

July 2009 Newsletter

Bundesfeier

Saturday – August 1, 2009 - 6:00 p.m.

Special 100th Anniversary of Pro Patria Pins

The Swiss highlight of the year is just around the corner or rather, a mere turn of the calendar page. The Kansas City Swiss Society will celebrate this special event at Chalet Kupfer with the traditional menu of Cervolet, green bean salad, rolls, and nussgipfel. An alpine band will add to the festive atmosphere by providing music for dancing, singing along or tapping a foot to the beat.

Cold drinks for purchase include beer, pop and bottled water, or you may bring your own beverage. Advance ticket purchase via the event coupon in this newsletter is \$12.00 for adults and \$3.00 for a child's hot dog meal. Tickets purchased at the event are \$13.00 and \$4.00 respectively. Should a hearty appetite wish an extra brat for dinner, an additional \$4.00 will be charged.

Organized games and a lampion parade are planned for the younger Swiss. Everyone can enjoy singing around the bonfire at the parade's end.

This year we celebrate the 100th year of the Pro Patria Pin. This pin is a way for Swiss around the world to contribute to the welfare of Switzerland and honor their heritage. To commemorate this anniversary, a special embroidered pin with a gold clasp has been designed. Our members may purchase these at our cost of \$4.00. If you don't have a collection of Pro Patria Pins, this is a perfect time to start. (Extras from past years are half price while supplies last.)

In the usual Swiss fashion, our members are considerate in helping to clean up before leaving an event. Since schedules vary, participants that wish to stay longer may feel a bit rushed by those leaving first. To make it enjoyable for all, simply clean up your eating area and personal belongings before leaving. Tables and chairs will be taken care of by a clean up crew the following day. Just come and enjoy!

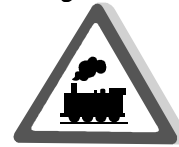
No event happens without preparation, tasks performed at the event and clean-up, but when everyone contributes something, it's enjoyable for all.

Your opportunities to help are:

- Friday night at 6:30 p.m. – hang flags, set up tables and chairs and string a few lights.
- Saturday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. – put on tablecloths and centerpiece flags, set up registration area, ice down beer, pop and water, make coffee, set up serving area.
- At the event – take a 30 minute session selling tickets, Swiss items and Pro Patria Pins, pass out member directories, take tickets for pop or beer.
- Sunday at 10:00 a.m. – stack rental chair and tables, take down lights, clean up the kitchen.

All Aboard!

Special Viewing at "Fisher Junction"



Saturday, July 11, 2009, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
11036 Oak Street, Kansas City, MO 64114

Swiss Society members and their families have a special invitation to an open house as Janet and Roger Fisher generously share Roger's extensive collection of model trains. Come and experience the visual and sound effects of "puffing and chuffing," of his outstanding displays. Bring the children (of all ages) and grandchildren for this exceptional treat.

Look for the railroad crossing sign beside the garage door three houses north of the intersection of Red Bridge Road and Oak Street. (Additional parking across the street in the medical building parking lot.) **No RSVP necessary.**

Strawberry Picnic Report

May 17, 2009

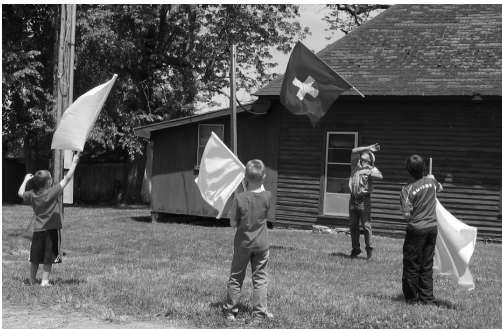
Blue skies, a warming sun and mild spring temperatures made for perfect weather greeting Swiss guests at the Strawberry Picnic. The **Leuthardt** estate was freshly mown, and an ample platform prepared to receive the many side dishes and desserts contributed by members. A Champagne aperitif was sipped while a grand bonfire, expertly laid by **Franz**, burned to an ideal bed of coals for roasting our cervolet. Long, green roasting sticks propped against custom-made metal supports were wonderful tools to aid in cooking the sausages. **Analise**

presented an impressive bowl of strawberries to combine with the luxurious whipped cream from **Andre's** and cake of choice.

