



Hell on Wheels: IMCZ team barely survives the Devil Bikes of Engelberg!

Our intrepid adventurer Joseph Dow once again took the initiative, some friends, and some extra insurance and organized an excursion for those who like to live on the edge... even if they find themselves falling off.

Ok, the "seat" on these things, which is a thin piece of foam rubber over a metal plate, isn't the only hard part of this experience. On July 18th, Sergiy, Boris Volejnec (husband of ZIWC member Lilia Pascua), and I traveled to Engelberg to ride the infamous Devil Bikes down from the Jochpass to Trübsee, a vertical drop of 460m on the ski run. The release forms we had to sign should have been a clue.

The Devil Bike is massive, basically a small motorcycle without the engine . . . or any meaningful shock absorption. The trail is surprisingly steep, narrow, and crooked with mostly broken rocks and some water crossing the run at various points. Engelberg claims on their Website the level is "difficult" and "requires a lot of energy and endurance," but that is not an adequate description. Having the skill to control the Devil Bike is the real difficulty. Due to the steepness of the run and uneven surface, riding the brakes is required to control the speed, causing the tires to skid off the rocks and the rear end to drift. You must constantly modulate the braking pressure to straighten out, requiring strong hands and a subtle touch. Since the bike is so heavy at 22 kg., once you start to lose balance, disaster is inevitable.

Just as we were getting the hang of it and letting the bikes run a bit, on our second run, I hit a rut and threw myself face first on to Boris' bike, which was lying on the side of the trail, while he was clearing the cow wire for us to pass. As you fall off a Devil Bike, the reflex is to squeeze the brakes and hang on, so I hit the frame of the other bike initially with my face. Ouch! Luckily, I was wearing safety glasses (my own - not supplied) and escaped with only a black eye and a lot of scrapes and bruises. I know David LeBow is shaking his head and thinking, "I told you so."

On a gentler track, the Devil Bike could be a lot of fun and other mountain resorts have them. I don't know how their runs are set up. The supplied safety equipment, merely a helmet, seems quite inadequate when you consider how even recreational skiers are now wearing back protectors, and they are not landing on broken rocks and scree.

After the misadventures, our group met up with a group of ZIWC members, who sensibly opted for a stroll around the Trübsee and a nice lunch.

If you are still not deterred, you can book the Devil Bikes at 041/ 639 50 50 or titlis@titlis.ch, but use extra caution and bring your safety equipment.

— Joe Dow



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Board Member bios are posted under the following link: <http://www.imcz.com/Board.asp>. Go ahead and check them out!

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IMCZ & ZIWC Barbeque

“The SWISS Face of IMCZ”, as presented and organized by our “native” members. The ideas are still coming so some details may change, but this year’s summer event will probably include: Traditional Swiss Costumes, Food / BBQ, Music & Dance, and more. A final organizational meeting takes place after the Stammtisch at 20.00 h on Thursday, August 19.

GAMES, ACTIVITIES:

- Cross Bow shooting • Sack race, Ski Contest
- Speed badminton • Lotto, Chess, Auctions
- Yodeling Karaoke • Swiss Charity for Kids

Date: Sunday, August 22, 2010

Time: 12.00 – 20.00 h, both times approximate

Cost: CHF 30.-- per member, including food, drink, and activities. Non-members CHF 45.--. Children 5-12 CHF 15.--

Venue: Siehbach-Saal, Chamerstrasse 33, in Zug-City / Harbor

Register: Ermano Bassi at events@imcz.com.



8-BALL POOL at Sports Zugerland, CHAM

Come join us for informal fun POOL evenings for 2 hours of fun. The 4 tables are pre-booked at 25% discount to IMCZ members. Mark these dates below in those diaries!!

Date: Last Tuesday of the month:
Tuesday, August 31 • Tuesday, September 28 • Tuesday, October 26
Tuesday, November 30 • Tuesday, December 28

Time: 19.15 h gathering; 19.30 h starting

Cost: Around CHF 15 per person, and your drinks and food if any, are extra.

Venue: Sports Zugerland, being what used to be called the Tennis and Squash Centre Cham, is a non-smoking area throughout and is easy to get to. So there are two excuses out of the window for not making this into another popular event again. Good food is available as well as drinks – the pool tables being next to the restaurant.

Contact: Please register with Stephen Butterworth at sbutterworth@zugernet.ch or catch him at a Stammtisch.



Joint Evening Stammtisch

Four times a years, ZIWC will combine with the International Men’s Club of Zug for a joint Stammtisch. These present an informal and fun opportunity for the members of both clubs to network, socialise and share ideas together.

