

## JULY 2005 NEWSLETTER

**BUNDESFEIER**  
**at the CHALET**  
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2005**  
**6:00 PM - as long as you can stay**

ISN'T IT EXCITING? Bundesfeier is almost here! You can bet that soon the KC Swiss will be busily preparing for this most special celebration which will honor yet another anniversary of the remarkable **Swiss Confederation**. This year will be the **714th!** Imagine that: 714 years of democracy, a fact that makes Switzerland the oldest continuous democracy in the world today, and unless we err, the oldest in the history of mankind! In Switzerland, this celebratory day is known as **Bundesfeier, Festa Nazionale, Fete Nationale, and ?** (apologies for not knowing the Romansch name), reflecting the linguistic diversity of the Swiss people. This national celebration marks the signing in August of 1291, by the cantons of **Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden** of the **Perpetual Covenant**. This Covenant was a defense agreement, the NATO of the 13th century. In it, the free men of Uri, Schwyz, and Unterwalden declared their freedom from both the Holy Roman Emperor and the Hapsburgs, that long-lived Austrian ruling family. And the free men of these small cantons pledged to defend one another against any and all foreign rulers who would threaten their free states. A worthy beginning that the Swiss have revered for these 714 years and honored with each National Day celebration.

Back to the script:

Bundesfeier will be held on **Saturday** this year, a day which seems to work out best for just about everyone. Besides we should remember that although all of Switzerland celebrates Bundesfeier on August 1, this

is a recent happening. In the past, Cantons celebrated on August days of their choosing, and it was not until the 1950's that a nationwide date was agreed upon.

**What you will see and hear:**

For a third year, Betty Jo Simon, Paul Rodabaugh, and Mark Cohick will keep us swinging at Bundesfeier. They are better known in their musical life as the **Alpenspieler, a Hudigaaggeler** (isn't that a fantastic word?) trio of accordion, clarinet and tuba, and they will most definitely keep our toes tapping and our spirits high with their lively Swiss and German-style music. They always put us in a party mood, and we are delighted to have them play for us once more.

To add to the glitz and glamour of the KCSwiss Bundesfeier will be our very own **Fahnenschwinger**, Herr Franz Leuthardt. Dressed, if we are lucky, in black velvet and looking "fit to beat the band," Herr Leuthardt will demonstrate the Swiss art of tossing (*schwinger*) flags (*Fahnen*). He will also play his alpenhorn, a beautifully-crafted instrument whose mournful sounds play as much to the memory and imagination as to the ears. Both of Herr Leuthardt's performances have deep roots in Swiss tradition. We are indeed fortunate to have his professional-level performances to enjoy right here in Missouri.

At dusk the *kinder* will form-up for a Lampion Parade. Once the children are in line and the stubby candles in their lampions (red paper lanterns) have been lit, Betty Simon in the role of Pied Piper will lead the parade down the drive and to the meadow bonfire with the merry notes of her accordion. 'Mature' children are welcome to join the procession as wranglers to keep the little dogies from straying.

**What you will smell and taste:**

The fire under the grill will have mellowed to glowing charcoal by the time most of the KCSwiss show up, but acute noses will detect a faint odor of charcoal igniter winding around in the atmosphere. But soon, thanks to our stalwart chefs, those special men who can brave the heat of the grill along with the heat of an August day, the bratwurst will be sizzling and sending out their mouthwatering aroma with every exploding particle of brat-oil - the unforgettable smell of every proper Bundesfeier. Of course, there will be hot dogs to satisfy the delicate palates of our young folk.

Promptly at 6:30, we will line up at the grill to be served our traditional Bundesfeier meal of bratwurst (with hotdogs for the children), potato salad, bean salad, and rolls, with the beloved nussgipfel for dessert. A variety of beverages will be available, including soda pop, beer, tea and coffee.

