

IMCZNEWS



JUNE 2013

EDITORIAL **Club Functions**

In spite of the miserable weather we have been having, and the fact that summer shall be upon us later on this month, although we haven't seen any sign of the spring yet, yes in spite of all these, there are some bright spots. We made up for the bad weather by having more functions and events. Take your pick, pistol shooting, water treatment plant, New Members' Reception, Expat Expo, Joint Golfing Tournament, Blues and Rock, and bowling, there is something going on for everybody. June shall be busy month too, but hopefully the weatherman shall not take this to hand us more bad weather.

Muthana Kubba,
Newsletter Editor, newsletter@imcz.com



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FUTURE EVENTS

- WEDNESDAY JUNE 19, **Bowling at the White Line Bowling Centre**
- THURSDAY JUNE 20, **Joint Stammtisch with the ZIWC, Park Hotel Lobby 18:00 to 20:30.**
Marius Zimmerman, "A better Way to start your own Business".
- THURSDAY JULY 4, **Midge Brown, UBS Global Emerging Markets, "Structured Products – do they still have a place in our portfolios?"**
- WEDNESDAY JULY 17, **Bowling at the White Line Bowling Centre**
- WEDNESDAY AUGUST 21, **Bowling at the White Line Bowling Centre**
- SUNDAY AUGUST 25, **IMCZ Summer Barbecue, Siehbacksaal in Zug, same place by the lake as last year.**
- WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 11, **Joint Stammtisch with the ZIWC, Park Hotel Lobby 18:00 to 20:30.**
- WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 18, **Bowling at the White Line Bowling Centre**
- THURSDAY OCTOBER 3, **"Prepare for the Upcoming Ski Season", presenter to be advised**
- WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 16, **Bowling at the White Line Bowling Centre**
- THURSDAY NOVEMBER 07, **New Members Reception with food & drinks, Place to be advised.**
- WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 20, **Bowling at the White Line Bowling Centre**
- THURSDAY NOVEMBER 28, **Joint Stammtisch with the ZIWC, Park Hotel Lobby 18:00 to 20:30.**
- THURSDAY DECEMBER 5, **David Kauders, "2014 Financial Markets, Crystal Ball Guesstimates"**
- WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11, **Bowling at the White Line Bowling Centre**

YOUR NEWSLETTER GOES PUBLIC

The board had decided to make the current Newsletter available to everyone.

Visitors to our site imcz.com can read the current Newsletter under About Us -> Current Newsletter



New Members' Reception at the Sky Lounge



This year's NMR took place on Thursday May 2nd at a unique location. Thanks to our Events' organiser, René, we held our spring NMR at the Sky Lounge, on the 14th floor of the tallest building in the Canton, 'Up Town'. The view was magnificent in spite of the poor weather, and the attendance was an all time high. Drinks and light foods were served free of charge and we all had a great time. There were many faces which we do not often see at the Stammtisch, hopefully we shall see them more often in the future.



Visit to the Water Treatment Plant, Schöna, Cham

On Friday May 10th, nine musketeers from the IMCZ gathered at the entrance to the plant, and were promptly welcomed at 1700 hours by the plant director Martin Grob. After a very interesting short film-show in which the function and history of the plant were explained, we were guided through a tour of the huge complex.



The tour started at the main inlet. We stood and gazed at a huge channel where the wastewater from around 145'000 residents enters the plant. Not many realise that Greppen, Küssnacht, Goldau, Arth in Canton Schwyz and Meierskappel in Luzern, as well as the whole of Canton Zug, including Oberägeri, Menzingen, Baar etc. discharge their wastewater into this one big channel.

Following the flow of the wastewater the first stage is a filter to remove textiles and paper. The filtered mass is pressed and sent to the waste burning plant in Lucerne. Then the wastewater is passed through a ventilation bed where air is pumped into it to activate the biological purification process so that the sand content is separated and can settle down and be collected and deposited in a waste dump.

