



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 Event = Casino Night!



When: Friday, October 10, 2025, 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Where: Seaman's Lodge, Nevada City

Our GCGAC Language Learners are sponsoring the next meeting, and they're going to decorate Seaman's Lodge to look just like the Kurhaus Casino in Baden-Baden, above. Well, sort of... We might have to use our imaginations, a bit! We'll pretend that it's Baden-Baden, and we'll play games like Blackjack, Poker, and Roulette, using pretend money -- we'll issue an equal number of chips to each attendee at the beginning of Casino Night. Top point winners at the end of the event will be awarded prizes and accolades of praise.

The Language Group will present an entertaining and edifying slide show at the beginning of the meeting. Then, we'll review the rules for the games, hand out the chips, and engage in games of chance, guilty pleasures, and similar debauchery.

Here is what we expect of you: (1) Dress up! We want a classy clientele in our casino, like the well-dressed players in the casino ads. (2) Please bring appetizers or desserts -- aim for "regional" to Baden-Württemberg, if possible. (3) Show up! Even if you don't do (1) or (2). This will be fun!

Notes from the Board

Dear GCGAC Members, Our Oktoberfest was a fun success with a great attendance. Our next event will be Casino Night October 10th. Hope to see all of you there.

The Club still needs someone to replace our retiring Membership Committee Chairperson. This is an important role we need filled and consists of handling the existing membership stats as well as handling new memberships by providing the forms and processing them through the Board. It is not a difficult job but an important one. If you can help out and join the Club management please contact Ron Shaffer.

In preparation for the Oktoberfest, it was brought to the Board's attention that there are still members who have not paid the additional \$10 dues that the Club voted for. As you know, everything is getting more expensive day by day and our treasury really needs those funds. So please send the dues if you owe them.

Thanks



Our Happy Wanderers on the Lake Azelea, Lake Flora, Lake Angela hike



More lakes! Upper and Lower Sardine Lakes as viewed from way up there on the summit of Sierra Buttes.

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. We're just starting to group-read our next book, *Momo* by Michael Ende. Now would be an excellent time to join the class! 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 October 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.



Our dancer group is up to 4 couples and now is the time to join if you're interested! We're teaching some beginning dances and reviewing older ones. Practices are on hiatus at the moment. We will start up again as soon as we find a day/time that everyone can practice. Please contact Kristina Wetherbee, (916) 955-2878, for more information.

HAPPY WANDERERS' HIKING GROUP



The hiking group repeated a perennial favorite on August 28, which was the Angela, Flora and Azelea loop near Donner Summit. We hiked north on the PCT, then looped back on an unmarked trail to the lakes. A few folks swam while others watched. As usual, the return trip was confusing and not well marked. Karen said it would be disappointing not to get at least a little lost.

The world famous Lakes Basin campout occurred on September 2-4 and the weather did not disappoint. A bit of rain and distant thunder made themselves known just before dinner. Ron's EZ-UP was quickly installed by his camper front door and a pot luck dinner was prepared easily. The rain was predicted to end at six, but was just getting started. By seven the dinner's plates and cutlery could easily be washed in the stream of water coming off the roof of the EZ-UP. By eight-thirty it was dark with no hope of a campfire, and folks began to drift off to their abodes, some to a house in a nearby village, some to their vehicles or camp rigs. One hearty soul, Karen H. decided to tough it out in her little recently erected nylon structure. The rain poured relentlessly all night long, except for when it was hailing, and the thunder and lightning resounded with orchestral vigor. By six a.m. it was beginning to be quiet and some of the clouds were scuttling away. At seven a few folks were venturing out of their abodes. Turns out Karen had a one night stand with a tent from Big Five, declaring "I never want to see that thing again!" By the time everyone else got up her taillights could be seen heading down the road towards the comfort of her home. We were sad to see her go. On Wednesday we hiked the Bear Lakes trail to beautiful skies, and on Thursday we met up with Jamie Hogan and Tom Stone and made it to the top of the Sierra Buttes. The air was slightly hazy from the various fires that had been started by the previous thunderstorm, but breathing was easy. To next year!



Petroglyph site with Donner Lake in background

On the 11th, a group of us went to the petroglyph site at Donner Pass and then hiked through some of the abandoned train tunnels where delightful and some not so delightful art work was presented.

The last hikes of the year are September 25 and October 9, 23, and 30.

Susan Vogt

Upcoming Events

Be on the lookout for...

