Arizona Swiss Society

VALLEY eCHo

Newsletter

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WINTER 2017/2018



Saas-Fee



1st of August Celebration

At the private home of our members
Doris and Steve Torres
Sunday, August 6th 2017



































Message from the President



Greetings members and friends of the Arizona Swiss Society:





I trust you have all had a marvelous summer, perhaps spending time back in Switzerland. Cooler temperatures are here and we are already into our lovely November.

I'd like to report on Swiss Fall Fest, our version of Oktoberfest, which was well attended this year. Susan and Kurt managed the event with their usual aplomb. Max brought his raclette machines that he and I manned, Fran and Gabe brought potatoes, and numerous volunteers helped to decorate, cook sausages, and others brought side dishes. We had two kegs of beer and the larger one came with the wrong tap so Doris headed back into Scottsdale to exchange taps. Later on Kurt wasn't feeling well so Doris took him to the emergency room so you can officially call her Saint Doris, Our Saviour of Beer and Kurt. Kurt recovered a day or so later. I blame the unexpected lack of electricity at the event site which meant that Kurt couldn't be a DJ, causing him intense frustration. The beer, cervelats, cheeses, side dishes and conversation all made for a fun time together.



The kids had fun with pumpkin carving, a lawn game, and face painting under Katya's care. The tattoos that I introduced last year for the kids were so popular with the adults that I ordered enough for all attendees so that anyone could get a temporary Swiss flag tattoo.

Our next event is the Christmas party at the Paradise Valley Country Club.

Until then, chus.

John Thornton











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Culture & Activities in Saas-Fee

Winter Wonderland



Saas-Fee is a top Swiss ski resort. The Saas Valley is surrounded by no less than eighteen mountains exceeding 4,000 meters. The beautiful mountains and glaciers are amazing. It has to be rated as the Alpine ski resort with the most reliable snow cover.

You can even ski on the glaciers of Saas-Fee in the summer. That's why most of the world's skiing teams train here. But there are also plenty of other ways to enjoy the Free Republic of Holidays in Saas-Fee during the summer months. The 4,000 meter peaks, via ferrata trails, hiking trails and biking routes all offer hundreds of opportunities for fun and memorable days in the mountains. The Saas Valley has it all: sunshine, free cable-ways, a unique landscape of mountains and glaciers, and a wealth of wellness and culinary delights.

Things to do



Skiing or Snowboarding

Due to its 150 kilometers of slopes, it attracts skiers and snow-boarders of all levels. If you are looking for a little more direction, ski schools and private lessons are available throughout the winter season.



Swiss Ski School Saas-Fee

The ski schools are family-friendly, personable, and flexible. No matter if you are young, a beginner or advanced skier, with the teams of lively ski certified instructors and a whole range of different courses, you can learn it and will have fun.



Curling in Saas-Fee

In addition to the old-style curling, the Curling is also very popular. This team sport is also suitable for beginners. A lot of fun is guaran-teed! Curling in Saas-Fee is available daily from mid-December until the end of February on a natural ice-skating rink only. Upon request, a player of the Curling Club can give some training in French, German or English, depending on the origin of the guests.

Snowtubing

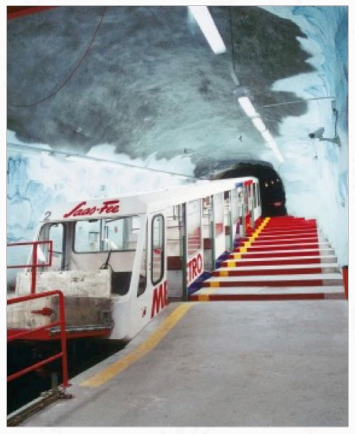
Great fun on rubber inner tubes. While snowtubing, you rush on a rubber inner tube, called Snow Tube, down a special run, called the "Snow Tube". You don't have to sit in a special position. If you feel like it, lie on your stomach and enjoy the ride. You experience the greatest fun when the Snow Tube turns left and right and spins in circles during the descent.