Please come and give your ideas and feedback for further joint evening activities.

Date: Thursday, August 19, 2010
Time: 18.00 – 20.00 h
Venue: Walchwilersaal, Parkhotel Zug
Cost: Beverages at individual member’s expense
Register: No registration required.





Miscellaneous Happenings

In addition to regular organized events such as bowling, pool, and the weekly Stammtisch, as well as special activities like a visit to Seleger Moor or a summer barbeque, a number of other happenings and activities are available to provide diversion. Here are some quick mentions of some coming items which Events Coordinator Ermano Bassi thought might interest you. You can attend these on your own or contact Ermano and see about going with some other members.

Trip to Gruyere

This is an event organized by the Zug International Women's Club (ZIWC). Please join us on this excursion to discover the delights of Gruyères, including a guided tour of its enchanting castle. After lunch, we will transfer to Molésón to visit a small alpine cheese factory, where we will learn about the traditions of dairy farming and alpine cheese making. A funicular will then take us up through breathtaking scenery to Plan-Francey, where we will be treated to a show of Swiss folklore.

Lunch will be served in the Café-Restaurant des Remparts, where we will have a choice of two menus: meat or fish. When booking your place on this trip, please confirm which lunch menu you would like.

We will leave Molésón at 17:00 and should be back in Zug by 19:20. Numbers are limited, so please book early.

- Date:** Tuesday, August 24, 2010
- Time:** 07:20 (coach departs 07:30)
- Place:** Meet at Kiss 'n' Ride, Zug station
- Cost:** CHF 80 (inclusive lunch, exclusive drinks)
- Contact:** Jacki Griffiths, programmebookings@ziwc.ch, 041 710 55 22

TGIF (Thank God it's Friday)

This is an event organized by the Zug International Women's Club (ZIWC). Come enjoy a beautiful summer's evening by the lakeside. Our August TGIF will be at the Schiff Bar, situated in the lovely old town of Zug overlooking the lake. This event is open to both women and men's club members.

- Date:** Friday, August 28, 2010
- Time:** 18:30-21:00
- Venue:** Schiff Bar, Graben 2, Zug, www.restaurant-schiff.ch/index.htm
- Cost:** Fr. 10 voluntary donation for an adult for a full evening. Children and short-night pricing negotiable.
- Contact:** Kim McCoy, 079 847 96 45, kimmysummers2@aol.com



IMCZ Special Stammtisch

Andy Habermacher:

Men's & Women's Brains



We know our brains are different but what does the latest research into the brain tell us? Do men really have a "nothing" box?

And do women's minds zip around all over the place. Do men have emotions? Andy Habermacher, executive coach and corporate trainer has been focusing on neuroscience over the last few years and works in

collaboration with a Harvard neuroscientist



to bring insights into the brain into business. Andy will be talking about the brain and what is the difference between men and women (from the brains perspective that is). Scientific terminology will be at a minimum - whether you find it funny or not will depend on how your brain processes the information!

- Date:** Saturday, September 16, 2010
- Time:** 18.00
- Venue:** Parkhotel Zug
- Cost:** Free to all members, drinks at your own expense.
- Contact:** Ermano Bassi at events@imcz.com

IMCZ

Introducing...new members



THE IMCZ WELCOMES:

Lee Alexander Risby is British and enjoys rowing, running and travel.

Pieter De Haan enjoys photography and biking and hails from the Netherlands.

Willy Wermelinger is a Swiss native and the owner of the Zug agency Event & More, specialists for people-centered events in our region. His spare time he spends with his partner, family and friends. He enjoys practising different sports, particularly Tai-Ji, swimming,

and taking his racing-bike for a tour through the Swiss landscape. He can also sometimes be found in front of a canvas with a brush & paint. His most recent projects are the exclusive Swiss representation of spectacular promotion-trucks, and the "Chi Garden", a new event location in Zug.

Giovanni Schröppel is Swiss and likes sports, tennis, drums, chilies and trading. Rafael Bejarano Narbona hails from Spain and enjoys football, skiing, golf, drawing and food.



«Our next removal, we will do again with the friendly team from Weber-Vonesch, Zug», Linda Sørensen explains.



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Why food cannot legally “satiating” you!...

Contributed by IMCZ member Remo P. Jutzeler van Wijlen, Head R&D Sponser Sports Food Ing. Appl Food Sciences, MAS Nutrition & Health ETHZ

In spite of better knowledge based on sound scientific and clinical evidence, it is still not allowed to claim a “satiating” effect for protein or fibres on foods, neither in Switzerland nor the European Community. First of all this is irritating seeing that the action of eating any food is basically an effect of hunger, and satiation the cause of stopping to eat. So, it is the very consequence of eating a food to become satiated after a while.

