



SWISS PARK

Swiss owned and operated since 1935

AELPLER GRUPPE SWISS CLUB

Founded 1925

NEWSLETTER

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<https://www.aelplergruppe.com/>

Volume XXXVIII Issue 3, July - September 2026

USS Swiss Kids Camp



It was Kids Camp time once again on June 14th. About 35 children and teenagers joined the motivated helpers team for a day filled with fun activities and play time. The children rotated in groups of five to eight children through six fun stations: The kids scored goals at the Soccer station, decorated cookies with the baker ladies, met adorable Bernese Mountain dogs, learned facts about Swiss cantons and worked with a map & stickers. They also learned about Schellenursli during Story Time and painted gorgeous rocks using the dot technique.

Thanks to the kitchen crew, everyone was well fed through the day with provided snacks and fruit in the morning, hot dogs, pasta salad and chips for lunch and of course the highly anticipated ice cream bar at the end of the day. A big Thank You to Erich Sonnberger and his helper team for putting on a fabulous day.



August 1st- United Swiss Societies Swiss National Day

Please contact us if you have any donations for the online auction or Swiss Heritage Booth.

Event runs from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Fall Schwingfest

Aug 29th

11 a.m. @ Swiss Park

Wrestling, Steinstossen, Music & Food



Aug 30th - Family Hike

8:30 a.m., Upper Calaveras Fault Loop via Sierra Vista Trail

Meet @: 5345 Sierra Rd, San Jose, CA 95132

Please RSVP Michelle Ott 408-687-7708



Upcoming Jass Tournaments:

October 25th - Newark

November 15th - Ripon

Save The Dates!

November 1st Annual Member's Meeting
November 7th Metzgete Dinner
December 5th Member's Christmas Lunch

Jass Practice

2nd Sunday of each month
from 2-4 p.m. at Swiss Park Hall

Interested in becoming an Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club member? Visit our online application site for more information!

<https://www.aelplergruppe.com/memberships/>

Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club Facebook page www.facebook.com/aelplergruppeswissclub



President's Message By Arnold Ambiel

Dear Aelplers,

We need volunteers to support Swiss National Day on August 1st and our Schwingfest on August 29th. If you can volunteer for a 2 hour shift we would appreciate it. Look inside for more details. We are also looking for auction items for the Swiss National Day Online Auction and our Schwingfest.

The World Cup performance of the Nati* was amazing. The Swiss National team played 5 of their 6 games on the West Coast. Thanks to everyone that came out to a watch party, went to a game or a fan march. The Swiss media's coverage of the West Coast and specifically the San Diego Schwingfest was over the top and built a lot of good will for future visits.

Our June Soccer Social filled the hall with line dancers after the US Men's soccer game. Our dance floor is very popular with them. We have to figure out how to get them back. And the Swiss Kids Camp was a big hit on Sunday. Everyone had a good time.

We are actively recruiting for Bob Fuchslin's replacement so if you have any referrals please let Tom Imholz know. The grounds and hall look great and are very busy with rentals.

The Swiss Consulate has now moved to their new offices. Check their address before you visit. Swiss Tourism also closed their SF office. Follow www.myswitzerland.com for info.

Can't wait to watch some Swiss wrestling, hear some alphorns, eat a bratwurst, hear the Gander Scheiber Kapella and have some landjäger at our Schwingfest. Join us.

This issue's trivia question is: Which Schwinger has won both the Kilchberger Schwinget and an Aelpler Gruppe Schwingfest? Call/text the answer to 510-936-2523. No one got the right answer last time. See that question and answer inside this issue.

Ich wünsche euch alles Gute,

Arnold



E.J. Coops is the grandson of Joe and Mary Ann Russo-Betschart; son of Sherry and Scott Coops and great grandson of Frank and Mary Betschart of Pleasanton.

E.J. plans on attending Truckee Meadow Community College with a future goal of practicing Chiropractic Medicine. He will also continue to pursue his love of basketball!



Kenji Ramsell is the son of Darrell & Akiko Ramsell and brother to Mayuko of Livermore, the grandson of Gene Jr & (Jeannie) Ramsell of Modesto and the great grandson of the late Gene & Rosemary Ramsell of Fremont. Kenji graduated with top honors at San Jose State with a degree in Kinesiology. He wishes to pursue a career as a Physical Therapist.



Yue Zhou recently graduated from the MBA program at Stanford. He lived in Zug before moving to the US, and his wife Julia Rickenbacher is originally from Schattdorf in Uri. Julia works at Stanford, and Yue works in finance in San Francisco. They joined the Älplergruppe in 2025.