Swiss Glacier World Saas-Fee



The Metro Alpine is the highest underground train in the world. From Saas-Fee you can reach the valley station with the Alpine Express or the Felskinn aerial cable car.
Right beside the Ice Pavillion is the world's highest revolving restaurant that provides full spectacular panoramic (360-degree) views of the Saas valley's mountain and surrounding glacier world in an hour, while the cozy coffee bar serves trendy hot and cold drinks with relaxing background music.







Ice Pavilion

High above Saas-Fee, at an altitude of 3,500 m, lies the entrance to the heart of the Fee Glacier. The Ice Pavilion was completely revamped in the spring of 2016. Visitors to the ice grotto can now experience an avalanche simulation with lighting effects and a shock wave that reverberates through their entire body. A 70-meter long tunnel leads into the amazing glacier's ancient layer of ice to what is most probably the world's largest ice pavilion. The over 5,500 cubic meter large grotto, located at the Mittelallalin stop of Metro Alpine, the sub terranean Alpine train, at an altitude of 3,456 meters above sea level, offers an in-depth view of the interior of the glacier.
Various ice sculptures, alternating exhibitions, and events make the ice grotto a real place of adventure. It contains an array of information on life on the mountain and the history of the glacier itself. Even reaching the ice grotto by means of the subterranean cable car Metro Alpine, which visitors board at the "Felskinn" station above Saas-Fee, is a real adventure.

Top Event



Further information: www.sfff.ch

Saas-Fee Film Festival 2 - 8 April 2018
The Saas-Fee Filmfest features films in the Cinema Rex from Switzerland and its neighboring countries, where the languages of Switzerland are spoken: Italian, French, German, Romantsch.
The selection is focused on free, personal, innovative cinematic approaches and strong, moving stories which challenge viewing and thought habits. The feature film program is presented as a competition. The best film verdict will be delivered by a three-person professional jury.





Auslandschweizer-Organisation
Organisation des Suisses de l'étranger
Organizzazione degli Svizzeri all'estero
Organisaziun dals Svizzers a l'ester

MEDIENMITTEILUNG
Auslandschweizer-Organisation
Bern, 19. September 2017

Banken und Auslandschweizer: Der Ständerat bestätigt die Kehrtwende

Ein historischer Schritt: Während das Problem fast zehn Jahre lang unlösbar erschien, haben sich Stände- und Nationalrat beim Thema Bankenproblematik in der aktuellen Herbstsession des Parlaments zugunsten der Auslandschweizer ausgesprochen. Der Ständerat hat heute in Bern eine von Filippo Lombardi (CVP/TI) eingereichte Motion mit 23 zu 14 Stimmen bei 6 Enthaltungen angenommen, die verlangt, dass alle Auslandschweizer ein Konto bei einer systemrelevanten Bank eröffnen können.

Bei seiner Wortergreifung im Ständerat hat Filippo Lombardi daran erinnert, dass die Banken als Branche keinerlei Lösung angeboten haben. Weiter hat er in Erinnerung gerufen, dass die Annahme einer Motion noch keine Gesetzesänderung darstellt, aber dass der Bundesrat dazu verpflichtet werden muss, das Problem zu analysieren und konkrete Vorschläge auszuarbeiten.

Die Auslandschweizer-Organisation (ASO) kann diese politische Einsicht nur begrüssen und sich der Auffassung anschliessen, dass vor dem Hintergrund, dass die systemrelevanten Banken (die «too big to fail» sind) bei finanziellen Problemen oder gar im Konkursfall de facto von einer impliziten Bundesgarantie profitieren, im Gegenzug auch dazu bewegt werden müssten, Auslandschweizer als Kunden zu akzeptieren.

Am 11. September hatte der Nationalrat (NR) seinerseits mit überwältigender Mehrheit (178 zu 4 Stimmen bei 7 Enthaltungen) eine von der Aussenpolitischen Kommission des Nationalrats eingereichte Motion angenommen, die fordert, dass PostFinance ihre Universaldienstleistungen für den Zahlungsverkehr überarbeitet und auf die Auslandschweizer ausweitet, um diesen die Erfüllung ihrer Pflichten zu ermöglichen.

