

MAY 2024

West Coast Swiss Wrestling Association NEWSLETTER

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The West Coast Swiss Wrestling Association 2024 Schwinger season has begun! The Schwingfest results are inside. Read on for more results and announcements.

2024 WEST COAST SCHWINGFESTS

DATE	CLUB	LOCATION
June 1	San Joaquin Valley Swiss Club	Ripon, CA
June 15	San Diego Swiss Club	San Diego, CA
CHAMPIONSHIP SCHWINGFEST		
June 29	Tacoma Swiss Club	Bonney Lake, WA
July 5-7	Lewis-Pacific Swiss Club	Frances, WA
July 20	Sierra Swiss Club	Truckee, CA
August 3	Portland Swiss Club	Portland, OR
August 10-11	Tacoma Swiss Club	Bonney Lake, WA
August 31	Aelpfer Gruppe Swiss Club	Newark, CA
Sept 7	San Joaquin Valley Swiss Club	Ripon, CA



JOIN US AT THE RIPON SCHWINGFEST

SATURDAY, JUNE 1ST

Gate Opens/Signups at 10:30 am

Wrestling 11:00 am

Dinner, Dancing & Awards to Follow

Dancing to the Kapelle Gander-Scheiber

**Want to receive updates
from the WCSWA?
Send us your email infor-
mation to
wcswa22@gmail.com we
will put you on our email
list.**

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TILLAMOOK OREGON APRIL 26, 2024

The 2nd Tillamook Schwingfest got underway on April 26th 2024, after a fantastic spread for the wrestlers group at the Swiss Hall on Friday evening. There were spectators from Washington and California from as far as Holtville and

San Diego. A total of 10 Seniors, 3 Juniors and 10 in the 6-8 year old group. Everyone enjoyed the festivities and especially the dinner of Schnitzel and Mashed Potatoes! Grant Widmer took on Clint Schallberger in the Schlussgang and Grant won his first crown of the season.

Don Odermatt showed his skills with the Whip (no one was injured!) We thank Julie Hurlimann for the undertaking of the Schwingfest this year as it was well organized and those who attended had a great time with lots of beer and dancing.



Clinton Schallberger
and Grant Widmer

TILLAMOOK RANGLISTE

APRIL 26, 2024

1	Grant Widmer	Ripon	58.75
2	Steve Widmer	Ripon	57.50
3	Patrick Richardson	Frances	56.75
4	Clinton Schallberger	Ripon	56.25

Above with Crowns

1	Joshua Haug	San Diego	55.75
2	Carlos Hernandez	Ripon	55.50
3	Paul Leimgruber	Imperial Valley	55.25
4	Brian Zock	Frances	55.00
5	Codi Smith	Tillamook	54.75
6	George Durrer	Tillamook	52.50

JUNIORS

1	Luck Lisherness	Tacoma	57.50
2	Josh Hanson	Tacoma	56.75
3	Koi Smith	Tillamook	52.50

6-7-8

1a	Slate Nussbaumer	Portland	58.00
1b	Jackson Zock	Frances	58.00
2	Cedar Nussbaumer	Portland	57.25
3	Avery Wilson	Portland	56.75
4a	Mason Jorgenson	Portland	55.75
4b	Matthias Portmann	Tacoma	55.75
5	Oliver Kaufman	Portland	55.00
6	Leo Smith	Tillamook	54.75
7	Cooper Dustin	Portland	54.50
8	Porter Bishop	Tacoma	53.50



Don Odermott and Julie Hurlimann



Don Odermott and his whip cracking skills





IMPERIAL VALLEY SCHWINGFEST RANGLISTE April 13, 2024

SENIORS

1	Leimbruber, Paul	Holtville, CA	58.50
2	Widmer, Steven	Ripon, CA	56.50
3A	Ascencio, David	Holtville, CA	56.25
3B	Johnson, Donovan	Holtville, CA	56.25
4	Schallberger, Clinton	Lodi, CA	55.75
Above with Crowns			
5	Richardson, Patrick	Frances, WA	55.50
6a	Haug, Joshua	Mt Vernon, IA	55.25
6b	Freeman, Alexander	Holtville, CA	55.25
6c	Samunathia, Josh	El Centro, CA	55.25
7	Bellavia, Joseph	San Diego, CA	55.00
8a	Mafia, Sonny	Imperial, CA	54.50
8b	Curry, Kyle	Holtville, CA	54.50
8c	Lederma, Daniel	Holtville, CA	54.50
9	Taylor, Zachary	Brawley, CA	54.25
10	Gonzales, Marcus	Ripon, CA	52.75
	Gutierrez, Phillip	Holtville, CA	45.50
	Toten, Maddox	Holtville, CA	36.50