The story goes on, and the wastewater goes through oxidation tanks where bacteria growth is promoted to expedite conversion of the organic materials into Ammonia and Nitrogen products. After several stages the cleansed water is passed through a sand filter and returned to the river Lorze.

The organic materials recovered via the sludge are passed into a fermentation tank where biogas is generated. This gas is then purified and passed to a combined heat and power plant (CHP) to generate electricity and heat the complex. Thus 90% of the energy consumed by the plant is recovered from the CHP plant.



Altogether a very impressive and interesting visit, which we all enjoyed thoroughly, what is more we learned a great deal about the complexity of disposing of the wastes we all generate.

Thanks are due to IMCZ member Jon Huberling who suggested and organised the visit.



IMCZ

BOARD MEMBERS

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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An IMCZ excursion to the shooting stand Coller

Contributed by IMCZ member and treasurer Max Leyherr

On Tuesday May 14, four IMCZ members turned up at the shooting stand in Chollermüli by invitation of the Zuger Stadtschützen (Zug City Marksmen Club). We inspected both the 50m and the 25m shooting stands there, and finally we were given some training in 25m pistol sports shooting.

In theory shooting is quite easy: load the magazine of the sports pistol with 5 rounds, slowly lift the pistol towards the target with front- and rear sight in line and increase the



pressure on the trigger continuously until the shot suddenly breaks. If you are "surprised" by the shot, then it might be a good shot. If, on the other hand, you start thinking and incidentally pull the trigger, thinking "now I am in the 10" then you might never hit the black black circle on the target board. In this case, too many muscles in your arm would be activated during this critically short instance of time when the trigger is being pulled, with the result: the aim of the pistol being far off the point where it should be ...

However, there were even more surprises: we were told not to aim right at the middle of the target board (from the numbers 7 to 10, the target is black), instead we should aim just below the black circle. So we could see the front- and rear sight more easy. The pistol is so adjusted that when aimed in such way, the bullet would then hit the target right in the middle, scoring full 10 points.

During the shooting session, one stands 25 metres from the target, which is a square cardboard with a 50 cm diameter circle, subdivided into 10 equally spaced rings, the smallest being 5 cm dia. The last three inner rings are black. The highest score of 10 is of the innermost ring and it decreases down to 1 of the outermost ring. The aim is to try and hit the innermost circle and achieve the highest score. The pistols used had an anatomically formed grip making it easy to hold it tight. Normally it is not permitted to hold the pistol with two hands; however, as a beginner it is easier to start this way. It was then almost like the shooting scenes we see on television.

Once again due thanks to the Zuger Stadtschützen who made this great event possible.



„My first rifle“

Any kind of firearm is a dangerous weapon – no matter what the weapon producer says. But how strict is weapon control? Taking a look on the Swiss legislation you find slightly different attitudes from Canton to Canton: some hand out purchasing allowances very easily whereas others (like Zug) take it more serious and conduct at least a short interview with you asking whether you are trained in handling weapons (no proof needed) or whether you intend to do others harm with it. Taking a look at America shows big differences between the different states as well. In some cases one is allowed to carry weapons openly or even concealed without needing a permit. Others are much more restrictive. Everywhere one comes across slogans of the NRA (National Rifle Association) which is fighting any attempt to tighten American gun laws.

The latest incidents where several innocent children were killed using legally acquired weapons, have not changed attitudes. Weapon manufacturers simply flooded households with "my first rifle" flyers. Europeans get very puzzled at such attitude, when all people agree to fight cholesterol in their food and other additives which endanger their lives.

How will the shooting „special interest group“ of the IMCZ continue?

Pistol shooting: If you are already experienced in shooting or have taken part in the training by the Zuger Stadtschützen (which is offered yearly in May), you could join for some 9mm shooting which will take place in the summer this year.

