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November 2009

Weihnachtsfest



The last event of the year, and most anticipated by some younger members, will be here soon. Join your fellow Swiss at the **Chalet on Sunday, December 6th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.** for a traditional St. Nicholas Day Celebration.

No registration is required, but if you are bringing “young Swiss” that will be looking for Santa at the event, please call CeeAnn Neuenschwander by November 30th at 913-451-4603.

We all look forward to sharing special holiday foods, so please bring your favorite appetizer, snack, dessert or treat. Hot chocolate and glühwein will be served.

See you there with bells on!

Ticino Abend Report

Passing by the massive smoker on wheels, guests were greeted by a palm tree and a string of Swiss flags directing them to the brightly decorated tent. Lights with lampions affixed to them illuminated the tent and area of tables extending to the west. Windows were opened to connect the outdoor area to the interior of the Chalet, which held two more dining tables. Window sills on the north and west sides emitted a cheerful glow from the red, candle-lit cups lining them. Music drifting through the air contributed to the relaxing, familial, Swiss-Italian evening.

At the feast's serving table, Chef **Chris Montemore** presented his dishes and answered

diners' questions. Chef **James Thomasson** generously assisted on the day of the event. Decorations and set-up were attributed to **Liz Kohlsteadt, Linda Scott, Bruce Hiller, Charlie Abend and CeeAnn Neuenschwander**. As usual, our helpful members took care of much of the clean-up.

The menu, presentation and décor incorporated into this unique event had not been experienced at Chalet Kupfer in anyone's recent memory. The evening was enjoyed by nearly 60 attendees who will remember it for some time to come.

Schutzenfest-Raclette Dinner Report

Mild temperatures and sunshine welcomed 56 attendees, and even the blustery winds didn't seem to hamper the aim of the shooting competitors.

Winners of the shooting competition were:

Girls: **Katherine Von Fintel**, age 6.

Boys: **Luke Shakleford**, age 10

Women: **CeeAnn Neuenschwander**

Men: **Don Neese** won the shoot-off from a 3-way tie with **Mel Theisan** and **Brad Hirni**.

Tasty salads and desserts complimented the cooked Raclette cheese and new potatoes that were so expertly cooked by **Gus Riedi, Chris Kohlsteadt and James Thomasson**. A huge thank you to **Don Neese** for organizing the shooting competition, sighting the guns, setting up the targets and sharing his expertise. Thanks to those that stepped-up to help at the scorer's table and second shooting venue. That's one of our organization's greatest assets – the members who so willingly help.

Chalet Kupfer Wall Project Report

The shining talents and many hours of hard work to rebuild the Chalet's south wall have been nothing short of amazing. **Lee Kupfer**, civil engineer, was the master planner. He drafted the plans and worked with Chalet Maintenance Chair, **Jim Neuenschwander**, to determine a time-line for all the tasks involved. **Liz Kohlsteadt** recruited and coordinated volunteers as well as fed the workers on several occasions.

Preparations included removing landscaping, décor items, light fixtures and electrical wiring that would be affected by the project. Most importantly, Lee and **Henry Kupfer** secured the structure by propping up the roof with substantial beams.

Saturday, September 19th was the day that the bulk of the work began. Early workers removed the windows and window framing. Next came the most dramatic and noisy task of smashing the concrete wall into blocks and bits for removal. The following step was to make way for the French drain by removing dirt down to the footing and approximately two feet from where the wall had stood. The west wall required the same size trench because the drain needed to flow around the corner and down the hill to the drop-off on the north side. At the end of the day, a framework was built along the south side and covered with plastic to protect the open Chalet from possible rain. **Liz Kohlsteadt** kept the large group of workers fed and hydrated.



Lee Kupfer and Alan Coleman redefine "working" supervisors.

On Sunday the work continued with **Alan Coleman** leading the crew. To the workers' delight **Frank and Pat Bisang and Liz Coleman** fired up the grill and provided a tasty lunch as well as taking up shovels to help. The day was filled with serious shovel work, and in the end most of the "dirty" work was done.

It's safe to say that during the first weekend hundreds of wheelbarrow loaded with concrete and dirt were taken from the site and dumped on the north side. It should be noted that the work planned for two weekends was accomplished during this first weekend. This feat is directly attributed to the hard work and dedication of willing workers. Those not already mentioned are:

Pat Clifton, Chris and James Kohlsteadt, CeeAnn Neuenschwander, Don Neese and Dory Trinqual, Harry Newby, Linda Scott, Tony Case, Doug Adams, and Lorenz Riedi. On Sunday, hard-working members of Pat Clifton's Rugby team willingly manned the shovels: Brad Clark, Wayne Nicholson, Aaron Winzer, Keenan Kahler and Alex Rinas.



