

SEATTLE SWISS SOCIETY INC.



July 2014

seattleswiss.org

seattleswissclub@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event	Location
Jul 10-13	Sängerfest	Tacoma
Jul 27	1st of Aug	Edgebrook CC
Sept 6-7	Fall Hike	Stevens Pass
Oct 24	Fall Dinner	S Seattle Comm Coll
Dec 7	Christmas Party	Monroe Swiss Hall
Late Jan, 2015	General Meeting	

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Event Chairperson wanted!

After many years of service to our club, Margaret Aebersold is retiring from our Board, so we need someone to fill her shoes. Please contact a Board member if you are interested.

Make it Stop!

You can help your Swiss club by stopping your paper copy of this newsletter. It's incredibly easy! Just send your email address to us at seattleswissclub@gmail.com, and we'll start notifying you when a fresh newsletter is available on our website, seattleswiss.org. Why? Full color, adjustable size, clickable links, and you help us save \$\$\$\$. Thanks!

1ST OF AUGUST CELEBRATION

To celebrate the **Swiss National Day**, please join us on Sunday, July 27th at the Edgebrook Swim & Tennis Club for our annual traditional Swiss Picnic. The fun starts at 2:00 p.m.



This is a great place to bring your children. Fun games are planned and they can also enjoy the pool. To help us prepare, please let us know the ages of the children by calling Patty Richert at 425-444-7672.

Please 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.

Please bring your favorite summer salad or side dish to share.

Bratwurst and/ or Cervelat, each with a Mütschli (bun), Nussgipfel and Napoleons will be available at nominal cost.



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.**

We will have access to the Club pool for a small fee. **If you plan to take a dip, be sure to bring your bathing suit and towel.**

Edgebrook Swim & Tennis Club
13454 SE Newport Way, Bellevue

www.edgebrookclub.org/directions.html

Directions:

1. From I-90 or 520, take I-405 South to Coal Creek Parkway Exit.
2. Turn Left on COAL CREEK PKY SE
3. Turn Left on FACTORIA BLVD SE
4. Turn Right on SE 43RD ST/SE NEWPORT WAY
5. At the light at ALLEN ROAD, turn left

SINGING AND YODELING FESTIVAL

July 10 - 13, Tacoma, WA

swiss-sangerfest-tacoma-2014.org

Seattle Swiss Ski-In Cancelled

Due to a very low response, we decided to cancel our planned Second Annual Ski-In. Should we continue to offer this event in the future? Is there something we could do to make the it more attractive, such as a different date? Please let us know!

Join Us On Our Fall Hike

Our annual hike will be held the weekend of September 6th & 7th somewhere on Stevens Pass.

What can you expect?

- Two days of moderate hiking in our great back- country
- Camaraderie and socializing
- Enjoying great meals together
- Playing games in the evening or just relaxing and visiting with friends
- Overnight stay at the cabin at Stevens Pass



Even if you are not into hiking, you can still join the fun at the cabin. You will likely find somebody to join you for a short stroll in the mountains or a Sunday visit to Leavenworth.

A sign up sheet will be available at the 1st of August picnic.

If you are interested, please let us know at the picnic, or contact Roland Oberholzer at: (425) 889-2411 or seattleswissclub@gmail.com

Details will be mailed in August to all interested parties.

HONORARY CONSUL'S CORNER

- The historic decision by Swiss voters to refuse the purchase of Swedish Gripen fighter jets on May 18 has called into question the role of the military – and particularly the air force. However, it is not a wholesale rejection of the armed forces.
- Popular support for a Swiss Army remains high. Some people find it harder to justify an army of 100'000 soldiers when most other Western European countries have abolished mandatory military service. Only Austria and Norway still have it.
- Credit Suisse paid a record fine of \$2.8bn to the US Department of Justice for tax evasion. It was accused of destroying evidence and obstructing the DoJ's investigation. It had also come under the scrutiny of a US Senate committee investigation and, as Switzerland's second largest bank, was an obvious target for a symbolic penalty to send a warning to the rest of the world. Several other banks including 2 large cantonal banks and 2 large private banks are still under investigation.
- Moving forward, all Swiss banks have signed an automatic information exchange with the US Government (FATCA). Once the outstanding cases have been settled and FATCA is fully implemented it is expected that Swiss banks may relax the restrictions in place for US residents.
- Switzerland was in 6th place in the world soccer ranking before the world cup. The team is one of the most diverse having many players with immigration backgrounds. It is currently ranked 3rd in Group E of the 2014 FIFA World Cup. Some fans have been disappointed by its 2:5 against France.

- Philippe Goetschel

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

After eventful winter and spring seasons, we are finally heading toward our annual "First of August" celebration! It is a day for us to come together and celebrate our heritage and appreciate the many wonderful things about Switzerland. We, the Seattle Swiss Society, would like to be a part of this reflection. We want to provide you with an environment where you can share memories, culture and *gemütlichkeit* with friends.

