

# August 2014 Postillion by Rossana Delucchi



## President's Message

Dear Swiss Club members and Friends of Switzerland,  
Thank you for helping us celebrate our Swiss National Day this past Saturday. We hope you all had a wonderful time and if some of you couldn't make it this year, then there is always next year for the 724th anniversary. As you'll read in the article written by Michael Herzfeld below it takes a lot of volunteers to put on such an event, but it also takes a lot of participants (in this case YOU) to make it a successful occasion. So, once again, thank you for attending our biggest event of the year.

We are all now taking a few weeks off to rest and recharge our batteries before tackling the Club's fall activities. See you in September,

Eveline Roberts [chvd@aol.com](mailto:chvd@aol.com)

## First of August Festival by Michael Herzfeld.

Celebrating Switzerland's birthday is one of the major annual events hosted by the Swiss Club of Washington, DC on the grounds of the Swiss Embassy. It takes a lot of preparation and volunteer effort and good luck with the weather.

This year's event was very well attended and featured traditional Swiss folk dances and tunes, photo opportunities with the Alp horn blowers, a flag thrower, drums and fifes, and the super raffle and tombola. Guests enjoyed watching the performances and the catered lunch and refreshments.

The departing Swiss ambassador commented on the fact that the weather was a little cooler than at his first event. The ambassador also remarked on the ties of mutual friendship and co-operation that exist between Switzerland and the United States, and the common democratic values shared by the two republics. In this context, the ambassador read a letter he had received from the US Secretary of State John Kerry on the occasion of the national holiday.

This was followed by a taped broadcast message from the president of Switzerland and a birthday toast where attendees sampled a fine Swiss wine donated by the ambassador. The drawing of the raffle tickets followed. There were many prizes this year: food baskets, autographed sports mementos, a coffee maker and tickets for a Virginia resort getaway. The big prize of two flight tickets to Switzerland was won by a happy young mother and her son.

While it takes a lot of effort to prepare for this event each year, it is very rewarding to the volunteers and members of the Swiss club to see everyone who attended having such a good time and enjoying a very special commemorative day.

## Swiss Club Events for 2014

Swiss Shooting Day, Saturday, September 6, Thurmont, MD  
Jass, Sunday, September 7, Suitor residence, Rockville, MD  
General Assembly, October  
KaffeeKlatsch, October  
Raclette, November  
Jass, November  
Grüttibenz, Sunday, December 7, Swiss Bakery  
Samichlaus, Sunday, December 14, Swiss Embassy

## Swiss Club Quiz

**Answer to the July Quiz:** They play drums as a show and competition. See for example [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRKpVpil\\_Ks](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRKpVpil_Ks)

There was a tattoo on July 16 at Fort Myer, but our guests from the Swiss Drummer's and Fifer's Association were there as spectators only. They played the day before at a closed session that we could not advertise. We apologize to the (about 5) Swiss Club members that came to the Whipple Field to see at least the regular show.

**Quiz:** Colorful highlight at our Swiss National Day celebrations are always the beautiful Trachten, different ones for each Canton and also separate ones for Sundays and work days. How many of this year's celebration can you identify



Please send your answers to Ursula at [u.banzhaf@gmail.com](mailto:u.banzhaf@gmail.com) who is the expert on these traditions and is also on this picture.

### Save the Date!

Don't miss out our 4th Jass Tournament on September 7th, at the Suitor residence in Rockville, MD.

**Registration:** email [christian.haudenschild@swissclubdc.org](mailto:christian.haudenschild@swissclubdc.org)

Or call 301-251-5808 and leave a phone number to call back.

Deadline September 4<sup>th</sup>. We'll have to arrange tables of 4.

**Registration Fee:** \$5 per Swiss Club member, \$10 per guest, collected at the Jass



## Swiss Shooting Day Saturday September 6th Come and join in a Swiss Tradition!

We will have a BBQ, shooting lessons (beginners welcome) and a shooting contest. This year the event is for shooting and eating only, with no children's activities, so this is now an adult only event.

**When:** Saturday, September 6, 2014 from 11am to 3pm ~  
rain or shine

11am - 2pm ~ Shooting Activities

12pm - 1pm ~ BBQ Lunch

**Where:**

Thurmont Conservation and Sportsman's Club (TCSC), 11617 Hunt Club Road, Thurmont, MD 21788  
More information coming soon.



SwissRifles

## Pictures from the Swiss National Day



