Arizona Swiss Society

VALLEY eCHo

Newsletter

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WINTER 2023 / 2024



Stans Nidwalden



First of August celebration on July 30, 2023 at the Martin Auto Museum



The expanded Auto Museum greeted Swiss Society Members with many cars to enjoy on the way back to the Swiss Club function, the Cadillac Classroom, all decorated with Swiss Flags on tables, and of course the buffet table. The low attendance reminded us July is the month to be gone from heat-alive Arizona. (33 Adults and 6 kids) However, 10 new members! The Zych family: Joanna, David, Ava, and Matthew. Brigitte Martinez (Germany) Marie (Luxembourg) and Dennis Howard, Suze Douglas and Brenna Goth and Jonathan Gerber.





Roland Ulrich, Vice President, did a fantastic job stepping in for Anthony who was visiting his parents in Switzerland. The Car quiz, with special thanks to Kurt Schittli, as last year was one of the highlights and won by 4 kids (the Reuter's table). Fiona, Sedona, Leonie and Philipp Hager visiting the U.S., from Switzerland (with mom Connie) Prizes were Swiss mugs, egg cups, Lindor Truffles, Swiss T-shirts: Stay calm and eat Rösti, Stay calm and eat Fondue, Stay calm and be Swiss.







The donated desserts (Eclairs, French Pastries, etc.) were enjoyed immensely after a cold buffet. Last but not least, Alain Berset, President of the Swiss Confederation, his message in English, to the Swiss population abroad to mark the Swiss National Day, as we listened, one could observe some serious faces during his speech.















Message from the President

Dear Members and Friends of the Arizona Swiss Society,



After a memorable First of August Celebration at Martin Auto Museum in Glendale we had another great event at the Fall Fest in Fountain Hills. Summer temperatures did not stop 107 Swiss Club members and guests, with their children, including many new faces, from coming out and having a fantastic time at our annual Fall Picnic. The venue looked fabulous with decorations and all the flags, due to the efforts of Alain Butzberger and his friend, Don. Alain once again helped with pictures (so many to choose from). Merci Alain and Lew! Swiss music added to the festivities as did the pumpkin decorating. Kid's activities after lunch were in full gear. A huge DANKE to all the volunteers for their help, appreciated by the attending members.



Unfortunately, we must inform you that Kurt Schittli passed away. Each year the annual Quiz for the August first celebration (see page 7) was his work. He will be deeply missed.



A big THANK YOU to Susan, a day that could not have been easy without Kurt. We miss Kurt Schittli, the Club does . . . and will in the future.

Thanks to my father, Max for handling the Arizona Swiss Scholarship Award Presentation. The recipients are two lucky and happy young ladies, Heidi and Abby Wolf.



As the temperatures are getting cooler, we started the hiking season with the Austrian Society on October, 15th, and the next one will be on November 19th.

See you at the Christmas party, **Saturday, December 9th, 2023** at the Paradise Valley Country Club (thanks to my parents Max and Elsbeth Hächler).

With kind regards,
Anthony P. Haechler, President







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Fall-Fest

Saguaro Ramada, Golden Eagle Park, Fountain Hills
Sunday, October 22, 2023































Culture & Activities in Stans and Surrounding Region

Stans



Stans is the capital of the canton of Nidwalden and is embedded between the Stanserhorn, the Buchserhor, and the Bürgenstock on the edge of the Nidwalden valley floor. The expansive main square in the center of town is truly magnificent – and one of the most beautiful squares in Switzerland.

The village center of Stans is one of the oldest settlement areas in the Nidwalden valley floor. The first human traces can be traced back to the 2nd century BC. trace back. Although there are no meaningful sources for a settlement during Roman times, Gallo-Roman cremation graves and the Latin root of the original Stans place name "stagnum" (standing water, lake, pond) indicate that people lived in Stans in this epoch.