Flag throwing was demonstrated by Franz and the first class of novice flag throwers from our society took instruction. The young people in attendance listened intently as Franz imparted his tips, techniques and wisdom on the ancient Swiss art we have come to enjoy. Practice flags were made by **CeeAnn Neuenschwander** and were put to good use during the afternoon.

Recent heavy rains in the Smithville area prevented the estate tour usually given "hayride style." We look forward to that next year.

Harry Newby, in his usual efficiency, brought all the needed supplies, champagne and name tags.



Franz Leuthardt demonstrates flag throwing to his eager students.

Steak Cookout Report

June 14, 2009

A well-cut steak cooked to perfection can be enhanced only by serving it in a bucolic outdoor setting among Swiss friends, new and old. Traditional red gingham tablecloths covered the tables, which were set under the canopy of green to the west of the grill, creating an inviting atmosphere for socializing.

Chris Montemore, with able support of his wife **Jessica von Felten** and son, **Matthew**, organized the event. Chris's culinary talents certainly include cooking well-selected, hand-cut, 11 oz. Kansas City strip steaks and nearly football-sized baked potatoes. An added treat was a very special sauce he fashioned from the steak trimmings, peppercorns and other secret ingredients. **James Thomas**, professional chef and friend of the Society, assisted him in expertly cutting and trimming the steaks the previous day at the Chalet.

Salads, side dishes and desserts were contributed by 75 attendees, but it was a challenge to find room on our plates for anything but the steak and potato.

President, **Liz Kohlsteadt**, addressed the group after the meal. She spoke about going through the many records that have been passed along through the Society's leadership over the years in boxes that have been largely ignored. Discovering that they contain fascinating records of the early workings and events of the Swiss Society, she would like to see this put into a document or form that can be shared by all. To accomplish this, help in translating

documents is needed, and she asked for volunteers that can assist in this task to contact her. Additionally, she would like to have each family's story of their immigration from Switzerland to this area. It doesn't have to be lengthy, but should include the basics of who came, why, how they got here and anything you'd like your grandchildren to know.

Liz led us in a simple, but fun, game that all ages participated in and Swiss prizes were awarded.



Jessica & Chris Montemore cooking steaks and hot dogs.

Member and Board Meeting Highlights

June 24, 2009

Swiss words of the meeting were "gruezi" or "ciao" meaning "hello" and "tschau" or "tschuess" meaning "goodbye."

Minutes of the last meeting were approved as emailed and the Treasurer's Report accepted as presented.

A review of the recent events of the Strawberry Picnic and Steak Cookout took place. Both were well attended and highly successful. As usual the Leuthardt's made it a special day for all. The steaks and potatoes were given outstanding reviews by the membership, thanks to Chris Montemore and his support staff.

In response to members' comments regarding the price of the steak cookout and other events, we discussed balancing property maintenance and improvements with having affordable events for families. Both responsibilities were duly noted.

Planning for the Bundesfeier continued with tasks and details being worked out. A contract was signed for the band. Volunteers are needed.

Ticino Abend plans are progressing as Chris Montemore presented his ideas for the menu.

Jim Neuenschwander, Chalet Committee Chair, reported progress on current projects and presented findings on the status of the Chalet's south wall. The Society is fortunate to have Lee Kupfer's engineering expertise in the assessment of the situation and he has determined that the wall is in need of major repair or replacement, and it should be done in a timely manner. Jim presented information on both options, the board asked questions and then approved funding of \$3,000 for the replacement of the south wall. (See the Chalet Committee Progress Report that follows for specific details.)

Chalet Committee Progress Report

By Chair, Jim Neuenschwander, as of June 24, 2009

Maintenance and improvements to the Chalet are well underway with several critical issues being addressed.

