



Gold Country German American Club



P. O. Box 571, Grass Valley, CA 95945
Promoting German Culture and Stronger German-American Ties in Northern California
www.goldcountrygermanamericanclub.org

Next Meeting: Summer Picnic at the Herrmanns!

Fred and Karen Herann have graciously offered to host the club picnic at their beautiful home in Grass Valley. In addition to the regular games and prizes, we will have an opportunity to swim in their refreshing lake as well as hike the property. About the food: John Hettrich will barbecue pork chops and German sausages. Please bring a dish to share: Last names A-M, bring desserts; last names N-Z, bring appetizers, side dishes, or vegetables. Everyone bring your own beverage. The Club will have bottled water on hand, as well. This is an official Club Event. There is no charge for members, but we must charge guests \$10 (\$5 for guest's kids) to defer costs. Questions should be directed to Renate Hettrich at rhetttrich@gmail.com.



Date and time: Sunday, June 4, 2023. Food to be served at **5 p.m.**; come earlier to help set up, prepare food, socialize, hike, or enjoy the pond.

Place: 14771 Mt. Olive Road, Chicago Park, CA.

Please bring your own **CHAIR**. Bring a sun hat and dark glasses. It is also suggested to bring a jacket or sweater in case the weather gets colder than expected. Like most picnics, this picnic is outdoors.

DIRECTIONS:

GO #174 TO CHICAGO PARK
TURN OFF ON MT.OLIVE RD.
GO 1.5 MILE TO 14771

(DRIVEWAY ACROSS FROM MAILBOX)



Photo at right shows said mailbox and iron gate, which will be open. Karen will mark the driveway.

Photo at left shows aerial view of the Herrmann's property. Red dot indicates house; the pond is southeast. Use this as a guide if you plan to arrive by helicopter.



Notes from the Board

The May Board of Directors meeting concentrated on two up-coming events, the annual club picnic and the 4th of July parade. Fred and Karen Herrmann have, again, graciously volunteered their beautiful property as a picnic venue. As for the 4th of July parade, we need a count of members willing to march in the parade by June 19th in order to meet the entry application deadline. So far five members have expressed interest. Detailed information on both of these events is covered elsewhere in this newsletter.

Respectfully,
Mike Silence
President



Fourth of July Parade

If there is sufficient interest, we will participate in the 4th of July Parade. The parade begins at 10 a.m. in Grass Valley this year. **If you are interested in participating with the GCGAC's parade float, please contact John Hettrich as soon as possible. jhettrich@gmail.com**

With the Fourth of July Parade is in Grass Valley, the parade route is relatively flat. That's good. Our parade float, the Chalet, has been pulled out of storage at John Muff's (thank you, John!), tidied up and made road worthy again. Paul will check the float's battery-operated audio system to play authentic German music during the parade. Pre-pandemic, as shown in these photos from 2019, we marched in front of the float with banners and flags, and behind with folk dancers. We can do this again, but we need participants! That's you! Get dressed up, carry a flag, show us off! It's fun! John Hettrich needs a list of attendees by **June 19**, because the deadline for application with the Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce is June 25.



The ol' Chalet float cleans up well!



Our people marching in Grass Valley in 2019. Klasse!



HAPPY WANDERERS' HIKING GROUP

The hiking group had a lovely outing on May 11. Our long awaited visit to the Old Ford Ranch (privately owned) in rural Penn Valley aligned perfectly with the weather, a balmy 70 degrees.

The land is rolling hills, meadows and forests, with Lake Englebright at its northern edge. This is not far from Bridgeport. Horse back riding and walking has been allowed with the owner's permission for 40 years. Eleven of us set off in high spirits, we hiked up a gentle ridge to the boundary of the property, then headed down to a huge meadow. Unfortunately we were not able to approach the Indian grinding rock area as the caretaker had his goats grazing on them, maybe next year. We skirted around a large meadow, through some woods and right through a smaller meadow filled with poppies and other wildflowers. Everyone was intrigued with the Pit of Doom, a repository for no longer living farm animals.