Soccer Social @ Swiss Park



To kick off the Soccer World Cup the Älplergruppe and Swiss Park invited all soccer fans to a Soccer Social on June 12th. First, our guests enjoyed watching the United States Men's National Team carrying home a 4-1 victory over Paraguay, while sipping on a cool beer or drink and eating a delicious Tri Tip dinner prepared by the Swiss Park kitchen crew. After the game, the boots and hats were brought out and about 50 dancers joined a line dance class. There was lots of laughter, spinning, counting and toe heel stomping involved. Everyone was having a Yee-Haw good time!



WE ARE HIRING

WANTED: Swiss Park Manager

Our long time and top-notch Swiss Park Manager, Bob Fuchslin, has decided it's time to retire and step back from his daily involvement of managing the bar, hall, and park at the end of this year.

The Swiss Park Board of Directors are reaching out to anyone that would be interested in taking on the role of Swiss Park Manager. This includes all aspects of the Swiss Park Business: Bar, Kitchen, Events and Property Management. If interested, please contact Tom Imholz:

510-517-8312 / TJIMHOLZ@comcast.net or any member of the Swiss Park or Aelpler Gruppe Board of Directors.

Hopp Schwiiz!!!

Whether watching from the stadium, at a local Swiss club, or from home, supporters proudly wore the Red and White, waved the Swiss flag, and cheered the Nation! Some of our Älplergruppe members flocked to Santa Clara on June 13th to cheer on the Swiss National Soccer team against Qatar. The atmosphere was phenomenal, there were so many Swiss flags and people dressed in red. Switzerland and Qatar parted in a tie 1:1.



Top and Middle: The Ulrich-Watson, the Mätzler and the Reichmuth families at the Swiss vs Qatar game in Santa Clara.

Bottom left: Helvetia Tavern in Helvetia Oregon.

Bottom right: The Imholz sisters supporting Switzerland from California, Pennsylvania, and Puerto Rico.

Hopp Schwiiz!!! Continued



Top: Group Cheering @Swiss Park in Newark.
Bottom: Viewing Party on the Clausen's patio.



(chatgpt.com)

What do Swiss fans say when the match goes to penalties?

"I wasn't planning on this much cardio!"



**Why did Swiss strikers leave
all their string at home?
They did not wanna tie the score!**

Family Hiking Group - Mill Valley



The hiking group met on June 28th, only blue skies and lush rolling hills greeted us at the trail entrance. We had two hiking options presented by our wonderful hiking lead Patricia Wipfli Schaffarczyk.

As part of the headlands, we started on the Tennessee Valley trail and completed the loop via Coastal, Coyote Ridge and Miwok trail. Option one was a 6.5 miles loop with 1031ft elevation gain. Option two was a flat 4 miles hike. After walking to the beach as a whole group, we split up and sent Bill and Tom back with the assignment to reserve a table in the shade for our lunch after the hike. The views were breathtaking and wildflowers bloomed in pink, yellow and blue. Fun insights: The group picture was taken by a Swiss hiker from a different group that just happened to be there coincidentally and a young family with Swiss roots read about our hike the night before on facebook and joined us for a short part of the hike.

The well deserved lunch was delicious, everyone brought something to share and we dug into a yummy frittata, apricot cobbler, veggie sticks with hummus, guacamole, Landjäger and cheese bites.



Here is the link to Tom Coroneo's video:

<https://youtu.be/YIMy5cylNBc>

USS Swiss National Day Celebration

Celebrate Swiss National Day with us on Saturday, August 1st, at Swiss Park in Newark from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Enjoy a festive afternoon filled with traditional Swiss entertainment, including alphorns, Swiss accordion music, a choir performance, the flag parade and lots of fun activities like jass, cornhole toss and rock climbing wall for the whole family.

Treat yourself to a delicious Swiss lunch and don't miss the fresh breads and beautiful baked goods and the wine and whiskey tastings. Several Swiss clubs will host booths featuring unique Swiss items, spices and gifts for purchase.

The Swiss Heritage Mobile Museum will return with an exhibit highlighting the history of Northern California's Swiss dairy farmers, honoring the generations of hardworking families whose contributions helped build the communities we continue to enjoy today.

If you're lucky, you might get a change to have a chat with the Swiss Consul Jonas Brunschwig as well as meeting some adorable Bernese Mountain dogs that love pets.

We look forward to celebrating Swiss National Day with you!

Are you ready for Swiss National Day?

The United Swiss Societies is hosting an online auction for the 1st of August celebration. We are collecting auction items. Please contact us with your donations!



