

AELPLER GRUPPE SWISS CLUB

Founded 1925

NEWSLETTER

Swiss owned and operated since 1935

President's Message

By Arnold Ambiel



Dear Aelplers,

Fall in Northern California is always special. The park and hall look great on our warm afternoons. Harvest ties up many of our members for the rest of this month, but then it's time to get together. Join us for our Metzgete on Nov 12th. I know the chef and the sausage makers; it will be great.

The summer season is winding down at Swiss Park, but outdoor rentals are still in full swing. Check social media for updates on public events.... Music Sundays are the new thing. Check out the SETTIMANE TICINESI events this month at the Swiss Consulate in SF. It's the month to celebrate Ticino in Northern California.

Swiss National Day at Swiss Park was a big success. The Aelpler Gruppe did very well fundraising through the online auction and our Swiss memorabilia booth. Thanks to all the volunteers, donors and bidders. And congrats to the United Swiss for organizing such a successful event.

Our Fall Schwingfest was a blast. Thank you to the Schwingerklub Küssnacht-am-Rigi for visiting. You are always welcome to come back. And to all the Schwingers, donors, volunteers and guests, thanks for making our Schwingfest so much fun. Let's do it again next year!

Make sure to attend our Annual Meeting on November 6th. We will report on our work to date by the Steering and Membership committees. And please mail your ballots back in by the deadline. Look for the Christmas Party invites later this month and start gathering your raffle items.

Next Trivia Question: What's the oldest Swiss organization in Northern California (not the consulate)? Call/text me the answer at 510-936-2523. We'll draw a winner from the first 3 received. See the correct answer from our last newsletter inside. Bob Ulrich was the winner!

Ich wünsche euch alles Gute,

Volume XXX Issue 4, October - December 2022

www.aelplergruppe.com



Swiss National Day Celebration

Aelpler Gruppe Fall Schwingfest

The Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club hosted the Swiss National Day Celebration organized by the United Swiss Societies of Northern California on August 6, 2022.

The beautiful and temperate day in Newark, CA brought many Swiss

visitors and friends to the Swiss Park picnic grounds. We enjoyed music and dancing to the Zicke Zacke Band and food by Lugano Swiss Bistro which included choices of Spaetzle, roast chicken, or Bratwurst.



There were fun-filled activities for the whole family including a rockclimbing wall, a Swiss Heritage Mobile Museum and art & dance classes. Award winning children's author Gisela Bengfort was on hand for a book reading and signing. Children also delighted in the Swiss train display courtesy of Robert Waal.

After lunch, the children marched around the Swiss Park with all the Swiss Canton flags lead by local Swiss accordion player Art Brogli.

Visitors to the Swiss Park for the Swiss National Day celebration purchased goodies from Canonica Artisan Chocolatier, Little Sky Bakery, Domaine Daragny Wines (with wine tastings included), and Valley Ford Cheese and Creamery. The United Swiss Society had a snackbar set-up with lots of snacks to purchase throughout the day;

keeping those active and hungry kids happy. We had a wonderful day to celebrate our Swiss heritage and all things Swiss.



This year's fall Schwingfest was one to be remembered. We had a great turnout, with lots of volunteers to help make a great event even better. A big thank you to all our wonderful volunteers for their support, as well as the judges and wrestlers! Many donations went towards the Schwinger prizes which included Swiss army knives, chocolates, a belt buckle, the Treicheln bell, and many more. The Shwingerklub Küssnacht also presented the Aelpler Gruppe with a beautifully carved wooden clock to commemorate their trip here. It is now on display in the Swiss Park bar.

The lunches provided by our amazing kitchen crew were delicious and included a lunch of BBQ wursts and chicken dinner. Thank you to our cooks and volunteers for a tasty dining experience!

