

August 2015 Postillion

by Rossana Delucchi

www.SwissClubDC.org



President's message

Chers compatriots et amis de la Suisse,

Today we celebrate our Swiss National Day with a great big party, and we look forward to seeing many of you.

It's the biggest event put on by the Swiss Club, and we couldn't do it without the help of the many volunteers who have offered their services.

We are also very thankful to the many Swiss and local businesses that have contributed many wonderful prizes to our tombola and raffle (see their logos in this newsletter).

And, of course, a big thank you to Ambassador Martin Dahinden for the use of the grounds of the embassy, as well as the pool.

We have experienced a record number of prepaid registrations, and I want to remind you that parking is limited. Please carpool if you can.

A bientôt

Eveline Roberts

Swiss National Day 2015 Pictures





Swiss Club KaffeeKlatsch 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!

Place: **Swiss Bakery**, Ravensworth Center
5224 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22151

Date: Saturday, August 29th

Time: 9:00am

Please RSVP to RosmarieStucki (rosmarie@gmail.com)
(202) 572-8219



Tentative Swiss Club Events for 2015

August 1 - Swiss National Day, at the Swiss Embassy
August 29 - KaffeeKlatsch, at the Swiss Bakery, Springfield
September 13- 4th Jass tournament, at the Perret Residence, Springfield
October 18 - Swiss Shooting Day
October 23 - General Assembly
November 14 - Raclette
November tba -Jass tournament
December 6 - Grittibenz, at the Swiss Bakery, Springfield
December 13 - Samichlaus

Swiss Club Quiz

Answer to the July Quiz: The first soul going over the "Teufelsbrücke" was the devil's price for building it, but he missed the specification that it had to be a human soul, so the smart people of Uri sent a goat. That made the devil so angry that he intended to throw a boulder weighing 220 (metric) tons onto the bridge to destroy it, but missed again because a smart old lady from Uri quickly scratched a holy cross onto the rock, making it land down the valley near Göschenen, but that's not where it is today. The devil missed again as he did not know that years later the Swiss wanted to build the Autobahn (Gotthard Highway) exactly over the site where the boulder had landed, so in 1977 it was moved 127 meters aside to the current position, at a price of CHF 300,000.00. More on <http://www.tell.ch/schweiz/teufelsstein.htm>

August Quiz: In 2015 we remember significant events in Swiss history that happened 1315, 1415, 1515 and 1815, that are still subjects to historical debates. What were these events? Hint: Check your latest Swiss Revue or subscribe to it (free) here:<https://www.eda.admin.ch/swissabroad>

Swiss - Argentinian Folklore Group

If you happen to be in the Valais the first week of August don't miss on these performances by this Argentinian Folklore Group from the Swiss Colony in Northern Argentina. Following is the information provided by the group:

Die Tanzgruppe "SchweizerBlumen" wurde vor 19 Jahren geboren, um die Kultur der ersten Bewohner von San Jerónimo, die aus dem Kanton Wallis, Schweiz, im Jahr 1858 gekommen sind, zu bewahren.

Jugendliche und Erwachsene zeigen die Liebe für die Walliser-Kultur in jeder ihrer Präsentationen; Musik und Tanz und die Kostüme sind inspiriert in den Kanton der Gründern unseres Dorfes, San Jerónimo Norte.

Zur Zeit die Gruppe hat 24 Mitglieder, 20 Tänzer und 4 Musiker von der stabilen Orchestergruppe, die die Schweizer traditionelle Musik wie Walzer, Mazurka und Schottis spielt. Diese Gruppe hat schon lange, den Traum das Land ihrer Vorfahren zu besuchen, vor allem den Kanton Wallis. Aber in diesem Jahr, in dem der Kanton Wallis den Eintritt vor 200 Jahren in der Schweizerischen Eidgenossenschaft feiert, wird dieser Traum wahr.

Um an dieser wichtigen Veranstaltung teilzunehmen, ist eine Show von etwa 40 Minuten vorbereitet. Musik und Tänze, die uns unsere Ahnen gegeben haben und von dem Repertoire des argentinischen nationalen Folklore.

