

Postillion Newsletter

October 2013

by Rossana Delucchi



Message from the President

Grüezi Swiss Club Members:

Our next important event is the General Assembly, on Friday, October 18, 7pm at the Embassy. We have openings and I want to reach out to our membership to find any new talent to add to our existing board. Please feel free to contact me (703-624-6880) with any questions or concerns you may have. Thank you for your consideration. For the meeting we try to keep the formal part as short as possible so that we can move on to the main part of the event, our traditional pot luck dinner. We also look forward to enjoying each other's company with a glass of wine.

The Fall Festival was another fun event. The weather was perfect, the food delicious and the company of the Swiss Club and Swiss Rifle Club members made this event a success. The shooting with the cowboys was pure fun, the precision target shootings of 300 and 25 meters was also a competition with winners receiving prizes.

With my best wishes,

Reto Weber
Swiss Club of Washington, D.C.

General Assembly 2013

The Board of the Swiss Club of Washington DC cordially invites you to join us for our annual meeting. We appreciate your participation, input, ideas and suggestions!

We will discuss the last year's club organization and activities, as well as review financial reports. We will elect new board members and discuss next year's events.

Looking for new Board Members/Coordinators...

We invite all interested Swiss Club members to step forward and join the 2014 Executive Committee. **Are you interested in helping out?** Please feel free to contact our president, Reto Weber, 703-624-6880 or reto.weber@swissclubdc.org with any questions or concerns you may have. Thank you for your consideration.

When: Friday, October 18, 2013 at 7pm

Where: Embassy of Switzerland 2900 Cathedral Ave., Washington DC

Food: Pot Luck, bring your favorite dish to share!

(Microwave available and the Swiss Club will provide drinks)



Results from the Fall Picnic Shooting

Six best out of a first series of ten shots onto a standard target where 10 is the center, that were the rules of this competition, and low and behold, there were over a dozen maximum scores of 60 in the 50 yards small caliber category (albeit with a telescope) ! Fortunately, inside the 10, there is an even smaller circle with an X (called "mouche" in French), so the ranking could be based on the number of X's. Even with that restriction, there were 5 adults and one teen in the first rank reaching this amazing precision of 60-6X.

In the 300 yard rifle competition with the same rules, coming close to the maximum of 60 was a bit more difficult, as the center 10 of the Swiss standard target A10 is only 10 centimeters (a little more than 4 inches) in diameter. Experienced shooters such as the Swiss Club president and past president therefore were participating out of competition, achieving 56 and 57, respectively. But, low and behold again, there were a 57, and two 55's and 54's each in the ranks of the adult rifle competition.

Second and more rounds of 10 shots did not count for the competition to give all the same chance, whether they could do multiple rounds or not. However, there was a steep learning curve, as there was a second round 58 score, and a 57 by a lady who had never shot a rifle before. That learning came from the incredibly patient and competent efforts by the Swiss Rifle volunteer instructors, who not only set up the electronic targets since 8:30 in the morning, but also refused to take a break for the delicious Swiss Bakery grill picnic during the entire shooting session from 11am to 3pm. They happily eat some cold leftover ribs and drum sticks (the Swiss wursts were all gone) after that and then went on cleaning the range and dismounting the targets, very satisfied themselves about the success and enthusiasm of everybody in this event.

At the cowboy shooting there was no ranking. We were not even sure whether this very popular shooting could be done, as the cowboys were engaged in another competition elsewhere. But, low and behold once more, a lone cowboy, Hermann Anton, and his family, set up the metal targets at 10 and 25 yards and let us shoot with silver Colt replicas and a Winchester rifle respectively. 400 hand made rounds were shot with the revolvers alone! As for the scoring, no fancy electronics were necessary for instant evaluation: there was an audible metallic "ping" when you hit and silence after the bang when you didn't.