Chalet wall was demolished and much dirt removed.

The building of the wall was completed the next weekend by **Don Neese** and a skilled assistant. Don's professional talents are evident by the straight and true wall that now stands and shall for many years.

After the wall was erected, much work was yet to be done. Painted tar sealed the outside surface that would have contact with the earth,

and then the drain pipe was lowered into the trench. A helpful neighbor on the street used his Bobcat to fill the trench with gravel from the large pile that had been delivered weeks earlier. The inside of the wall was painted with a clear sealer.

Workers that contributed to the sealing and painting process were: **Lee Kupfer, Gus Riedi, Karl Ryffe, Dan Bonderer, Jim and CeeAnn Neuenschwander, Linda Scott and Liz and Chris Kohlstaedt.** Thanks to Chris who took a truckload of construction debris to the dump.

Gus Reidi, with some assistance from **Jim Neuenschwander**, built the new windows before the wall project began. He was in Switzerland as we demolished and rebuilt the wall, and it was now time to bring them from his workshop and begin the installation process. Gus and Jim stained, finished and installed the windows. Also, they painted the wall and reinstalled the lights.

To further secure proper drainage for the Chalet, Jim and Gus are currently working on revamping the guttering. They installed a drainage system that ties into the French drain and carries all water to the drop-off to the north. With the completion of this project, the Chalet's drainage will have been improved significantly.

Secretary's note: If a name was omitted from this stellar group of works, my sincere apologies, and please let me know. There were times that I was not on site, but I want to credit all who contributed to this fantastic Swiss project.

Special Contributions to the Chalet Kupfer Wall Project

Our organization is extremely fortunate to have members that contribute in so many ways. Two families have made generous financial contributions:

★ In memory of their father, **Fritz Hirter, Jr.**, Linda Drollinger and Fritz Hirter, III (Sonny) made a contribution for the new windows. It is heartwarming to think that Fritz will surely be looking in on his family and Swiss friends through those windows for many years to come.

- ★ In memory of St. Joseph resident **Paul Abersold**, who died November 12, 2009, Helen Hirter, David and Linda Drollinger and Fritz Hirter III made a contribution to the Chalet project. Paul's twin daughters, Paula Humphries and Joy Padley are members, and Paul had been a KCSS Secretary.
- ★ The **Roth family**, Al, Phyllis, Chris, Lynda and Rick, contributed to the project expenses for any supplies needed or to feed the hungry workers.

A special thanks to these exceptional families.

Schedule of Social Events

★ *Weihnachtsfest*

Sunday - December 6, 2009
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
at Chalet Kupfer

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

Our esteemed President, **Liz Kohlsteadt**, is recovering from surgery. We understand she is regaining her vitality and is almost up to speed.

Those that worked on the Chalet project know that **Jim Neuenschwander** “supervised” while on crutches as a result of his total hip replacement. He’s doing well and is back at work on the Chalet.

Jim Cotrell had surgery on November 16, 2009. We send him our good wishes and hope to see him at our coming events.

We congratulate the following young men who recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout:



Luke McElwain – July 21, 2009



Sean Coleman – Sept. 29, 2009

Call John Kupfer at (816) 941-0860 to give him membership information for the Sunshine Report.

Board Meeting Highlights

On November 4, 2009, the Chalet was the site of the 6:30 p.m. board meeting.

Minutes were approved and the Treasurer’s report was presented.

Discussion of the Chalet wall project began by taking a few minutes to admire the recent work and especially the windows that had been recently installed. Chalet Committee Chair, Jim Neuenschwander reported that the project is under the \$3000 originally approved, but that does not include several outstanding payments. The board approved an additional \$500 for completion of the added guttering and drainage improvements.

General maintenance and upgrades to the Chalet have included more items than identified in the spring; the board approved an additional \$500 over what has already been spent on maintenance. The curtain project will be delayed until spring.

We discussed recent events of Ticino Abend and Schutzenfest/Raclette Dinner.

Planning for the December 6th St. Nicholas Day Party took place. It will be held at the Chalet from 2 – 4 p.m.

The annual meeting is an anticipated highlight of the year, especially when held at Andre’s. We are checking with them to for possible dates.

No new membership applications were presented. The Sunshine Report included surgeries for Jim Neuenschwander and Liz Kohlsteadt, both of whom had recovered sufficiently to attend the board meeting.

The board approved \$250 for the development of the KCSS web site. This will give us more options and improved communication with our membership as well as greater community visibility.

The next board meeting will be in February, 2010.



**The Kansas City Swiss Society
CeeAnn Neuenschwander, Secretary
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