In fact, protein satiates more than carbs and fat do. There is an abundance of evidence to this fact. About 20-30% of the calories derived from protein are needed for its digestion, burnt as heat (thermogenesis) and therefore not available for storage. In contrast, less caloric energy is lost from carbs (5-10%) and fat (0-4%) during digestion, and consequently stocked in the body's fat depots, if a subject is eating more than needed. As already presented previously an increased protein intake improves also the blood lipid profile and subsequently cardiovascular health. If you are on a calorie restricted diet, a high protein ratio protects lean muscle mass, which maintains basal energy turnover. When returning to normal energy intake, a high protein diet attenuates weight regain, meaning a less pronounced yo-yo effect.

So, why is it not legal to claim anything suggesting a satiating effect on foods, particularly on proteins and fibres, even with a “cause-effect” substantiated portion/meal size and concomitant health-promoting? First of all, because it is the law! You may beat the hell out of bureaucrats, but they never will give in on something that is not clearly and explicitly regulated in their law articles. The idea that the lack of explicitness in law articles could be due to the higher consciousness of giving the opportunity to interpret where necessary, in order to find pragmatic and common sense solutions, would never rise in their minds. They never would be hit by the slightest doubt that regulation may be a dynamic process and is meant to serve insofar as to regulate where necessary and to liberate where possible. Or that changing times and premises just outrun practicability of law articles, making pragmatic interpretation necessary (under the respect of hierarchically higher laws like the protection of health or from deceit, of course). But bureaucrats never worry about such basics; they have to deal with details, stupid! Consequently, in the eyes of our food regulators there is no interpretation – except their interpretation!

Back to our example of why claiming a satiating effect on food is strictly prohibited. In fact

it is a relic from the wave of unserious and often completely absurd slimming foods in the Eighties. You may remember the ridiculous before-after pics of bikini girls on one-page advertisals in newspapers, or the promises and witnesses of having lost 4, 5, 6 or more kg of weight in 1 or 2 weeks just by swallowing 2 capsules of apple vinegar or other substances a day? Already in those times it was possible to prohibit such unfounded claims with the existing law referring to the prohibition of deceit. But regulators



want explicit rules on everything. Meanwhile, a separate annex to the act on special foods has been created, tightly regulating the nutritional profile of such products aimed for weight control. One of the articles explicitly prohibits the claim of a “satiating effect” of such products (intended for weight control!) in order to prevent the misleading of consumers. Indeed, there is this very law article prohibiting explicitly “satiety” on foods intended for weight control – but not for foods or nutrients such as protein in general! Nevertheless, there is no interpretation except for the authorities’ one! Therefore, any suggestion of a satiating effect on food is generally forbidden – against all scientific and clinical proof! It makes life (not a food manufacturer’s, but at least the ones of the authorities) a whole lot easier to uphold and protect out-dated law articles, instead of posing oneself the questions: What is the original meaning behind a legislative article? Do we need to adapt (or eliminate) an article in order to properly serve present premises and needs?

I am sure this phenomenon is not restricted to food regulators, not to the lack of capacity, either. But it is a peculiar, ubiquitous infection of bureaucracy in general; the lack of people capable to take the lead and responsibility, combined with the laziness of a comfortable office life and ideological preoccupation of employees at the responsible positions.

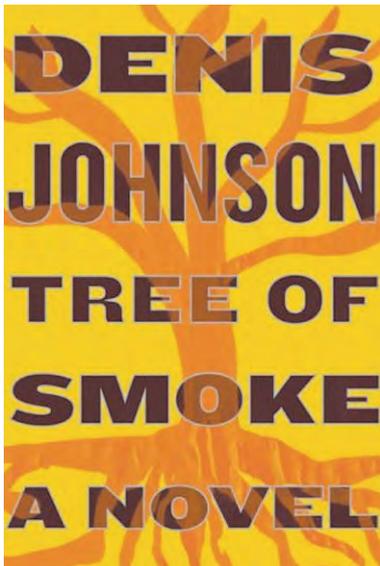




Tree of Smoke by Denis Johnson August 2010

by IMCZ member Andrew DeBoo

The Reading Circle for English Language Literature took Denis Johnson's *Tree of Smoke* as its text for discussion in August.