One of the main sights of Stans are the village square, the church of St. Peter and Paul built in 1641-1647, the monastery of St. Klara, the Winkelried monument by Ferdinand Schlöth and the Winkelriedhaus.



Arnold von Winkelried memorial in Stans; by Ferdinand Schlöth, 1865

In the 7th/8th century, the first Alemanni set foot on the Engelberg valley, which also brought Christianity here. The pre-Carolingian construction of the first church in Stans (around 750 AD) probably served as a parish church for the inhabitants of the entire Engelberg valley. The church was enlarged several times in accordance with the population development, until 1647 when today 's parish church of St. Peter and Paul was built, an early baroque building with a Romanesque bell tower.

In the Stanser Verkommnis (English: Treaty of Stans) of 1481 the Tagsatzung solved the latent conflict between the rural and urban cantons of the Old Swiss Confederacy, averting the breaking of the Confederacy, and triggering its further expansion from 8 to 13 members until 1513.

Nidwaldner Museum - Winkelriedhaus



As a cantonal museum, the Nidwalden Museum owns a collection of objects and artwork that document the art and cultural history of the canton. Like many regional museums, it was founded at the instigation of the local historical association. Early on, however, contemporary works of art from the area of the canton also found their way into the collection. Today, the Nidwalden Museum consists of three houses, the salt magazine and the Winkelriedhaus with pavilion in Stans and the Fürigen fortress in Stansstad. The Winkelriedhaus is now used as a museum for art. A new permanent exhibition opened in the old patrician house in summer 2014, introducing the history of art in the region with works from the collection. The pavilion in the garden shows three temporary exhi- bitions each year with artists who have a connection to Nidwalden or are otherwise exciting for the region.

Nidwaldner Tracht

The women wear the peasant Sunday costume (created around 1850) with stiffly ironed sleeves. With this costume, the married woman wears the shovel in her hair and the unmarried woman wears the red tip with the filigree arrow. Or they wear the Empire costume (created around 1800) with the puffed sleeves. In this costume, the married woman wears the bonnet (under the bonnet). Both costumes are made of hand-woven wool, the embroidery on silk is hand-embroidered (garden flowers, often roses), and the filigree jewelry is also hand-made.



The men wear the shepherd's shirt (created around 1800, black since 1880). The woolen shepherd's shirt with the rich embroidery of mountain flowers on velvet is well known throughout Switzerland. The unmarried man shows with the hanging red handkerchief (fazeneetli) that he is still unmarried, while the married man has to hide it.

The green rice sack belongs to every costume (male and female). It had once been used as a provisions and travel sack, albeit in a larger form. This rice sack marks us as typical Nidwaldner costumes; that's why the neighboring cantons call us “the rice baggers”.

Stanser Wiänachtsmärt / Christmas Market



The traditional Stanser Christmas Market takes place in the Stanserhornbahn/Rosenburg area.
A good 130 decorated stands with handcrafted gifts and homemade unique items await visitors. There is something traditional, but also, like every year, something new. The living nativity scene, the barrel organs and of course the varied food stands, as well as pony and donkey rides, are indispensable. The organizer is the Unterwalden Säumer- und Trainvereinigung, the label is given by Tourismus Stans.

Nidwalder Alpchäse Märcht / Nidwalden Alpine Cheese Market



Alpine cheese making is a complex and delicate craft, but has a significantly higher proportion of healthy, unsaturated fatty acids. This is the result of an investigation carried out by Swiss doctors and ETH Zurich.

The Nidwalden fried cheese for melting is very traditional and popular.

Every year the Alpine Cheese-Market takes place in Nidwalden with a wide range of different cheeses from the region. This year's Alpkäs Market will take place on **November 18th and 19th, 2023** at Nidwaldner "**Alten Schützenhaus Beckenried"**.



