

SEATTLE SWISS SOCIETY INC.



www.seattleswiss.org

July 2007

Special Point of Interest:

- July 29 *1st. Aug. Celebration*
- Sept. 15-16 *Hike Stevens Pass*
- Oct. 26 *Fall Dinner (tentative)*
- Dec. 2 *Christmas Party at Monroe Hall*

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear friends,

Returning to Switzerland as an "Auslandschweizer" is always interesting, if for nothing else but to learn about the issues that dominate the daily discussions. In particular there is talk leading up to a referendum concerning the overhaul of the disability insurance scheme. There appears to be a certain amount of uneasiness both about the role of Switzerland within the European Union, but

more profoundly about the role and interactions of the citizen and the State. There are some serious issues about what role the "Rütli", the origin of our Swiss Confederation, should play. In response to the intent of extremists to use the "Rütli Wiese" for their own limited views, some argued that it is just a cattle range with no other significance. In the end, two industrialists rose to the occasion and offered to

cover the security costs so that our Bundesratspräsident could visit the "Rütli" and reflect on its importance. Ironically one of the industrialists who helped defray these costs is a "naturalized citizen".

This certain uneasiness is also reflected in a survey which questions the Swiss about their identity, or what it is that defines a Swiss or Switzerland.

(continued on page 3)



1ST OF AUGUST CELEBRATION

To celebrate the Swiss National Day, please join us on Sunday, July 29, 2007 at the **Edgebrook Swim & Tennis Club** for our traditional, annual Swiss Picnic. The fun will start at **12:30 p.m.** and last until **4:30 p.m.**

We will have access to the Club pool for a fee of \$3.00 per person. If you plan to take a dip, be sure to bring your bathing suit and towel.

Bring your own wine and beer as we are not allowed to sell it at the Club. The Swiss Club will provide lemonade, ice water and coffee.

Bratwurst and/or Cervelat, each with a Mütschli (bun), Nussgipfel and Napoleons will be available at nominal costs. Please bring your favorite summer salad or side dish to share. The number of tables and chairs is limited, so to enjoy a

comfortable place you might want to bring your own picnic table and chairs.

Edgebrook Swim & Tennis Club
13454 SE Newport Way
Bellevue

Directions on page 4



SEPTEMBER FALL HIKE



Don't miss this year's hike on the weekend of **September 15th and 16th!** We hope to have another successful weekend hiking two of the many beautiful Cascade mountain trails. The Saturday hike is usually a little shorter and considered a "warm-up" for the longer hike on Sunday.

This weekend getaway includes an appetizer and dinner Saturday evening at the Steven's Cabin followed by Jass

and other games by the fireside. Sunday morning you'll be treated to a big hearty breakfast to prepare you for the second hike of the weekend. Come for just one day or spend the night and do both hikes. If you have never joined us for one of the weekend hikes, it is an experience you will always fondly remember. Find out more information at the 1st of August celebration (this year

on July 29) or call Theres Fillmore at 206-985-4069.

If you would like to join the fun but are not into hiking, you may find some willing fun-seekers to drive to Leavenworth for the day. This event always gets rave reviews and fills up quickly (and space is limited). So, if you want to join the fun, sign up early, or check our website: www.seattleswiss.org



RECEPTION FOR DR. RUDOLF WYDER

On May 7, 2007, Dr Wyder, Director of the Swiss Abroad, visited Seattle. He was traveling through North America on a fact-finding mission. One of his goals was to connect with Swiss organizations in order to get some "first-hand knowledge about the issues Swiss organizations face and what opportunities exist".

The Seattle Swiss Society hosted a reception in honor of Dr. Wyder at the residence of our Honorary Consul, Philippe Goetschel. Several presidents and members from our Washington Swiss Societies attended this social function. This was an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss issues faced by the clubs and the Swiss abroad. It was suggested that

the presidents from the various local clubs get together to discuss the issues they face and to brainstorm on how best to deal with the challenges.

We thank Philippe Goetschel and his wife Laura for their gracious hospitality and for providing their residence for this occasion.



Fall Dinner

Our Fall Dinner is tentatively scheduled for Friday, **October 26** at the South Seattle Community College. More information in the next newsletter. In the meantime **SAVE THE DATE!**




JASS MEISTERSHAFT RECAP

On April 15 twenty Swiss Club members assembled at the Reutimann's for our annual Jass Party, including our welcome guests from New Mexico, Ruth and Ernst Luthi. Several rounds of "Schieber" and "Handjass" were played to determine the winner. While we all know that this is a man's game, this year a woman walked away with the grand prize. Congratulations to **Margrit Saxer** who beat out all the great Jass experts and will have her name engraved on our trophy. Each player received a piece of Swiss cheese as prize



and the lucky ones a bottle of wine to boot. We would like to thank Hans Riechsteiner, who gave us such a good deal on the cheese that we made a profit for the club. While the Jass was the reason to get together, even more important was the fun of spending an afternoon in the company of friends. Wienerli and potato salad with all kinds of side dishes and deserts rounded out the day.

A special thank you to Evelyn and Bob and for their gracious and generous hospitality.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the Jass, a standard Jass pack has 36 cards. These cards have Swiss suits of bells , shields , acorns  and flowers , the cards in each suit being ace, king, ober, under, banner, nine, eight, seven, six. In these packs most of the cards are easy to identify. Note that the aces have two large suit symbols (having in the distant past actually been deuces). The banners also have two suit symbols, but should be easy to distinguish from aces because these symbols appear on a flag or banner.

