



# Interior Swiss Club Newsletter



Volume Number 5

Issue Number 3

Winter 2005

## Upcoming Events Calendar

Mark these dates on your calendar

### Winter Bowling

October/November

Your contacts are:

Kamloops area: Helena Hasler, 1 250 372 2496, [helenahasler@yahoo.com](mailto:helenahasler@yahoo.com)

Kelowna area: Katherina Gass 1 250 707 0516

Vernon area: Rita Schilter, 1 250 547 6052, [schilter@uniserve.com](mailto:schilter@uniserve.com)

Salmon Arm area: Andy Zuest, 1 250 832 2833, [info@viewpointmotel.bc.ca](mailto:info@viewpointmotel.bc.ca)

### Christmas Party

Saturday, December 3rd, 2005

Starts at 2 pm

Coldstream Womens Institute Hall, 9909 Kalamalka Road, Coldstream

Samichlaus and Schmutzli will make an appearance at 2.30 pm

### Theatergruppe Heimatstil Calgary Presents "De verrueckti Theodor"

Saturday, February 4, 2006

Centennial Theater, Pleasant Valley Road, Armstrong (by the IPE Fairgrounds)

2 performances - 1.30 pm and 7.30 pm

Adults \$17.00 Children (12 and under) \$10.00

### Bowling Tournament

Sunday, March 26, 2006

Falcon Lanes, 2020 Falcon Rd, Kamloops

Starting at 10.00 am. Lunch will follow

### Annual General Meeting

Sunday, April 9, 2006

Odd Fellows Hall, Armstrong

### Spring Dance

Saturday, April 22, 2006

More details to come

If you need information or tickets for these events please call  
250-549-3711

## Don't Miss A Thing.....

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## President's Report

The August 1st Celebrations in Cache Creek at the Fischer's Farm were enjoyed by over 80 members. The shooting event organized by Al Klopfenstein and friends was a big hit! A game of soccer even broke out. All ages could be seen on the field and the spectators cheered loudly for the whole gang. At dusk the lampions were lit and the kids paraded around to the playing of the alphorn by Al Klopfenstein.

The National holiday was celebrated on Monday August 1st at the Coldstream Creek Park in Vernon. The potluck picnic was enjoyed by all attending. Al Klopfenstein and Hans Schwegler entertained us by playing the Schwyzeroergely, this was truly appreciated by all. The children also had their lampion cortege accompanied by Al's alphorn playing.

On Saturday, October 1st we celebrated our 50th Anniversary! I am very proud to be your President at this "half of the century" landmark, which is a long time for any ethnic group.

What did the Interior Swiss Club accomplish during the last 50 years? Who was behind those positive achievements? I am sure the founding members, the respective Presidents, their Executives and many volunteers have put countless hours into building this Club. We celebrated the past and we are confident that our club will continue for many years, especially with so many young members. We thank our Deputy Consul General of Switzerland Max Kunzle and his wife Simone as well as the members of the Vancouver Dorfmusik for being with us. Following the concert we were entertained and danced to the sounds of the Vernon Blaskapelle under the direction of John Doerwaldt and music by John Tiefenauer.

I would like to thank everybody who has supported the Club over so many years. Thanks also to all the volunteers who helped to make this special evening a great success.

By the time this newsletter arrives at your home, the bowling season will have started in Kamloops, Salmon Arm, Kelowna and Vernon.

Christmas is just around the corner and I hope to be able to welcome many of you at our annual Christmas party and at the theater event.



### The Vernon Blaskapelle presents:



A Christmas Carol Sing Along

- English and German Carols -

- Song sheets are provided -



Music by the Vernon Blaskapelle (8 member Brass Band)

Time: Thursday, December 8, 2005 at 7:30 pm (approximately 1 hour)

Place: St. John's Lutheran Church,  
5151 Alain Road  
Entry beside Stüssi Sport on Silver Star Road

Admission is Free,  
Donations go to the Vernon Foodbank



On Saturday, December 3rd, 2005  
 starting at 2pm  
 at the Coldstream Womens Institute Hall  
 (9909 Kalamalka Lake Road, Coldstream)  
**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**



This is our Thank You event-it is free and intended for members of all ages! Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate and Nussgipfel will be provided. Samichlaus and Schmutzli are sure to make an appearance at 2.30 pm. After the Christmas Party members who wish to, may stay for the Fondue Plausch. This is not part of the free event so please bring your own caquelon, fuel, fondue, bread, wine, glasses, dishes and cutlery.

