

Postillion Newsletter

June 2013

by Rossana Delucchi



Message from the President

Grüezi Swiss Club Members!

Summer is finally here! Come and enjoy a great day outside by joining us on a hike at the **Billy Goat Trial** followed by a small BBQ on June 8. Paul Amstad will lead the group on the slightly challenging trail along the Potomac River for the sporty ones (good hiking shoes recommended). There is also an option for a pleasant walk along the canal for all those who prefer to take an easier walk (sneakers will do). To end our day we all meet together for a delicious BBQ held at a nearby picnic area.

On June 17 Marcus Geisser is organizing the **Lesezirkel**; he is hoping to locate some bookworms....For the 2nd **Jass Tournament** on June 23 hosted by Margrit and Roland Zeender in Bowie. Please see below all information concerning our events as well as the registration or just visit our website.

Also, we are still 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. There is a great deal of work needed for this event and we are hoping to receive extra hands. If interested please contact me.

With best wishes for a happy summer

Reto Weber

Your opinion counts. Call me at (703) 624-6880.

Swiss Club Agenda for 2013

Billy Goat Trail Hike Saturday, June 8, Great Falls, MD

Kaffee Klatsch Saturday, July 13, location tbd

Lesezirkel, June 17, location tbd

2nd Jass Tournament Sunday, June 23, Zeender Residence

Swiss National Day August 3, Swiss Embassy

Lesezirkel, September 2, location tbd

3rd Jass Tournament August/September, Backus residence in Potomac

Fall Festival Picnic Sunday September 8, Thurmont, MD

Kaffee Klatsch Saturday, September 28, location tbd

General Assembly Friday, October 18, Swiss Embassy

4th Jass Tournament Sunday in October, location tbd

Kaffee Klatsch Saturday, November 2, location tbd

Raclette Evening Saturday, November 16, Swiss Embassy

Grittibenz Baking Sunday, December 8, Swiss Bakery

Samichlaus/Christmas Party Sunday, December 15, Swiss Embassy

Swiss Club Billy Goat Trail Hike and BBQ

We will meet on
Saturday, June 8, 2013 , 12 noon

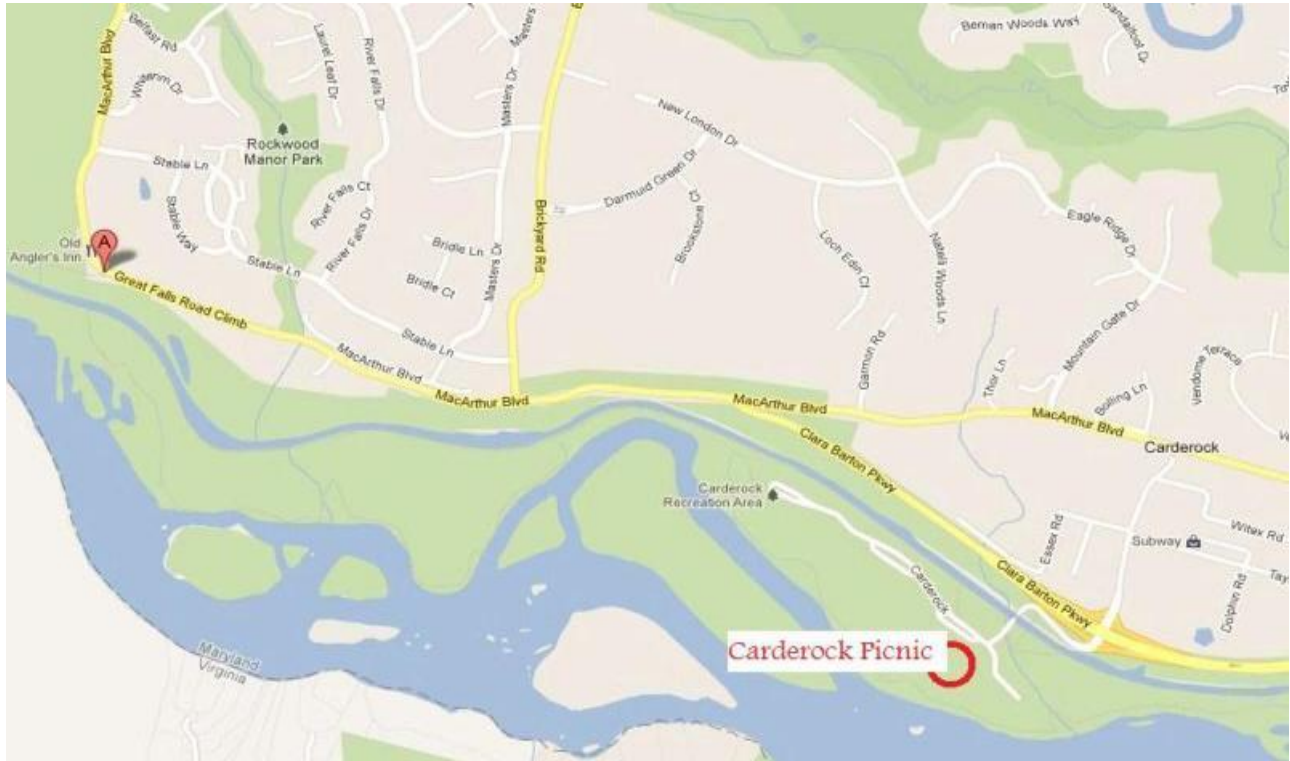
at the parking lot across from the Old Anglers Inn on MacArthur Boulevard (10801 Mac Arthur Boulevard, North Potomac MD 20854) where Paul Amstad will guide you through the hike.