After dinner, we will loosen our belts and lean back in our folding chairs as we listen first, to the sounds of the carillon of the Protestant Church of Attiswil in the canton Bern, followed by a taped message from the President of the Swiss Confederation, Herr Samuel Schmid, recorded specifically for the Swiss abroad. Dignitaries from the KCSwiss will honor us with their thoughts on matters of import to our organization.

As mentioned above, as night closes in on our celebration, our Swiss *kinder* and their lampions will lead the way to the bonfire, accompanied by Betty Simon and her accordion. Once there, we will all sing together in perfect Swiss harmony (or not - doesn't matter) a variety of "people's songs."

Doesn't that sound like a lovely Bundesfeier, one to make you happy to have your Swiss connections? It will surely be a time for you to see friends you haven't talked to in a while, a time to renew your feelings of Swiss-ness. If this doesn't work for you, then there are always the brats and Andre's wonderful nussgipfel to bring you joy. Oh, yes, and there's the CD of polka music! One way or the other, this writer simply doesn't see how you can miss being a happier soul

after spending the evening in this convocation of folks who have answered the call and come together because they have some tie to that small country in the heart of the Alps.

**Business:**

Reservations for the Bundesfeier are not required, but we encourage you to send in the event coupon in advance. **Harry Newby, treasurer, has requested that he receive them by August 1.** Since this will help in estimating the amount of food needed and also in simplifying ticket sales at Bundesfeier, there will be a discount for each of your prepaid adult dinner tickets:

RECEIVED	By 08/01	After 08/02
Adults.....	\$12.00	\$12.50
Children.....	\$4.00	\$ 4.00

This year **Pro Patria** has opted to change the theme of the badges from butterflies, which had proved to be a huge success, back to "the emblem that has from time immemorial embodied the closeness that exists between you and your homeland - the Swiss flag!"

The flag is made of red plastic with the white cross being of a heavier and more distinctive plastic. In all these badges are more substantial than such flags have been in the past and are quite attractive. If you are not a collector, they make very nice decorations for gifts, flower displays, etc. The KCSS has only 40 to sell this year, so make sure you get yours at Bundesfeier. The Society has several types of badges leftover from different years, so if you need to fill out your collection, let us know.

The cost remains \$4.00 . This money goes into an endowment fund which the Foundation is establishing for innovative not-for-profit projects with a social emphasis.

**Don't forget to send in your coupon and payment to Harry Newby by Monday, August 1, to get your discount.**

*ALSO Don't forget to pick up your 2005 Membership Directory at Bundesfeier. They will be on one of the tables set up on the dance area. This will help the Society avoid the cost of mailing them.*

## **WE NEED HELP!**

The "We hate to beg, BUT . . ." Part:

We could really use help setting things up for the Bundesfeier. For example:

On **Friday, August 5**, twenty tables and 200 chairs will be delivered to the Chalet, and at 7:00 pm, we will start setting them up. Our Time Management Consultant says 6 to 8 sturdy souls can do this in almost no time.

Beginning at 9:00 a.m. on **Saturday, August 6**, we will need more hands to help put up the large Swiss flag, the canton flags and decorations, the lights, put table cloths on tables and set up the Chalet kitchen, spray for wasps (oh, yes!) and anything else that needs to be done. The above-mentioned TMC says **10** folks could get this done, but the more, the better.

**During the Bundesfeier**, we will need workers for shifts of an hour or so, depending on the job, since some take less time: dispensing ticketed drinks; working in kitchen to make coffee and tea; setting out food; serving food; selling tickets for dinner, extra brats, extra soft drinks, beer etc.; selling Pro Patria flag badges, etc. And when the party is over and the celebrants have gone home, we need some hardy and dedicated folks to stick around for the cleanup. (We can look for Mars during breaks!) We may need a couple of helpers to finish the cleanup on Sunday, too.

So if you can join the Coalition of the Willing, call one of the following members and tell them you are signing on and for which day, job, and preferred time slot. Incidentally we will post the sign up sheet at **kcswiss.org** and update it periodically so you can see what is available, e.g., what still needs to be done.