JUNIORS

1	Duarte, Sebastian	Holtville, CA	57.00
2	Rosas, Luis	Manteca, CA	56.75
3	Sagapola, Josiah	Manteca, CA	56.25
4a	Mendoza, Jose	Huber, CA	54.75
4b	Garcia, Jeremy	El Centro, CA	54.75

YOUTH A

1	Kellum, Drew	Holtville, CA	48.75
2a	Johnson, Connor	Brawley, CA	46.75
2b	Leimbgruper, Marcus	Holtville, CA	46.75
2c	Williams, Beau	Holtville, CA	46.75
3	Hawk, Ayden	Holtville, CA	45.75
4	Lansman, Peter	Holtville, CA	45.75

YOUTH B

1	Sutter, Tony	Holtville, CA	48.75
2	Mayfield, Chance	Holtville, CA	46.75
3	Sanders, Fritz	El Centro, CA	45.75
4	Nelson, Otto	Holtville, CA	43.75

YOUTH C

1	Sanders, Sawyer	Holtville, CA	39.00
2	Olivieria, Mike	Holtville, CA	37.00
3a	Sanders, Benjamin	Brawley, CA	36.00
3b	Camron, Grady	Brawley, CA	36.00



The Holtville paper had a very nice article about the Schwingfest.

HOLTVILLE CELEBRATES SWISS CULTURE AT SCHWINGFEST. *One massive party for the 103rd Wrestling Event and the IV Swiss Club's Centennial Anniversary Celebration.* Spectators got rowdy in the stands shouting encouragement to each pairing in the sawdust wrestling circle that made up the primary entertainment of the day for the Imperial Valley Swiss Club's centennial celebration on Saturday, April 13.

Easily more than 100 folks gathered to enjoy the time-honored male-wrestling tradition that encompassed the Schwingfest. The Swiss folk-style wrestling tournament featured boys as young as age 5 grappling with each other, with helpful reminders from parents and the crowd not to let go of their opponent's schwingerhosen (Swiss wrestling shorts), or else risk disqualification.

Holtville resident and I.V. Swiss Club member Paul Leimgruber took first place at the Schwingfest with 58.50 points total, earning him the title and honor that generations of Swiss Americans before him have grappled for.

For Leimgruber's efforts, he earned a cash prize and was given a feeder calf — in traditional Swiss-farmer fashion — which he shared he was eager to take home as part of his hard-earned winnings. "Usually the winner gets a cow, but not always, but I'm taking mine home!" Leimgruber said later in the evening with a smile, talking about his prize sitting in a trailer outside.

For more information and full article: <https://holtvilletribune.com/2024/04/17/holtville-celebrates-swiss-culture-at-schwingfest/>

San Diego County Swiss Club West Coast Championship Schwingfest June 15, 2024

NEED A PLACE TO STAY?

Best Western Plus
Marina Gateway
800 Bay Marina Way,
National City, CA
619-259-2800 use rate
code **Swiss Club**
Rooms Blocked at
\$199.99 *limited



Day Park Schedule

10:00 Park Opens - Wrestler Sign-Up
10:30 Meeting of Wrestlers & Judges
11:00 Schwingen Begins
Game & Souvenir Booths Open
Noon Lunch served until approx 3:30 pm
After Schwingen Steinstossen

Evening Hall Schedule

6:00 - 8:00 pm Dinner approx
7:00 - Midnight Music/Dancing
By the Blaser - Faver Band
8:30 Crown Ceremony

Support the Schwingfest with an ad
in our program book. Email
sdswissevents@gmail.com

Follow us - Facebook – San Diego County Swiss Club
www.sdswissclub.com – sdswissclubevents@gmail.com

2001 Main Street, Chula Vista California

All times are approximate

JOIN US at 6 pm on FRIDAY NIGHT, JUNE 14th at the San Diego County Swiss Club for a Schwingfest welcome dinner. Ernie Ludwig will be showing wrestling movies taken during his career. It's a chance for the board and friends to get together. Hope to see you there.