We saw a largish patch of Chinese Houses, they look like little pagodas. We saw many thousands of globe lilies, also known as fairy lanterns. A few of us plan to go back one night to see them all lit up! There were also the green parts of Tiger Lilies, not blooming yet.

Down, down, down to the lake to a wonderful picnic area, this is a boat-in campground with lots of tables and an outhouse. Then up, up, up the hill, past some bee hives (the honey is available at Briar Patch), past another meadow with the tiniest ever frogs hopping around the streamlets.

We hiked around seven miles. There is a slightly longer version that includes a sidetrip to a waterfall that we may be able to go to next year. A good time was had by all. The meadow at the end of the hike is so large and lovely that if a person didn't want to hike at all, perhaps just wanted to look around or bring a chair and read, they would not be bored or disappointed. The main concerns are ticks and poison oak. I brought home a tick.

Sue



Happy Wanderers at Lake Englebright



Lunch at lakeside.
Photos by Tom Maher.

German-American Car Makers: Fred and "Augie" Duesenberg

Friedrich and August Düsenberg were born in Kirchheide, Lippe-Detmold, Germany in the late 1870's and immigrated with their family who settled in Rockford, Iowa in 1885. The boys attended public school but had no training in mechanical design other than self-taught and what was gleaned through work experience.

Nonetheless, they produced iconic luxury passenger cars in the late 1920's and into the Great Depression years of the 1930's. The Duesenberg supercharged straight-eight single overhead cam engine produced more horsepower (265) than any other motor of its day, and the car was capable of speeds of 130 miles per hour. The Duesenberg car was sold as a chassis, to be bodied by other companies, such as Bowman and Schwartz or Murphy Coachbuilders. The chassis weighed about two tons; the bodies typically weighed about 2,500 pounds, so the cars were quite heavy. They were also expensive, costing more than ten times the annual earnings of an average working man during the Depression. From lack of sales, the Duesenberg automobile company went bankrupt in 1937.



Fred and "Augie" Duesenberg in 1925



1934 Duesenberg Model J Town Car

Added note: The 1935 Duesenberg model SSJ (roadster version of what is shown above) once owned by film actor Gary Cooper sold at the Pebble Beach auction in 2018 for a record-breaking \$22 million.



Activities



German Language Classes

Interested in learning German? There is **only one** (as indicated by Herr Erhobenem Zeigefinger at left) place in Nevada County to take classes, and that is RIGHT HERE at the Gold Country German-American Club!

Classes are FREE with club membership.

The Beginning level class is on hiatus.

The Intermediate Class is taught by Erica Meier. The class is embarking on another German murder mystery novel, *Blutiger Verrat* by Dörte Jensen; Now would be an excellent time to jump on board, if you're interested! The study of mind-bending German grammar is ongoing; and the class is finishing up the translation of *Wahres und Legendäres*.

Intermediate class sessions take place in person at various class members' homes.

For more information, call Erica at (619) 335-6499

Conversational German Group

Servus! The Conversational German Class is taking June off. Normally they meet from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. at Christa Benson's place on second Wednesday of the month at 10078 Grinding Rock Dr. Grass Valley. If you're interested in German conversation, call Christa at 530-913-1836.

Kristina Wetherbee needs **photos** to paste on the club's Facebook page! Please contact her with any GCGAC-related photos such as recent hikes, our Oktoberfest, holiday parties, friends, anything she might use. Also,

We are still looking for a place where we could **practice** German folk **dancing** twice per month.



Lord of the Lost performing "Blood and Glitter"



It's the time of year, again, when in Europe, there was last month a song contest sponsored by Eurovision. Germany has competed in the contest almost every year since 1956, and won first place in 1982 and 2010. What about 2023? Well, *nicht so gut*, this year, Germany's entry, Lord of the Lost, came in 24th place with their rendition of "Blood and Glitter," whose dark lyrics are shown here:

"Blood and glitter, sweet and bitter
We're so happy we could die
Blood and glitter, saint and sinner
We do fall before we rise."

Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...

This Month:

- June-4: Club Picnic at Herrmanns'
- June-5: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 5
- June-8: Happy Wanderer's Hike, details to be emailed
- June-13: Board of Directors' meeting, see p. 7
- June-19: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 5
- June-22: Happy Wanderer's Hike, details to be emailed

Tentative Plans for 2023:

- July 4 = Parade Participation
- September 23 (Saturday) = Oktoberfest
- November 3 = Language Class's "Bier und Bretzel Abend"
- December 1 = Christmas Holiday Dinner



June Birthdays

June 1	Dennis Naumann
June 4	Martin Vogt
June 7	David Moss
June 12	Susanne Bader
June 19	Fred Herrmann
June 21	Christel Denzler
June 30	Leonard Davis
June 30	Kirsten Hebert
June 30	Lynn Knoll

Tune to KNCO Radio AM 830, weekdays at 7:50 a.m. to hear your birthday greeting from GCGAC!



Gute Besserung

Niemand?

Bis jetzt sind noch
Alle gesund 🙌

Teutonic Technology: Hydrogen-Powered Aircraft



We're spoiled. We have grown accustomed to traveling at 450 miles per hour in a sleek airplane powered by highly-refined kerosene (which is what jet fuel is, actually). But, that kerosene is a fossil fuel, derived from petroleum, and it produces carbon dioxide when it burns, which is neither environmentally friendly nor sustainable. Researchers in Germany are doing groundbreaking work using hydrogen as an alternative to kerosene as airplane fuel. Hydrogen can be derived using renewable resources. When burned, it produces no CO₂. It could be burned directly in a jet engine, or it could be converted to electricity to power a propeller-driven plane, such as the concept model above. The technical hurdle is that both approaches require enormous quantities of liquified hydrogen to be carried on board the aircraft in heavy fuel tanks. The German Aerospace Center (DLR) is working on the problem. In 2022, H2Fly, a spinoff of DLR, built a hydrogen-powered test plane that reached an altitude of 7,200 feet (a world record for hydrogen-powered aircraft). Maybe they're on to something. Then again, maybe we should get used to the idea of train travel in the future.

GCGAC Board of Directors

Officers (Elected -- 5 votes):

President: Mike Silence	530-477-6659
Vice President: Kristina Wetherbee	(916) 955-2878
Secretary: Ron Shaffer	714-315-5754
Treasurer: Lou Ann Schwartz	432-0690
Program: John Hettrich	(650) 207-3681

Directors (Appointed):

Membership: Susan Vogt	432-0594
Dance: Kristina Wetherbee	(916) 955-2878
Happy Wanderers: TBD	
Newsletter: Paul Trethewey	265-0763
Publicity: to be filled	
German Language:	
Conversational: Christa Benson	530-913-1836
Intermediate: Erica Meier	619-335-6499
Beginning: Susanne Bader	510-282-0721

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on :

Tuesday, June 13, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

by
Zoom Conference Call

GCGAC Committee Chairs (appointed, non-voting)

Refreshments: Volunteers	
Get Well & Sunshine:	
Christel Denzler	916-409-5413
Kaffee & Kuchen: TBD	
Inter-Club Liaison: Hank Stoffel	269-3137
Webmaster: Paul Trethewey	265-0763
Property: Dennis Naumann	477-1622
Historian: Chrysan Silence	530-477-6659
Facebook Team: Kristina Wetherbee	916-955-2878
& Elany Prusa	530-432-8736

Be sure to check out the official club web page! It has all kinds of interesting stuff, including photo galleries, links, and prior newsletters. It's located at:

www.goldcountrygermanamericanclub.org



Gold Country German-American Club is a Member of the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA®
719 Sixth St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20001

“Representing Americans of German Speaking Heritage”

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