This Month:

Oct-06: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3
 Oct-09: Happy Wanderer's hike, see p. 4.
 Oct-10: Casino Night! See p. 1
 Oct-14: Board of Directors' meeting, see p. 7
 Oct-20: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 3
 Oct-23: Happy Wanderer's hike, see p. 4.

Tentative Plans for 2025:

November: Advent Wreathmaking
 December: Holiday Dinner

More plans in the works!!



October Birthdays

Oct-1	Linda Snyder
Oct-19	Kristina Wetherbee
Oct-21	Jerry Greif
Oct-24	Renate Hettrich
Oct-25	Kathryn Schoensee Finn
Oct-30	Chrysan Silence

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



Gute Besserung

Niemand?



Stalwart hikers with canine hitch-hiker



Lake Angela, probably, but might be Lake Flora

Our Oktoberfest



"O'zapft is!" Here are our very own Mayor of Munich and Premier of Bavaria engaging in the ceremonial tapping of the first keg of beer to kick off the Oktoberfest celebration. That's Marc Wetherbee and Dennis Naumann, actually! Stefan Arth built the barrel and wagon many years ago.



The Papa Oom-Pah-Pah Band played traditional German tunes, and Paul led us through some fun sing-alongs with lyrics on slides. Players are (L-R) Ken Carter, Dieter Stenger, Paul Trethewey, Walter Webb, and Karen Stenger.



The Alpine Dancers demonstrated seven different German folk dances, including this one, the "Little Foot." How do they remember all those steps?

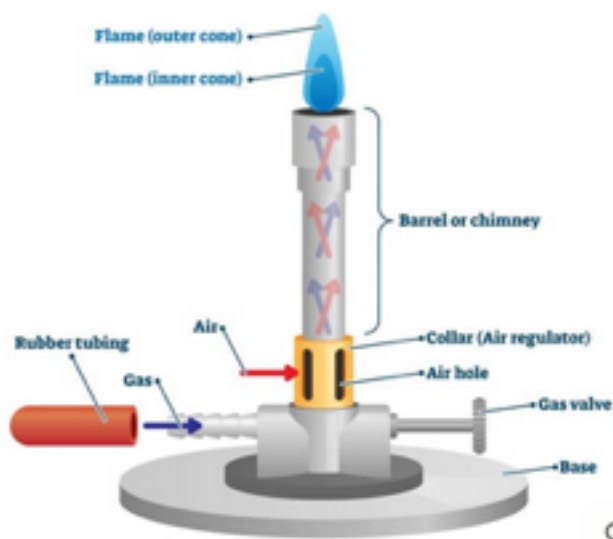


Mary Jean and John Muff did the very important job of tending to the bibes. They even ate dinner at the "bar!" All told, there were about 45 attendees at the Club's Oktoberfest party, all behaving respectably.

Teutonic Technology -- The Bunsen Burner

Everybody who has taken a class in chemistry has seen and probably operated a Bunsen burner in the lab. It seems like a trivial invention, but for its time, it was a great step forward in the science of spectrum analysis,

the study of the spectra of light emitted by heated elements. **Robert Wilhelm Bunsen** was a research chemist at the University of Heidelberg in 1855, and worked with Gustav Kirchhoff (a familiar name in electronics) and found that for spectrum analysis, a source of a very clean and hot flame was needed, such that the flame itself did not contaminate the emission spectrum of the studied element. With the help of lab assistant Peter Desaga, Bunsen made improvements on the gas burners of the time to develop the burner that bears his name and is still in use today.



Robert Wilhelm
Eberhard Bunsen

GCGAC Board of Directors

Officers (Elected -- 5 votes):

President: Ron Shaffer	(323) 797-6656
Vice President: Linda Shaffer	(714) 315-5754
Secretary: Renate Hettrich	(650) 207-3681
Treasurer: Lou Ann Schwartz	(530) 432-0690
Program: Karen Herrmann	(530) 615-6766

Directors (Appointed):

Membership: VACANT	
Dance: Kristina Wetherbee	(916) 955-2878
Happy Wanderers: VACANT	
Newsletter: Paul Trethewey	(530) 265-0763
Publicity: VACANT	
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, October 14, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

by

Zoom Conference Call

GCGAC Committee Chairs (appointed, non-voting)

Refreshments: Volunteers	
Get Well & Sunshine: VACANT	
Kaffee & Kuchen: VACANT	
Inter-Club Liaison: VACANT	
Webmaster: Paul Trethewey	(530) 265-0763
Property: Dennis Naumann	(530) 477-1622
Historian: Chrysan Silence	(909) 496-8776
Facebook: Kristina Wetherbee	(916) 955-2878

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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