Arizona Swiss Society

VALLEY eCHo

Newsletter

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WINTER 2015/2016



Grindelwald

1st of August Celebration

Hall of Fame Museum in Phoenix
Sunday, August 2nd 2015














Message from the President



Dear Members and Friends of the Arizona Swiss Society, Christmas and New Year's are approaching with big steps. Cooler temperatures have arrived, which are perfect for enjoying the outdoors, perhaps for a hike in the desert. I already look forward to the spirit of the Holiday season. My kids will be amazed by the sights and sounds of Christmas decorations in our neighborhood. I'm sure they'll also like the Swiss style Christmas cookies…

I hope you are enjoying your Christmas shopping, if any, and that this newsletter finds you in good health and spirit.

This year's Swiss Fall Fest was held at the Golden Eagle Park in Fountain Hills. We had a very nice turnout of almost 110 members and guests. Every one enjoyed our traditional menu of Swiss style sausages, Raclette, salads, and beer. A special Thank You goes to Ellen Muskatevc for entertaining our youngest members, our Activity Chairs Susan and Kurt and all the helpers who supported them, and Dave Long for finding and reserving the beautiful location. Max Haechler, Chairman of the Arizona Swiss Foundation, proudly awarded the yearly Scholarship Awards – congratulations to the awardees Katya, Kyle, and Amaelia!

In the spirit of the season, this year's Christmas Party will be held at the impressive and festive Arizona Biltmore Resort. That's right, we'll try something new! Look forward to a mouth-watering buffet, Santa Claus and Misses Claus bringing gifts to our youngest members, and free ice skating!

Last but not least, allow me to reiterate that we are looking for two new and inspired Board Members. First, we are looking for an Activity Chair to support Susan and Kurt in the organization of our events. Second, we also need a new President, as I have decided to step down by the next Annual Meeting. I can assure you that both positions are fun and rewarding, and I would like to encourage interested members to contact me at any time by email: christian_bucher@yahoo.com

On behalf of the Board of the Arizona Swiss Society – Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones.

Sincerely,

Chris Bucher, President

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Activities in Grindelwald



Winter wonderland

The two ski regions of First and Kleine Scheidegg – Männlichen – Wengen offer 160 kilometers of slopes with around 30 lifts reaching up to an altitude of 2500 m. The Schilthorn near Mürren, also part of the Jungfrau region ski arena, even reaches 2971 meters. But the most spectacular slope of the region is without a doubt the Lauberhorn slope near Wengen, popularized by the World Cup circus.



Choose from 80 kilometers of winter walking trails with views across seven four-thousand meter peaks and majestic glaciers, as well as 60 km of toboggan runs, including, at 15 km, one of the longest toboggan runs in the Alps from the Faulhorn into the valley. Naturally Grindelwald also has many additional winter sports to offer.

Things to do

Discover **Snow-Shoe Trekking** - guided treks on traditional snowshoes! Try a one day trek around snow covered villages or make a two day trek with a fun-filled fondue evening and overnight accommodation in a high-Alpine mountain hut. Treks are organized by the Ski & Snowboarding Schools, the Tourist Information Centers and various sports shops. The technique is simple - almost as easy as walking, so rent your snowshoes and get trekking!



The Bodmi recreation area in the heart of Grindelwald is a winter sports paradise where children and adults can enjoy participating in snow sports in a safe environment.
With its sunny location in the village of Grindelwald and its beginner's lift, the practice area at Bodmi is the perfect place for beginners of all ages. Take those first steps on the snow with the help of the conveyor belts and rope lifts. These, along with the platter lift, enable learners to make fast progress.





Jungfraujoch – Top of Europe: Europe's highest railway station at 3,454 m above sea level



Tradition and Culture



Lace-making is still practiced by women from the Lauterbrunnen Valley and in Grindelwald, the **"Velogemel"** - a wooden snow bike - is still produced by hand, according to the original plans dating from 1911. Traditional costume dances, flag waving and folk music are an important part of the Jungfrau Region's cultural life.

Top Events



World Snow Festival – during the course of a week, Swiss and international teams of artists hew and construct figures and sculptures from meter high snow blocks that have been provided (January).