Published in 2007, Johnson's novel won the National Book Award in the United States in the same year. A Vietnam War novel, its structure is reflective of the war: disparate plot lines sprout, surge in a jungle of flourishing detail, with periods of stunting pointlessness juxtaposed flashes of action that leave the reader—as the characters—recovering from the notion that something—a battle—has just taken place.

The text is built with single chapters devoted to each year from 1963 to 1970, and a final one considerably later in 1983. The first couple of short chapters are illustrative of how American involvement in Vietnam was initially kept low-key.

In November of 1963, Seaman Apprentice William Houston, Jr., finds himself in a Philippine jungle, trying to digest news less than half a day old that President Kennedy had been shot. Stomping amid undergrowth as if at some primeval behest, the soldier shoots a monkey. Horrified when he holds the dying animal in his hands, he cries about it.

The reader also meets Colonel Francis Xavier Sands, who pisses prodigiously from a balcony after his morning roll with a local whore summarized as "Another mission accomplished," and the obligatory post-coital cigarette. The Colonel is moved to tears by the recent news, crying without shame and cursing the assassin.

The question of whether actual fighting is going on in South Vietnam is raised, but no

determinate answer is given; American military activity at the time was not authorized for much more than advisory or intelligence gathering actions, the ambiguity of which seemed to suit certain types who had ideas of their own that they wanted to pursue, operations best described at great distance and in vague language. Colonel F.X. Sands has heard there are tunnels all under Vietnam, but for now he's mourning the assassinated President. "He was a beautiful man. That's what killed him."

In a village near Saigon in 1964, an assassination attempt is made on the Colonel's life, but it does not succeed.

By 1965, William "Skip" Sands of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, nephew and admirer of the Colonel, has been in service for 5 years, but despite voicing his interest for a transfer to Vietnam he has only made it as far as the town of Damulog in the Philippines. Avuncular protection is thwarting the youngster's zeal for action.

At a recreational facility for members of the Del Monte Corporation, he figures the other 'guests' are operatives, he tries to guess their lines. The German practices regularly with a sumpit, a blowgun, and keeps to himself, while Anders Pitchfork, ostensibly an entomologist, hits golf balls from the backyard over the fence into the jungle in the morning and then disappears into the greenery in the afternoon for research purposes. Major Eddie Aguinaldo of the Philippine army is there for general safety of the guests, apparently.

The Colonel makes a surprise visit and has dinner with Skip, Eddie and Anders, during which Skip learns more of the illustrious history of F.X. Sands, his history as a Flying Tiger, exploits with Anders Pitchfork as a prisoner of war under the Japanese, and sustained activity in Southeast Asia since the end of World War II to suppress the spread of communism. He follows the precepts of the Edward Landsdale, famous in the CIA for his emphasis on knowledge of locals, of grasping stories, customs and myths. That's the kind of career Skip wishes for himself, rather than his current occupation of cross-referencing the Colonel's own card catalogue of intelligence tidbits.

Skip repeats his desire for a Vietnam transfer to his uncle, who offers him a qualifying substitute, a bit of snuffing in Mindanao, also in the Philippines, to report on a Father Thomas Carignan, who is apparently trafficking firearms. The colonel can provide no further information on the possible consequences of Skip's report, and here Johnson has the

Colonel quote First Corinthians 12:4-6, when the Colonel tells Skip, "There is one God, and many administrations." (4)There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. (5)There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. (6)There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.).

That quote ominously suggests to an eager servant that a higher power manipulates those beholden to him. They grasp neither his purposes nor understand the services rendered by others, but remain devoted to the rightness of his unity. The implications for someone participating in the efforts of a major nation supporting the efforts of half of a smaller one at war with itself are enormous.

The plot takes off. Skip goes to Mindanao. The reader follows Father Carignan on a harrowing trek up and down jungle valleys with natives to claim the bones of a missionary who has disappeared so he can give them back to the man's wife. The young CIA officer cannot help running into the widow, Kathy Jones, a Canadian Seventh-Day Adventist and nurse. They become sexually involved, though their trysts are difficult to term romantic, since he is afraid of women. Skip Sands meets the priest, who seems entirely occupied with his congregation, which lives spread hidden throughout the countryside. Later Father Carignan is killed by a dart blown from a sumpit as he bathes in a river. The younger man turns in his report, not understanding what has happened.

Skip spends nearly all of 1966 away from Southeast Asia, back at a language institute in the United States learning Vietnamese, wondering about what happened in Mindanao.