Parents...please register your children so that Santa's helpers can be prepared.  
 Call 545-3711 by December 1st to register  
 Kids...Don't forget to bring your coloring page

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## JOHN ERIC PHILLIPS

March 25, 1952-June 26, 2005

John was born in Fresno, California. He was well known in Vernon as a mason but especially for his artistic creations of his truly unique fireplaces. He was recently able to fulfill a life-long dream in going to Hawaii and working on more creative rock walls and fireplaces than he could ever dream of. John was an avid hunter, fisherman and an all around outdoors man. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife Regula, his very best friend and travelling companion who now will mourn the life that they no longer will be able to share together.

**The Interior Swiss Club offers its deepest sympathies to Regula.**

# Come and Join Us!



Theatergruppe Heimatstil Calgary Presents...



## De verruckti Theodor

Um zwei gleiche, herzförmige Muttermale auf dem Hinterteil von Vater und Sohn Gatterer drehen sich die Probleme, die die beiden Herren zu bewältigen haben. Um die ganzen Verwechslungen zu vertuschen und die Liebe zur Angebeteten und das damit verbundene Geld zu erhalten, erfinden die beiden auch noch eine Geisteskrankheit. Eine spritzige Komödie mit vielen Pointen.

Saturday, February 4th , 2006

Matinee at 1.30 pm

Evening performance at 7.30 pm

at the Centennial Hall, Pleasant Valley Road, Armstrong (next to the IPE grounds)

Admission is \$17.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children up to 12 years

To reserve your ticket please call 250-549-3711

English translation will be provided

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## YOU BETTA BELIZE IT!

Submitted by Joe Ribary

Back in 1989 when we operated our restaurant in Belize, travel was slow and often hazardous in the tiny Central American country. It is exactly half the size of Switzerland, and that includes the 180 islands along the coral reef, which is the largest reef in the Western Hemisphere. However, to travel a distance one easily covered in three hours in this country could take anywhere from a full day to a week on Belize's rivers and so-called highways.

One time I took a flight from San Pedro on Ambergris Caye where our restaurant was located to Punta Gorda in order to look at property in the Toledo district that might be suitable for a small resort project. While I was there I picked up a fifty-pound bag of Guatemalan coffee and a beautifully carved mahogany door for our restaurant. I paid less than a third of the price I'd had to pay in Belize City for the simple reason that they had just been smuggled across the Bay. I had ordered a door earlier through a Maya friend who put it on the freight boat in Belize City. Unfortunately, it had fallen off the barge and been swept away, the captain informed me. Translated, that meant that somebody had seen the thing, offered him a good price and he'd sold it.

To get my goods safely to San Pedro, I decided to ride with them on the bus to Belize City, and from there with the freight boat out to the caye. Now one has to understand that in the late 1980s the 100 km ride on the rough gravel road through the Toledo Mountains from Punta Gorda to Dangriga lasted one full day during the dry season, up to three days during the rainy season.

The ride from Dangriga through the Maya Mountains on the dangerous Southern Highway to Belize City took another six to seven hours, while one could make it on the Coastal Road, which was really just a dirt track, in roughly three hours under good conditions. This road was only passable during the dry season, because five creeks plus the Sibun River had to be crossed, and there were no bridges. Like many other residents of the country, I had a weak spot for this road. Most people that travelled it regularly stopped for a swim after crossing a creek or the river. Needless to say, I put my goods on a bus that travelled this route.

The last and worst leg of the trip would be the boat ride out to the caye, which lasted 11 to 14 hours, the better part of it during the night when the sea was very choppy due to the tradewinds. The plane ride took twenty minutes, a regular fishing or tour boat could make it in approximately two hours, but the freight boat, pulling a large barge along behind it, chugged along at an agonisingly slow pace.

Now we stood at the bank of the Sibun River, which ran uncharacteristically high for the season. The tall driver carefully studied the river and then looked at us, shaking his curly head. "De wata is too high fo' crossin' today, I knows dis riva, mon," he drawled and turned away to walk back to the bus, which stood at the top of the high bank above the ford. Talking over his shoulder, he added, "We'll be able to cross she tomorrow - if it don't rain back in de mountains dis night." Stoically disregarding the angry protests of four foreign tourist passengers, he proceeded to back the old school bus into the shade between a group of giant Ceiba trees.

Not wasting any time, I joined the few practically minded souls that immediately set about to rig a large tarp from the vehicle to a couple of the trees. A massive Carib woman with a shiny, bluish-black complexion, a head full of yellow and green curlers and a stentorian voice sent a few youngsters off to collect firewood. In the meantime, three young fellows brought out their turtle shells and Bongo drums and began to play the rapid staccato of their typical Garifuna music. This immediately prompted several couples and also a few singles to dance, accompanied by much hand clapping and foot stomping from the rest of the bus' occupants. Since most of the passengers had loaded quantities of groceries on the bus there was no shortage of food and drink. Before long somebody handed me a plastic cup filled with rum and pineapple juice and soon the party was in full gear.

Taffy, a retired Sergeant Major of the British Army, who operated a small hotel in San Pedro, had boarded the bus at Dangriga. Now he approached me with his small backpack draped over one shoulder.