With all this in mind, we have arranged a membership drive in which we will make personal phone calls to all the current members to make sure that we have all the correct and up-to-date contact information. This will help us keep in touch with you over the year. We have also added PayPal to our website in order to provide another option for paying membership dues. Your dues are very important as they help us provide all the services we offer - for example, the mailing of the newsletter, fees and permits.

Also on the agenda: to be more cost-efficient we would like to reduce the number of newsletters we are sending through the post office. If you don't have an email address, perhaps you could coordinate with a friend or family member who can print out the emails for you. This way you can be alerted on short notice about information or events that are not in the newsletter. We want to be able to keep everyone in the loop throughout the year.

Please make sure to contact us if you need transportation to any of our events. We can always help set up a carpool for you.

We are still in need of a member to fill the position of Party Chairperson. If you are interested, please contact us ASAP!

Our upcoming events that are still in the works are our Fall Hike, Summer Swiss Movie Night and the Wanderrung mit Cervelat bräteln.

Wishing you and yours all the best, and bis gli/à plus/ arrivederci!

- Roland Oberholzer

Swiss Art Viewing Party & Ambassador Reception Recap

The Society held a Swiss Art Viewing Party on Friday, May 9 at the [Henry Art Gallery](#) in Seattle. As a bonus, at the last minute it was announced that the event would include a very special guest - the newly confirmed US Ambassador to Switzerland and Lichtenstein, Seattle's own Suzi LeVine. She was introduced by Swiss Honorary Consul Philippe Goetschel, and treated us to a few remarks. Judging by her [Facebook postings from Bern](#), it sounds like she's off to a great start.

Thanks to Roland Oberholzer for the great hors d'oeuvres!

See Lynn Bützberger's photos here: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsjYCSOzJ>



SeattleSwissSociety

LINKS & STUFF

Seattle German resources: www.seattleaufdeutsch.com
 From Gerard Wirz: www.iloveseattle.org
 Barbara Curran wants Swiss teachers for the Greater Seattle
 German-American School - 206-349-3609
barbara@curranonline.com www.sagaschool.org

Monroe Swiss Colony

monroeswisscolony@yahoo.com

Monthly Meeting & Potluck Luncheon - 1st Sundays
 Doors open at noon, lunch at 1 pm, then we have our meeting.

July/August - no meetings

Monroe Swiss Hall - 18500 Tualco Road, Monroe
 For hall rental and club information, contact:
thorpe84@msn.com or call 425-327-4363

Tacoma Swiss Clubs

Joe & Louise Hospenthal at 253-896-2593

www.tacomaswissclubs.com

Swiss Club Helvetia of NCW (Leavenworth)

For information contact **Martin & Heidi Stoller**
 (509)782-5808

Seattle Swiss Society

Online Membership Application

Now accepting



http://www.seattleswiss.org/main/join_membership.html

Philippe Goetschel

Honorary Consul

Consulate of Switzerland

6920 94th Avenue SE
 Mercer Island, WA 98040
 206 395 4812



seattle@honrep.ch

www.swissemb.org

YOUR 2014 BOARD

President:	<i>Roland Oberholzer</i>	425-889-2411
Vice President:	<i>Rick Bützberger</i>	747-444-1098
Treasurer:	<i>Patty Richert</i>	425-444-7672
Secretary:	<i>Dick Reutimann</i>	206-232-7022
Events Chair:	Volunteer needed!	Please call!
Newsletter:	<i>Rick Bützberger</i>	747-444-1098
Auditors:	<i>Jan Palmer</i>	<i>Simone Studer</i>

AUSLÄNDER CORRESPONDENCE

Earlier this Spring I experienced a true Swiss tradition (made only more Swiss by the Appenzeller chäs, Züpfe and bratwurst that were on offer!). So Swiss is this tradition, in fact, that opportunities to witness or even participate in such an occasion anywhere else in the world are incredibly rare. I'm talking about a Schwingfest – the Seeländisches Schwingfest to be exact!

My day – from 6:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. – was filled with the thrill of seeing large men – athletes, farmers, carpenters – heave each other onto their backs all for glory, a large bell and the first prize: an impressively large, flower-adorned bull.

Thinking back to that nice Sunday, I feel somehow compelled to contrast what I saw on that day in Studen (BE) to what I've seen on TV during the FIFA World Cup in Brazil. Not one schwinger protested or disagreed with a judge's decision, competitors sported plain old potato sack shorts and traditional Edelweiss shirts – no sponsorships or flaunting of expensive, exclusive equipment – and winners respectfully brushed sawdust off their opponents' backs after a victory.