ASO-Präsident Remo Gysin betont, dass «Banken weltweit auf der Suche nach Kunden sind und gleichzeitig unseren Landsleuten im Ausland das Leben schwer machen. Ein Geschäftsmodell, das die Auslandschweizerinnen und Auslandschweizer ausgrenzt, ist diskriminierend, diskreditiert den Finanzplatz und schadet der Schweiz.»

Seit neun Jahren steht das Thema Banken im Mittelpunkt der Diskussionen des Auslandschweizerrates (ASR). Weder die wiederholten Anfragen an die zuständigen Departemente des Bundes noch die Kontaktaufnahme mit den Schweizer Banken, der Schweizerischen Bankiervereinigung oder dem Schweizerischen Bankenombudsmann haben zu einer einvernehmlichen Lösung geführt. Für die Beseitigung des Problems ist daher eine Gesetzesänderung erforderlich.

Selbstverständlich wird die ASO ihre an ihrem Kongress in Basel präsentierte Strategie, die auf drei Schwerpunkten beruht, weiterverfolgen. Doch die Abstimmungen in National- und Ständerat zeigen, dass nun der Bundesrat gefordert ist, gesunden Menschenverstand walten zu lassen und eine von 10 % der Schweizer Bürger erlittene Ungerechtigkeit zu korrigieren.

Auslandschweizer-Organisation
Ariane Rustichelli – Direktorin
+41 31 356 61 00 - rustichelli@aso.ch
Die ASO ist eine politisch und konfessionell neutrale, unabhängige Nichtregierungsorganisation. Sie vertritt und wahrt die Interessen der Auslandschweizer und wird vom Bund als Sprachrohr der Fünften Schweiz anerkannt. Die ASO setzt sich seit 1916 für die Auslandschweizer ein.
Mehr zu diesem Thema: www.aso.ch.

Fall-Fest

Golden Eagle Park Fountain Hills
Sunday, October 22nd 2017
Over 58 people including helpers
attended the Picnic















As always we had a great time!

But be advised: This happens because of Susan and Kurt's hard work. They have organized all these events in such a perfect way for many years. However, they can never enjoy the events the same way as members can. We understand they can't do it forever and we need to give them a break. We desperately need new members to take over some of their duties!

Please help!

We need "consumers" to step up, or we might have to reconsider our events...

Arizona Swiss Society
2017 Annual Quiz

(Group) Name:

1	The highest recorded temperature in Arizona was in: a) Bullhead City b) Lake Havasu City c) Yuma	
2	Where in Switzerland is the highest elevation official house, owned by the Swiss Alpine Club (SAC), celebrating its 100-year anniversary in 2017? a) Matterhorn-Solvayhütte b) Wildstrubel-Hütte c) Jungfraujoch-Top of Europe	
3	The size of Arizona compared to Switzerland is: a) About the same size b) About 7 times larger c) About 3 times larger	
4	Arizona is home to the only venomous lizard in the U.S. a) Mexican beaded lizard b) Desert iguana c) Gila monster	
5	“Tête de Moine” cheese and the beautiful Freiberger horses come from which canton in Switzerland? a) Waadt b) Friburg c) Jura	
6	Meteor crater in northern Arizona: a) Was used to train NASA astronauts for Apollo missions to the moon b) Was a setting for parts of 2001: A Space Odyssey c) Is a national monument	
7	The largest waterfall in Europe per volume of water passing over it is: a) Reichenbach Falls b) Staubbach Falls c) Rhine Falls	
8	The largest waterfall in Arizona is: a) Grand Falls b) Havasu Falls c) Mooney Falls	
9	How many different kinds of card decks are played for the Swiss Jass? a) German, French b) German, French, Italian c) German, French, Italian, Rumantsch	
10	The largest natural (not manmade) lake in Arizona is: a) Stoneman Lake b) Bartlett Lake c) Mormon Lake	
11	Which Bundesrat is resigning this year in Switzerland? a) Doris Leuthard b) Didier Burkhalter c) Christoph Blocher	
12	The deepest dam in the world, located in Arizona, is: a) Parker Dam b) Hoover Dam c) Glen Canyon Dam	

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Total

The winner got 7 rights, then 6 people with 6 rights!

