



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

## Pics from the Picnic:



Joan Hardy, Anneliese Welch, and Elinor Barnes



Renate and John Hettrich at BBQ Central



Eager eaters near the Herrmanns' pond.



Sally Ann Smiell on Steirische Harmonika button box.

## Notes from the Board

Many thanks to Fred and Karen Herrmann for hosting the club's June picnic beside their lake. Thanks also to John and Renata Hettrich for organizing the festivities and doing the onsite barbecuing. It was good to see everyone at this well attended event.

On a less happier note, due to a lack of interest, the club will not participate in the annual Fourth of July Parade.

August is our quiet month. There will be no August membership meeting. The next membership event will be Oktoberfest, currently on the calendar for Saturday, September 23rd. Please check the newsletter for information and updates.

Mike Silence



Club member and former Club President Rebecca Claus drove her Mini Cooper all the way from Georgia, solo, many days' journey, to come and visit us! Below, she's with Fred and Karen Herrmann at Montevista restaurant, and at right, she's visiting with Kristina Wetherbee, Mike and Chrysan Silence, Karen Clark, and Tom Dyer at Katrin's Biergarten in Rocklin. She came to the club's summer picnic, too. It's not about the food, though, it's about the friends. She misses us! We miss her, too!

## A Visit from Rebecca





## HAPPY WANDERERS' HIKING GROUP

On May 25 the hiking group went past Downieville to hike up the third divide.

This trail goes up, up, up, rather gently along Pauly Creek which was more of a raging river. We saw lots of pretty wildflowers and had lunch near an old cabin which belongs to someone who has an active mine, or so the sign says. One could continue up the second divide and descend on the third divide, but that adds a few miles, and we didn't do it. We were going to stop for ice cream cones in Downieville on the way back, but the shop was closed in preparation for the big festivities on the week-end. Thanks to Paulette, Jeannie's grandson Tyler did not get grossly overcharged for his pizza. But that's a story for another day.

June 08 found us hiking the Yuba Rim Trail to a rock outcropping that looks out over the vast Yuba River Canyon. The trail starts near the New Bullards Bar Dam, right across from the quarry that supplied the rock for the dam. This trail was developed by the Bear Yuba Land Trust a number of years ago and is a favorite. There is an opportunity to hike down a steep path, infested with rattlesnakes, ticks and poison oak, to get to the river, but we decided to skip it, mostly due to the climbing back up bit. Famously, our group photo appeared in the Union newspaper on the community page. On the return trip driving home, it was amazing to look out over the dam and see the houseboats at eye level. The lake is full to overflowing!

Sue



Photos by Alan Cary

## Teutonic Technology: The EMT Plate

Early 20th-century recorded music was done "dry," i.e. without added artificial reverberation (reverb) or echo. The first popular record featuring reverb as an artistic effect was "Peg o' My Heart" by the Harmonicats in 1947. The recording engineer, Bill Putnam, used the studio's bathroom as an echo chamber. Les Paul and Mary Ford recorded hits such as "How High the Moon" with distinctive "slap back" reverb in 1951. Some recording studios allocated internal space for echo chambers: These were large, empty rooms with non-parallel walls finished in hard plaster or shellac. A loudspeaker and a microphone were placed in the room. Dry audio was played into the speaker; reverb was received by the microphone and added to the audio mix. Capitol Records in Hollywood reportedly built subterranean echo chambers under their parking lots. Big name studios could afford to do such things, but where space was at a premium, other methods for making reverb were needed. Enter the EMT Plate. EMT stood for "Elektro-Mess-Technik GmbH", a German professional audio equipment company founded in 1938 by Wilhelm Franz. In 1957, EMT introduced their Model 140 Plate Reverb (shown below). It consisted of a steel plate about the size of a sheet of plywood, suspended by springs in a tubular frame. Onto the steel plate were attached something similar to a loudspeaker's voice coil and a contact microphone, which served the same function as the speaker and mic in an echo chamber. Judicious placement of the transducers resulted in a reverb that sounded realistic, smooth, and dense. Advantages of the EMT plate were that it occupied less space than a dedicated echo chamber, and the reverb's decay time could be adjusted by changing the position of a damper hung next to the plate. Although these plate reverb assemblies weighed about 600 pounds and cost nearly as much as a Cadillac of the day, they were adopted by many recording studios, including the famous Abbey Road Studios where the Beatles recorded their albums.