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. Please bring your own water/drinks to the hike and protection against poison ivy etc. if you have allergic reaction. Once we are all back we will drive to the picnic area at Carderock (see map on next block) where Reto will have a grill going. There will be plenty of food and drinks available at the picnic. Hike will take place rain or shine.

Cost: \$10 per person, children age of 10 and under are free





Registration for Billy Goat Hike and BBQ

Name(s): _____

(Cell) Phone: _____

Email (if available, please write clearly): _____

of children: _____

Children's' names and ages: _____

Are you a Swiss Club Member for 2013? yes / no

Make check payable to Swiss Club of Washington DC and send with this registration form to:
Eveline Roberts, 14624 Chesterfield Rd., Rockville, MD 20853.

Questions? Please contact Eveline at 301-460-9571.

Price per person is \$10 - children age of 10 and under are free. Total amount enclosed
\$_____, paid by check # _____ Registration Deadline is Thursday, June 6, 2013

Swiss Club 2nd Jass in 2013

We invite you to our second Jass Tournament

When: Sunday, June 23, 2013 at 1:30pm

Where: Zeender Residence
16324 Bawtry Ct Bowie MD 20715

For registration: Please contact Marc Borbely
at: 202-557-1083

Deadline for registration: June 19th (we need
tables of 4)

Registration fee: \$5 for Swiss Club members,
\$10 for guests, collected at the Jass.



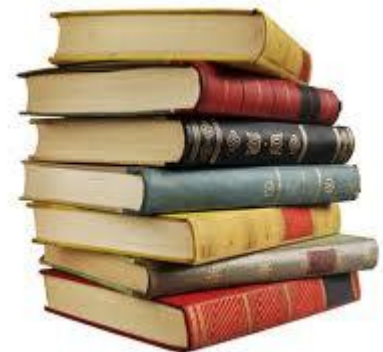
Swiss Benevolent Society News

Monique Price-Fürst, native of Murten, has donated a collection of small prints to the Swiss Benevolent Society. It is hoped that someone in the Washington Swiss community is especially interested in this collection, and would be willing to make an appropriate cash donation to the SBS. All pictures are of the walled city of Murten, FR. There is one hand-colored etching and 4 black and white prints. Any interested party should contact Campbell Graeb (301-652 2007) with questions or further information.

Lesezirkel in June and September

The Lesezirkel continues to attract interest.

We have four permanent members, but more are welcome!
For June we will read a shorter book, only 200 pages, and for
September we will read a book that is also available in English
for those who are more comfortable reading in English. The
discussion can be a combination of Swiss, German, and
English!



On Monday, 17 June, we will meet to discuss the latest novel of contemporary German writer **Leif Randt, Schimmernder Dunst über Coby County**.

In this book, Randt focuses on those privileged few living in an enclave of culture and well-being. As he plays with the longing for a better and more beautiful life, Randt succeeds in writing a light-hearted, enjoyable parody about the coziness of a well-oiled zone of existence that constantly celebrates and reproduces itself. Interestingly, the story is set in a fictional American city. For this novel, Randt received the 2011 Ernst Willner Prize.

For the second session, that takes place **on Monday, 2 September**, we have chosen **Der Weltensammler by Ilija Trojanow** that everybody who loves to travel will enjoy. The story is inspired by the life of Sir Richard Francis Burton (1821-1890). The book focuses on three of

Burton's many stations: India, (Saudi) Arabia, and East Africa. Trojanov tells also a story about Burton's changing identities, a process of 'going native' -- and yet also of reaching an understanding of the limitations of trying to become part of another culture. It is also available in English (The Collector of the World), for those who feel more at ease reading it in English. Both books are available in hard copy as well as electronically. Anybody who is interested in joining the Lesezirkel in June or in September, kindly contact **Marcus Geisser at 202-492-2904**

Member's Corner

We are pleased to offer all our members a space in the Postillon to share all the news, tips, recipes, travel experiences and everything you would like to share with all the members of our club.