On 31 December 1966 Skip reaches Saigon, catching up with forwarded letters from, among other people, his mother and Kathy Jones. His mother is interested in how her son is doing, relating a snapshot of gorgeous autumnal weather, bed sheets billowing on the line, that inspired her to sit down and





write, while Kathy Jones somewhat wistfully recalls their days in the Philippines, questioning the injustice of the fighting in Vietnam and America's involvement in it. Skip has also caught up with the footlockers full of his uncle's index cards, but is unsure of their destination.

Skip confronts the Colonel about the occurrence in the Philippines, and his uncle admits a cock-up took place. He tries to explain that such unfortunate events reflect the nature of the beast they both now serve. Some bit of intelligence is collected, corroborated elsewhere, worked into a notion by yet another party, and someone else, perhaps having gotten wind that a person hoping to become significant in a distant political area wants to have something to show, sows the seed of a plan, which grows, creeping largely undetected until the roots and outermost leaves are too far removed from each other.

Denis Johnson hauls the stalk of military intelligence into view, an outgrowth much discussed during the last ten years in the United States and throughout the world, but perfectly cultivated in the story's context. As a matter of fact the Colonel, who is now head of "Psy Ops," psychological operations, in Vietnam, and to which Skip under various veiled titles is also assigned, along with a number of other characters, has himself tried to address the difficult relation between intelligence gathering and intelligence analysis, particularly as these activities can be appropriated and distorted by the formulation of political policy. Psy Ops has the objective of disrupting the planning of the North Vietnamese and communist military leadership through select placement of counterfactual information. Uncle F.X. accompanies Skip to his accommodations in a village the name of which means "Forgotten Mountain." Skip receives a Canadian passport; his name is William F. Benét and his ostensible assignment is to translate the Bible. An old couple cares for the grounds and cooks for him. The jungle seethes. The birds sing a racket. It rains a lot. There is a priest who lives nearby.

Contrasting this drudgery, Kathy Jones is still farther out in a village clinic, working madly as a nurse. The suffering could not seem more senseless. In the Tet Offensive in the early hours of 1968, North Vietnamese and Vietcong forces coordinate attacks on many southern locations. The South Vietnamese and Americans respond massively. Historically the Tet Offensive is considered significant for the North due to its logistical effort, a capability previously underestimated.

Kathy regularly witnesses death. Having heard that a primate research station in the area has been hit in the Tet attacks, she pedals her bicycle through forest and field to see if any of the medicine can be salvaged for use in the clinic where she works. She can hardly contain her bewildered rage at the complaints of Mrs. Bingham about how many monkeys have been killed and injured. In a

similarly disorienting sequence, Private James Houston and comrades around a helicopter landing zone are awakened by mortar fire thundering down around them. They can't tell from where the bombs are being launched, which makes them unsure to where to flee. Their officers radio for help, issue some orders and the men set off, intermittently enduring blasts of fire from a direction they would not have anticipated, occasionally shooting where they saw a muzzle flash, diving and hustling for several hours before reaching a spot of uncanny calm and beauty.

Johnson's title becomes significant as the Colonel appears again randomly at Skip's Forgotten Mountain location for discussion of a psy op named "Tree of Smoke." They discuss the possibility of getting bogus information into enemy hands. The novel's title is also a biblical reference, from three locations as a matter of fact: The Song of Solomon, the Book of Joel and the Book of Exodus. In two cases the reference is someone or something wondrous yet mysterious, while in the third instance it even seems to denote God Himself, come down to hover outside Moses's tent while they converse the fate of the Israelites. The image is awe-inspiring, overwhelming, capable of swallowing and even dissolving anyone who ventures too close, but the tree does not have to be of actual smoke, looming high, opaque and monstrous over the surface of the earth like a mushroom cloud. It can be what one cunningly organized group manages to build up in the minds of others by saying the right wrong things to properly unscrupulous people who know how to mishandle secret and volatile information.

The Colonel disappears again, his character camouflaging into a figure readers vaguely recall from *Apocalypse Now*. Kathy Jones, having heard there was a Canadian somewhere in the area, journeys to Forgotten Mountain on her bicycle. Flabbergasted and disillusioned when she finds Skip, she cuts through his attempts to deflect her anger at his deceitfulness. They argue but cannot escape the vortex of their attraction. She rides off the next morning and they never see each other again.

The war drags on, as it did. The German reappears, and the reader is brought to hope

that the marked target will somehow escape. Skip Sands is questioned by American authorities because of his association with the Colonel, who is considered a rogue.