Modern popular music from Germany uses lots of reverb. For example, listen to these current recordings of German folk music on <https://www.radio.net/s/heimatmelodie>. The German recording engineers are reverb fanatics! Modern reverb is digitally produced, but Wilhelm Franz really set a trend with his EMT plate.



## 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 25 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.

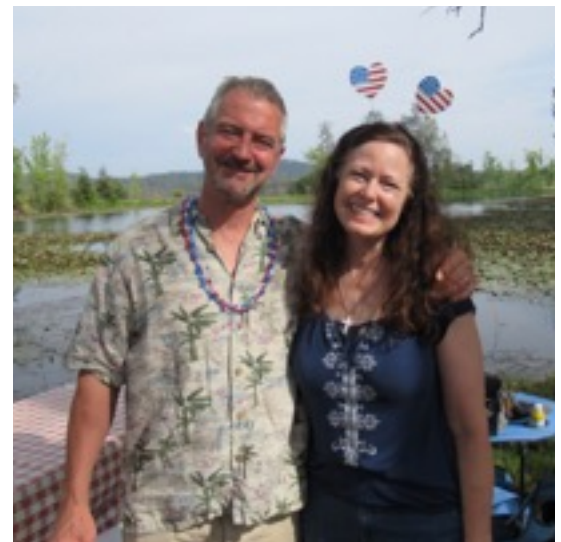
For more information, call Erica at (619) 335-6499

### Conversational German Group

Servus! The Conversational German Class is taking July 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 summer picnic, 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.



At right are the winners of the water balloon toss event at the summer picnic, **Marc and Kristina Wetherbee**. They're proudly wearing the prizes they earned for winning: A Joe Cain Day necklace for Marc and I love the USA bunny ears for Kristina.



# Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...

## This Month:

- July-3: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 5
- July-13: Happy Wanderer's Hike, details to be emailed
- July-21: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 5
- July-27: 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



## July Birthdays

- |         |                  |
|---------|------------------|
| July 5  | Larry Starn      |
| July 15 | Susan Vogt       |
| July 21 | Dennis Schuetzle |
| July 30 | Barbara Perkins  |

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 🍊



Here's the **Papa Oom-Pah-Pah Band** (pre-pandemic) at the Madeline Helling Library amphitheater for the "Musical Mondays" concert series

performed on Mondays in July. These concerts are attended primarily by kids and their moms, so the band aims for entertaining and educational program content for kids with short attention spans. This year's

performance is scheduled for **Monday, July 17, 11:00 a.m.** Free admission. Bring your kids or grandkids to this fun event. The Helling Library is at 980 Helling Way in Nevada City, near the county government center. .



## Famous German-Americans: Lou Gehrig on Fourth of July, 1939

As we reported in the May, 2019 edition of this newsletter, both Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth of the famous New York Yankees baseball team of the 1930's were German-American. Gehrig was born Heinrich Ludwig Gehrig in 1903 in New York and spoke German during his childhood. He grew to become famous for two things: His stellar record with the Yankees, playing 2,130 consecutive games in a 17-year span. And, the sudden and tragic end to his career when he was struck with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), which later became colloquially known as "Lou Gehrig's Disease." ALS had no cure then, and it has no cure today. It's fatal. On July 4, 1939, at a special ceremony honoring Lou Gehrig, he gave a short and poignant speech to announce his retirement from the game. In it, he famously said,



"Fans, for the past two weeks, you've been reading about a bad break. Today, I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth."

And he went on to explain why he felt that way, never mentioning his suffering but only his gratitude for his career, his team mates, and his family. The next day's New York Times wrote "The vast gathering, sitting in absolute silence for a longer period than perhaps any baseball crowd in history, heard Gehrig himself deliver as amazing a valedictory as ever came from a ball player."

### 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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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



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*First Class Mail*

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