Yodellers entertained spectators throughout the day while flag throwers tossed the Swiss flag high above the heads of the audience. Older gentlemen seated near us commented on the schwingers, referring to them by first name and cheering when a favourite proved successful.

The day rang of true Swiss-ness and it was a nice reminder of the rich and unique culture this country has to offer, what makes it so special and why I am so at home here. Swiss tradition, respect and simplicity were on fine display that weekend!

- Samantha Oberholzer

SCHWINGEN:

One of Switzerland's national sports, Schwingen takes place on flattened mounds of sawdust. Participants attempt to wrestle their opponents to their backs within six minutes while gripping the "uniform" with both hands. Judges award points to the winner for style and difficulty of the manoeuvres.

About the writer:

Samantha is an expatriate living in Nidau, helping the watch industry thrive one text at a time. She's particularly drawn to Ovomaltine chocolate bars and will always "aww" at baby cows. Samantha blogs about her adventures at www.cup-of-culture.com

FONDUE PARTY RECAP

Our annual fondue party was held at the Monroe Swiss Hall on March 22. Members and their guests enjoyed the tasty combination of Swiss cheese, bread, wine, and kirsch.

Cascade Alphorns musicians Evelyn Zeller and Nels Magelssen were a hit once again, especially with the children who received some hands-on lessons.

The Seattle Swiss Society would like to thank the **Monroe Swiss Colony** for the use of the **Swiss Hall**, our chairperson **Margret Aebersold** who did a wonderful job preparing for this event, **Roland and Doris Oberholzer** for preparing and delivering the goods, all those who helped make this event special by bringing their favorite side dishes and those who helped to clean up. As usual, a good time was had by all.

See Lynn Bützberger's photos here: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsjW1eLWY>



Robert Reutimann, 1929 - 2014

Robert (Bob) Reutimann, born in Heiden (AR), Switzerland on July 21, 1929 to Johann & Emma

Reutimann, died peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family on March 27, 2014. He is survived by his wife Evelyn, children Richard (Pattie), Michael, Ruth and Linda (Mark), grandchildren Tyler, Erika, Haley, Brandt, Zachary, Tanner, Taylor, and his sister Rose in Austria.

In his younger years, Bob was a talented gymnast who loved to compete and coach younger people. Bob served an apprenticeship as a tool and die maker which was the foundation for what would be a very successful lifelong career. Bob was a pioneer and entrepreneur who, immediately after completing his apprenticeship, decided to travel. Bob's first stop was Sweden where he spent a couple of years working before moving to Toronto, and finally arriving in the Chicago, Detroit, and Cleveland area.

In 1955 Bob first met Evelyn, whom he married in 1959 after a gymnastics tournament in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. During their honeymoon Bob and Evelyn

traveled to Spokane, Seattle and Portland. The Seattle area, with all of its' glorious scenery, lakes and mountains, reminded Bob of Switzerland. In 1960, after their first child Richard was born, Bob & Evelyn moved to Seattle to raise their family - that's where Michael, Ruth and Linda were born.

In 1966 Bob, together with two other Swiss immigrants, Otto Staheli and John Jost, founded Ace Tool and Mold. This outfit would later merge with a manufacturing company and become Tempress, Inc. At Tempress, Bob used his expertise and creativity to design plastic parts, tools and molds for products which included the first Apple computer housing for Steve Jobs, Tempress' "Fish-On" line of fishing products, plus countless other products for the fishing, boating, computer, trucking and airline industries. Bob loved his work and passed on his love for his trade by working with the National Tooling and Machining Association and local community colleges to develop apprenticeship programs for young people interested in entering the mold-making industry. Many who served their apprenticeships at Tempress went on to good careers.

Bob was very outgoing and loved spending time with family and friends.

He was President of the Seattle Swiss Society for 10 years and a founding member of the Swiss Ski Club at Stevens Pass. Bob loved the Pacific Northwest and treasured his American citizenship. He loved to boat, fish, ski and entertain.

Bob was very proud of his Swiss heritage and passed the love of his homeland onto others. He enjoyed its music, chocolate, cheese, cuisine and culture. Throughout his life, Bob kept in touch with those he left in Switzerland through letters, telephone calls, and regular visits. He hosted many European visitors. Bob touched many lives and will be greatly missed by all who have known him. He was an honest, caring, hard worker who planned ahead and was well organized. Bob & Evelyn were fortunate to be able to visit many places around the world.

The Reutimann family would like to extend our love and gratitude to all of you who provided us with your love & support during these difficult times. Remembrances may be made to a charity of your choice. Please contact the Reutimann family regarding Bob's Memorial Service.

- See more at: <http://tinyurl.com/p52jewh>

Do you like our new masthead?

Many thanks to Brenda Sexton and her associates at Sexton Communications LLC.
253.315.2338 | Brenda.Sexton@comcast.net

Image courtesy Димитрий-5-Аверин



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