Skip's emulation of Uncle F.X. takes exaggerated forms. From lack of contact and any other information he infers the man has died. In a hugely ironic turn, the CIA operative becomes a weapons trafficker, as if living out the crime suspected of the priest he had gone to observe so many years ago, except that with Skip it is no fiction: he's caught and jailed in Malaysia, slated to die for his crimes. One of his last acts is to write a letter to Kathy Jones, the Canadian nurse from whom he had received so many, who had been so attracted to him right alongside her fervent Seventh-Day Adventism, whom he had disappointed so egregiously. Skip has devolved to a pitiful figure, having made a life of deceit, and within hours will literally be at the end of his rope. Through everything she endured, Kathy Jones sought her faith. In perhaps his most honest admission, Skip Sands is able to write that his attempt to arbitrate his loyalties, his belief that he could do that, led to his undoing.

Johnson's reference to the one God with multiple administrations is illustrated in vastly different understandings of these two central characters. Kathy Jones upheld the one God, even while she saw herself as one of the ministrants without a clue to the ultimate. Skip Sands, on the other hand, seemed in his service, his ministration and entanglement with others, to forget the ultimate and try to see his own way. Johnson's novel presents a compelling period story which echoes with present day voices.

Other meetings in 2010 will discuss the following texts on the given dates:

- 16.09. **Wolf Hall**, Hilary Mantel
- 21.10. **Cat's Eye**, Margaret Atwood
- 02.12. **The Children's Book**, A.S. Byatt

The meeting dates are Thursdays, chosen by popular vote, and begin in the Dachraum of the city and cantonal library at 19:30 h. The Circle has a current membership of roughly ten people, and would welcome the active participation of a few more men! For further information please contact Andrew DeBoo at a.deboo@language-refinery.com.

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The Arctic, Next on the Oil Companies' Menu

Contributed by IMCZ Secretary
Muthana Kubba

The hunger for energy and hence the demand for ever more fossil fuels is never ebbing. In spite of the disaster in the Gulf of Mexico which has been described as the "The Worst Manmade Disaster in the History of Mankind," the hunger for oil and the quest for finding and exploiting new fields is never ending. It has long been known that the Arctic is a huge reservoir for oil and gas; hence the recent fights over territorial sovereignty there. Vast areas in and around the Arctic have been earmarked for oil and gas production. In fact, the whole area within of the Arctic Circle is now being explored for possible drilling sites.

This area amounts to about 6% of total area of the planet! In the wake of the Gulf of Mexico disaster, serious concerns are being raised about the consequences to the environment if a similar disaster were to take place in the Arctic.

Sakhalin

In order to address the above issue, we need to take a look at the challenges and technical difficulties likely to be confronted in the Arctic. For this purpose, let us take a look at a project that was completed quite recently not far from the Arctic, off the northern edge of the east coast of the Russian island of Sakhalin.



It is a narrow long island extending 948 km in a north-to-south direction. Its northern tip lies at a latitude of 54.25 degrees, only 12.3 degrees south of the Arctic circle.

Oil and gas were discovered in a field about 15 km to the east of the northern tip at a depth of 50 metres. The conditions there are extremely harsh and difficult. Temperatures routinely drop to below 45 deg C below zero in the winter. It is also very windy; hence the chill factor would correspond to -70 degrees C. Under such conditions workers can only work in short shifts of less than two hours.

The construction began of the oil platforms together with the entire supporting infrastructure, including an 800 km oil and gas pipeline from the north of the island to the south port of Aniva Bay, the only all year ice free port on the island.

The project was spearheaded by Shell, Mitsubishi, Mitsui and recently also Gazprom. Prospecting started in 1994 and work on the project in 1998, and it went into production in 2009. The total cost of this huge undertaking lies in the vicinity of \$ 20 billion. It covers both oil and LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) which are now being shipped out from Aniva.

It is important to review the technical challenges and difficulties at Sakhalin and project them on the Arctic, in order to appreciate the enormous challenges and dangers to the environment, should the Arctic be finally used to squeeze the last drop of oil available out of planet Earth.

Not only are the weather conditions very harsh; pack ice forms yet another very big challenge. Add to this the fact that Sakhalin lies on a fault line which makes it prone to earthquakes and the cocktail of mountain high engineering challenges becomes more evident. To start with the 30-story high platform has giant concrete legs. Four of them each more than 20 metres wide and 56 metres long, weighing well over 50,000 tons. They were built extra thick to withstand earthquakes and have rounded shapes to help ice floes slide around them. The sound of the ice floes screeching against the legs sounds like an ice-breaker ripping through pack ice. Sometimes sheets of ice edge up on the platform legs, peel backwards and crash down on the frozen sea. The pressure of the ice against the four legs can mount up to 30,000 tons.