Stanserhorn

The eventful ride with the CabriO-Bahn and the funicular from 1893 to the Stanserhorn is like a ride through cable car history. 100 kilometers of Alpine chain, 10 Swiss lakes, Stanserhorn Ranger, marmots, plant protection area with enchanting fauna and flora, culinary highlights in the Stanserhorn revolving restaurant, specialty Älplermagronen from the Edelweisstopf and much more to discover on the Stanserhorn. 1900 meters above everyday life - a real pleasure - the panorama view from the first and only revolving restaurant of Central Switzerland.





Ride on the nostalgic funicular railway

The first section of the journey to the Stanserhorn is via a nostalgic funicular from 1893. The technology with automatically acting rail brakes was unique at the time and was considered high-tech.
Until 1974, the funicular ran in three sections up to the Stanserhorn. It took 45 minutes and could accommodate up to 40 people. The gradient reached up to 63%. The old railway cars in the first section were restored in 2009 and 2010 and are still in service today.



Arizona Swiss Society
2023 Annual Quiz

(Group) Name:

1	Our member, Kurt Benninger, drives a 1929 Ford Model A Convertible Roadster Rumble seat. How many cars of this model were built? A) 250 B) 500 C) 2500	
2	Which Italian car maker won the Le Mans race most of the time? A) Ferrari B) Lamborghini C) Maserati	
3	Which of those cars were also manufactured in 1960 as 4x4? A) VW Beatle B) Citroën 2CV C) Fiat 500 D) None of them	
4	What is the first year Chevrolet Corvette was built? A) 1950 B) 1953 C) 1955	
5	What is the latest year Chevrolet Corvette the Martin Auto Museum has in its inventory? A) 1999 B) 2003 C) 2020	
6	If you get your driver's license in a car with automatic transmission, you are also allowed to drive a car with shift stick manual transmission. Arizona A) true B) false Switzerland A) true B) false	
7	Where was Louis Chevrolet born (1878-1941)? A) Solothurn B) La Chaux-de-Fonds C) Biel/Bienne D) Geneva	
8	Where is the Lucid Air electric vehicle (MotorTrend's best car of 2022 award) produced? A) Casa Grande, AZ B) Las Vegas, NV C) San Jose, CA	
9	Did the Swiss heavy truck company Saurer ever build a passenger car? A) Yes B) No	
10	Which car is a two-seater with a front door? A) BMW Isetta B) Microlino C) Both D) None	
11	Which of the 1970 US made cars was a front wheel drive? A) Oldsmobile Toronado B) AMC Gremlin C) none of them	
12	The 1990 Jaguar XJR-S car had what engine? A) Straight 6 B) V8 C) V12	
13	Where was Hispano-Suiza founded in 1904? A) Barcelona B) Bern C) Bordeaux D) Berlin	
14	When did the first Swiss standard regulations for automobile traffic come into force? A) 1898 B) 1910 C) 1933 D) 1945	

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max 15 points Total

Youth Activity Page



My summer started great.

I spent a lot of time with my friends and made some new ones at church camp. Then as a family, we decided to do something different this year.
My parents and I went to a family Camp in Glorietta, New Mexico. We had different activities every day, from Zip Lining, white water rafting, to climbing, swimming, tubing, and many others. That was our first family Camp and I enjoyed it very much.





We also attended the 1st of August celebration at the Martin Auto Museum. There we enjoyed great food and even won a prize when we participated in the Quiz about Switzerland. It was also great to meet new kids visiting from Switzerland and we all had a great time playing with them. Loved the museum and the tour as well.





The highlight of this summer was Scuba Diving since I became a certified Open Water Diver. After studying for several days, we had to complete an online test, followed by two full days at the Scuba shop taking another test, pool diving and then two full days of 5 dives at Lake Pleasant including the certification. Now I am looking forward to exploring the underwater world with my Dad.

All the best,
Sedona Ulrich





Children's activities at the Fall-Fest













Club News / Sunshine Committee



Urs Schwank, an orphan from Switzerland, turns 100 years old.