UNITED SWISS SOCIETIES OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

ONLINE AUCTION

BIDDING OPEN AUGUST 1-9, 2026

All proceeds benefit our USSNC Member Swiss Clubs

SPORTS • WINE • HOTELS • RESTAURANTS • SWISS ITEMS

1 SCAN & REGISTER!

Sign up at our online auction platform to browse the catalog. Simply scan the QR code below to create your bidding account or sign up at www.biddingforgood.com/USSNC

2 SHOP & BID!

Bid on items you love—everyone is welcome!

You'll find unique Swiss goods, vacation stays, wine, sports tickets, local Swiss experiences, and more! All items generously donated by our members and supporters

Have an item to donate? Email: unitedswissauction@gmail.com
Please text or call 650-465-1513 with any questions

www.unitedswissnorcal.org

Please also consider donating gently used Swiss items for our heritage booth for the Swiss National Day celebration.

Pro Patria Pin 2026



This year's pin has two special features. First, it incorporates a textile hook-and-loop fastener, similar to those found on backpack straps and rain jackets. The two woven synthetic-fiber strips, one with loops and the other with tiny hooks, are inspired by the way burdock burrs cling to fabric and fur. Swiss engineer Georges de Mestral often took his dogs for walks in nature, where the burrs of the greater burdock (*Arctium lappa*) would attach themselves to the dogs' fur.

Curious about how they worked, he examined the burrs under a microscope and discovered that they were covered with tiny flexible hooks that could repeatedly catch onto hair or clothing without breaking. Inspired by this natural design, de Mestral developed the hook-and-loop fastener (Velcro) and patented his invention in 1951.

Second, the 2026 Swiss National Day pin is reusable. Once you no longer wish to wear it on your blouse or jacket with the included safety pin, you can attach it to your keychain or even to your dog's collar.

The 2026 pin is handcrafted by people with disabilities and you can purchase it at our August 1st celebration at Swiss Park.



100 YEARS
AELPLER GRUPPE
SWISS CLUB
1925 - 2025

AUG 29TH 2026

FALL SCHWINGFEST

Schwingen starts 11 a.m.
Bratwurst Lunch 1 p.m.
Schlussgang 5 p.m.
Open Bar Outside until 6 p.m.
Tri Tip Dinner 6 - 7:30 p.m.
Gander Scheiber Kapella 7 p.m.
Awards Ceremony 8 p.m.

Admission: \$15

@ Swiss Park
5911 Mowry Avenue,
Newark, CA 94560

Chase Suite Hotel
www.chasehotelnewark.com
39150 Cedar Blvd, Newark, CA
Walking distance to Swiss Park
Swiss Park rate ranging from \$119 to \$169 (room size)
(510) 795-1200

For more information please:
• check our website www.aelplergruppe.com
• call (510) 936-2523
• email aelplergruppe@gmail.com

Aelpler Gruppe 2026 Calendar of Events

www.facebook.com/aelplergruppeswissclub

2026 Events:

August 1st	USS Swiss National Day
August 29th	Fall Schwingfest
August 30th	Hike East Bay
October 25th	Fall Jass Tournament
November 1st	Annual Member's Meeting
November 7th	Metzgete Dinner & Dance
December 5th	Members' Christmas Lunch

United Swiss Societies

Erich Sonnberger, President 650-505-9802
www.unitedswissnorcal.org

Peninsula Swiss Club

Contact: Erich Sonnberger 650-505-9802
esonnberger@interorealestate.com
www.peninsulaswissclub.com

Swiss Consulate General, Jonas Brunschwig
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:
<https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/usa/en/home/living-in/clubs.html>

Swiss Rifle Club Events

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

Swiss Park 2025 Events

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

Monday Nights - Lov Bingo: www.lov.org/bingo



Answer to Trivia Question from the last newsletter.

Question: Who made it further in previous Men's Soccer World Cups; the Swiss or the Americans?

Answer: Switzerland has made it to the quarterfinals 4 times as of this printing and the US has only made it once in 1930 in Uruguay.