Children were entertained by Claudia and Ursula with pumpkin carving, soccer and apple fishing, reminding us of the days at the Kummli farm when the entire event was focused on children's activities. With the picnic moving to the Thurmont shooting range, the shooting obviously has caught the center of attention, attracting near 100 participants. Learning from the experience, we intend to focus a future Thurmont event primarily on the shooting and to organize a separate family event especially for children on an orchard a little closer to Halloween with the traditional hayrides, games and apple and pumpkin picking etc.

Thanks to all the volunteers and also the organizers who made this fabulous picnic possible. 36 great pictures by Ben are here: http://www.swissclubdc.org/sc_gallery.htm

And here are the first round results in detail:

Children & Teens (8-18) Small Caliber

1. Kathleen Amstad (60-6x)
2. Ali Abbas (60-5x)
3. Elizabeth Zipf (60-4x)

Adults Small Caliber

1. Noelle Brahimi & George Zipf & Robert Jenny & Juerg Bono & Allyson Mueller (60-6x)
2. Ben Sullivan & Senta Speight & Hildegard Jorgensen (60-4x)
3. Donna Dettling & Donna Murphy (60-3x)

Adults Rifle

1. Dave Lemus (57)
2. Larry Smith & Fabian Mueller (55)

3. Joel Cox & Robert Jenny (54)

Lesezirkel / Book Club

For the upcoming Lesezirkel on Monday, 14 October, at 7.00 PM, participants have selected the first novel by Swiss author and translator, Ralph Dutli. In Soutine's Last Journey the French painter Chaim Soutine's journey back to Paris in August 1943. Ralph Dutli's biographical novel is both an informative account of Soutine's life and a bold essay illuminating his art.

Here is what www.new-books-german.com

tells us: "Having been in hiding from the Gestapo in a safe place outside Paris, Soutine is forced to return to the city to seek emergency surgery for a stomach ulcer. To avoid being caught Soutine is transported to the French capital in a hearse. The novel positions Soutine's fever-induced hallucinations in the hearse on the way to Paris alongside documentary material and more conventional narrative sequences. The different kinds of text overlap and sometimes merge, allowing Dutli to present multiple perspectives on episodes in Soutine's life and on the nature of his work. This novel achieves the rare feat of bringing visual art to life on the page in its brilliant depiction of Soutine's uncompromising quest to capture both the present and future of the subject portrayed on the canvas."



The book is available from Wallenstein Verlag, Goettingen, both in hard copy as well as electronic form. The location of the 14 October Lesezirkel session is being selected soon. Please get in touch with Marcus Geisser, marcusgeisser@yahoo.com, mobile 202-492-2904 for more information. Every participant is asked to read the book in advance.

When: Monday, October 14th, at 7pm

Where: Location to be determined by participants who register their interest with Marcus.

Kaffee Klatsch

Come join our Language Club Coffee Hour!

We talk, we sip coffee, and we eat pastries... what a great way to spend a Saturday morning! We usually have 15 to 20 participants speaking French, Swiss German, and sometimes, Italian. Come and enjoy good conversation and good food!

Saturday, November 2nd at 9am
The Swiss Bakery
5224 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22151



Please let Alexis Sullivan know that you are coming or just come by at the last moment, alexis.sullivan@swissclubdc.org or 703-774-3132.

See you soon!

Swiss National Day Survey Results

The survey results are in! We recently asked people who attended the Swiss National Day celebration on August 3, 2013, to complete a ten question survey about their experience and the event. The results are overwhelmingly positive with over 82% of respondents agreeing that the event was very good to excellent, and 94% finding it very to extremely organized. About three-quarters of respondents thought the event provided a lot to a great deal of value for the money, and about the same amount rated the entertainment as very good to excellent.

We also asked people to identify what they specifically liked about the event this year. People commented positively about the addition of new activities, such as the Swiss dogs and the Basler Fife & Drums. The changed layout on the Plaza with the picnic benches was also very well received, with people noting that it increased the community feeling and facilitated socialization with other club members.