You will have a second change. The next Newsletter will give you the answer. Enjoy!

Club News / Sunshine Committee



Congratulation

Max Haechler

He has been re-elected as one of the 7 Delegates for the Council of the Swiss Abroad for the term 2017-2021

Swiss Jass Club

You Can't be Swiss If You Don't Jass



What a great Jass party we had! The weather was perfect and we could play outside. Where else can you do this in November?

Thank you Kurt for the wonderful hospitality. I know everybody had a good time and enjoyed your delicious food.

The next event will be at Max and Elsbeth Haechler's residence on Saturday, December 9, 2017 (a day before the Swiss Christmas Party). As we all experienced before it is going to be a special Jass Party with the right Christmas spirit and the famous Haechler hospitality.

Where: **Max and Elsbeth Haechler Residence**
6116 E Cactus Wren
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253
480 951 0935

Date: **Saturday, December 9. 2017 at 2:00 PM**

Please let me or Heachler's know by December 1 if you can make it or not. Thank you.

I hope to see you at the party. Ueli A. Zaugg, Ph.D.

"Coin des Blagues"





« Grand-maman as-tu des bonnes dents? »
« Malheureusement non mon petit... »
« Très bien ! tu peux surveiller mes caramels ? »

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Ecoute, dit la maman à sa petite fille, « si tu es sage, tu iras au ciel, et si tu n'es pas sage, tu iras en enfer. »
La petite fille répond « Et qu'est-ce que je dois faire pour aller au cirque? »

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Submit your own jokes in German, French, Italian, Romansh or English to the Echo editor for the next publication and let's laugh together. Yours in smiles, John Thornton. laugh together.

Club News / Sunshine Committee

Congratulations



Kyle Douglass, Max Steadman and Tiffany Sabrina Breeding

have been awarded a 2017 Scholarship from the Arizona Swiss Foundation.



We are proud of these young good educated people.

Keep up the great work!



We Welcome New Member

Anita Bernhard and Matthew Tuttle and Finn Futtle
Daniela Grob and Jacob Schiller
Dr. Beat and Liselotte Reass

Upcoming events

RESERVE THE DATE

Christmas-Party
December 10th 2017



Annual Meeting
February 25th 2018



Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year



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



Children's page

and young at heart

Three Kings' Cake / Dreikönigskuchen



What you need

- 750 g (26.5 ounces) white flour
- 75 g (2.6 ounces) plus two teaspoons of sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- Grate peel of one lemon
- 100 to 150 g (3.5 to 5 ounces) butter
- 3 to 3.5 dl (1.25 to 1.5 cups) milk
- 30 g (1 ounce) yeast
- 5 tablespoons of warm water
- 2 eggs
- 200 g (7 ounces) sultanas (dried grapes)
- 1 token (e.g. a dried bean)



Preparation:

1. Mix flour, sugar, salt and lemon in a bowl.
2. Melt the butter and add the cold milk.
3. Dissolve yeast in water and add two teaspoons of sugar.
4. Stir the eggs and add flour mix of 1.
5. Knead to a soft dough.
6. Add sultanas and the **token** and distribute them evenly in the dough.
7. Tear dough apart and form six or eight pieces the size of a fist. You may form one bigger piece as the center piece of the cake. Arrange the pieces around the center piece as shown in the picture above. Place the cake on a well buttered form.
8. Let rise in a warm place until the size has doubled.
9. Let cool for about one hour.
10. Before baking, baste with an egg yolk.
11. Bake for about 40 to 50 minutes in the lower part of the pre-heated oven at about 225 degree Celsius (440 degree Fahrenheit).



Note: Let cool and add a crown made out of paper or so.



Who will become king or queen ?

Each person takes a piece from the cake. The one with the token will be king or queen for the day and all participants have to fullfil a wish for the king or queen.

Board for 2017

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Membership Chair	Helene Block
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Swiss Consul Emeritus	Max Haechler

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Arizona Swiss Society
Sylvia Brunner Reichen
7101 W. Beardsley RD #1103
Glendale, AZ 85308