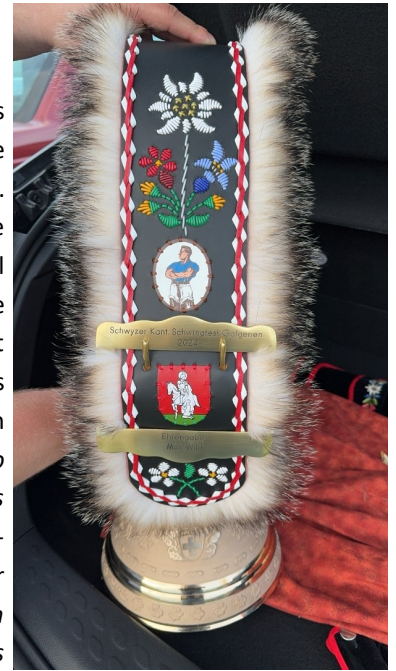
BRENDEN SPAHR -

SWISS SCHWINGEN ADVENTURES



Brenden Spahr was able to compete in two Schwingfests in Switzerland in May. On May 12th he competed in the Schwyzer Kantonaales Schwing-und Älplerfests in Galgenen. His first round he was able to beat Michael Dobler and in the 2nd and 3rd rounds lost to Franz Toni Kenel and Daniel Betschart. His 4th round he beat Jonas Steiner and he earned a 10.00 in his 5th against Gregor Ulrich. That set him up to wrestle a Teilverbandskranzschwinger **, Lukas Bissig, where he was defeated. His placing was 13th with

55.00. Brenden shared his experience: *"The Schwingfest here was mind blowing. Walking into the arena and seeing six Platz where these men are here trying to earn their shot at tournaments like the Rigi, Brunig, Eidg. I knew this was going to be a much different fight. The men I practiced with and wrestled against were all so welcoming and helpful, they didn't care who I was or where I was from; they just wanted to help me be successful and pass on some knowledge. In the Schwyzer Kantonal I made all 6 rounds, which was a surprise to say the least. I came into this hoping for one or two wins, just really learning more on the learning experience than setting crazy high expectations. I would say I feel very proud of myself and still in shock that I went as well as it did. I know there's a few things I could've done better and God knows there is more work to be done in practice, but I am riding high on what I accomplished today."* - Brenden Spahr following the Schwyzer Kantonaales Schwingfest.



The Schwyzer Kanton presented 40 Crowns, with 230 Schwingers and 4,550 people in attendance. There were 5 New crown Schwingers at this event. Christian Schuler and Patrick Betschart were in the Schlussgang with Christian defeating Patrick. Note that both of these Schwingers made a debut in California Schwingen in Ripon and in Newark.



1 Schuler Christian ***	58.50	13h Spahr Brenden	55.00
+ Wandeler Roman **	10.00	+ Dobler Michael	9.75
+ Schmid Simon *	9.75	o Kenel Franz-Toni *	8.50
+ Rychen Roger ***	9.75	o Betschart Daniel	8.50
- Lustenberger Josef *	9.00	+ Steiner Jonas	9.75
+ Felder Martin **	10.00	+ Ulrich Gregor *	10.00
+ Betschart Patrick *	10.00	o Bissig Lukas **	8.50

Brenden was also interviewed by Tele1 - Check out the video of Brenden practicing as well

<https://www.tele1.ch/nachrichten/us-schwinger-in-sachseln-157115822>



Translation from the Tele1 video: "People swing in Switzerland and the USA. That's why there are always wrestlers who come to us from the States and compete with the bad guys here. One of them is currently training with the Sacheln wrestling section and is preparing for the Obwalden and Nidwalden cantonals."