"Come on, Joe. Let's go upstream a little ways and catch some fish! Knowing you I'd say you're packing a hand line and a couple of hooks, or am I wrong?"

"I wouldn't leave home without one," I grinned. "What've you got?"

"The small telescopic job Rose gave me for Christmas, a bottle of Duurly and a jug of pine," he beamed, which caused his bushy moustache to spread from ear to ear. Duurly was one of the favourite local rums and "pine" stood for pineapple juice, which serves as a marvellous mix.

"Man, you just recruited yourself a fishing buddy," I chuckled. "Be with you in a second. Just let me get my stuff!"

**To Be Continued....**

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We congratulate Helmut and Monika  
West on the birth of their baby  
daughter, Mercedes Susanne, born on  
October 19th, 2005.

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## Don't forget these dates...

~Saturday, December 3, 2005~  
Christmas Party

~Saturday, February 4, 2006~  
Theatergruppe Heimatstil Calgary

~Sunday, March 26, 2006~

Bowling Tourney in Kamloops

~Sunday, April 9, 2006~AGM

~Saturday, April 22, 2006~Spring Dance

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## 50th Anniversary Celebration Report

Submitted by Helena Hasler

We are happy to report, that a good time was had by all members at our anniversary celebration! The traditional roast beef dinner was delicious, as expected, and the dessert of chocolate mousse was richly European. Our most honored guest, Deputy Consul of Switzerland, Max Kuenzle and his wife Simone represented our group with a fine speech that we really enjoyed, along with President Lilly Senn who with the help of many volunteers, organized the event, and payed honor and tribute to some of our very devoted founding members, past Presidents, and hard working Board Members. We would especially like to thank Elisabeth Reymond for her most gracious contribution as Master of Ceremonies. The visiting Vancouver Dorfmusik belted out many classic European tunes for all age groups. The Anniversary cakes, specially made confections donated for the event by Erwin's Fine Baking, were very delicious and much appreciated by all! Many beautiful and valuable gifts, to numerous to mention were donated by many club members and businesses for the various door prizes. As if that were not enough excitement, we then danced for the remainder of the evening to the musical styling of The Vernon Blaskapelle along with back up guest musician, Music by John.

Thanks again for all your contributions, and we hope that the next Anniversary Celebration will be just as successful.



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## Thank You Thank You Thank You

The GADMER family wishes to thank all those who have shown them support through donations, gifts and prayers.

They ask that you all continue to keep Mark in your thoughts and prayers as he starts on his journey to recovery.

Mark is currently at the Sunny Hill Rehabilitation Center in Vancouver. He is able to communicate by moving his head to the side for yes and he is working hard everyday with speech and physio therapists.

**The Club will be accepting donations for  
Mark Gadmer  
at the Christmas Party and the Theater Event**

### Joe A. Ribary Cowpuncher and Writer

Author of *Always a Cowboy at Heart*  
and *A Horseman's Memories* (in spring 2005)

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Öffnungszeiten: Dienstag bis Samstag  
11:00 - 14:00 • 17:30 - Schluß

# *Highlites of the Interior Swiss Club*

## *1955 - 2005*

The Interior Swiss Club was started on October 24, 1955 with the signing of the Constitution by the founding members: Albert Moser, Mrs. Rose Torny, Godfrey Camenzind, Hans Jacob Blattner and Rudolf Egli. The objects of the club at that time were to improve the moral, social and physical condition of the Swiss people in Canada and to promote the principals of true friendship and mutual assistance among the members of the club.

In the beginning there were about 20 members who would meet for the 1<sup>st</sup> of August at Pillar Lake. Pillar Lake Resort was owned by Albert Moser. August 1st would find the members playing jass, swimming, singing traditional songs and even playing tug 'o' war! As time passed the club grew and Albert Moser sold Pillar Lake Resort. After careful consideration it was decided that a clubhouse was in order. Many weekends were spent at Monte Lake on the Buff family's land, building a cabin. The August 1st celebrations were moved there and the club started the tradition of an August 1st Turkey Shoot. Around this time the club also added Spring and Fall dances to their list of activities. The first dances were held at the Falkland Community Hall, which was a central location for the clubs members. The pre dance dinner was always prepared by dedicated volunteers from the club. The Falkland Hall was also the location of the Annual General Meeting and Jass Tournament for several years. The land that the Swiss Club Cabin was on was eventually sold and the 1st of August Celebration was held in different locations until 1991 when it settled in Cache Creek at the farm of Gus and Anne Fischer.

