

Snippets from Switzerland...

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Past Events....

21 April: Our AGM went well; it was the first time in the comfort of our new club house. We all still remember the AGM 2000 when the house was ours, but only just, and when we asked ourselves how all the necessary improvements could be done with our limited finances and manpower. No doubt, we are well on the way now.

Thank you all, faithful members of the club who attended this important Annual General Meeting. After a discussion about the much more complex accounting we are privileged to have help from Marcel Wehmüt, highly qualified, professional auditor.

As our Club house still needs a bit (or a lot !) of TLC, a new Building Committee was elected: Hans Glauser, Hans Scherrer, Peter Hynes, Roland Schütz, Heinz Jäggi, Peter Fischer, Ruth Messmer.

- The Committee of the Swiss Club

is sad to have lost one member, Jeanine Macdonald. - Thank you, Jeanine and all the Macdonald family for your contribution. It was always nice to see you all in the kitchen.

Members of the new committee:

Roland Schütz, president
Verena Madgwick, vice president,
Ruth Messmer, treasurer
Trudi Brühlmann, secretary
with Heinz Jäggi
Lotti Napp
Marlene Rüegg

Our president Roland Schütz presented Robert Macdonald with a token of appreciation for his invaluable initiative and ongoing support. Peter Fischer had evaluated the slightly chaotic sheets of the 'Winter-jassen' and worked out that Walter Hensch/Hans Buess were the winners, followed by the team Hans Scherrer/Mani Züst and Lotti Napp/Ruth Messmer.

Forthcoming Events..

The new committee is busily working on an exciting program for 2001/2002. We hope members and friends will contribute their enthusiasm to make the year a great success. Our Club members will get a personal invitation to our June Fondue. For details wait for your invitation and ring Verena Madgwick 526 98 41 or Trudi Brühlmann, 562 80 19.

tb.

SNIPPETS FROM SWITZERLAND....

Swiss join efforts to wean world off tobacco

Tobacco kills over four million people a year, according to the WHO. Switzerland was among 190 countries which spent the recent times hammering out the first-ever global treaty to curb smoking. The accord, agreed in Geneva, calls for severe restrictions on tobacco advertising.

Novartis plans to develop new research facility

The life sciences giant, Novartis, is planning to further develop its research facilities at its headquarters in Basel, creating around 300 new jobs.



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Swiss success in the fight against malaria

Malaria kills more than one million people, mostly children, each year. To mark the first African Malaria Day, attention has focused on pioneering prevention work in Tanzania, conducted by the Swiss Tropical Institute in Basel.

Woodcarving museum allows visitors to wield their own chisels

The arts and crafts company, Jobin of Switzerland, has opened what it calls a "living museum" in Brienz – Switzerland's woodcarving centre. The museum gives visitors the chance to try their hand at woodcarving or music box making.

Destination Switzerland presented in Thun

Switzerland's tourism industry has put the country on show at the "Switzerland Travel Mart" (STM) trade fair in Thun. After an excellent year in 2000, tourism officials are convinced that Switzerland is better placed than ever to woo visitors.

Swiss launch early warning system for nature

Switzerland is set to conduct the most comprehensive biodiversity survey in the world. Field workers will monitor plants, animals, birds and insects in hundreds of test areas around the country.

Swiss president opens new embassy in Berlin

The Swiss president, Moritz Leuenberger, (no relation to our Society President) has opened the new embassy in Berlin with a call for stronger cooperation between the two countries. The run-up to the event was dogged by controversy over revealing photographs of the Swiss ambassador's wife, which appeared in a German magazine.

Bern's Burghers still thriving after 800 years

More than half of Switzerland's forests, much of its alpine meadowland and many of its most important buildings are owned by its 2,000 citizens' associations. Membership of these traditional associations is still a matter of pride for many Swiss and a source of both privilege and responsibility.



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Chocosuisse calls for members' solidarity

The umbrella organisation of the chocolate industry in Switzerland, Chocosuisse, has celebrated its 100th birthday with a call for solidarity among its members. The Swiss economics minister, Pascal Couchepin, took part in an official celebration in Bern to mark the centenary.

Swiss Vege Car

A Swiss manufacturer has developed a sports car that runs on rotting vegetables and can accelerate from zero to 100 kilometres per hour in under six seconds. The car runs on gas given off by fermenting organic household waste, as one of its fuel supplies. Tests have shown that 100 kilograms of smelly rubbish will power the car for 100 km.

the car known as the Advantigo R, has been developed by a Swiss manufacturer and is being displayed at motor shows around the world. The car runs on two sources of power. As well as conventional petrol, it uses kompagas, a renewable fuel source made from rotting greenery. However, the car is not yet ready for mass production. There is only one in the world and it comes with a half-a-million-pound price tag.

Swiss Cabinet unveils new treaties

The cabinet has unveiled a second set of bilateral treaties, which it wants to negotiate with the European Union. It says seven new accords are ready to be put on the table, including the key issue of co-operation against cross-border crime.

Swiss Women's rights in the spotlight on Mother's Day

Mother's Day in Switzerland has coincided with renewed calls from politicians and activists for better rights for women, both at home and in the workplace.

Swiss Government measure to raise contributions of self-employed rejected

The Swiss parliament has rejected a government proposal to increase the mandatory contributions of the self-employed to the state pension scheme. The government wanted to bring the contributions up to 8.1 per cent of income, against the current rate of 7.8 per cent.

The worlds first postage stamp made entirely of Swiss embroidery from St.Gallen was issued last year (21.6.2000) by the Swiss Post Office, carrying the value of five Swiss Franks.



Recently new stamps left Swiss-chocolate lovers salivating.

Swiss Post issued a chocolate-scented stamp in May to mark the 100th anniversary of Chocosuisse, the Association of Swiss Chocolate Manufacturers. The 90-centime stamp looks finger-licking good and smells even better. (We hope to show a picture of the chocolate scented stamp in a future edition - Ed.)

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