OB-UND NIDWALDNER KANTONALSCHWINGFEST-LUNGERN

Next was on to the Ob-und Nidwaldner Kantonschwingfest - Lungern 2024. This Schwingfest was held on Saturday, May 18 2024. There were 32 Crowns presented and 198 Schwingers with 4000 people in attendance. This Schwingfest saw Joel Wicki beat Sven Schurtenberger at 6:07 minute with a Kurz/Fusststich.

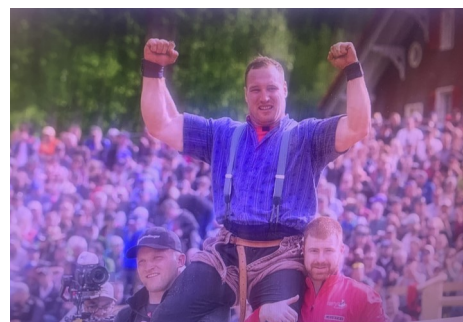
Brenden had a little tougher go at this Schwingfest. He lost his first round to Lars Imboden, and won his 2nd against Andrin Wursch. But lost his 3rd and 4th rounds to Marco Lussi ** and Michael Gander. He fought back with a tie against Markus von Ah, and lost his final round to Sandro Kaiser. All in all he had a very successful experience in the larger Swiss Stage.



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1 Wicki Joel ***	58.50
- Staudenmann Fabian ***	8.75
+ Wursch Lars *	10.00
+ Heinzer Stefan **	10.00
+ Gwerder Michael ***	9.75
+ Egli Damian **	10.00
+ Schurtenberger Sven ***	10.00
21e Spahr Brenden	53.00
o Imboden Lars	8.75
+ Wursch Andrin	9.75
o Lussi Marco **	8.50
o Gander Michael	8.75
- von Ah Markus	8.75
o Kaiser Sandro	8.50



Joel Wicki winner Ob-und Nidwaldner Kantonschwingfest 2024

Brenden also received a fantastic write up in the Swiss paper:

A US-swinger guest at the Ob- and Nidwaldner Kant. Swing-resistant

Last Sunday at the Schwyzer Kant. Schwingfest, the attentive spectators noticed a probably unknown name in the starting field of Obwalden and Nidwalden wrestlers. At the latest when looking at the place of residence behind the name Brenden Spahr it became clear that a guest from America had joined the contingent.

From young to active swingers

Spahr, whose great-grandfather moved overseas from Zug, started wrestling at the age of six. The now 25-year-old was always the only one at school who practiced wrestling. He was able to convince two of his college colleagues to venture into the sawdust. But it remained an attempt after the two realized how hard this duel was. The fact that 230 men voluntarily took part in the competition at the Schwyzer Kant. Schwingfest last Sunday caused great surprise for both of them. His wrestling career was slowed down by a knee injury in 2020. After actually resigning, the man from Chehalis, a small town in Washington, ventured back into the sawdust in the fall of 2022 on the advice of his family. At the first wrestling festival in the Pacific Northwest Region, he was able to defeat Dominik Hess from Engelberg, which really fueled the fire for wrestling and was the trigger for this year's trip to Switzerland.

Long training routes

Brenden Spahr doesn't have weekly training sessions in the evenings. For a swing training session, you have to complete a 3-hour drive by car in order to improve with a small number of other wrestlers before another three-hour journey home. Participation in a wrestling festival with more than 20 wrestlers, as is befitting of US wrestling festivals, and the support of a large number of spectators who do not consist of family and friends, was particularly exciting for him last Sunday.

New experiences in Switzerland

It wasn't just the atmosphere that filled him, he can also be extremely proud of his performance at his debut at a cantonal wrestling festival in Switzerland. Until the last gear, he even had ambitions for the crown with three victories to date. Not only during the last walk, but from the morning onwards he was quite tense, as he said in the conversation. The strengthening during the day went down so smoothly.

Support from fellow wrestlers

The biggest challenge was to hear his name from the pairings and find the right place. The German is not yet as fluent as the behavior on the wrestling arena. Luckily, two familiar faces were there to help and advise him. Pascal R  thlin and Stefan Ettlin met the farmer and electrician on their wrestling trip to the USA last summer. Back then, Brenden Spahr met the two Obwalden residents in the sawdust. What he only slightly suspected at the time was confirmed at the competition in Switzerland. The explosiveness and agility of the referee is much more pronounced in this country than in America.