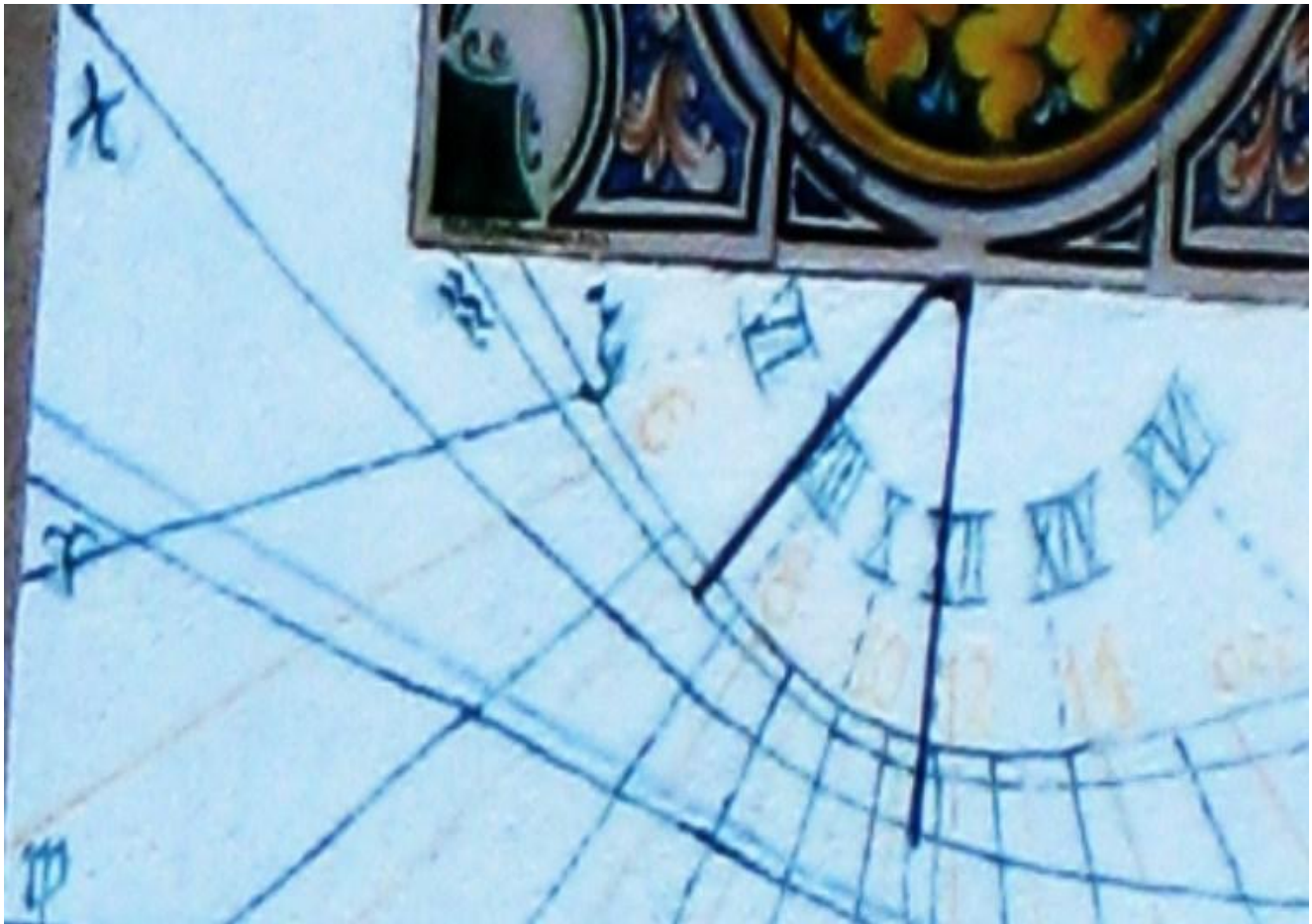
We have received our first contribution. It is an article from the "Presseurop" about the Swiss Direct Democracy example and achievements.

Thank you Nicholas Marzollino for sharing this article with us.

For readers with access to a computer, please click on the link to read the whole article:
<http://www.presseurop.eu/en/content/article/3735561-dare-be-little-more-swiss>

Swiss Club Quiz

Answer to the May Quiz: NIHIL CUM UMBRA ET SINE UMBRA NIHIL: Nothing with shadow (meaning that you can't read the time if the sundial is in the shadow), and without shadow nothing (meaning that if shadow would not exist, the stick would not throw a shadow on the wall and you could not read the time either).



I did not get any answers on this one. Yet there are some more interesting details: I took the picture on February 22 at noon, and that can be seen by the shadow being on the Roman number XII and ending on the curved line to the zodiac sign on the left that looks like an H for pisces (fish, Feb 19 to March 20). It took me a little longer to figure out the faint golden scale with the Arabic number 12 for noon: it is shifted by one hour and indicates summer time!

There are some more answers to last month's quiz: Henry Dunant also founded the YMCA, and like Barack Obama he was awarded the peace Nobel price. Dufour was a military adviser for Napoleon III, and he was General in the Swiss civil war of secession. Yes, we had that (Sonderbundskrieg), even before the Americans.

Quiz: How long did it last?

Swiss National Day Celebration: save the date !

Saturday, August 3, 2013, 4pm

at the Embassy

We'll have everything traditional from Alphorn to Züri Sächsilütemarsch and then a bunch of new attractions and surprises for kids and adults.

And we painstakingly imported 500 lampions directly from Switzerland so this time no kid will go without. And raffle and tombola with former and new sponsors and prizes like never before.

And of course the fabulous catering with the famous Swiss Bratwurst and other delicious specialties.

And and and much more...
Reserve the day!