Kay or Tom Willy at 913 - 341 - 4618 or email them at [nacien@earthlink.net](mailto:nacien@earthlink.net)

Jim or Mardy Cottrell at 913 - 341 - 7172 or email them at [jcottrell@kc.rr.com](mailto:jcottrell@kc.rr.com)

Dan Bonderer at 816 - 523 - 4799 or email him at [danbonderer@lib.mut.com](mailto:danbonderer@lib.mut.com)

Carl or Debora Ryffe at 816 - 333 - 6861  
or email them at [cdbir@yahoo.com](mailto:cdbir@yahoo.com)

If this will be the first time this year that you have driven to the Chalet, note that the highway repair work has been completed and the old map to the Chalet is valid once again.

We hope to see all of our fine folk at Bundesfeier with big smiles in place, ready to honor Switzerland's success and longevity **AND** ready to be in a picture. After looking through countless web sites of countless Swiss societies around the world, your now cross-eyed secretary has come to the conclusion that KCSwiss Society has the most beautiful women and the most handsome men, and, of course, the most photogenic children in the whole wide world! Since we need to spice up our own fledgling web site, what better way to do it than by posting pictures of our handsome group frolicking - well, looking happy and satisfied and pleased to be celebrating Bundesfeier together. The mastermind behind **kcswiss.org**, **Herr Strub**, is counting on YOU to become part of the Bundesfeier story and help give pictorial interest to our web site. The **Seattle Swiss** may have their fancy web cams aimed on Mt. Ranier and the Space Needle, but we've got big smiles and good looks to show the world. Come on out, KCSwiss! "Smile! You're on Candid Camera!" (That's a tag that people of a certain maturity will understand).

## **SWISS HUMOR (OR SO THEY TELL US)**

*Conversation overheard in a Bernese restaurant: "Snails are the specialty of the house.," said the owner to the guest. "I know," responded the guest. I was served by one yesterday,"*

*A conversation recorded in 1890, in Appenzell, near St. Gallen: "Your honor," protested Heiri to the lower court judge, "I wish to appeal to the circuit court." "But why? You won the case," said the judge. "Because I want them to know it ,too!"*

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Schutzenfest/Raclette Party Picnic to be held at the Chalet on Sunday, October 9.

### **HARRY WILLIAM WARNKEN**

The KCSwiss wish to note the unexpected death of one of its longtime members, Harry Warnken, age 90, on July 5, 2005, at his home in Grain Valley, Missouri. Services were held at the Ebenezer Church in Levasy, MO, and he was buried in a lovely spot in the Ebenezer Church Cemetery., according to friends. Harry was the husband of Fritzi Warnken and stepfather to Patty Barthold and Sandy Zeller, all of whom are members of the KCSwiss Society. We extend our sympathy to the family and to all who knew and loved this highly-regarded man.

### **SWISS OFFICER AT LEAVENWORTH**

The short story is - there is not an officer yet. There will probably be one in the January rotation, but that has not been confirmed. We hope that Switzerland will continue this tradition. After all, Switzerland was the *first* country to send an officer to the military college at Ft. Leavenworth when it was established a century or so ago. However, since 24 international officers will be coming in the January rotation, if you are interested in broadening your view of the world and its people, the opportunity awaits you. And this may be your chance to get to know fairly well someone who will be an important force in his/her country someday (Someone was Colin Powell's host family). But mainly you will have a friend for life. Talk with the Willys about their wonderful experiences over the years.

### **SPEAKING OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES**

Here's another opportunity for being a part of another country by offering a student a chance to be a part of ours. Connie Bollier passes this information from AFS on to us. FYI, AFS is The American Field Service, a student exchange program that many American students have used, including some in KCSwiss. Talk to Connie to find out more. Or call AFS coordinator Fran Lewis in Spring Hill, KS, at 913 - 592 - 2858 or fax her at 913 - 686 - 5208.