Participation in ESAF in sight

The 25-year-old uses the three-week stay in Switzerland to not only discover the beauties, but also to collect new input for his technique.

His main goal is to take part in the Federal Wrestling and Alpine Festival in Mollis next year. Unlike in Switzerland, the selections for this are already underway in America. The man in the Edelweiss shirt has to convince himself at the 10 wrestling festivals throughout the summer in order to be chosen by the selection judges at the end of September as one of the best four, who will be sent to the ESAF as US representatives. A good performance at the Ob- and Nidwaldner Kant. Schwingfest, which is organized by the Lungern wrestling section and for which he competes, will definitely help



WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE SCHLUSSGANG PAGES IN SWITZERLAND:

(from the Schlussgang.ch)

The Roth Brothers update: On March 24th at the Hallenschwinget Lenzburg - Jan Roth placed 7b with 55.50 points, May 9th at the Baselstädtisches Schwingfest Basel 7 with 56.25; Brügger Schachen-Schwinget 5c with 57.00.

Tim Roth: April 28th at the Frühjahrschwinget Suhr, 3rd with 57.25; Solothurner Kantonschwingfest Kestenholz May 5th 4C 57.00; Baselstädtisches Schwingfest Basel 4b with 57.00; Brügger Schachen-Schwinget May 20th 4 with 57.25.

The Kantonal Schwingfests began in May - here are the Crown Sieger in each Schwingfest

Schwingfest	Date	Crown Winner	Schwingers	Crowns	Crowd
Zuger - Cham	5/5	Joel Wicki	191	33	4000
Freiburger—Frasses	5/5	Benjamin Gapany	121	19	2000
Solothurner— Kestenholz	5/5	Joel Strebel	116	15	2500
Thurgauer—Ermatingen	5/5	Werner Schlegel	153	27	6400
Baselstädtisches - Basel	5/9	Joel Strebel	115	19	5300
Schwyz—Galgenen	5/12	Christian Schuler	230	40	4550
Mittelämtdosjes— Riggisberg	5/12	1a Fabian Staudenmann 1b Adrian Walther	190	32	6200
Neuenburger - Dombresson	5/18	Matthieu Burger	107	18	1500
Ob-und Nidwaldner - Lu- gern	5/18	Joel Wicki	198	32	4000
Glarner-Bündner - Glarus	5/20	Domenic Schneider	133	21	3000
St. Galler Werdenber-Grabs	5/26	Marco Good	196	32	6000
Urner—Attinghausen	5/26	Lukas Bissig	179	27	2500



Lukas Bissig - He beat Brenden Spahr in the last round at the Schwyzer Kantonal Schwingfest and recently won the Urner Kantonschwingfest - Attinghausen on May 26. He has a total of 17 Crowns, 3 Berg Crowns, 2 Teilverband Crowns, and 12 Kantonal Crowns. The Urner was his 1st time as a Kranzfestsige ! He was born in 2003 and is 192 cm and 105 kg. His hobbies are farming Sheep and Hicking. He is a butcher by trade. He wrestles for the Innerschweiz and is from Canton Uri for the Atinghausen Schwingerklub. This year he was 3b at the Rang-Hallenschwinget Engelberg, 6b at the Frühjahrschwinget Ibach, 1 at the Urner Rangschwinget Altdorf, 6a Zuger Kantonschwingfest—Cham; 10b at the Baselstädtisches Schwingfest Basel and 10d at the Schwyzer Kantonschwingfest Galgengen. Congratulations to Lukas Bissig!

The West Coast Swiss Wrestling Association

Congratulates 2023 Josef L Inderbitzen Perpetual Trophy Winner

BRENDEN SPAHR

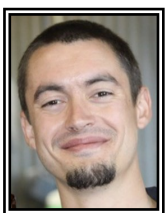
PORTLAND, OR

We had a total of 51 Schwingers competing in 2023 from the West Coast in the overall standings for the Perpetual Trophy. We have started with the Trophy again 13 years ago, winners have included Andrew Betschart (6x), Logan Schallberger, Frank Kaech (2x) Jakob Schallberger and Grant Widmer and now Brenden Spahr, which is our first out of California Wrestler to win the Trophy.