International Lauberhorn ski races (January)

“Velogemel” World Championship – every year a world championship on snow bikes takes place in Grindelwald, a speciality to Grindelwald (February).

Snow Open air, always held at the end of the winter season on the Kleine Scheidegg (March).



sources: www.myswitzerland.com www.grindelwald.ch

RABELIECHTLI!!!! **- Umzüge** "Räben" lantern procession

Second Saturday in November



In the Canton of Zurich, and more recently in other regions of German speaking Switzerland, processions which feature decorated, hollowed out fodder beets containing a lighted candle have become customary.
This custom can be traced back to the early 1920s. A very special form of this celebration has developed in Richterswil, situated on Lake Zurich. On the second Saturday evening in November, approximately a thousand children and grownups proceed through the darkened streets with individual lanterns or huge structures made up of hundreds of lighted beets portraying houses, people, and objects. The facades of the houses are also decorated with lights.

The procession, which moves along a predetermined route, is led by a group of women dressed in black. They represent "the churchgoers of Richterswilerberg". Tradition says that around 1850 they lit the way to the evening service in the village church with their lighted beets. Though research has shown that this lovely legend may not be true, this does not dampen the enthusiasm of the participants nor the
general harmony of the evening in the least.
www.myswitzerland.com



Quiz 2015 Arizona Swiss Society



1) Which Swiss truck manufacturer did the Mercedes-Benz truck company buy out in the 1980's?

A: Scania B: Berna

C: Saurer

D: None of them, Switzerland never had a truck manufacturer.

There were a few trucks, buses and trolleys manufacturers in Switzerland.
Saurer was in Arbon, TG; Berna in Olten, SO; and there was also FBW in Wetzikon, ZH.
Saurer Motor Company in Plainfield NJ produced licensed Swiss Saurer trucks between 1911 and 1922, then Mack trucks bought them out.
Saurer bought out the Swiss Berna truck company in the 1980's and kept producing under their famous "Berna" brand name.
Saurer- Berna D330 LKW
Saurer produced in ? the last 2, 3 and 4 axles trucks, many of them are still in service today.
The last Saurer production was the Swiss military version 10DM produced 1983-87.

2) If the engine coolant leaks into the engine oil, then the engine oil

A: appears milky B: becomes foamy

C: turns black D: none of these

3) The information provided by the oxygen (O2) sensor to the feedback control system is about the

A: Air-fuel ratio B: Air temperature

C: Air flow speed D: Exhaust gas volume

4) Which company won the Le Mans 24-Hour Race 5 times from 1951 to 1958?

A: Mercedes B: Ferrari

C: Jaguar D: Bugatti

5) Who won an Oscar for her role in the 1989 film Driving Miss Daisy?

A: Judi Dench B: Jane Fonda

C: Jessica Tandy D: Cloris Leachman

6) In which city did Henry Ford establish a car factory in 1899?

A: Detroit B: Chicago

C: New York D: Indianapolis

7) Which hybrid car was best selling in 2014 in the US?

A: Honda Accord Hybrid B: Tesla Model S

C: Chevy Volt **D: Toyota Prius**

8) Until Henry Ford formed his own company in 1903, which great inventor-friend employed him?

A: Albert Einstein B: Theodor Roosevelt

C: Thomas Edison D: Louis Chevrolet

9) Who is Sbarro?

A: US-NY style pizza chain B: Swiss car manufacturer

C: Both of them D: None of them

10) What makes more and bigger holes in the Emmentaler Swiss cheese?

A: Higher temperature cooking the milk

C: Feeding the c ows with organic grass

B: More hay particles in the milk D: None of them

11) Which former off-road Swiss Army vehicles are still driving around in Phoenix?

A: Mercedes Puch **B: Pinzgauer**

C: Haflinger

D: All served in the Swiss Army, but none of them are driving around in Phoenix.



12) Is it legal to make a left turn on a red light in the US?

A: Never

B: Only if you turn in a one-way street also from a two-way street.

C: Only if both streets are one-way.

D: It depends on the state law.

A: Never in South Dakota, Connecticut, Maine, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Carolina, the District of Columbia, Guam, and New York City.

B: 38 states including Arizona in the majority of the US.
For example: in Downtown Phoenix within the one-way roads.