Urs was born on August 27, 1923, in Bern, Switzerland.



Heidi Luedecke, who has taken care of Urs's affairs for several years, arrived at Urs's room early on his big day.

Heidi helped Urs call Switzerland! Swiss time to be considered to reach family and friends back home. Lew and Trudy called from Beaver Creek, Colorado, and congratulated Urs in the middle of the calls to the homeland; his spirit and usual humor were wonderful to hear and witness from a distance. A special day for a very special Man, at Morningstar, Assisted Living in Fountain Hills, AZ. Thanks to Heidi, at 4 pm, a milestone Celebration at Morningstar with her family took place.



Heidi and 2 sons Mark and Ryan, Abby, Ryan's wife and 2 boys Benjamin and Scotty

We wish Urs many more healthy years, lots of smiles — no pain, and happy days!

Urs worked for Swissair in Switzerland and in New York. Urs also lived in Hollywood, California where for many years he was the General Manager at the famous West Hollywood, Chateau Marmont Hotel. He speaks 4 languages.



The new Jass Season has started!

If you like to participate or are interested in having the Jass group over at your home, please contact:



Ueli Zaugg
uzaugg@protonmail.com



Congratulations!

Abby Wolf and Heidi Wolf





Max gave the certificates to Heidi and Abby who have been awarded a 2023 scholarship from the

Arizona Swiss Foundation.

We are proud of these young well educated people.

Keep up the great work!

Club News / Sunshine Committee



It is with sadness that we have to inform you of the sudden passing of our friend, long time activity chair on the board, and long-standing member

Kurt Schittli

Born in Switzerland, 1955 - passed away Thursday, September 21, 2023, Phoenix



Kurt lived in Phoenix for many years and worked as a handyman. He was a member of the Board for a long time and his work and help were greatly appreciated. He was a great and enthusiastic Jass player as well. We all loved his outspoken and “urchige Baerndeutsch”.



During his Tech studies, Kurt worked as a security guard at night, and studied and went to school during the day. He was a good student and graduated with flying colors in Biel, Switzerland in 1980.



He will be deeply missed!





Kurt, red-black shirt, at Tech-school and last day in Tech-school in Biel. Kurt on the right in black.

We Welcome New Members

Howard Dennis and Marie, Phoenix
Wagner Werner and Baerbel, Gold Canyon
Gerber Jonathan & Goth Brenna, Phoenix
Mederlet Danielle, Phoenix
Albin Patrick and Maria, El Mirage
Martinez Brigitta, Phoenix
Wagner Erik and Family
Douglas Suze, Scottsdale Murchison Uta, Tempe
Byrum Gisela, Phoenix

Lifetime Members: Bernhard Anita and Tuttle Sven with Finn and Matt

Christmas-Party

Saturday, December 9th, 2023

Upcoming Event

Reserve the date

Annual Meeting

Saturday, February, 24th, 2024



Frohe Weihnachten & Frohes Neues Jahr





Swiss-Recipes Page
for the young at heart

Nidwalder Ofetori

This is a specialty of Nidwalden



Ingredients for 4 Portions

- 800 g potatoes
- 30 g butter
- 2 eggs
- 300 ml milk (or 150 ml milk and 150 ml cream)
- 200 g lean bacon
- 25 g butter flakes
- salt
- nutmeg

Preparation

1. Peel the potatoes, cut into cubes, boil in lightly salted water until soft and mash through the passevite/mash with the potato masher.

2. Mix the butter, eggs and milk (or the milk cream) into an airy mashed potato and season with salt and grated nutmeg.

3. Spread the mixture onto a buttered baking sheet or into a buttered gratin dish.

4. Cut the bacon into strips and spike the mashed potatoes with it. The strips should stick out a bit.

5. Spread the butter flakes on top and bake in the preheated oven at 220° until golden.



Tips for the recipe

Also tastes great without bacon.

Enjoy!

Board Members 2023

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