The wrestling was the main feature of the day and included many exciting wins from various Schwingers. Gaby Sonnberger sang a beautiful rendition of the national anthem to signal the start of the festivities. Steinstossen was completed between the wrestling matches, garnering lots of attention especially when the largest stone was thrown. The highlight of the evening was the crowning of the 'Schwingen King,' Patrick Betschart, shortly followed by a marriage proposal from Ralph Lüthy to his girlfriend Nadine Suter. Aelpler Gruppe and its members send our many congratulations to the happy couple!



View the great schwingfest video produced by Tom Coroneos here: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pviR_gp9pco&t=4s</u>

Jass enthusiasts please come to the Swiss Park Hall and join Aelpler Gruppe Swiss club for our monthly Jass Get-together.

Meet us on the **2nd Sunday of each month** at Swiss Park from 2 pm to 4 pm. All interested players regardless of skill level or familiarity with the game are welcome.

For more information, please text: Patricia Schaffarczyk (510) 677-8461 Rick Steiner (209) 359-7604







Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club

2022 Fall Schwingfest Rangliste

Seniors				
Place	Name	Town	Points	
1	Patrick Betschart	Immensee	58.00	
2	Ralph Lüthy	Küssnacht am Rigi	57.25	
3	Pirmin Suter	Oberath	56.75	
4	Morgan Lujan*	Sacramento	56.25	
5	Patrick Richardson	Frances	56.00	
Above with Crowns				
6	Daniel Zimmermann	Weggis	55.75	
7A	Romeo Beinz	Küssnacht am Rigi	55.25	
7B	Christian Forster	Küssnacht am Rigi	55.25	
8	Nathan MacLeod	Frances	54.75	
9A	Carlos Hernandez	Ripon	54.50	
9B	Steven Widmer	Manteca	54.50	
10	Aaron Robinson	Ripon	54.25	
11	Mike Berchtold	French Camp	52.50	
Jun	iors			
1	Sam Ming	Sacramento	57.75	
2	Zamari Knockum	Stockton	57.25	
3	Walter Bynum	Oakdale	52.50	
Gro	oup A			
1	Barrett Silva	Modesto	56.75	
2	Alex Kuttel	Sacramento	56.50	
3	Niko Birakos	Oakdale	55.75	
4	Wyatt Noonkester	Manteca	52.50	
Gro	oup B			
1	Jayse Birakos	Oakdale	58.50	
2	James Marchy	Modesto	52.50	
* Schönschwinger				
Steins	tossen			
1	Nathan Macl eod		12'7"	















Watch the Video of this year's Schwingfest in Pratteln, Switzerland

@esaf2022 on instagram: https://www.instag ram.com/p/Ch9QB zqqd02/?hl=en



Aelpler Gruppe 2022 Calendar of Events

www.facebook.com/aelplergruppeswissclub

Nov 6	Annual Members Meeting
Nov 12	Metzgete Dinner
Dec 3	Members Christmas dinner

United Swiss Societies

Diane Wagner, President 510-582-0698 www.unitedswissnorcal.org

Peninsula Swiss Club

Contact: Erich Sonnberger 650-505-9802 <u>esonnberger@interorealestate.com</u> <u>www.peninsulaswissclub.com</u>

Swiss Consulate General, Balz Abplanalp Pier 17, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94111 Phone: 415-788-2272 www.eda.admin.ch/sanfrancisco

Contact information for **Western US Swiss Clubs**: Visit the Swiss Consulate General's website: <u>https://www.eda.admin.ch/dam/countries/countries-</u> content/unitedstates-of-america/en/112.0_CHclubsSF,pdf

Swiss Rifle Club Events

Contact: Stephen Hurst at (831) 927-9296 E-Mail: <u>carmelgunclub@outlook.com</u> More information at: <u>www.carmelgunclub.com</u>

July Trivia question: "What is the Via Sbrinz and where does it go?"

Answer: The Via Sbrinz is an ancient trade route through the Alps from Luzern to Domodossola, Italy. Mules were used to carry the traded goods and often knew how to find the shortest route. This route is named after Sbrinz cheese, a predecessor to parmesan cheese made in Central Switzerland. The Sbrinz route dates back to Roman times.

