



# 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)

## Here Comes Oktoberfest!



Yes! The Gold Country German-American Club's Oktoberfest is **just around the corner!** We'll have authentic food, authentic music from the Papa Oom-Pah-Pah Band (shown below), authentic folk dancing by our own Alpine Dancers, sing-alongs, a little ceremony, a contest, raffle prizes, a multi-media presentation, and, oh yeah, did we mention **beer**? Dirndls and Lederhosen optional: Wear 'em if you got 'em!

We want to fill the Seaman's Lodge with revelers, like we did before the pandemic. The event is private, for Club members *and their guests*. We want this to be fun, affordable, and *crowded*, so **BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY!!** Tickets will cost a mere \$10.00 for Members and guests, kids get in for **free!**



Place: Seaman's Lodge, Pioneer Park,  
Nevada City, CA

Date and Time: **Saturday, September 23, 2023.**  
Setup at 3; Doors open at 4; Dinner at 5:30.

*Wir werden alle tanzen, essen, singen, und trinken!*

Please **RSVP** to Renate Hettrich (see below) so we can plan accordingly.

As usual, we need HELP putting on this event, and this is the perfect opportunity for our NEW MEMBERS to pitch in. "Many hands make light work!" This is a really fun event, so first, show up! And second, volunteer to do something!

Renate Hettrich is keeper of the roster for Oktoberfest jobs and food items. We need donations of German potato salad, sauerkraut and, as always, appetizers and desserts. We also need kitchen help for making pretzels!

Contact Renate at: [rhettich@gmail.com](mailto:rhettich@gmail.com) or telephone 650-207-3681

## Notes from the Board

Just like the club, the Board of Directors does not meet in August. The next board meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 12th via Zoom conference. The main topic will be planning for the Oktoberfest celebration on Saturday, September 23rd. Any club member wanting to attend may email me at [silenced@alumni.csusb.edu](mailto:silenced@alumni.csusb.edu) to be added to the September invitation list.

Respectfully,  
Mike Silence  
President



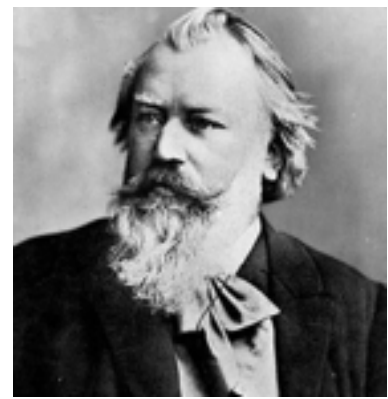
### The Three "B's"



J. S. Bach



Ludwig van Beethoven



Johannes Brahms

### The Other Three "B's": Bier, Brezeln, und Bratwurst

Our Intermediate German Language Class will make a special presentation to the Club on November 3, featuring four (or more) beer brands that attendees will judge (blind) and vote for a favorite. The Class will also present a short tutorial about German beer, pass around specimens of beer ingredients from our local home brew shop, and offer home made soft pretzels (**B**retzeln) and **B**ratwurst in between the **B**ier sampling rounds. Members are encouraged to bring guests. To defray expenses, the Club will charge \$5 for members and \$10 for guests. A free beer sampling glass is included in the price. Wine will also be available for members who prefer wine.

Three "B's" Night: Friday, November 3, 2023. 6 p.m.  
Seaman's Lodge, Nevada City, CA  
Mark your calendar!

# 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 40 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 September 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.



Photo by Alan Cary

**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.

Suggested Ladies'  
German Folk  
Dancing Costume



## Teutonic Technology:



**Volocopter GmbH** is a German aircraft manufacturer based in Bruchsal, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. In 2011, the company developed a prototype for an "Air Taxi" intended to carry passengers in what is essentially a gigantic, electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) drone. The photo above is not a toy; it's human scale! Through the years, the company has raised €322 million (\$387 million) from enthusiastic investors and through crowd-funding. They have worked with the European Union Aviation Safety Agency and the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for certification. Last June, the VoloCity version of the drone was shown at the Le Bourget (Paris) Air Show, although it isn't clear if anyone was taken upstairs for a ride. They are planning an appearance at the Paris Olympics in 2024, too. Volocopter is claiming the aircraft is safe on account of having redundant electric motors (18 in all) and a bank of 9 lithium-ion battery packs. The VoloCity model (for city commuting) is much quieter than a conventional helicopter. It can cruise at about 50 MPH, and it has a range of about 22 miles, and a service ceiling of 6500 feet. The company says the battery packs can be replaced on the ground in about 5 minutes, and they are in the process of establishing dedicated heliports for that purpose.

Do you remember the animated cartoon TV show, *The Jetsons*? The show was a follow-on to Hanna-Barbera's successful *The Flintstones* in 1962, except that the comedy was staged in the future instead of the past. *The Jetsons* predicted microwave ovens, robotic floor sweepers, video chats, and cell phones, and also the George Jetson Commuter Scooter, shown at right. It bears a vague resemblance to the VoloCity air taxi, doesn't it?





# Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...

## This Month:

- September-5 thru 7: Lakes Basin Campout
- September-11: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 5
- September-14: Happy Wanderer's Hike, TBA
- September-23: Oktoberfest at Seaman's Lodge, see p. 1
- September-25: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 5
- September-28: Happy Wanderer's Hike, TBA

## Tentative Plans for 2023:

- November 3 = Language Class's "Bier, Bretzel, und Bratwurst Abend"
- December 1 = Christmas Holiday Dinner

Here's a **"Save the Date"** Announcement from Christal Denzler' son, Paul, regarding the **Lincoln Oktoberfest**, at 4:30 p.m. on October 7. This is hosted by the St. Joseph Council Knights of Columbus, at their new hall at 280 Oak Tree Lane in Lincoln, California. There will be music and dancing entertainment by Alpentanzer Schuhplattler, authentic German food and desserts, German beer, and raffles.

