroom of the town where she gave birth. Eleanor once said: "I was born in a ballroom and I have been dancing ever since." She really was a great dancer.

When Eleanor was about 5 years old, her parents moved to Helvetia to run a farm.Eleanor's mother was from England, her father was from Zurich, Switzerland. Eleanor married a French Canadian man and raised five children. Her husband resided mostly in Guam but Eleanor lived there only for a short time. In 1976 Eleanor, together with a girlfriend from Guam, Dolores Baggerly, took over the Hutte restaurant in Helvetia. Eleanor's children were a big help in serving meals, making cheese, running the gift shop ,etc.

Eleanor was very fond of her Swiss ancestors and raised the children honoring the Swiss traditions. She established a Swiss dance group in which her children participated. They also learned Swiss German and sang Swiss songs.

Eleanor thought it might be nice to have a place where guests could come and relax, so she established the Beekeeper's Inn in 1983. It offers three bedrooms with bathrooms.

Several ambassadors have visited Helvetia, including Ambassador Manual Sager. Many members of the Swiss Club and the Swiss Folklore Group have visited and participated in the festivals and dances in Helvetia. They remember Eleanor fondly and will miss her. The Mailloux family plans to continue running both the Beekeeper's Inn and the Hutte restaurant.

Helvetia is a jewel and well worth a visit: www.helvetiawv.com

Billy Goat Trail - Hike and Barbecue on May 21, 2011...

On **Saturday, May 21, 2011** we will meet at the parking lot across from the Old Anglers Inn on MacArthur Boulevard in Maryland at 12 noon.

[10801 MacArthur Boulevard, North Potomac MD 20854](http://www.helvetiawv.com)

After everyone has arrived we will hike a short piece of the towpath and then pick up the Billy Goat trail, which is about two miles along the river and in stretches offers excellent views, especially in the Mather gorge area. For those who have never hiked the trail this will be an adventure as you get the sense that we are miles away from the city in the wilderness. Although it starts out flat we will encounter some rugged terrain which requires a bit of rock climbing, therefore, good hiking shoes are recommended. For those seeking a less adventurous activity, you can hike parallel to the towpath and meet the group at the point where we come back out to the towpath, then hike back to the starting point as a group. Total length of the hike is a little less than five miles. Once we are all back we will drive to the picnic area at Carderock where grilled sausages with bread and soft drinks will be served. **Hike will take place rain or shine.**

Please Contact Paul Amstad: tel **410-465-5417** pamstad@verizon.net

Price per person \$10 - children under 10 are free.

Send check payable to the Swiss Club DC (not refundable):

Paul Amstad, 3993 High Point Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Member's name: _____

Phone # : _____

of people over 10: _____

of children: _____

Children's' names and ages: _____

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