Winner: Bob Ulrich



Swiss Park 2022 Events

5911 Mowry Avenue, Newark 510-793-6272 www.swissparknewark.com

SJVSC, Ripon 2022 Calendar of Events

- www.sjvscriponswiss.com Tony Berchtold, President
- Oct 1 Oktoberfest Oct 15 Fall Swiss club dinner/Swiss Echoes concert
- Nov 13 Fall Jass partu
- Dec 3 Swiss Echoes Christmas dinner
- Dec 11 Children's Christmas party

Sierra Swiss Club Calendar

Contact: Urs Gwerder 530-587-8316 http://sierraswissclub.homestead.com

Pro Ticino

http://www.proticino.ch/

West Coast Swiss Wrestling Association Board

Board President – Arnold Ambiel Vice President – Urs Gwerder Treasurer – Don Widmer Secretary – Chris Schallberger

West Coast Schwingfests are online at http://schlussgang.ch/

For other updates go to: <u>https://esv.ch/ https://schlussgang.ch/</u> <u>http://efsv.ch/ Frauen Schwingen</u> <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/luttesuisse/</u>

The Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club held a hiking event in the Marin Headlands:

(~~~)

The group was able to explore the views of the Pacific Ocean on the trail, seeing many wildflowers along the way. Fort Cronkhite was also explored, which is a World War II military post that has been preserved and converted into offices for the National Park Service.



Here is a photo of one of the decommissioned cannons left at the fort for visitors to view. This is one of two batteries set on either side of the golden gate straits.

Watch the YouTube video about the hike here: By Tom Coroneos <u>https://youtu.be/MLTInNWKWs8</u>



Passing of individuals in the greater Swiss community: Joseph Fassler – Member of Ripon Swiss club Kathleen (Kay) Marie Richardson – Member of Lewis Pacific Swiss Society Walter Vogel – Member of Ripon Swiss club Joe Muller – Social member of Aelpler Gruppe and member of Ripon Swiss club

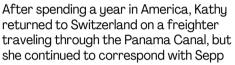
Obituary - Kathy Koller

April 30, 1923 - July 25, 2022

Kathy was born in Kussnacht am Rigi, Canton Schwyz, on April 30, 1923, to Josef and Katharina Pfyl-Schuler. Kathy, along with her two siblings, Seppi and Elsie, had a lovely upbringing and cherished an idyllic childhood spent along the shores of the Vierwaldstättersee and the slopes of the Rigi.

In 1951, Kathy traveled to the United States for a year-long adventure to learn English, all the while intent on returning to Switzerland. After working for a short time in Kentucky, Kathy visited family in Maxwell, California, and from there she traveled to San Francisco where she secured a position as an au pair. After moving to the city, Kathy immediately joined the Aelpler

Gruppe in order to meet other Swiss immigrants and to enjoy the Swiss culture she missed. It was at the Aelpler Gruppe where she eventually met the love of her life and her future husband, Sepp Koller.



for more than a year until he eventually convinced her to return to America to marry him. In 1953, Kathy returned to San Francisco and married Sepp at a small ceremony at St. Monica's Church. The young couple moved to their home on Pope Street in the Excelsior District where they raised their two daughters, Cathy and Elizabeth.

In 1980, Kathy and Sepp moved to Skyline Boulevard in Oakland where they lived until Sepp's passing in 2013. Following Sepp's death, Kathy moved to her apartment at the Lake Park Retirement Community in Oakland where she spent the final years of her life. Kathy passed away peacefully on July 25, 2022.



Although Kathy lived for more than 70 years in the United States, she remained in her heart a Swiss. She often traveled to Switzerland, she loved to prepare Swiss meals, and she loved being a member of the Aelpler Gruppe, especially meeting up with friends and listening and dancing to Landlermusik. For her, Switzerland was a strong quiding light in her life.

