

SEATTLE SWISS SOCIETY INC.



March 2014

www.seattleswiss.org

seattleswissclub@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event	Location
Mar 16-17	Skiing	Stevens Pass
Mar 22	Fondue	Monroe Swiss Hall
Apr 13	Jass Party	Rueggis'
Jul 10-13	Sängerfest	Tacoma
Jul 27	1st of Aug	Edgebrook CC
Sept 6-7	Fall Hike	Stevens Pass
Oct	Fall Dinner	S Seattle Comm Coll
Dec 7	Christmas Party	Monroe Swiss Hall
Late Jan, 2015	General Meeting	

Our club newsletter and other announcements are available to you online at: www.seattleswiss.org

To stop your paper copy and to start receiving email notifications of newsletters and special events, please let us know at seattleswissclub@gmail.com or you may list your email address on the membership renewal form. Thanks for saving your club's time, effort and money! For those who do not have email, we will still mail out our newsletter.

Second Annual Seattle Swiss Ski-In

Swiss Ski Club at Stevens Pass

Sunday March 16 – Monday March 17

Members may arrive Sunday morning 8am or later. The Cabin must be cleaned and closed after skiing Monday (3:00 - 4:00)

Capacity: There is space for around 18 guests.

Cost: \$15 per person which goes to the Swiss Ski Club for guest fees.

Dinner: Cheese Fondue dinner. There will be a small fee of about \$8 - \$10 per person to cover the meal. We also request members to bring an appetizer or dessert to share and to bring your own drinks.

Bedding: Guests need to bring their own sleeping bags or bedding and pillows. The bunks have mattresses. You may want ear plugs...

Meals: Lunch & breakfast - bring whatever food you would enjoy for these meals. A lunch soup will be provided by the Swiss Ski Club. There are staples such as coffee, tea, hot chocolate, condiments, etc. supplied by the Swiss Ski Club.

Access: The cabin requires a short walk on a snow cat road. Snow boots are recommended. A backpack or sled will make it easier to transport your things.

Sign-up: **Thursday 3/13 sign-up deadline.**

seattleswissclub@gmail.com

Please Note: The Seattle Swiss Society does not carry insurance. By participating in this ski outing, you agree that it is your own responsibility to look out for your safety.

FONDUE PARTY! "Fondue isch guet und git a guet i Luune"

It's almost time for our annual Fondue Party!

Please join us for our traditional Swiss Cheese Fondue on **Saturday, March 22 at 3:00 PM** at the Monroe Swiss Hall.

Chef Roland Oberholzer has agreed once again to be in charge of preparing the fondue. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for guests.

We ask that you bring an appetizer, salad or dessert to share. Also please bring your fondue pots, burners and forks (all marked with your name). Without them we are unable to serve our many guests.

As you know, good Swiss Kirsch is an important ingredient for a nice fondue and donations will be greatly appreciated.

As a special treat the "Cascade Alphorns" will be playing for us. They are two Swiss-trained players who will raise the Swiss ambiance of our event to a new level. Bring your children and grand-children. They will enjoy watching and listening to these traditional instruments just as much as we will.

To sign up, please complete the **Reservation Form** on page 5, and let us know what you will bring.

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.

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JASS PARTY!

April 13th - 1:00 pm

This year's Jass Party will be held at the home of Martha & Tony Ruegg. Please call them at 425-747-3608 no later than April 14 if you would like to participate, and to find out what you can bring.

Martha & Tony Ruegg, 4218 135th Place SE, Bellevue

As you are aware, this party is to determine the Jass champion. However, if you have participated in the Jass lessons or are a player with limited experience, you are invited as well. We will have 1-2 tables for aspiring players and you may also do some kibitzing how the "masters" do it. Please let Tony know your ability level.