WALLIS PROGRAMM:

- 05. August: 19,30 SIMPLON DORF (Kulturplatz)
- 06. August: 18,00 RARON (Kirchenplatz)
- 07. August: 16,00 SITTEN/SION (Platz Roger Bonvin- Cours Roger Bonvin)
- 08. August: 12,30: ZERMATT (Kirchenplatz, Swiss Food Festival)
16,00: TÖRBEL
- 09. August: EVOLINE (Besuch)
- 11. August: STALDEN
- 12. August: VISPERTERMINEN (Dorf-Platz)
- 13. August: 12,00: ST und GRENGIOL

Trip to Nueva Helvecia (Swiss Colony) - Uruguay

TRAVEL TO NUEVA HELVECIA/COLONIA SUIZA

It will take place from Sunday January 17 (date we should be arriving) until Sunday 24th. Of course, those who may want to stay longer, please, feel free to do so. You are most welcome to extend your visit. The bus will be hired to pick us up on Sunday Jan. 17. If someone wants to arrive on another date, there's no problem, there are other means of transport which can take you to Nueva Helvecia. In that case the cost will be different and paid separately.

There are two major hotels: "Hotel Suizo" (website: <http://www.hotelsuizonuevahelvecia.com/>) and "Hotel Nirvana" (website: <http://www.hotelnirvana.com/>), both are completely different but very nice. Please, look at the websites and the reviews before booking.

I consider it better to let those who are going to travel to book the hotels themselves and buy the plane tickets on their own, and I will organize the activities while in Uruguay. It is much easier for everybody.

With regards to the airlines the most convenient to choose from are either American Airlines (Washington - Miami/Miami- Montevideo) or TACA-AVIANCA (Washington- El Salvador/El Salvador-Lima/Lima- Montevideo) or COPA (there are other airlines also available. This is completely up to you.

A bus or a remise is going to pick you up at Carrasco Airport (unless you prefer to go to Colonia Suiza on your own for instance you can rent a car online and pick it up at the airport), and take you to the hotels (they are close to each other). We are going to have a guided visit of the town (I will be your host), another to Colonia del Sacramento (a guide from Colonia will join us), a trip to Punta del Este (we leave early in the morning and come back at night) where a tourist guide will tell you about the resort and we will have lunch at a very nice restaurant.

During your stay in Nueva Helvecia you will have the opportunity to enjoy the hotels facilities, rent a car if you wish, go horseback riding or take a walk around the main avenue or the town center. One night we will enjoy a dinner at one of the hotels and the folklore group "Los AlegresAlpinos" will perform for us. Their dances include Swiss dances, as well as some from the Tirol, Germany and Austria.

The total amount of money you will need to spend for the tour bus, the guides (not me, I do it for free), and lunch in Punta del Este is not yet set as it will depend on the number of people who will travel. It will be equally divided between all of us.

Each person is responsible for his/her own meals while in Nueva Helvecia, Colonia and Punta del Este. This way everyone can manage their own budget better. The hotels menus can be seen online.

A trip to Buenos Aires is also available. In the meantime, if you want to contact a travel agency even to make the arrangements in case you want to visit Lima, Machu Pichu, Cuzco, etc., please, e-mail Cecilia Regules at Cecilia@ceciliaregulesviajes.com. She has a very good package available.

She is the owner of one of the best travel agencies in Uruguay. She has an excellent reputation in every aspect and will find something according to your needs. Should you decide to contact her, please be sure to mention that you belong to the Swiss Club in DC, the same with the hotels in Nueva Helvecia as I have already talked to them.

Even though the Swiss Club Board is pleased with the idea of this trip, it is important to mention that the Swiss Club of Washington, D.C., is NOT involved in the organization of this trip, and is not responsible for it. I am the organizer. So, if you have any further questions, please, do not hesitate to reach out to me at: rossdelucchi@hotmail.com

Last but not least, I would like to have a meeting with those interested in receiving information directly from me. It would be very useful if you could tell me about your availability to attend a meeting. In that meeting I will have the opportunity to answer all your questions in person.

I am looking forward to hearing from you!