Whenever someone would ask Kathy of what she was most proud, she would invariably mention her family. For Kathy, her family always came first. She instilled in her daughters and grandchildren the value of hard work and perseverance, the importance of strong family values, and the binding power of love (especially for Switzerland).

Kathy's "family" also extended to the large network of friends, old and new, including her many friends at the Aelpler Gruppe. Kathy always made a point to keep these relationships current, and during her final years the love she felt from the visits, phone calls and letters from her friends around the world greatly enriched her life.

We, her family, will miss Kathy dearly and she will remain in our hearts forever.

Submitted by: Cathy & Elizabeth



Obituary - Hugo Straub

November 19, 1922 - July 30, 2022

Hugo was a supportive member of our club for many years. He lived to be 99 years and 11 months old. A celebration of life was held in August for both Hugo and his wife Pia, who passed earlier in the year, at the Church of Nativity in Menlo Park.



Obituary - Karl Omlin

September 29, 1933 - Sept. 15, 2022

Lifetime member Karl Omlin was born on September 29, 1933 in French Camp, California to parents Leo and Hermina Omlin. During his time as a mechanic in Fort Ord, Karl met Katherine (Kathy) Schilter. On September 5th, 1959 Karl and Kathy were married. Kathy was the love of his life. This past September they celebrated their 63rd anniversary!



Karl was often quoted as a "witty fun

Swiss man who had the best one-liners while having a gentle soul". Karl's greatest joy was watching his 6 grandsons and 1 granddaughter grow up as they love calling him Papa and jumping in his lap while he was relaxing in his living room recliner.

Karl is survived by his wife Kathy, son Karli, son Kenny (Ninveh), daughter Karin (Glen), grandsons, Josh, Samuel, Noah, Jonah, Joshua, Elijah, granddaughter Eden, brother Leo (Jolene) and many loving nieces and nephews in California, Nevada and Washington. The Omlin and Inderbitzin Families thank everyone for their love, support, friendship as we know Karl is in peace now dancing in Heaven with his Swiss buddies!



Obituary - Alan Franke

December 25, 1950 - July 2, 2022

Lifetime member of Aelpler Gruppe, Alan Franke passed away in July. He was a member of the local San Leandro Masonic Lodge No. 113. Our deepest condolences to the Franke family.



Memorial Fund donations thru the Aelpler Gruppe website: <u>https://www.aelplergruppe.com/donations/</u>

We are grateful for donations to the Memorial Fund to honor members who have passed.

In memory of Kathy Koller

Conrad & Karen Grass Kurt & Linda Clausen David & Margrith Reichmuth

In memory of **Louis Ettlin**

Agnes Reed Manfred Kipp Stanley & Evelyn Cheever Geraldine Betschart Pete & Jackie Zuger

Celebration of life video by Tom Coroneos https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMhamXUKrJE&t=2s

In memory of **Emil Zollinger** Heidi Ambiel

Whom to contact when a Swiss Club member is deceased: Please e-mail our Corresponding Secretary, Kathi Mathys-Imholz at 56kmathys@gmail.com or call 530-949-1872



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From the Consulate General of Switzerland in San Fransisco, Swiss National Day 2022:

President of the Swiss Confederation, Ignazio Cassis, sends his greetings to the increasing number of the Swiss community living abroad.



Get well to Lois Ulrich. She recently fell and fractured her hip. She is doing well post-surgery and we wish her a quick recovery!



https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/fdfa/living-abroad/schweizerinnenund-schweizer-im-ausland/fifth-switzerland.html

SWISS 6 US GATEWAYS to ZURICH 1 US GATEWAY to GENEVA

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AELPLER GRUPPE SWISS CLUB

Metzgete-Schlachtfest Saturday, November 12, 2022 at Newark Swiss Park 5:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Dinner and Dancing to the Gruber Family Band \$30 PER PERSON, PREPAID RESERVATIONS ONLY