YOUR 2014 BOARD

President:	<i>Roland Oberholzer</i>	425-889-2411
Vice President:	<i>Rick Bützberger</i>	206-395-5153
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>	206-395-5153
Auditors:	<i>Jan Palmer</i>	<i>Simone Studer</i>

FALL DINNER RECAP

The Seattle Swiss Society Annual Fall Dinner was held on Friday, October 25, 2013. Fifty members and friends enjoyed delicious appetizers and dinner prepared by Chef Robert Houot and his staff. The dinner started with a salad of baby greens with goat cheese crostini and raspberry vinaigrette, followed by a main course of roast pork loin Normande with apple brandy capped off with Apple tart Alsacienne for dessert. It was a special evening for the members sharing good food, wine and stories. The Club wishes to extend their gratitude for all those who helped make this evening special.

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

The annual general meeting of the Seattle Swiss Society was held on January 31, 2014 at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church.

We had 39 members in attendance. We reviewed the past events of 2013 and presented the calendar of the scheduled events for 2014. The new Board consisting of President Roland Oberholzer, Vice President & Newsletter Editor Rick Bützberger, Treasurer Patty Richert, Events Chairperson Margret Aebersold and Secretary Dick Reutimann were elected for the 2014 term. Philippe Goetschel recognized outgoing President Hans Saxer for the decades of service he dedicated to The Seattle Swiss Society.

Once the official business was concluded we enjoyed Hanspeter Aebersold's delicious traditional "Würstsalat" served with wine, bread and a selection of delicious desserts and coffee.

The Board would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who attended and contributed.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Chrüsimüsi

After all the excitement of the Superbowl, Olympic Games and let's not forget our general meeting, we are ready for another year of fun! Attached to this email you will find the treasurer's report for the 2013 year. Let us know if you have questions.

The vision of the new board of the Seattle Swiss Society:

A Swiss heritage might not be as meaningful to our young people today, but as one matures, it takes on a greater value. We need to keep our traditions alive and pass them on as a part of our legacy.

In that spirit, we, the board, will try to make your club a fun, interesting and friendly place, where young and old can be together with "sinesgliche" (like-mindedness) and foster the wonderful culture and spirit of Switzerland.

As mandated by the membership, the board will work on a new directory that will be available only to the members of the Seattle Swiss Society. It will include names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses. However, you will be able to decide how much and what sort of information you would like to provide. Over the next few months, we will gather that information from participating members. Be assured, the information will only be used to facilitate communication among members in the club.

We also will make an effort to reduce the number of newsletters we send out via "snail mail". We send more than 100 copies of each edition of our newsletter via mail, all of which cost us money and labor, plus it is wasteful. For this reason we encourage all of you to provide us with your email address so that we may notify you of the most up-to-date details of the Seattle Swiss Society happenings. Also, the electronic version of the newsletter is in color, and can be sized to your preference for easy reading.

We all are looking forward to seeing you at one of our next get-togethers.

Bis bald! Roland Oberholzer

VIOLINMAKER TOUR

Henry and Debbie Bishofberger hosted the Seattle Swiss Society for a violinmaking tour on Monday, December 10, 2013. There were roughly 32 members and friends in attendance.

The event began with the participants enjoying wine and an assortment of appetizers specially prepared by Roland Oberholzer. Henry opened his workshop to the group and did a great job sharing his knowledge mixed with his sense of humor to educate us about violinmaking. Participants were able to watch as Henry showed the tools, materials and skills necessary to build quality violins and musical instruments. Debbie prepared a delicious pasta dinner and salad for the group to enjoy after the tour of Henry's workshop.

The Seattle Swiss Society wishes to extend their gratitude to Henry and Debbie Bishofberger for opening their home for this special evening.

SINGING AND YODELING FESTIVAL

July 10 - 13, Tacoma, WA

swiss-sangerfest-tacoma-2014.org

LINKS & STUFF

Seattle German resources: www.seattleaufdeutsch.com

From Gerard Wirz: www.iloveseatle.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

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

CHRISTMAS PARTY RECAP

The annual Christmas party was held at the Monroe Swiss Hall on Sunday December 8, 2013. There were roughly 70 members and children combined between the Seattle and Monroe Swiss clubs.

This year there were 18 children who came to share their Christmas wishes with Santa Lonn Turner and bake cookies with Roland. All of the children received special goody bags specially prepared by Margret Aebersold after their visit with Santa.

