



Postillion Newsletter

June 2012

By Rossana Delucchi

Swiss Club Agenda for 2012

Fahrt ins Blaue, Saturday June 16

2nd Jass Tournament, Sunday June 24: Roberts Residence

Kaffee Klatsch, Saturday July 14, Swiss Bakery

Swiss National Day, Saturday July 28, Swiss Embassy

3rd Jass Tournament, Sunday in August/September: 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

Who is willing to help with a new Event?

Please contact Alexis tel 903 774 3132

Message from the President

Grüezi Swiss Club Members!

Our next two planned events are: The Fahrt ins Blaue on June 16 and our 2nd Jass tournament on June 24. Please see below all information and registration for these events.

The Billy Goat Trial hike was a great success. Not just the weather was perfect but also the great cookout and organization held by Beth and Paul Amstad. Thank you very much for taking the lead.

We had also a nice group together at the Kaffeeklatsch last month at Café Mozart in DC. We are looking for additional help to organize the Swiss National Day. Any help is welcome, it can be as a sponsor or volunteering as an MC, Grill Chef or raffle seller. We have lots of work to cover for this event and are looking forward to receive extra hands.

With best wishes for a happy summer

Reto Weber

FAHRT INS BLAUE

Join us for a trip back in time to the 1870's, as we ride along the historic C&O canal in a boat pulled by mules! Listen to park rangers in period costume describe what life was like for families that lived and worked on the canal. Watch as the boat rises 8 feet in a lock, with you on board! Come and join us as we enjoy life at a slower pace...

When:

Saturday, June 16, 2012

10:00am at the Old Anglers Inn lot for carpool, 10801 MacArthur Boulevard, Potomac, MD 20854

10:30am at the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center, 11710 MacArthur Blvd, George Washington

Memorial Parkway, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, Potomac, MD 20854

11:00am the boat launches from the Visitors Center

Lunch:

12:30 pm at the Old Angler's Inn

10801 MacArthur Blvd, Potomac, MD 20854

Registration for Fahrt ins Blaue

Adult Name(s): _____

Childrens' names and ages: _____

(Cell) Phone: _____

Email (if available, please write clearly):

_____ I will meet at the Visitor Center

_____ I will meet at Angler's Inn and need a carpool to the Visitor Center

Are you a Swiss Club Member for 2012? yes / no (if no, we'll have membership forms at the event)

Make **check payable** to Swiss Club of Washington DC and send with this registration form to: Heidi Amstutz, 9907 Trosby Court, Vienna, VA 22181

If you have any questions please contact Heidi at 703-953-7763

Price for boat ride per person - \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors (62+), \$5 for children age 4-14, free for children age 3 and under. Total amount enclosed \$_____

Registration Deadline is Tuesday, June 12

Swiss Club 2nd Jass in 2012

We invite you to our second Jass Tournament

When: Sunday, June 24, 2012 at 1:30pm

Where: Roberts Residence
14624 Chesterfield Rd.
Rockville MD 20853

For registration:
Contact Eveline at: 301-460-9571



Registration fee: \$5.00 for Swiss Club members, \$10 for guest, collected at the Jass. Deadline for registration: June 20, 2012 (we need tables of 4)

Swiss Club Quiz

The earliest Swiss postage stamp issues were cantonal like the famous Basler Dyybli (Basel Pigeon) and regional (Rayons). The first federal issues displayed only numbers and the Swiss Cross, but then, in 1854, came the famous picture series featuring the officially named "Unperforated Sitting Helvetia" that was valid until 1863. The label was not HELVETIA, but FRANCO, so only from the cross on her shield you could know that this was a Swiss stamp. Not the figure was unperforated, but the sheet, from which you had to cut the individual stamps with scissors; a stamp cut in half was also good for 5 Rappen/ centimes/ centesimi. That is why the ugly black stripes of the rhombus-shaped cancellation stamp always tried to cover the entire beautiful picture, except in this rare example where a unique feature is clearly visible that gave the nick name to these stamps.



Quiz: What is the nick name of this series of stamps?

What is the feature on the stamp that led to this name, and what is the meaning of the name?

Since these are three questions, here is a hint (to be fair or further confuse you): the name has something to do with a famous children's book of that time.

Obviously not owning any of these precious old stamps, I can only offer as a prize a much later, "Perforated Sitting Helvetia with Sword" that has a cancellation mark from Baden, Switzerland 99 years ago. Please mail your answers to Christian Haudenschild, 14036 Natia Manor Drive, North Potomac MD 20878.

Answer to the May Quiz on last page.



2900 Cathedral Avenue
Washington DC 20003

POSTILLION

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Registrations: Fahrt ins Blaue, Jass

Answer to the May Quiz:

The 1909 version of the Tellenbuebli has the string in front of the shaft of the cross-bow (nicely visible in the picture on the right despite the large cancellation imprint). If you would lift that cross-bow and point it forward from the presenting position into a shooting position, then that string would face the floor and an arrow would fall or shoot onto your foot. Upon request of shooters and philatelists, the design was changed and all later editions had the string behind the shaft, facing the boy, and making the front string edition the rare one.

By the way, the 2 cent postage was only for printed matter in a 1.5 kilometer (about a mile) radius; the lightest regular letter for this distance was 2 ½ cents. Yes, there were 2 ½ cent Tellenbuebli, and you always had to buy 2 of them, since not even in frugal Switzerland a one cent coin could be split in half. Why they later also issued a 7 ½ cent stamp is beyond my comprehension, however. And the overprints are even more mysterious: when they changed postal rates and still had a big stock of old value stamps, they simply printed a new value over the old number on the Tellenbuebli. So I have a 3 printed over a 2 ½ cent value, which makes sense, but also a 2 ½ printed over a 3 cent stamp, which makes no sense whatsoever but is part of the fun collecting stamps. How much more there is to it you can see in the Smithsonian National Post Museum, on 2 Massachusetts Ave NE next to the Union Station (Metro red line Union Station).

And the **winner for the May Quiz is Ben Sullivan**. Congratulations!. Please touch base with Christian to get your prize.