Dinner includes choice of two meats: bratwurst, smoked pork loin, leberwurst, German style blood sausage with sauerkraut, potatoes, roll, dessert

Reservation form:

Name(s):_____

Phone #_____Email address_____

Please mark 2 meats for each person:

__# of Bratwurst _____# of Smoked Pork Loin

_____ # of Blood Sausage _____# of Leberwurst

Please make your check payable to **Aelpler Gruppe** and mail it with the reservation form by **October 28** to 5911 Mowry Avenue, Newark, CA 94560

For more information: (510) 936-2523

Aelpler Gruppe Family Hiking Group

Join Us!

When: Sunday, October 23, 2022 8:45 AM

Where: Circumnavigate Angel Island

Meet at: San Francisco Ferry Terminal Gate B



Let's hike the 6.2 mile perimeter of Angel Island taking in the sites of Camp Reynolds, Fort McDowell, San Francisco views, and the Angel Island Immigration Station.

Purchase your round-trip tickets from Golden Gate Ferry on the day or beforehand. The ferry departs for Angel Island at 9:20 a.m. Dress in layers, bring lunch and snacks. No dogs are allowed on the island.

Ferry Information: <u>https://www.goldengate.org/ferry/angel-</u> island-ferry/

Angel Island Information: <u>http://parks.ca.gov/?page_id=91</u>

Please RSVP to Michelle Ott 408-687-7708 ott2relax@yahoo.com



General Information

Aelpler Gruppe Board of Directors Meeting

First Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Newark Swiss Park unless otherwise notified

Newark Swiss Park Board of Directors Meeting

Second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Newark Swiss Park unless otherwise notified

Newark Swiss Park Board of Directors

President	Thomas Imholz Jr.
Vice President	Pete Zuger
Treasurer	Carl Ramsell
Secretary	Susanne Cameron
Assistant Secretary	Herman Betchart

Swiss Park Manager Robert Fuchslin

Newsletter Editor Rose Satariano aelplergruppe@gmali.com

Have you moved?

Please forward your new address to Kathi Mathys-Imholz, Corresponding Secretary, Via email to: <u>aelplergruppe@gmail.com</u> Thank you.

Officers

Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club Board of Directors for 2022

President **1st Vice Pres** 2nd Vice Pres **Recording Secretary** Corresp. Secretary Treasurer Assistant Treasurer Past President Director 1 - Music/Historian Director 2 - Membership Director 3 - Newsletter Editor Director 4 - Historian **Director 5 - Wrestling** Sennenmutter Sennenvater USS Delegate

Arnold Ambiel 510-936-2523 Marilyn Ramsell Manchester Bill Bauhofer **Julia Dobbel Hester** Kathi Mathys-Imholz Margrith Reichmuth Michelle Bauhofer-Ott Kurt Clausen Pat Wipfli-Schaffarczyk Karen Dobbel Rose Satariano Darrell Ramsell Dominick Reichmuth **Rosemary Ramsell** Pete Zuger Arnold Ambiel



On September 19, 2022, on the 125th anniversary of the Swiss Farmers' Union (SBV), chefs attempted to break the world record of making the largest rösti (A Swiss dish consisting mainly of sauteed or shallow-fried potatoes). An estimated 1300 kg of potatoes were used for the event. It is such an integral part of local customs that the Swiss Farmers' Association has set a new world record when its members prepared a giant rösti in front of the parliament building in Bern.

The potatoes used for the event were fried in a 13.7-square metre pan shaped like a Swiss cross.

This year's record beat the previous one from 1994 by three square metres. And it was no small feat, given the logistics involved in the project. "The potatoes needed for this had been grown over the summer in all the cantons before being brought to Bern for this culinary event", the Association said in a press release. "In a solemn ceremony opened by bell ringers from the region and alphorn players, 27 delegations from all the cantons as well as the Principality of Liechtenstein handed over the potatoes in wicker baskets".