The luncheon was delicious thanks to the Aebersolds who donated and baked the ham and the Rueggs who baked and contributed the turkey. Thanks again to the Wehrles, who have made it a tradition to donate the annual Christmas tree. The Seattle Swiss Society would also like to thank everyone who contributed and helped to make this a fun and successful event.

Philippe Goetschel

Honorary Consul

Consulate of Switzerland



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AUSLÄNDER CORRESPONDENCE

This ausländer correspondent is corresponding from someplace even more ausland than usual!

While many of you watched our favourite Swiss athletes – Dario Cologna, Lara Gut and Iouri Podladtchikov – compete in Sochi on television or online, I was on the job in the thick of it.

The experience was priceless! I was privileged enough to attend an early men's hockey game - Switzerland versus Sweden. I was so thrilled to see a little piece of home out there on the ice. A fan was very boldly representing Switzerland with his blue Edelweiss shirt and an enormous Swiss flag that he waved with pride over the heads of the spectators in the two rows in front of him.

I found it humbling that in great big Russia, there was a man whose representation of his nation overshadowed nearly all others'. We live on an enormous planet, yet on some very special occasions we are reminded how small it can be. Switzerland is a fraction the size of the Russian Federation but when I saw that man I felt the spirit, culture and customs of our country were alive on a world stage.

For nearly two weeks that same man waved his Swiss flag around the Olympic Park. He visited the House of Switzerland where his picture was taken by onlookers and shared on many social media platforms. His spirit was infectious!

We Swiss stick together as we root for our athletes; our cheers are heard all over the world. Our traditions and customs tie us together and it's comforting to know that we can find this unique Swiss bond in any city around this very big, but incredibly small world.

- Samantha Oberholzer

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.

HONORARY CONSUL'S CORNER

- In early February the Swiss people voted to limit immigration of EU citizens to Switzerland. This contradicts the bilateral treaty of free people movement within the EU signed by Switzerland. Will the EU retaliate and cancel some of the other 143 bilateral treaties in place?

Businesses fear not being able to attract sufficient talent in the future, while rural Swiss feel the recent immigration wave is changing its national character. Swiss leaders want an economy-friendly quota system.

Early 2014 big events: The World Economic Forum in Davos, the Syrian peace negotiations in Montreux and the Iran Conference in Geneva. Switzerland scored a record 7th place in the winter Olympics and our president and foreign minister Didier Burkhalter met with the US VP Joe Biden about becoming the key negotiator as the head of the [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe](#).

- Former Microsoft and Expedia executive Suzi LeVine has been nominated US Ambassador to Switzerland pending US Senate confirmation. I've worked with Suzi who, being the outgoing and accessible woman she is, will make a great Ambassador.
- Joke: "What's the best part about living in Switzerland?." "Not sure, but the flag is a big plus."

- Philippe Goetschel

MARCH 22 FONDUE RESERVATION FORM

Please complete and send with your check made out to **Seattle Swiss Society** no later than March 16, 2013.

I/we will attend the Fondue Party on **Saturday, March 22**, at the **Monroe Swiss Hall**. Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ for _____ members _____ guests (\$20 members, \$25 guests)

Name(s) as you would like them on the name tags: _____

We will bring our children: Name(s) and age: _____
No charge for members under age 12.

I/ we will bring: (please let us know how many of each you will bring)

_____ Fondue Pot _____ Burner _____ Fondue Forks _____ Bottle of Kirsch

Appetizer (ready to serve) _____ Salad _____ Dessert _____

Please mail with check to:

Patty Richert
4122 135th Place SE
Bellevue, WA 98006

We encourage carpooling!

I/we am/are unable to drive to Monroe,
_____ **Please arrange for a ride for me/us.**

Name: _____

Phone: _____

2014 Membership Dues

If you have not already paid (except Honorary Members), please complete this form and send it together with your check made out to **Seattle Swiss Society** to:

Patty Richert
4122 135th PI SE
Bellevue, WA 98006

I / we enclose the following dues: **Family or Couple: \$30.00**
Single: \$20.00

First & Last Name(s): _____

I/we have a new address, phone number, e-mail address (please note any changes below):

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Image courtesy Димитрий-5-Аверин



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