C: Even from a two-way road to a one-way road is legal in 5 states:
Alaska, Idaho, Michigan, Oregon and Washington.

2015 Copyright Arizona Swiss Society Kurt + Susan + Kurt

Dimitri Switzerland most famous living clown is celebrating his 80th birthday



Dimitri, was born on September 18th 1935 in Ascona Ticino. At the age of seven he decided that he wanted to become a clown. He became an apprentice potter and at the same time he took theater classes and studied music as well as ballet and acrobatics. Then he went to Paris where he studied mime with Etienne Decroux and became a member of Marcel Marceau's troupe. He appeared as "Auguste" with the famous white clown Maïss at Circus Medrano in Paris. In 1959 he appeared for the first time in a program of his own in Ascona and soon followed tours throughout the world, as well as three tours with Circus Knie.

This year also marks 40 years of the founding of Dimitri's school for physical theater. It is in Verscio, a village at the entrance of the Centovalli valley in southern Switzerland where he also lives. The academy is now part of the Swiss school system.

"Without laughter you can survive, but not live"
says Dimitri, adding:
"The Swiss are more humorous and original than they're often given credit for, since they embody a mix of the urbanite and peasant, and if you look at the original meaning of the word 'clown' in English it means a simpleton, a peasant". His performing style includes his trademark face and the use of musical instruments and only a few props. At 80, he still relentlessly paces the stage. The secret to his excellent physical condition is three hours of daily rehearsals.



Dimitri is still considered one of the world's best clowns who not only makes his public laugh but also deeply touches his audience with his poetic mind and generous heart.







I am a dreamer. It's always about things that can be achieved not fantasy - like flying.



Dimitri, undoubtedly the most famous Swiss clown now shares the stage with his two daughters and his grandchildren. Recently for the first time as a group, "Dimitris" appeared in the Lucerne Culture and Congress Center.

more informations on:
www.teatrodimitri.ch www.clowndimitri.ch

Le 25e anniversaire do la mort de Friedrich Dürrenmatt

Biographie



Friedrich Dürrenmatt, fils de pasteur, naît en 1921 à Konolfingen dans l'Emmental et décède à Neuchâtel en 1990, où il a vécu 38 ans. Il a avant tout acquis une notoriété internationale avec ses pièces de théâtre La Visite de la Vieille Dame (1956) et Les Physiciens (1962), ainsi qu'à travers les adaptations cinématographiques de ses ro mans policiers tels que Le Juge et son Bourreau (1952) ou La Promesse (1958). Ses essais philosophiques et son œuvre tardive autobiographique, de même que son œuvre pictural - réalisé en parallèle à son travail d'écriture - sont moins connus. L'auteur a recu de nombreux prix au cours de sa carrière. Il s'est marié à deux re prises et de sa première union sont nés trois enfants.

En 2015, le CDN fête ses 15 ans d'existence et commémore le 25e anniversaire de la mort de Friedrich Dürrenmatt.

L'année 2015 marque à la fois le 25e anniversaire de la mort de Friedrich Dürrenmatt et les 15 ans du Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel, inauguré en septembre 2000. Ecrivain et dramaturge reconnu dans le monde entier à travers ses pièces de théâtre et ses romans policiers, Friedrich Dürrenmatt a également peint et dessiné durant toute sa vie. Ses gouaches et ses dessins, principalement réalisés à l'encre de Chine, font souvent référence à des motifs bibliques ou mythologiques. Dürrenmatt s'installe dans le Vallon de l'Ermitage en 1952. Après son décès, la Confédération suisse invite Mario Botta à concevoir le Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel afin de mettre en valeur son oeuvre pictural et littéraire et continuer à faire vivre sa pensée universelle.

More information: www.cdn.ch

Jörg Schneider died on August 22, 2015 in Zurich at the age of 80



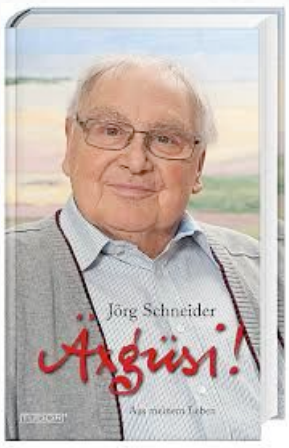
He was born on February 7, 1935 in Zurich
Jörg Schneider was a Swiss stage and film actor starring usually in Swiss German language cinema and television and stage productions.