The west door of the Chalet has been in disrepair for some time. **Gus Riedi** has plied his talents on it so the door is now more secure and functions quite well. He also replaced a pane of glass in one of the north windows, which had duct tape holding it together.

Interior and exterior drainage problems have plagued the Chalet for several years. Torrential spring rains brought to a head the need to fix the system when the floor of the Chalet was totally flooded. The drainage system was plugged and partially collapsed. **Gus Riedi** and **Jim Neuenschwander** dug a trench for a new pipe. **Lorenz Riedi** sawed the interior concrete floor and helped dig out the old drains. **Chris Kohlstaedt** drilled holes in the walls for new pipes and into the existing concrete floor for the placement of stabilizing rebar. The new pipes and drains are set; pouring concrete and filling the trench are the next steps. The heating and air conditioning system, which had been unstable on the cracked and sinking concrete near the drain, and the cooking stove will soon be back in their rightful places.

To secure the Chalet property, it was determined that a locked, chain barrier would be installed near the property line. Gus and Jim have set the posts and continue to work on this project.

Lee Kupfer volunteered his professional services as a structural engineer and met with Jim as he assessed the south wall of the Chalet. Problems noted are the wall was constructed without rebar or filling the blocks, and the drainage is inadequate. The wall needs to be repaired or replaced, and it should be done before the spring rains.

Two options were discussed:

1. Using "dead man" blocks of cement in which to anchor rods that would connect to the wall to stabilize it.
2. Replacing the wall, installing the proper drainage system and replacing the windows.

The option to repair will not put the wall back onto its footing and the interior surface of the wall will look even more patched.

The option to replace the wall will put it back onto its footings and then proper drainage can be installed.

A contractor that Henry Kupfer has experience with gave an estimate to repair the wall at nearly twice the cost in which the Society could replace it. The estimate of having the Society complete the work also includes replacing the windows in the current Swiss style.

Everyone involved thus far in the assessment, planning and discussions understands that the success of this project will depend on volunteers of many talents. The project is tentatively planned to begin mid-September after Ticino Abend. Watch for more details of how you can contribute your talents to this project.

2009 Board of Directors and Officers

President	Liz Kohlstaedt (816) 554-2339
Vice President	Chris Montemore (816) 737-0594
Secretary	CeeAnn Neuenschwander (913) 451-4603
Treasurer	Harry Newby (913) 888-0095
1 Year Director	Tony Case (913) 897-7875
2 Year Director	Bruce Hiller (816) 468-6418
3 Year Director	Linda Scott (913) 661-9198



Sunshine Report

Call John Kupfer at (816) 941-0860 to give him membership information for this report. Kindly notify him of a member's new baby, graduation, civic award, special anniversary, hospitalization, or funeral.

New Members

Pat Clifton

Pat, who will be Chalet Kupfer's closest neighbor, is the grandson of Pauline and Joe Clifton. He will be residing in his grandparent's home.

Schedule of Social Events

- ★ **Bundesfeier**
Saturday – August 1, 2009
- ★ **Ticino Abend**
Sunday - September 13, 2009
- ★ **Schutzenfest-Raclette**
Sunday - October 11, 2009
- ★ **Weihnachts Fest**
Sunday – December 5, 2009

The Kansas City Swiss Society
CeeAnn Neuenschwander, Secretary
9012 W. 115th Terrace
Overland Park, KS 66210

Event Registration Coupon: Bundesfeier
Saturday – August 1, 2009
6:00 p.m. to . . . whenever

Name: _____

Names of your party attending: _____

Advance Ticket Order: \$12.00 per adult _____ \$3.00 per hot dog meal _____
(Tickets purchased at the event: 13.00 per adult, \$4.00 per child)

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Mail to: Harry Newby, KCSS Treasurer, 8038 Halsey St., Lenexa, KS 66215

Please have reservation to Harry Newby by July 29th.