Clay shooting: is something new for our club. We will probably take a guided tour in Brünig cavern. (Lungern, www.brueinigindoor.ch) to take a look. The cavern was dug into a mountain to provide an Olympic size shooting range. Towards the end of the tour we shall be given the opportunity to take some shots at the „running rabbit“ with a shotgun. Please get in contact with IMCZ board member and treasurer Dr. Max Leyherr at treasurer@imcz.com if you are interested

MUSIC EVENTS

Blues and Rock at Mr. Pickwick Pub



Live music every first Monday of the Month, at 8 pm

Come along and listen to some cool acoustic classics from the past 4 decades.

Bar is open at 5 pm

Restaurant is optional at 6 pm

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Featuring IMCZ member John Stuart and his band Triple Bypass

Next performances:

Monday September 2nd,

November 4th & December 2nd.

ZIWC Annual Book Sale

The traditional annual book sale of the ZIWC shall take place this year at the "Guthirt", Guthirtstr. 1, 6300 Zug on Wednesday October 2, 2013 from 16:00 to 19:00 hours

Come along and enjoy a snack and a drink and browse through thousands of books being given away at CHF 2,00 each.

If your shelves are full and you have no room for new books, empty them and give all the books you have already read to the ZIWC.

Contact Rikke de Romijn at 079 754 20 29 or rikke.de.romijn@datazug.ch



Food packaging recycling, migration and ecology

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

A hot topic at present, concerning food safety is the migration of mineral oil residues from packaging materials into the food. What at first thought seems like a mere question of forbidding and controlling of the substances and materials in question, turns out to be a multiple-factor and interdisciplinary problem of greatest consequences. For several years now, consumer safety authorities and manufacturers of food printing inks, cardboard as well as processors of recycled cardboard are busy with this challenging issue.

The underlying problem is the use of recycled paper and cardboard materials, which were originally printed with mineral oil based inks, in the manufacturing of food packaging materials. These inks are a serious health concern insofar as they are potentially carcinogenic and able to migrate – not only when in direct contact with a food – but even from the secondary box packaging through a polyethylene (PE) foil into a dry (!) food such as rice, cookies, etc. A German study



demonstrated more than 250 substances able to migrate, whereof a third were not even identifiable. Only part of the substances are absorbed or retained by such a foil. A polypropylene (PP) foil retains migrating substances somewhat better, but still does not block them completely.

Now, simply switching to the use of first fibre raw material is not possible due to: a) the lack of available quantities, and b) its concomitant, destructive ecologic consequences. The other obvious idea, to prohibit mineral oil based colours in the print media industry, whereof the main recycled fibre volumes come from, turns out to be useless since a) there still will be recycled fibre material for years to come in Europe, and b) that it would probably even take decennia to persuade other parts of the world to follow suite. So, a strict prohibition of recycled print paper material for food packaging production would lead to an enormous increase in the demand for first fibre material and, of course, for plastic material substitutes. Both of which are not desirable because of their ecologic consequences (forest clearance, petroleum demand, plastic

contamination in nature). The best way to go seems to be the use of cardboard materials layered with an effective barrier to mineral oils. Of course, also this will have some negative consequences: the recycling of such layered materials becomes more complex and expensive; furthermore it will increase the need for aluminium (notably a very energy-intensive resource) due to its perfect barrier properties. It is still an open discussion if this really is the better alternative. The situation shows analogies to the solar industry: the resource- (silicon) and energy-intensive manufacturing, along with a highly toxic waste product (silicon tetrachloride), of solar panels has to be balanced against their restricted lifespan and the use of other energy sources (non-renewable and nuclear).