The club has grown steadily and more events have been added. There are currently 236 members spread out all over the interior of BC. There are two August first celebrations held each year, one is still at the Fischer's Farm in Cache Creek, usually on the long weekend, and the other in Vernon, on August 1st. The fall dance has been dropped but the Spring Dance is still a sold out favorite. For the last 3 years it has been held at and catered by the O'Keefe Ranch Restaurant where members have enjoyed dancing to live music by the Vernon Blaskapelle, under the direction of John Doerwaldt. Every December there is a free Samichlaus Party for members of all ages; it is a great time to catch up with friends, enjoy some traditional Swiss Christmas treats and watch the next generation of the club rejoice in the visit from Samichlaus and Schmutzli. Bowling has also been added to the clubs list of activities. Teams from Kamloops, Salmon Arm, Kelowna and Vernon bowl all winter and then enjoy a season ending tournament and lunch in Kamloops in the spring. Also, since 2001 the club has enjoyed staying in touch through a Newsletter and a Webpage.

The club has had the good fortune of having some events come to them. In 2002 and 2004 the Calgary Theatergruppe Heimatstil traveled to the Okanagan to entertain members with fantastic Swiss dialect plays. And in 2003 The Vancouver Dorfmusik came to play a special concert at the Spring Dance.

Dedicated volunteers and loyal members have managed, for 50 years, to adhere to their original goal of improving the moral, social and physical condition of the Swiss people in Canada and promoting the principals of true friendship and mutual assistance among the members of the club. And with so many young members among us we are sure to continue for 50 more.

## Spotlight on our Advertisers- Stussi Sport

Heinz & Elisabeth Stussi sold Stussi Sport in Sept 2004. New owners are twin brothers Ronnie and Robbie Metza and spouses Theresa Korobanik and Cheryl Morningstar. We moved to Vernon in 1992 from Sioux Lookout in Northwestern Ontario.

All of us are passionate about cross country skiing. We really love what we do!

Ronnie, an electrician by trade, works at the store full time doing sales and service.

Theresa is the program coordinator, as well as a coach, for the Sovereign Lake Nordic Ski League Program (for the last three years) and currently sits as the Chairperson of the SLNC Athlete Development Program.

Robbie and his wife Cheryl live in Whistler. Robbie, also an electrician by trade, will be working at the store for part of the winter as a Service Tech. Cheryl has organized and run the Ski League Program in Whistler for the past four years and will be in the store helping out during the Xmas season.

Stussi Sport is dedicated to cross country skiing. We sell and service the best selection of Cross Country Ski Equipment in the area. We also sell clothing and accessories and we rent downhill skis, snowboards, snowshoes and Nordic Walking poles. We tune and wax skis and boards and we always know the current conditions at Sovereign Lake and Silver Star.

Our favourite part of owning Stussi Sport is meeting the customers - old and new. Everyone has been so supportive of the new ownership. We appreciate their friendly and outgoing nature!

We look forward to serving you at our shop in the future and we wish you all GOOD SKIING!



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## FROM THE EDITOR.....

Fall has arrived and I have harvested the last of the tomatoes (although they are very green and show little promise of turning red!) Maybe I was trying to hurry winter so that I could get on my skis again!

I had a great time at the 50th Anniversary Celebration and I hope all who were in attendance can say the same. It is an impressive accomplishment for any club to stay committed and strong for 50 years and we should all be proud.

What a treat it was to have the Vancouver Dorfmusik, the Vernon Blaskapelle and John Tiefenauer perform for us! In this edition I have included the Highlights of the clubs 50 year progression for those who were unable to attend. I wish all of you a wonderful winter season and all the best for 2006. I look forward to seeing you at our next events.

Karen



## Merry Christmas



## BELAIR DIRECT CHARTER TO ZURICH FOR 2006

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June 25, 2006 until September 10, 2006

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at the beginning of December 2005

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A big Thank You to our paid members!

## Attention Sports Fans

Two noteworthy events will be taking place in Vernon this winter.

~December 3-10, 2005 (with the final race on December 11)

at Sovereign Lake Nordic Center

World Cup Cross Country Event

For details see their website at [www.sovereignlake.com](http://www.sovereignlake.com)

~December 23rd, 2005

At the Vernon Multiplex

Switzerland vs. Russia Junior Exhibition Hockey Game

We are always looking for individuals to join the executive. If you would like to nominate someone please contact Karen Cleland at 250-545-1324

### MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!

Anyone wishing to register as a

**Swiss Abroad Eligible to Vote**

should contact Karen Cleland

for the required form.

Call 250-545-1324 or email

[karencleland@shaw.ca](mailto:karencleland@shaw.ca)

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*Where You Get  
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Hi Kids,

Your job is to decorate this picture!

Some ideas to get you started...glitter, macaroni, crayons, beads, stickers, ribbon....

Do your best job-everyone is looking forward to seeing your original ideas!!

**Don't forget to bring it to the Samichlaus Party so that we can  
put it up for all to see!**

**Please put your name and age on the front, too!**

