

# Postillion Newsletter July 2012

By Rossana Delucchi



## Message from the President

Grüezi Swiss Club Members!

The organization for the Swiss national day is in full swing. Many hours have already been spent by the board making sure that Swiss vendors are providing us with great prices for the tombola and raffle. We have secured many good prices already and are looking forward to having a great and safe festivity at the Swiss embassy.

The "Fahrt ins Blaue" on June 16 was a great success and I specially thank Heidi and her helpers for organizing this event. More than 20 people showed up for the boat ride being entertained in the old fashion pulling by mules of the ship.

The Jass on Sunday June 24, was not attended by as many Jassers as in previous times; many were off on vacation but at least three tables were operating. The winner was Edi Krall, playing with us for the first time! Congratulations Edi.

Thank you very much Eveline for hosting this event!

With best wishes for a happy summer

Reto Weber

## Swiss Club Agenda for 2012

**Kaffee Klatsch**, Saturday July 14, Swiss Bakery

**Swiss National Day**, Saturday July 28, Swiss Embassy

**3rd Jass Tournament**, Sunday August 26: Suitor Residence

**Fall Picnic with Swiss Rifles**, Sunday September 9, Thurmont, MD

**Kaffee Klatsch**, Saturday September 22

**Annual General Meeting**, Friday October 12 or 19, Swiss Embassy

**Metzgete**, Sunday October 28, Swiss Bakery

**4th Jass Tournament**, Sunday October 28, Swiss Bakery

**Raclette Evening**, November 10, Swiss Embassy

**Kaffee Klatsch**, Saturday November 17

**Grittibenz Baking**, Sunday December 2, Swiss Bakery

**Samichlaus Party**, Sunday December 9, Swiss Embassy

## About other Swiss Groups

### Swiss Rifles

Walter Braendli, 302-995-1035, [walter.brandli@comcast.net](mailto:walter.brandli@comcast.net)

### Swiss Folklore Group

Ursula Banzhaf, 703 248-1144, [u.banzhaf@gmail.com](mailto:u.banzhaf@gmail.com)

### Die Stauffacherin

Regula Guess, [rguess2000@yahoo.com](mailto:rguess2000@yahoo.com)

Johanna Steinhauser, [steinhauser.johanna@gmail.com](mailto:steinhauser.johanna@gmail.com)

### Swiss Benevolent Society

Campbell Graeub, 301-652-2007, [graeub@verizon.net](mailto:graeub@verizon.net)

# SWISS NATIONAL DAY

**Come and celebrate the Swiss National Day!**

**When:** Saturday, July 28, 2012

Doors open at 4:00pm. Event ends after dark. No rain date.

Doors close to entry at 6:00pm.

The official program and entertainment begin at 4:15pm. The bonfire will be lit for the lampion parade that starts at 8:15pm.

**Where:** at the Embassy of Switzerland

2900 Cathedral Ave. NW, Washington DC 20008



**Swiss Food & Music - Bonfire - Alphorns -Lampion Parade -Swiss Wines - Beer Garden  
- Swiss Bakery - Souvenirs - Super Raffle Prizes – Tombola - Flag Swinging - Swimming  
Pool -Kids' Corner - Moon Bounce - T-Shirts**

Bring lawn chairs, beach umbrellas, swimsuit for the pool, and sun screen!

Entrance fee includes:

All entertainment, Swiss sausage meal, salads, dessert and non-alcoholic beverages. And, children (2 to 12 years of age) will receive a Swiss lampion.

**PRE-REGISTRATION by July 17, 2012**

Swiss Club members: Adults: \$20 / Children ages 2 to 12: \$10

Non members and guests, including a 7-day membership: Adults: \$30 / Children ages 2 to 12: \$15

## Swiss Club Kaffee Klatsch

**Come join us for coffee and conversation!**

This is an informal gathering of people who want to nibble on delicious pastry, sip good coffee, and talk... or just listen. All skill levels are welcome and we have had native speakers as well as beginners with dictionaries join us. Sit at the French, Italian, or Swiss-German table, or spend time at each if you just can't choose...

**When:** Saturday, July 14, 2012 at 9am

**Where:** The Swiss Bakery, 5224 Port Royal Road, Springfield VA 22151

Ample parking is available, but it is not accessible by metro.

