

JUNE 2005 NEWSLETTER

**THE STEAK COOKOUT
WILL BE HELD
AT THE CHALET
SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2005
4:30 P.M.**

As members of the Kansas City Swiss Society and their friends know, the month of June offers one of the best reasons for being a KCSwiss: the Annual Steak Cookout. This event traditionally marks the opening of the Chalet for a new year of events and activities for our members, and those of you who come out to enjoy the Steak Cookout will find the grass cut and things looking ship-shape in the usual Swiss tradition (which, if you think about it, is pretty remarkable for a landlocked country). To our way of thinking, this event is a combination garden party for carnivores and woodland picnic - that is, the tables will all have tablecloths and napkins, but you had better bring along sun block and bug spray.

Our very own Master Chef Gus Riedi is ordering the steaks for us: 10-ounce top grade choice Kansas City strips, aged three weeks and cut to order, no less. He and his talented assistant Dan Bonderer will take their positions behind the Chalet's barbecue pit, tools in hand, ready to grill your steak just as you like it. Some of you will be interested to know that Gus is ordering a limited number of extra steaks that will be available for you unsated carnivores to purchase and take home. Gus says that these extras won't be aged quite as long as the ones eaten at the cook out, but there will be some age to them. and you can finish the process, unless you just can't restrain yourself.

We will begin meeting at the Chalet at **4:30** so you will have time to say "hello" to everyone and catch up on the news. Go over to the barbecue pit and thank Gus and Dan for being good guys. When you find Laverne Riedi, thank her for cooking the potatoes for all of us - no mean feat!

At **5:30**, line up and take a plate. As usual, the challenge will be just how to manage all of the delicious side dishes

which our members have brought and still leave some room on your plates for the steak (or hot-dog, if you prefer) and the baked potato accompaniment. Don't forget that after the entree, there will be dessert, once again from a lavish spread of sweets brought by our members.

It's always so much fun to sample the amazingly varied side dishes our members bring to share. So to ensure that we get a variety of dishes and desserts, once again we are asking members to bring a side dish in the category that goes with your name.

If your last name begins with A - J, please bring a green salad, a fruit salad OR a vegetable dish.

If your last name begins with K - Z, please bring a dessert to share.

Each family or group should bring your preferred beverages to drink with your meal.

Cost for the Cookout

ADULTS (Steak)\$10.00/person
CHILDREN (Hot-dog).....\$2.00/child

Economics 101: Please remember that, if you are comparing this year's cost to last year's, a cow that becomes a KC strip in 2005 represents a slightly more valuable commodity than a 2004 cow. Cows appreciate, just like real estate, a fact that is of no interest to that cow but does explain why the 2005 Steak Cookout will cost you more than last year's.

Please send your reservations along with your check to Harry Newby, using the event coupon on page 3:

**Harry Newby
8038 Halsey
Lenexa, KS 66215**

Make sure you send it early enough so Harry gets it by **Wednesday, June 22**. He needs a head count to give to Gus for purchasing the steaks and potatoes. However, if you miss this date, you are still welcome to come **as long as you call by June 22 and talk to:**

**Carl Ryffe at 816-333-6861 OR
Harry Newby at 913-888-0095**

Should you have any questions before the event, call Carl Ryffe at the above number.

UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Jessica von Felten
7911 Hunter
Raytown, MO 64138

Francois Sauer
14350 Manor Ct.
Leawood, KS 66224 - 3965

NEW MEMBER

Vicki Farron
9918 West 88th Terrace
Overland Park, KS
913 - 599 - 0033
Vicki was recommended by Cathy van Eyck.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark you calendars:

Bundesfeier	Saturday, August 6
Schutzenfest/Raclette	Sunday, October 9
Holiday Party	Sunday, December 4

CONGRATULATIONS AND A SAD FAREWELL TO THE FT. LEAVENWORTH CLASS OF 2005

This is the final week in the United States for our Swiss officer, Lt. Col. Samuel Crettol, and many of the international officers who have attended the Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth this year. After a demanding year of graduate level classes in military science and leadership, these men and women, all specially selected for this honor, will return to their homes and to the routine of their lives.

For most of these officers, this year of study at Ft.

