



# 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](http://www.goldcountrygermanamericanclub.org)

Next Meeting:



Saturday, September 23, 2023, Doors open at 4 p.m.  
Seaman's Lodge, Pioneer Park, Nevada City  
Mark your calendar, two months hence!

Until then, here from our Happy Wanderers hiking contingent, are photos of cool water, running and still, to make your hot August weather more bearable. The main Club activities this summer have been hiking and language classes. Dip your feet in the waters!



Pauly Creek



Penner Lake

## Notes from the Board

In August, the club has traditionally gone on holiday. The Board of Directors also observes the same custom. The next Board meeting will be September 12th via Zoom conference. The main topic will be preparation for the annual Oktoberfest celebration on September 23rd. Until then, enjoy your vacations and try to keep cool.

Mike Silence  
President



The Happy Wanderers at American River Canyon





## HAPPY WANDERERS' HIKING GROUP

On July 6 a group of 12 of us headed up to the Serene Lakes to hike out to Point Mariah. The day was stunningly beautiful and wildflowers were blooming with reckless abandon. The trail wanders along a ridge out to a point that overlooks the American River Canyon (photo above). Attached to a sturdy tree by a sturdy climbing rope is a wooden seat so one can swing out basically into thin air. Several of our group tried it out, some more hesitantly than others. Since we had started early we ended up eating lunch early, which I realize is against club rules, but there was no one there to enforce the rule, so eat we did.

At the beginning of our return trip we spotted another group of hikers arriving who had come up from Lincoln Hills. We don't have photographic evidence, but their leader turned out to be no other than a former German Club member, Carol Yoder. What luck to cross paths with her!

While driving home we some of us decided to stop at the Soda Springs Market for beer and ice cream. Another glorious day.

July 20 found a smaller group heading up to Grouse Ridge to hike from Carr and Feeley Lakes to Penner Lake. This is an almost obligatory annual hike, since I love it so much. One is seldom out of sight of a lake. We had a guest on this hike who is a fabulous swimmer: he swam all the way across the lake, and happily all the way back. There were dozens of darling little damselflies clinging to grasses along the shore of the lake, their hue a striking azure. I was mesmerized by these little critters.

We saw several large groups of backpacking youth, one group was from Israel.

Again, the wildflowers appeared to be outdoing each other, and we felt so grateful to be able to walk among them.



Damselflies in the grass.  
Can you see them?



Grouse Ridge Lake. Cool and refreshing!



## Strandkörbe

### What do Germans do in August?

August is vacation month all over Europe. Typical German workers receive 30 days per year of vacation. Some stay at home and rest, but many travel to far away resorts, especially during the hot August summers in Germany. Those cooler destinations often include beaches on the Mediterranean and on Germany's own Baltic Sea and North Sea. And, on those German beaches, you are likely to see *Strandkörbe*, "Beach baskets", which are made-for-two wicker beach chairs that include striped canvas sun awnings and wind breaks, sometimes storage areas and extendable foot rests. The *Strandkorb* beach chair was invented in 1882 by Wilholm Bartelmann, a basket maker in Rostock, Germany. The design has changed little since 1910. In the USA, we typically don't use beach chairs. We spread a towel or blanket over the sand, station ourselves on it, endure the wind, get sunburned, and end up with sand on the wrong side of our swimsuits. Civilized German *Strandkörbe* sidestep these problems. Numbered beach chairs as shown below are available for rent from so-called *Strandkorbewärter*, "Beach chair wardens."

[Where are the throngs of August German beach-goers in this photo?]



## 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 about 30 pages into 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;

Party food and social lubricant make it easier.

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 August 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, 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.



This sporty roadster from the late 1950's is a **BMW model 507**. When Elvis Presley was stationed in Germany with the US Army in

1959, he bought one of these Bavarian hot rods, equipped

with a 3.2-Liter V-8 motor, to commute from his house in Bad-Nauheim to the army base in Friedberg. BMW lost money on every 507 sold because of cost overruns, so very few were made. As a result, specimens like the one pictured are quite rare and fetch about \$2 Million at auction. Elvis's own 507 was returned to the BMW factory and was restored to original condition and is not for sale.



# Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...

## This Month:

August-7: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 5  
 August-10: Happy Wanderer's Hike, details to be emailed  
 August-21: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 5  
 August-24: Happy Wanderer's Hike, details to be emailed

## Tentative Plans for 2023:

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



## August Birthdays

|           |                   |
|-----------|-------------------|
| August 1  | Karen Clark       |
| August 2  | Paulette Berquist |
| August 2  | Lilly Sackl       |
| August 8  | Tom Dyer          |
| August 14 | June Anderson     |
| August 19 | Richard Fuller    |
| August 29 | Richard Snyder    |

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

A list of hikes taken:

|             |                         |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| January 12  | Hidden Falls            |
| February 9  | Cronan Ranch            |
| February 23 | Fairy Falls             |
| March 10    | American River Canyon   |
| April 13    | Bullard's Bar           |
| April 27    | South Yuba Trail/Humbug |
| May 11      | Old Ford Ranch          |
| May 25      | Rocky Rest              |
| June 8      | Yuba Rim Trail          |
| June 22     | Blue Lake               |
| July 6      | Point Mariah            |
| July 20     | Penner Lake             |

More to come!



## Gute Besserung

Niemand?

Bis jetzt sind noch  
 Alle gesund 🍷

## Teutonic Technology: Birkenstock Sandals

Summer footwear is not exactly high technology, but consider that before Birkenstock sandals were invented in Germany, there were no sandals with flexible insoles specifically made to fit the contours of the wearer's foot. It was a watershed moment for Konrad Birkenstock in 1896. He began to make *Fußbett* ("foot bed") insoles and selling them to other shoemakers. The company built its first sandals decades later in 1963, which were imported to the USA in 1966. In the 1970's Birkenstocks got "discovered" by the counter-culture ("hippies") and became fabulously popular in the general public along with tie-dyed shirts, bell bottom pants, and long hair [Even Lawrence Welk's band members let their hair grow a few inches]. Outside of trendiness, the sandals actually offered comfort and quality. The foot bed is made from cork and latex with a foam overlay and suede lining that further adapt to the wearer's foot. Since the 1970's, the Birkenstock company has grown to a multi-million dollar business with numerous product offerings, and the company has sought to reduce environmental impact and energy consumption of its brand. A pair of Birkenstock "Arizona Soft Footbed" model sandals in genuine suede leather shown at right costs about \$140.



### **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, September 12, 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](http://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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