Measures similar to those used in Japan for protecting bridges and public buildings against earthquakes were adopted for the first time for oil platforms. The platforms are connected to their concrete legs by sliding joints. The oil company claims that the structure shall thus withstand earthquakes strengths of up to 8.0 on the Richter scale. Such earthquakes are said to occur once every 30,000 years.

Having gone into all that trouble for obtaining oil and gas, shipping it out to the world markets was the true challenge. The 800 km-long pipelines for oil and liquefied gas, which were built to transport the products to Aniva Bay, had to cross more than 1000 rivers and streams on the way. This give an idea of the magnitude of the engineering and environmental challenges required to pump out fossil fuels in an area more than 1400 km south of the Arctic Circle.



Prospecting within the Arctic Circle

The focus upon offshore resources in the Arctic Circle is on continental shelves less than 500 metres below sea level. Of course, onshore areas within the Arctic Circle have already been explored and developed primarily in the West Siberian Basin of Russia and on the North Slope of Alaska. However the question of how much oil and gas exist offshore is a question of paramount importance for all countries in and around the Arctic Circle.

According to the USGS (United States Geological Survey) in cooperation with experts from all involved states around the



Arctic region, the amount of technically recoverable reserves are estimated at 90 billion barrels of oil and 1670 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

More than half the estimated oil resources are in just three geological provinces: Arctic Alaska, the Amerasia Basin and the East Greenland Rift Basins. Similarly the natural gas is estimated to occur in three geological provinces: the west Siberian Basin, the East Barents Basins and Arctic Alaska.

Arctic Drilling and the Environment

The programs for offshore drilling in the Arctic region are well advanced. Both Shell and BP have ready plans for drilling. The former in the Beaufort and Chukchi seas and the latter in the Liberty Island just off Alaska's northern coast on the edge of the Arctic Ocean. Final permission to start drilling has been withheld so far pending results of environmental studies.

In the wake of the Mexican Gulf catastrophe, serious questions are being raised what would happen if a similar disaster were to take place in the Arctic. Do the responsible oil companies have the capability to clean up a major spill in the harsh conditions of the Arctic? It is clear that many of the techniques used in the Gulf of Mexico would be useless under the Arctic ice. Traditional methods for cleaning up spills, such as the use of containment booms, would be ineffective at capturing oil trapped under the ice.

The balance of the eco-system in the Arctic is so critical that any interference whether by a major spill or even the mere presence of large numbers of people and machinery can tip it out with real catastrophe for the pristine nature of the Arctic. For once, the concerned governments and the United Nations should take a stand and say NO to any offshore industrial exploitation or drilling in the Arctic.



From the LANES...

On Strike at the Cherry Bowl

The fine summer weather continued to take its toll on the attendance at July's bowling meet-up. Only 11 people found their way to the Cherry Bowl in Baar on July 19th. And while several of the usual participants from the IMCZ showed up, only two women took part in the event. Was it something we said?

The nine men changed their shoes and got a glass of liquid inspiration before settling in on the lanes. Especially impressive in the first game was Jack Sami, whose 145 was well above his 107 average for 2010. Even higher was Otto Steuri, whose 176 was also better than the 141 he'd averaged this year. But David LeBow managed to just edge Otto out in that first game; his 178 also topped the 140 he's been averaging.

The second game saw David unyielding with 169. Meanwhile, Andy Joines applied a bit of pressure with his 165, his second-highest game this year. Third was Beat Züger, who knocked down 155 pins. The third game saw Andy toppling 149 for the third position, with Otto right behind at 148. David remained on top, however, rolling his worst game of the night at 156, raising his average to 144 and giving him a new best series of 503. Naturally, David took the bottle for the men's group.

Among the women, of course, the bottle was never in real dispute. Catherine Butterworth, though a regular participant, is not a ZIWC member, and so wasn't in "official" contention. (It's not clear how official the bottles of wine are, but nobody ever complains when they get one.) Catherine's best game was her third, improving over the evening for a 108 final game, better than her 94 average.

Meanwhile, ZIWC member and winner of the ladies' wine bowled a 300! Well, a 300-series, of course, as she, too, found need to improve her bowling over the course of the evening. Her final game was also her best, giving her 130 pins, her second-best game of 2010 and beating her 101 average for the year.

The IMCZ's regular bowling event for Club members takes place on the **3rd Monday of every month**. Coming dates in 2010 are:

August 16th • September 20th
October 18th • November 15th
December 20th

Members are encouraged to come out and cheer for the bowlers if they do not intend to bowl themselves.