(President's Corner continued)

Among the many questions one caught my eye in particular, and I quote: "...about what the state did for individual citizen, and conversely, what they contributed to the state". The authors of the survey observed that the answers made for some sobering reading and concluded that Kennedy's famous remark "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country" had little bearing in Switzerland.

The article I quoted can be found in the Swiss Review of April 2007/No. 2 and should be "required reading"!

Peter Schiess

FONDUE DINNER RECAP

Approximately 70 people attended the Cheese Fondue dinner on Saturday, March 17, 2007, held at the Braeburn Club in Bellevue.

Once again Roland Oberholzer (Sasi's Café) did a magnificent job preparing the fondue for all to enjoy with assistance from Rene Vogt. One of the highlights of the evening was the yodeling performance put on by the one and only Annelies Caprez.

The party would not have been complete without all the fabulous appetizers,

salads and desserts our guests brought to share with our group. The Club wishes to extend its gratitude for all those who helped to make this a special evening.

A great big thank you also goes to Norma Vogeli for all of the time spent organizing and planning our special events.



YOUR 2007 BOARD

President:	<i>Peter Schiess</i>	206 522-0778
Vice President:	<i>Pattie Geppert</i>	425 444-7672
Treasurer:	<i>Hans Saxer</i>	206 236-0219
Secretary:	<i>Dick Reutimann</i>	206 232-7022
Events Chair:	<i>Norma Vogeli</i>	206 297-0332
Newsletter:	<i>Hanna LeMaster</i>	425 868-4238
Auditors:	<i>Markus Wernli</i> <i>John Ryter</i>	



Directions to Edgebrook Swim & Tennis Club:

13454 SE Newport Way
Bellevue, WA 98006
(425) 746-2786

From 520, take I-405 South to Coal Creek Parkway Exit.
Take the **COAL CREEK PKY SE** exit
Bear Left on **COAL CREEK PKY SE**
Continue on **COAL CREEK PKY SE/SE**
COAL CREEK PKY
Turn Left on **FACTORIA BLVD SE**
Turn Right on **SE 43RD ST/SE NEWPORT WAY**
Continue on **SE NEWPORT WAY**
At the light at **ALLEN ROAD**, turn left

Sasi's café

Roland & Doris Oberholzer
Chef/Owner

130 Lake Street S. Kirkland, WA 98033 Phone: 425-888-2411	11105 NE 2nd Street Bellevue, WA 98004 Phone: 425-688-0341
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Fax: 425-955-7240
sasiscafe@comcast.net

Just a Reminder!

Have you sent in your 2007 membership dues?

A **P** in the upper right corner of the address label indicates that you have **already paid** or that you are an Honorary Member. If you have not yet done so, now is the time.

Family or Couple: \$ 20.00 Single: \$15.00

Please make your check payable to **Seattle Swiss Society** and mail to:

Hans Saxer
7560 86th Ave. SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Tacoma Swiss Society 2006 Events

July

29 First of August Bundesfeier

August

11 Fall Schwingfest & Dance

12 Buebe Schwingfest & Dance

September

29 Octoberfest

November

10 Rippli Dinnner/ Enzian Concert

For information call the Tacoma Swiss Society - Joe & Louise Hospenthal at (360) 663-0178





Philippe Goetschel
Honorary Consul
 Consulate of Switzerland

6920 94th Avenue SE
 Mercer Island, WA 98040
 206-228-8110 Phone
 206-236-8420 Fax

philippe.goetschel@swissconsulateseattle.com
 www.eda.admin.ch/sf

From the Publisher's Desk . .

Do you have any news, information, thoughts or ideas that you would like to share with other members of the Club? Please contact your publisher/editor, Hanna LeMaster, at lemaster22@gmail.com or (425) 868-4238.

Monroe Swiss Hall

August

26 Potluck Dinner

September

8 Swiss Dance with Blaser
 Orchestra

For info call Nancy Chambers at
 425-443-8310

To contact the Swiss Consulate:

Consulate General of Switzerland:
 456 Montgomery Street # 1500
 San Francisco, CA 94104
 Phone: (415) 788-2272
 Fax: (415) 788-1402
 E-mail: vertretung@sfr.rep.admin.ch

HIGHER AND TALLER IN THE SWISS ALPS

If the Swiss want to boast about their mountains, they can find a few reasons:

They have more high peaks than any other country in Europe: 48 over 4000 meters (13,120 feet)
 They lay claim to the highest:

Railway station in Europe
 (the Jungfrauoch, at 3454 m/11,330 ft)

Cableway in Europe (Zermatt, Canton Valais, ending at 3,883 m/12,740 ft)

Gravity dam wall in the world
 (Grande Dixence, Canton Valais, at 285 m/935 ft)

Permanently inhabited village in Europe (Juf, Canton Graubünden, population: 30, at 2126 m/7000 ft);

Vineyard in Europe
 (Visperterminen, Canton Valais, at nearly 1200 m/3949 ft)

Brewery in Europe (Monstein, Canton Graubünden, at 1600 m/5250 ft)

Tram in Europe (Zermatt, Canton Valais, at 2222 m/7290 ft)

Museum in Europe (St Gotthard pass, at 2100 m/6890 ft)

Golf course in Europe (Arosa, Canton Graubünden, at 1800 m/5900 ft)

Exterior elevator in Europe
 (the Hammetschwand lift to the top of Bürgenstock, in Canton Nidwalden, 153 m/502 ft)



The Aletsch glacier, the longest in Europe - as only the intrepid see it.

Seattle Swiss Society
7560 86th Ave. SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040



Monroe Swiss Hall

For information, call:

*Dorothy Marty at (425) 788-1971 or
Darlene Thorpe at (360) 794-6304*



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