Leavenworth has been a year they will never forget. They have become friends not only with other international officers but also with American officers attending the CGSC and with the Ft. Leavenworth instructors and personnel. At a time when our world can seem so fractious and fragmented, its peoples and cultures separated by chasms of suspicion and misunderstanding, this graduating class have spent the year getting to know one another, exchanging ideas and opinions. They have listened to and perhaps even under-stood other classmates' points of view, even if they have not agreed with them. Just hearing another person explain himself makes an impression, after all. Their spouses, too, have benefitted from all the international mingling., but this coming together of cultures has had the most profound effect on the children, who, since they attended Kansas public schools together, leave the US being comfortable with children from many different lands and cultures. Going to school together, whether it's graduate school or elementary school, will do that. And being children, the kiddies go home speaking English very well and will be a real asset to their parents who tend to forget grammar occasionally and need help from the little ones.

At this point, you are wondering why you are getting an article on IO's (militarese for "International Officers"). Well, how about these reasons: The sponsorship program always needs interested KC metro people to host IO's and since KCSwissers are a cosmopolitan lot, we thought you might be interested

Many American families and singles, too, get to know these IO's because they agree to serve as hosts to them during the time they are stationed in Leavenworth. And most of these families will tell you that their year has been not only a learning experience but an emotional experience too. Getting to know a family from another country, another culture, another religion, etc., is far different from thinking you know about another country, another culture, another religion because of what you hear from a talking head on Fox News or CNN. As any of the Americans who have become friends with these families will tell you, we have had the pleasure of at least sampling their world during this time. and we have made friends we will always remember and even keep up with. John and Sharon Borel can probably tell you more about Switzerland now since they hosted Lt. Col. Crettol and his family, and they will always have a friend in Switzerland. Tom and Kay Willy have certainly expanded their knowledge and understanding of Saudi Arabia because of their friendship with Maj. Maeed Ali Alshehri ("Just call me Mike") and his family. And since Kay Willy is writing this newsletter, **she** gets to share.

For example, who would have thought that a Saudi major could have such an infectious smile? Or that he would look so comfortable in sweats? Or that he could speak so passionately about his belief that the world's people would be a more perfect lot if they would just put aside their preconceived notions of one another, talk together, really listen to each other and judge opinions fairly. After all, this is what God expects of us - Yes, God. Or who would have thought that a Saudi dad would travel miles just to take his kids to a swimming pool, including his daughters. Or that when he comes home from work, he is greeted by five enthusiastic children with hugs and kisses, which he returns with delight. Mike and Fatma, his lovely wife, seem like the ideal of an American couple with five beautiful, intelligent, and perfectly behaved children who actually like one another.

This year has certainly expanded the Willys' knowledge and impressions of the Saudi people, all because of the Alshehri family, proudly headed by the irrepressibly hopeful Mike. So when most Americans hear "Saudi," and think of Osama bin Laden or oil prices or oil princes, the Willys think of Mike.

That is what being a host family has done for us, and it is a story that is repeated time and time again for others. You can have this experience too. Call the Willys for details: 913-341-4618.

Lt. Col. Sam, tell all our Swiss officers of the past a fond "Hello" from all of us and that we miss them.

What a Day for the Strawberry Picnic!

The KCSwiss have been on a winning streak with the Strawberry Picnic. Not only are we invited to hold it at the Leuthardts' lovely farm outside of Smithville, Missouri, but we were blessed with warm air, soft breezes and a gentle sun.

In response to a beautiful day and the thought of a Swiss picnic, 65 adults and seven children came to Smithville for our Strawberry get-together.

The food tables set up in one of the Leuthardts' outbuildings, were covered with a variety of favorite side dishes which members had brought to accompany the cervalet. Franz had whittled points on the ends of greenwood from trees to make roasting sticks for the cervalet which we roasted over very warm logs. After the main course, we trooped back to the food tables for one of the reasons we

came: more strawberries and more whipped cream than most people see in a lifetime! Annelies had sliced a huge bowl of strawberries and Andre's had supplied an equally large bowl of whipped cream, the real item, no less! Champagne was the obvious beverage to have with such delights, and we did. It was a wonderful day!

Many thanks to a host people for making such a wonderful day happen. The Bolliers brought the whipped cream and rolls from Andre's and ordered the cervalet for us. Harry Newby brought the essential supplies. Imagine eating whipped cream, strawberries and cake without a plate under them as well as the champagne. Every member there brought delicious dishes and desserts to add to the feast. And of course Franz and Annelies gave us the framework for it all - a perfect day in a beautiful setting, supplied with a fire, strawberries, music, and a hayrack ride, too. Thank you, one and all.

It was also so good to see David Ryffe joining us at the picnic. Although he was in a wheelchair, he looked very good, and he seemed to think we all looked good, too, because he was kind enough to talk to us and laugh with us and tell us about his adventures as a chef and graciously correct someone's mispronunciation of "sommelier." We hope he can make it to the Steak Cookout!