SJVSC, Ripon 2026 Calendar of Events

www.sjvscripsonswiss.com

Chris Portmann, President

July 25th	Swiss National Day Celebration
September 4th-6th	100 Years Anniversary Fall Schwingfest
October 3rd	Oktoberfest
October 24th	Swiss Echoes Fall Concert
November 15th	Fall Jass Party
December 5th	Children's Christmas Party

Sierra Swiss Club Calendar
Contact: Urs Gwerder 530-587-8316
Sierraswissclub.org

Pro Ticino
<http://www.proticino.ch>

West Coast Swiss Wrestling Association Board
Board President – Arnold Ambiel
Vice President – Urs Gwerder
Treasurer – Logan Schallberger
Secretary – Chris Schallberger

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

For other updates go to:
<https://esv.ch/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/luttesuisse/>

Steinstossen:
www.steinstossen.ch

For Swiss events in the USA and Swiss news, check out:
<https://swissimpactusa.com>



Date	Schwingfest	Location
1-Aug-2026	Portland Swiss Club Schwingfest	Portland, OR
8-Aug-2026	Tacoma Schwingfest Weekend	Bonney Lake, WA
29-Aug-2026	Aelpler Gruppe Fall Schwingfest	Newark, CA
5-Sep-2026	SJVSC 68th WCSWA Championship Schwingfest – 100th Anniversary Weekend	Ripon, CA



Obituary

Louie Ronald Dobler

Louie Ronald Dobler, 67, passed away peacefully at his home in Tracy, California, surrounded by family and friends on June 19, 2026. He was born on July 27, 1958, at O'Connor Hospital in San Jose, California. Louie was raised in Santa Clara, California, at the family-owned Edelweiss Dairy.



He attended Wilcox High School and later studied at San Jose State University. In 1980, he moved with his family to Tracy, where he built a life rooted in hard work, family and agriculture.

Louie dedicated 32 years of service to PG&E before retiring. Throughout his life, he remained actively involved in the family farming operations, continuing to work on the family ranches both before and after retirement. His family's roots in Tracy date back to 1958.

Known for his strong work ethic, Louie was always willing to lend a helping hand. He will be remembered for his warm smile, infectious laugh, respect for others, unwavering honesty and gift for connecting with people. He had a deep appreciation for the outdoors and found joy in caring for his cattle, the smell of freshly cut alfalfa, snow and water skiing, traveling and spending time in nature. Louie was a proud member of the IBEW, Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club and the California Cattlemen's Association.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Erica Dobler and Louie Dobler Sr. He is survived by his brother, Gary Dobler, as well as numerous cousins in California, Switzerland and Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

Louie will be deeply missed by his family, friends and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Whom to contact when a Swiss Club member is deceased:

Please e-mail our club at aelplergruppe@gmail.com or call 510-936-2523

Memorial Fund donations can be sent in through the Aelpler Gruppe website:

<https://www.aelplergruppe.com/donations/>

In memory of **Margrith Fries**
Bill and Marilyn Bauhofer

In memory of **Fred Flecklin**
Heidi Ambiel



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



Edward L. Ott

President

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<https://www.chaletbobs.com>

Hosts: Steve & Monika Ambiel



www.chasaberggold.com

Situated just above the lakeside promenade in Brienz, our heritage holiday house has amazing views of the Brienzersee and the alps and is less than a minute walk from the lake. The famous Rothorn Bahn is steps from the house and Ballenberg and Interlaken are nearby too. Entire house sleeps 6 people. Chasa Berggold is the perfect jumping off point to explore the entire Berner Oberland

"Come, Join Our Voices!"

The Golden Gate Boys Choir and Bellringers

A Regional Choir for Boys ~ S.F. Bay Area

Rehearsals held in various convenient locations:

San Francisco, Alameda, Hayward, Oakland

Boys, age 7 to 12 may audition.

No prior experience needed.

www.GGBC.org Phone: 510-887-4311

Steven J. Meyer, Artistic Director



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

Third 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	Marilyn Ramsell Manchester
Treasurer	Carl Ramsell
Secretary	Susanne Cameron
Assistant Secretary	Herman Betchart

Swiss Park Manager Robert Fuchslin

Newsletter Editor Nathalie Mätzler-Schmidig
aelpplergruppe@gmail.com

Videographer Tom Coroneos

Memorial Fund Chairperson Jackie Zuger

Have you moved?

Please forward your new address to us at
aelpplergruppe@gmail.com
Thank you.

Officers

Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club Board of Directors for 2026

President	Arnold Ambiel 510-936-2523
1st Vice Pres	Michelle Bauhofer-Ott
2nd Vice Pres	Annamarie Jones-Zuger
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Director 3 - Newsletter Editor	Nathalie Mätzler-Schmidig
Director 4 - Historian	Pat Wipfli-Schaffarczyk
Director 5 - Wrestling	Dominick Reichmuth
Sennenmutter	Heidi Ambiel
Sennenvater	Pete Zuger
USS Delegate	Arnold Ambiel



View the calendar of
upcoming events and
more on our website!

Scan the QR Code to
learn more



**Congratulations to all the players and staff members of the Swiss National Team
for representing Switzerland at the Soccer World Cup 2026!**

(picture: www.football.ch/sfv)