Jörg Schneider was an outstanding artist amiable, intelligent and a sensitive person and doubter.



Swiss drama film **Usfahrt Oerlike** in which he played a main character alongside Matthias Gnädinger (he died on April 3 2015) was released on January 2015. The heart-warming story of an unusual friendship touched the audience to tears and the film was selected as the winner of the film for "Prix du Public." During the shooting Schneider did not know at this time he had liver cancer.





Äxgüsi! : Aus meinem Leben. Autobiography (audio book) on occasion of Jörg Schneider's 80th birthday.
Tudor Recording, Zurich 2015, ISBN 978-3-037765-18-0.

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Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year



German Christmas Service 2015

Deutschsprachiger Weihnachtsgottesdienst

Sonntag, den 20. Dezember 2015

Mountain View Lutheran Church in Ahwatukee

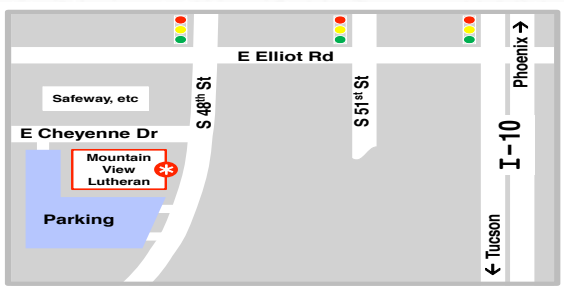


16.10 Uhr – Weihnachtsliedersingen

16.30 Uhr – Weihnachtsgottesdienst

Anschließend gemütliches Zusammensein

Gebäckspenden sind willkommen



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11002 South 48th Street
Phoenix, AZ

Kontakte:
heike.s.davis@gmail.com
(480) 940-5793
ingeborg07@hotmail.com
(480) 961-4649

Trudy.wells USA Pro Challenge 2015 BMC Team Switzerland – the BEST –



When the Pro Challenge Racing team speeds into Steamboat, into the fan's hearts and races back out the next day, at blistering speed across Colorado, excitement is in the air once again; pure Rocky Mountain fun. The 2015 Race started in Steamboat – 2 starts – 1 finish, plus a Cinderella story: Colorado's Taylor Phinney riding for BMC Switzerland, only a year ago couldn't race due to a serious accident. . . a possibility his leg needing to be amputated. Taylor's loud scream when he crossed the finish line surprised even himself. He won the first stage.



For 3 days my husband, the American, and I were seen in red and white Swiss colors, our way of showing support to the BMC team, one of the best in the world; the BMC Company – the owner Andy Rihs is Swiss. Switzerland splashed across the BMC cars and Bus gave me a feeling close to the land of the famous Alps, close to home; my Swiss pride soared. Bicycles are not a part of my world; however, to be in Steamboat you become a wildly enthusiastic fan, myself mostly cheering the BMC racers. Two from Switzerland: **Michael Schär,** the Swiss National Road Race Champion 2013 and **Kilian Frankiny** from the Wallis he told me.



The BMC Team was dominant all week; in Denver on the 7th and final day: Rohan Dennis AUS, Number 1 rider for BMC Switzerland celebrating as the tour's winner. Brent Bookwalter, USA riding for BMC, was second.

Again, the BMC team won the team competition.
From this fan, the prize for stand-out - best-looking - red white and black jerseys.



Trudy Wells-Meyer [Swiss born, writing in my second language]
7843 E. Via Marina,
Scottsdale AZ 85258
602-920-1541



Kilian Frankiny from Wallis



Michael Schär



Andy Rihs owner of the BMC Team Switzerland

Club News / Sunshine Committee



Happy Birthday to Fred Kohler

He celebrated his 75th birthday in Switzerland
Our best wishes for many more happy and above all healthy years.



Congratulations



Katya Zinsli, Kyle Douglass and Amaelia Haechler
have been awarded a 2015 Scholarship
from the Arizona Swiss Foundation.