Irina W.(FEMALE from Switzerland)  
Date of Birth: 09/16/1988  
Age at arrival:16  
Religion Protestant

Pets: Any Pets OK  
English/Fluency: Fair/3 years  
Diploma/Graduate:no  
GPA/Quartile: B  
Smoker: No  
Sibs: sister '87  
Program: Year Program  
Summer Arrival/2005

BIO:Irina is a sporting, musical girl who likes to play volleyball and go snowboarding and plays both the guitar and the piano. She hopes to study law in the future instead of having to "be pregnant and sit at home." According to her parents, Irina is a "spontaneous" girl who reaches out to new friends of all ages. Her teacher describes Irina as "a very open and honest person" who "seems mature related to her age." The family resides in a Swiss village near Basel. Both of her parents are lawyers, and Irina aspires to be one also. Her father came to America with AFS in 1970.

### **MORE SWISS HUMOR?**

*Note on a menu in Geneva: "To our American guests: "We offer a 15% discount if you do not try to order in French."*

*Basel Government Ordinance: "The use of red/blue pencils that are sharpened at both ends is forbidden in schools because of the danger of injury when falling asleep."*

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### **THE STEAK COOKOUT**

The Steak Cookout was fun, fun, fun! The day was pleasant and we had a goodly number of folks there to enjoy the fine steaks, grilled for us by no less than our vice president, Dan Bonderer, playing the jolly man of the people. Thanks, Dan, for your work, slaving over a hot grill. We know not many VP's - we could name a few- would do what you did just to keep your people happy! Thanks to Gus and Laverne Riedi again for the potatoes and everything you always do for the KCSwiss. You guys are too good to be true! Thanks to

Jim and Mardy Cottrell for doing the name tags. You do fine, legible work, a dying art indeed, 'thanks' to computers. And thanks to all the good cooks who supplied the side-dishes. We need to have a 'Recipes' section on *kcswiss.org* to answer the demand we hear after our events for recipes from our member cooks. Thank you to all who contributed to making the Steak Cookout such a lovely event.

**NO ONE ALIVE TODAY WILL EVER SEE THIS AGAIN**

*Our friend Rosi von Fintel passes this fascinating article on to us. We hope our Web Guru can somehow help us put a link to this on kcswiss.org, since the pictures of Mars are well worth seeing.*

The Red Planet is about to be spectacular!  
Mars will look as large as the full moon to the naked eye!

This month and next, Earth is catching up with Mars in an encounter that will culminate in the closest approach between the two planets in recorded history. The next time Mars may come this close is in 2287. Due to the way Jupiter's gravity tugs on Mars and perturbs its orbit, astronomers can only be certain that Mars has not come this close to Earth in the Last 5,000 years, but it may be as long as 60,000 years before it happens again.

The encounter will culminate on August 27th when Mars comes to within 34,649,589 miles of Earth and

will be (next to the moon) the brightest object in the night sky. It will attain a magnitude of -2.9 and will appear 25.11 arc seconds wide. At a modest 75-power magnification, Mars will be easy to spot. At the beginning of August, it will rise in the east at 10 p.m. and reach its azimuth at about 3 a.m.

By the end of August when the two planets are closest, Mars will rise at nightfall and reach its highest point in the sky at 12:30a.m. That's pretty convenient to see something that no human being has seen in recorded history. So, mark your calendar at the beginning of August to see Mars grow progressively brighter and brighter throughout the month.

*So check out just in case we can get the link to the pictures of Mars posted. It is a glorious sight. Thanks, Rosi.*

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**THIS MAY HAVE GONE AROUND A FEW TIMES BUT IT'S STILL FUNNY!** (unless you are Swiss)

What is Heaven? A place where the lovers are Italian, the cooks are French, the mechanics are German, the cops are British and it's all organized by the Swiss.

So what is hell? A place where the lovers are Swiss, the cooks are British, the mechanics are French. the cops are German, and it's all organized by the Italians.

Come on, we know the Swiss *must* be good lovers! After all, they do know how to have a *Fohn* time!