Tickets are \$40 for adults, \$10 for kids under 13. For more information, call Arnie Knipp at (925) 787-5613. We'll have more about this in next month's newsletter.



## September Birthdays

- |        |                    |
|--------|--------------------|
| Sep-11 | Candy Howell       |
| Sep-21 | John Muff          |
| Sep-22 | Margot Schulze     |
| Sep-26 | Michael Camerlingo |

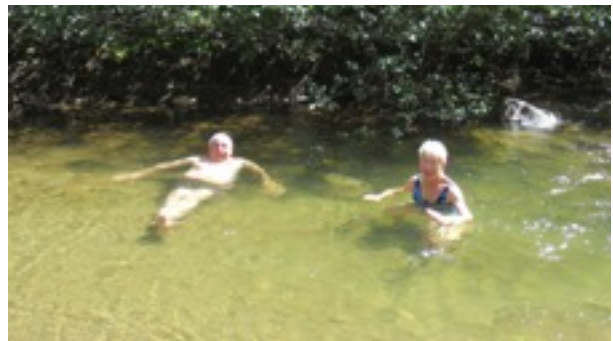
Tune to KNCO Radio AM 830, weekdays at 7:50 a.m. to hear your birthday greeting from GCGAC!



## Gute Besserung

Niemand?

Bis jetzt sind noch  
Alle gesund 🍷



Ron Shaffer and Karen Herrmann, cooling off in Carpenter Valley Creek after the hike on August 17.



## HAPPY WANDERERS' HIKING GROUP

On August 17, 14 club members and 2 guests hiked in the spectacular Lower Carpenter Valley which is north of Truckee. Due to the fire in the little town of Washington we decided to drive up 174 to 80 and past Truckee. Some folks followed the written instructions, some followed Google's instructions, and phone coverage was spotty, so it took awhile for us to all find each other, but eventually we prevailed.

The hike wanders up the creek in the Lower Carpenter Valley which is stunningly beautiful. A few mosquitoes annoyed us at the beginning, where the boardwalks cross over the marshy area, but we soon left them behind. Part of the hike is on Truckee Donner Land Trust land and part is on private property, mostly, but not always clearly marked. There is very little elevation change, so it is accessible to almost anyone. We lost a few folks along the way, but they reappeared at the lunch area so we did not have to turn to a search party. The trail is an out and back with a small loop at the end. Another group was at the end, and they reported seeing a sandhill crane in the valley! There were still plenty of wildflowers blooming along the way. Puffy clouds drifted by overhead; a few in the group were disappointed that there was no rain. The return trip was uneventful until we got back to the parking lot where Karen spoiled us with almond stuffed dates and lemoncello! Some, if not all, of us drove home on 20 and there was no blockade from the fire, we breezed on home.

The hike on August 24 will be to Barker Pass above Lake Tahoe.

Our annual campout is Sep 5,6,7 at the Lakes Basin Campground near the Sierra Buttes



Boardwalk photo by Elany Prusa



Karen Herrmann dispensing home made lemoncello and dates after the hike.

# Famous German-Americans: Claus Spreckels



Adolph Claus J. Spreckels immigrated to the US from Lamstedt, Hanover, Germany, in 1846 at the age of 18. His young family settled first in South Carolina, then relocated to New York, and ultimately San Francisco in 1856, where he started a brewery. At some point in the 1860's Spreckels entered the business of refining sugar, and by 1872 owned and operated two sugar refineries in the San Francisco area. He bought a large tract of land near Aptos, California, where he and others grew sugar beets. By 1888, Spreckels established the largest sugar beet sugar factory in the US, the Western Beet Sugar Company in Watsonville. He then financed a narrow-gauge railroad to ship sugar beets from Salinas, California, to his factory in Watsonville -- vertical integration on horizontal tracks.

At about this time, the cane sugar fields and refineries of Hawaii were competing against Spreckels's beet sugar. Rather than "beet" them, Spreckels chose to join them, and in 1878 founded Spreckelsville on the northern shore of Maui, which was a company town to serve what became the world's largest sugar cane plantation. At that point, Spreckels dominated the Hawaiian cane sugar industry. Later, competitors in Hawaii and in California formed a cooperative refinery in Crocket, California, which became the California and Hawaii (C&H) Sugar Company that finally ended Spreckels's dominance. However, under the direction of Spreckels's son, his Western Sugar Refinery continued to compete against C&H until 1951.

During his stay in Hawaii, Claus Spreckels bought the *Pacific Commercial Advertiser* newspaper in Hawaii, which became the *Honolulu Advertiser*, which had a very large circulation in the United States. Spreckels also lent support to William Matson of the Matson Navigation Company to help ship coal to his refineries in Hawaii; We have Claus Spreckels to thank for the Matson shipping lines. So, in his life, Claus Spreckels built a sugar refining empire, a railroad, a newspaper, and a nascent major shipping line. And he had arrived in this country penniless.

## GCGAC Board of Directors

### Officers (Elected -- 5 votes):

President: Mike Silence	(909) 496-6468
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	909-496-8776
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®  
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“Representing Americans of German Speaking Heritage”

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