We Are Looking For A New Activity Chair

The work for the **Activity Chair** will be with all the planning and preparation for the different events during the year. Kurt and Susan are doing such a great job, but they need more help.
Please contact Susan or Kurt at (602) 687-7871

We Welcome New Member

Gruber Dora Margrit
Long Brigit
Lyon Michael
Medeiros Scott
Perret Eliane
Zehhauser Nicole & Frederic

Upcoming events

RESERVE THE DATE

Christmas-Party
December 13th 2015



Annual Meeting
February 14th 2016

Advertise in the Valley eCHo

Business card size	$ 10.00	per insert,	(no discount)
¼ page	$ 25.00	per insert,	pay 4 and get 10% off
½ page	$ 50.00	per insert,	pay 4 and get 10% off
Full page	$ 100.00	per insert,	pay 4 and get 10% off

Fall-Fest









Sunday October 25th 2015

At the Golden Eagle Park in Fountain Hills





















Children's page

Make your Christmas Present Yourself



What you can do with a can: Christmas Lights, Flowerpots, Penholder etc.





What you need

- One or more empty can
- A hammer and a nail.
  Be careful with the hammer and the nail.
- Paper, glue, colors, yarn depending on what you like to make



After decorating the can you can fill it with a candle, flowers, herbs or what ever you have and like.
Your Christmas present is finished. Have fun!







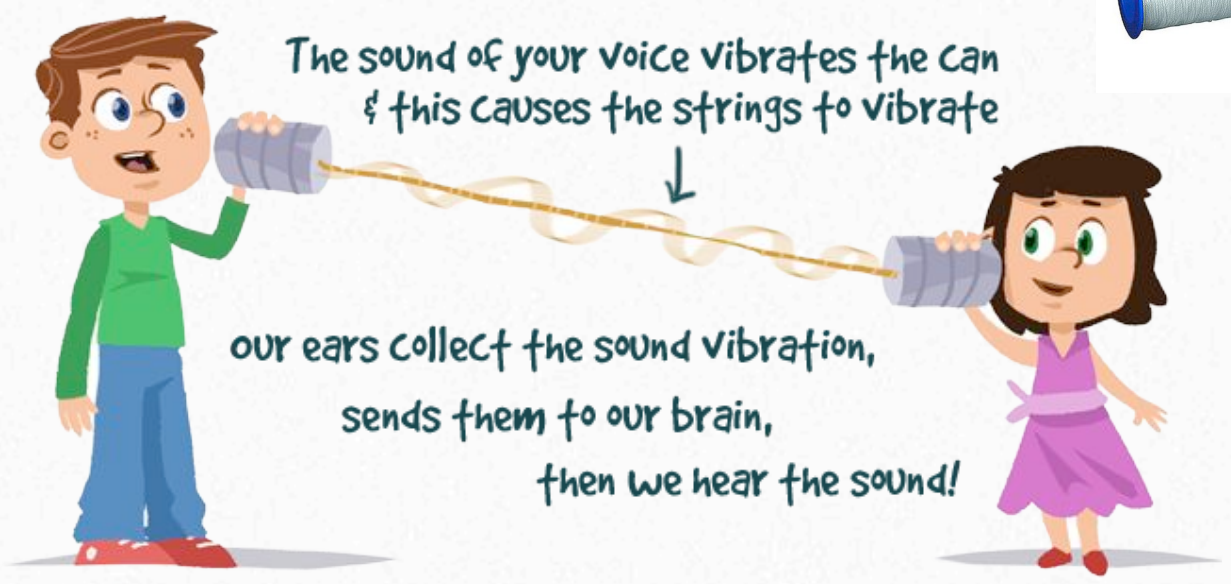


How to make a can phone

What you need

- 2 empty, clean cans (make sure there are no sharp edges or they are glued with tape). Empty old yogurt containers work as asubstitute
- Ten to twelve yards slim package cord or nylon thread (old kite string etc.) 1 pair of scissors to shorten the cord
- A hammer and a nail to make the hole





Board for 2015

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Vice President	John Thornton
Treasurer	David Campell
Secretary	Nancy Tossell
Activity Chairs	Susan Oake Kurt Schittli Ron Tossell
Membership Chair	Max Kuenzle
Past President	Doris Torres

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Swiss Consul Emeritus	Max Haechler

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