In fact for first time in the past 12 years the Perpetual Trophy did not go to a wrestler from the Ripon Schwinger Club, in fact for the first time ever it will go to a Schwinger from the Portland Schwinger Club. Brenden also won the Pacific Northwest Schwinger Award, which is given out to the Schwinger with the top combined scores on the Tacoma, Portland and Frances Schwingfests. Congratulations to Brenden Spahr! We hear that is is planning a trip to Switzerland to compete in some early summer Schwingfests. We can't wait to get more information so we can follow him.

We once again start our 2024 Perpetual Trophy starting at the Imperial Valley Schwingfest. Note that all of the Schwingfests count toward the Perpetual Trophy standings. More in the next newsletter.

Brenden will be awarded the Perpetual Trophy at the San Diego Championship Schwingfest on June 15th 2024.



ANNUAL GEORGE E. MORRIS MEMORIAL SCHWINGER AWARD

George E. Morris (11/25/1993-10/31/19)

The George E Morris Memorial Award for 2023 was won by *Patrick Richardson, Marcus Gonzales* and *Steven Widmer*. Patrick competed in Imperial, San Diego, Frances, Truckee, Portland, Tacoma, Newark and Ripon Schwingfests - all 8 Crown Schwingfests, and Marcus Gonzales and Steven Widmer competed at Imperial Valley, Frances, Truckee, Portland, Tacoma, Newark and Ripon Schwingfests - 7 of the 8. All three also competed in George E. Morris, home Schwingen club Imperial Valley which garnered them each an additional \$100.00 The 3 men split the pot of \$2,500.00 for 2023. This was an impressive showing all up and down the West Coast. Thank you to George Morris for perpetuating the Memorial Award in memory of his son.

Participating in 2024 - you must attend 10 of the 11 Schwingfests, however if you are wrestling in Switzerland at the same time a Schwingfest is here, it will not count as a miss. More info in the next Newsletter for the 2024 Season.

West Coast Swiss Wrestling Association

The West Coast Swiss Wrestling Association now officially recognizes Portland Swiss Club, Lewis Pacific Swiss Society and Tacoma Sportsman Club as members of the West Coast Swiss Wrestling Association, joining Imperial Valley Swiss Club, San Joaquin Valley Swiss Club, San Diego County Swiss Club, Sierra Swiss Club and Aelppler Gruppe Swiss Clubs. This has been years in formulating all of the West Coast together and we are excited that we are all united. What this means for our Schwingers? This offers you more points in the Perpetual Trophy sweepstakes and more completion in the final tallies.

MEET THE BOARD:

President:	Arnold Ambiel - Aelppler Gruppe SC
Vice President:	Urs Gwerder - Sierra Swiss Club
Secretary:	Chris Schallberger - SJVSC
Treasurer:	Don Widmer - San Joaquin Valley SC
Director:	Tony Odermatt - San Diego County SC
Director:	George Morris – Imperial Valley SC
Director:	Don Odermott - Portland, OR
Director:	Patrick Richardson - Frances, WA
Director:	Willi Schatz - Tacoma, WA



San Diego is where the Championship will be this year - June 15th - have never been? Make plans for to attend!

SCHLUSSGANG.CH Schwingerzeitung **SCHLUSSGANG** (on facebook)

2028 EIDGENÖSSISCHE has been announced! The next Eidgenössische and Alpine Festival will take place in Thun in 2028. The members of the wrestling association voted unanimously in favor of the only candidacy submitted. This received good marks from the responsible group of experts.

UPDATES FROM SWITZERLAND

2024 125 Jahr-Jubiläum Appenzell

<https://appenzell2024.ch>

2025 Eidgenössischen Schwing- und Älplerfests in Glarnerland+ Website www.esaf2025.ch

ESV

Eidgenössischer Schwingerverband is the organizing group for Swiss Wrestling. <https://esv.ch/>

Schlussgang

Die Schwingerzeitung <https://schlussgang.ch/>

Watch Schwingfests in Switzerland

<https://www.schwingen-live.ch/>

Follow Schwingen in Quebec, Canada

Lutte is French for wrestling

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/luttesuisse/>