But there is always room for improvement and we appreciate the constructive criticism people shared in the survey results. We take to heart comments about the amount and selection of food for the price, the length of lines to get food, aspects of the tombola and raffle that could be improved, and the isolating effect of the expanded use of the Embassy grounds (e.g., the distant location of children's activities). We also hear the desire for more traditionally Swiss activities (for example, with respect to the children's crafts) and more opportunity to interact with other club members. Your thoughtful comments are helpful and we will consider them carefully as we plan for next year's event. As always, if you have a specific idea for an activity that you want the Board to consider, or you have contacts that might allow us to provide new program material, please directly email any of the Board members with your thoughts.

We thank everyone again for participating in the survey and taking the time to write detailed responses. Your feedback allows us to improve the Swiss National Day from year to year, and better serve member needs. We again thank everyone who attended, and all the many volunteers who made the event a success.

Swiss Club Quiz

Answer to the September Quiz: The vote was about a people's initiative intending to abandon the mandatory military service and to replace it with a voluntary civil service. On September 22, 2013, 73.2% (about 1,761,000) voters refused to accept this proposal. Similar initiatives were also strongly rejected in 1989 and 2001.

October Quiz: In the Swiss direct democratic system, people can collect signatures not only to challenge legislation (referendum), but also to propose new legislation (initiative).

Question: How many valid signatures need to be obtained in what period of time to force a federal vote on new legislation?

(About your own voting as members of the Swiss Club: our General Assembly is October 18, 2013, 7pm at the Swiss Embassy. Please mark your calendars and exercise your rights!)

Save the Dates!

Swiss Club 4th Jass in 2013

1) We invite you to our final Jass Tournament this year!

When: Sunday, November 10th at 1:30pm

Where: Krall Residence 5215 Brookeway Drive, Bethesda, MD 20816

The first 16 people will be guaranteed registration.

Additional guest places will be dependent on attendance. Please contact Marc Borbely at: marcborbely@gmail.com or call him at 202-557-1083

Deadline for registration: November 6th (we need tables of 4)

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

2) Do not miss our **Raclette Evening!**

When: Saturday, November 16

Where: at the Swiss Embassy

More details are coming soon.

We are looking forward to sharing this wonderful event with you!



Member's corner

A free public conference is to occur with the support of the Alliance Francaise (in French of course) at the French Embassy on the 20th of October. It is entitled "Universalisme et Franc-Maconnerie" and is being organized by the local chapter (lodge) of French Freemasons. For more information and to register go to www.lafayette89@eventbrite.com

Board Members and Volunteer Coordinators

President: Reto Weber, reto.weber@swissclubdc.org

Past President: Christian Haudenschild, christian.haudenschild@swissclubdc.org

1st Vice-President: Martin Perret, martin.perret@swissclubdc.org

2nd Vice-President: Eric Russi, eric.russi@swissclubdc.org

Secretary: Heidi Amstutz, heidi.amstutz@swissclubdc.org

Treasurer/Membership: Eveline Roberts, eveline.roberts@swissclubdc.org

Event Coordinator: Alexis Sullivan, alexis.sullivan@swissclubdc.org

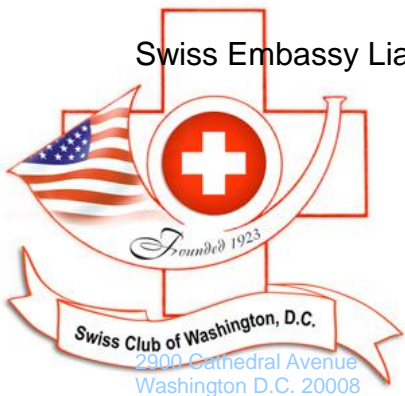
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October 1, 2013

General Assembly Oct. 18

Lesezirkel/Book Club

Kaffee Klatsch

Pictures from the Fall Picnic