## Swiss Rifles

Once a year is maintenance day for the electronic targets at the shooting range in Thurmont, MD. The June shooting day was spent in the traditional good camaraderie and intense team work, so the range will be ready for the next shooting day on July 14, and especially for September 9, when the entire Swiss club is invited for a picnic.

**Heidi and Pete Amstutz share with us the beautiful time spent during the Fahrt ins Blaue.**

**For those who could not attend this time, join the group next year!**



On the most perfect Saturday in June, eighteen of us enjoyed a really lovely outing to discover the fascinating people, places, stories and collections that compose the C&O Canal's unique history! Four National Park pioneers, with their four legged "engines" floated us up the Potomac, entertaining us with stories and music. We thoroughly enjoyed the undisturbed nature, watched a group of playful ducks, brushed by large tree branches, and learned how pioneers managed the locks.

In the 19th and early 20th century the C&O Canal provided transport, jobs, and commercial opportunities for people throughout the Potomac River Valley, from the tidal basin in Washington D.C. to the mountains of Western Maryland. In less than a hundred years, the C&O Canal witnessed a race west by transportation giants, the growth and decline of communities and businesses along the banks of the Potomac River, fierce battles raging between a divided nation, and improvements in technology that eventually made life along the canal obsolete.

Today the remains of the C&O Canal provide a place to recreate and enjoy nature, but most importantly they tell the story of the canal's important role in America's history. Stories of western expansion, transportation, engineering, the Civil War, immigration, industry and commerce.

Our "Fahrt" concluded with a luncheon under the sun umbrellas at the Old Angler's Inn, reconnecting with old and new friends of our Swiss Club of Washington DC! Watch this space for next year's exciting sequel. We might even surprise you.

**Guess who is turning 90 years old?**



**Kaspar Hunkeler**, a long standing member of the Swiss Club, will celebrate his 90th birthday on July 22. Kaspar still occasionally attends meetings of the club and Swiss Independence Day celebrations. He has been very active in the club for years. Many of you might remember him for serving drinks and food at various functions of the Swiss Club and the embassy. Kaspar is an honorary member of the Swiss Club.

Kaspar was a founding member of the Swiss Folklore Group and was actively participating in the group for many years. He is proud to have helped young people such as his son Robby, Sergio Mueller and Addy Graeb the art of flag swinging to the point where they were able to compete at the Eidgenoessiche Jodel Fest. The highlight of Kaspar's flag swinging career came when he and his son Robby were invited to swing the flag at the White House for president Carter.

Kaspar, the Swiss Club and the Swiss Folklore Group salute you and wish you a very happy birthday!

## Swiss Club Quiz

Answers to the June Quiz:

The nick name of this series of stamps is Strubel, meaning unkempt or fizzy hair. However it is not her hair that is "vertschudlet" (as we would say in St. Gallen), but the effect is given by the shape of the wreath around her embossed head.

There are philatelists who collect exclusively Strubels or "Strubeli", and a beautiful exhibit by the American Helvetia Philatelic Society can be found here: <http://www.swiss-stamps.org/index2.htm>

What is interesting in these letters stamped with Strubelis is the incredibly neat handwriting, and the lack of street names and house numbers in the addresses; for example, a letter in 1856 from Stäfa addressed: "Per Steamer via Liverpool, Messieurs Babock & Moore, New-York" (nothing else!) did arrive correctly.

The children's book mentioned is "Der Struwelpeter" that was published 1845. A full issue of the 100th edition of 1876 can be downloaded as a .pdf file here: [http://www.gasl.org/refbib/Hoffmann\\_\\_Struwelpeter.pdf](http://www.gasl.org/refbib/Hoffmann__Struwelpeter.pdf)

The author, a doctor at an asylum for the insane who also ran a private family practice, defends in a postscript how he used these intimidating stories and sketches when he had to calm down unruly children at his home visits.

The winner of this difficult quiz is **Marc Eno**. Congratulations!

### JULY QUIZ:

Question: which cantons has/have 3 swiss national languages? (the 4 are German/French/Italian/Romantsch)  
Please email your answers to [info@swissclubdc.org](mailto:info@swissclubdc.org)

## Swiss Club Board Members

**President:** Reto Weber, [reto.weber@swissclubdc.org](mailto:reto.weber@swissclubdc.org)

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