The evening opens at **19:30**, the **crush of strikes and thrill of spares starts at 20:00**,

and the event is open to registered and prospective IMCZ and ZIWC members. Stephen Butterworth has negotiated a splendid *25% discount* with the Cherry Bowl (just off the end of the freeway in Sihlbrugg).



Early arrival to assure good shoes, a good ball and some liquid calisthenics is encouraged. **Reservations are required**, since the Cherry Bowl must be notified of how many bowlers to expect. Please **contact Steven Butterworth by the preceding Friday** via e-mail or phone, butterworth.sp@gmail.com or **041/790 4172**. If you register to bowl and can't attend, you must let him know by the preceding Friday. The **IMCZ No-Show policy** applies. The cost for a regular (not a Challenge) evening is CHF 20.00 for two hours of bowling and shoe rental — a bargain indeed — and concludes at 22:00.

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by IMCZ member David Harris

All web sites included in this series are offered in an unbiased way and do not always reflect my personal views; the reasons for bringing them to your attention are that I found them interesting, perhaps offering another point of view and definitely worthy of note.

JET PACK

<http://www.martinjetpack.com/>

Thinking back to Ermano Bassi's presentation on human powered flight we think that here we have the next best alternative or in fact the best alternative. The Martin Jet Pack is human designed, human made and human used. But instead of a sweaty overstressed athletic body providing the motive power there is a v4 gasoline engine. Costing a mere £58,000 this really is personal transport and fear not; a parachute is built in.



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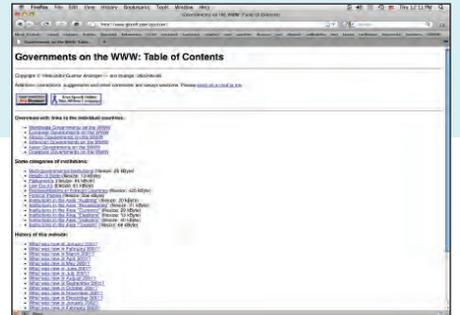
This is the on-line version of the highly respected New Scientist monthly magazine. Bring yourself up to date with the latest scientific news including one item I hadn't considered – decreasing oxygen levels and the knock on effect.



GOVERNMENTS ON THE WWW

<http://www.gksoft.com/govt/>

Comprehensive database of governmental institutions on the World Wide Web: parliaments, ministries, offices, law courts, embassies, city councils, public broadcasting corporations, central banks, multi-governmental institutions etc. Includes also political parties. Online since June 1995. Contains more than 17,000 entries from more than 220 countries.



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Surprise! There were two correct solutions to the very difficult July puzzle. Hal and Roger (Dixon) had submitted the correct solutions. Congratulations to both.

Although, there is normally only one winner, I like to pronounce both gentlemen as joint winners. Your drinks for the next Stammtisch shall be one on the house and one on me.

This month's puzzle is not so difficult. I am sure many would solve it. The deadline for receiving solutions is August 31st. The winner shall be drawn from the pool of correct solutions received.

The easiest form in which the solution is sent, is nine rows of nine numbers in a Word document or an email. In every Sudoku, every digit between 1 and 9 occurs exactly once in each row, column and 3x3 square. Please send your answers to muthana@trasco.ch

Sudoku

				4	5		9	
7	6			8				
		4				7		
					6	3	7	
2								6
	4	1	2					
		7				9		
				9			1	3
	9		5	6				

Solution to the July 2010 Puzzle:

2	1	7	4	8	9	3	5	6
6	9	3	2	7	5	4	8	1
5	8	4	1	3	6	9	2	7
4	2	9	5	1	7	8	6	3
7	6	8	3	9	2	1	4	5
3	5	1	6	4	8	2	7	9
8	3	5	7	2	1	6	9	4
1	7	2	9	6	4	5	3	8
9	4	6	8	5	3	7	1	2



Members' Marketplace

Are you **selling** your yacht (harboured in Piraeus)?
Your Aston-Martin old-timer with the roll top roof?

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Members' Marketplace

Want to create a new or amend an existing web-site but do not have the time or technical knowledge? Contact me for reasonable rates and optimized results. **Stephen Butterworth**,
Spb@entourage-butterworth.net

IMCZ board member and certified Software Engineer with over a decade of experience, Hal Trufan, is seeking new employment. For CV and recommendations see his LinkedIn page at <http://ch.linkedin.com/in/htrufan> or email him at hal.trufan@mensa.ch.

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