Most of us will plead for a decision for “safety first”, ecology comes afterwards. But one should be aware that very often a “potential risk” is not in the slightest known in terms of relevance or probability. Example: a substance being carcinogenic at high doses in rabbits is not necessarily relevant at all in lower doses by a factor 100 or more (low relevance), or may only becomes important if taken daily for 30 years (low probability). The question arises, if it is wise to accept much more far-reaching (negative) consequences in order to exclude some “potential” risks. Risks, which we did not even know of yet some years ago. Despite their undisputed presence, they cannot be held responsible for any massive mortality either! It is also a fact that our life expectancy is still increasing. With increasing age, the probability of cancer from whatsoever cause increases. It is the task of experts to identify, to judge, and to present risks for health, environment, and others. However, to weigh benefits versus disadvantages and risks is a political, social, and (unfortunately far too often;-) an ideological discussion. “Safety first” can definitely not be the “one-and-only” criteria. By the way, neither ethical criteria nor ecological demands on food safety can, of course, be satisfied for free. So there is also an economic risk to consider.



The ongoing discussion about the use of plastic bags is less about safety and more about ecology. Littered highways are a common sight and omnipresent annoyance particularly in southern Europe and South-America. But what is of greater concern environmentally (e.g. plastic waste endangering ocean animals), is of rather negligible importance in terms of resources. A climate study from Austria calculated that the average annual consumption of Austrians was 93 plastic pouches and shopping bags, reflecting 0.14 per mill of his/her carbon footprint and corresponding to about 0.66 litres of diesel – annually! In order of increasing climate impact the different types of bags in the study were:

1. Unbleached paper bags,
2. Plastic bags,
3. Bleached paper bags.

Of course reusable bags of both plastic and paper have to be considered. You can safely say: the bag you use the most often, is the most ecologic one. Anyway, the most important outcome of this study is: any discussion about the climate footprint of



paper/plastic bags is moot and only symbolic, since it is just not relevant in relation to the main drivers of energy and resource (ab)use and their consequences! Nevertheless, recently developed compostable packaging material is on the rise. Nonetheless, I advise some scepticism: will this approach still be ecological when emerging from the use in some niche products into the mass market? How much cellulose (from woods) can we ecologically produce and/or recycle, when we need to supply more by a factor of 1 million, 100 million, or 1000 billion? I'll be back on this.



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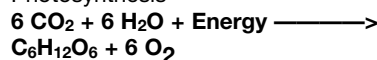
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Carbon Dioxide Sequestration Contributed by IMCZ honorary member Muthana Kubba

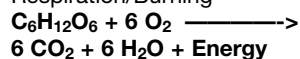
The next grand challenge identified by the National Engineering Academies is the sequestration of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Engineers have been dreaming for quite a while about developing methods to remove carbon dioxide directly from the atmosphere thus countering its climate warming effects.

To start with let us consider the carbon cycle on Earth and its concentration. The basic equation which governs this cycle is:

Photosynthesis



Respiration/Burning



Needless to say CO_2 is carbon dioxide, H_2O is water, O_2 is oxygen and $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6$ is carbohydrates (sugar).

In other words the plant kingdom including all the plankton on the world oceans absorb sun energy to convert carbon dioxide and water into carbohydrates and oxygen. So nature has provided two processes, one to absorb sun energy using carbon dioxide and water to produce oxygen and carbohydrates, and an opposing process of burning or oxidising the carbohydrates using atmospheric oxygen and producing carbon dioxide, water and energy.

As so often in nature the two opposing processes have kept the balance between carbon dioxide and oxygen for hundreds of millennia. However, the balance did fluctuate

over the geological history of Earth. From air bubbles trapped into glacier ice of the Antarctic, scientists have been able to reconstruct the constituents of the atmosphere for many thousands of years ago. It was proven beyond any doubt that whenever the concentration of carbon dioxide falls below 200 ppm (parts per million) Earth goes through an ice age. Vice versa when the concentration exceeds 300 ppm Earth suffers from prolonged heat waves.

desertification has increased worldwide, so decreasing the amount of carbon dioxide absorbed by the plants.

Last month (May 2013) the Scientific Recording Station at in Mauna Loa on the island of Hawaii, reported the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere as 400 ppm. Even allowing for seasonal fluctuation of 8-9 ppm due to the growing season in the summer of the Northern hemisphere, the level is

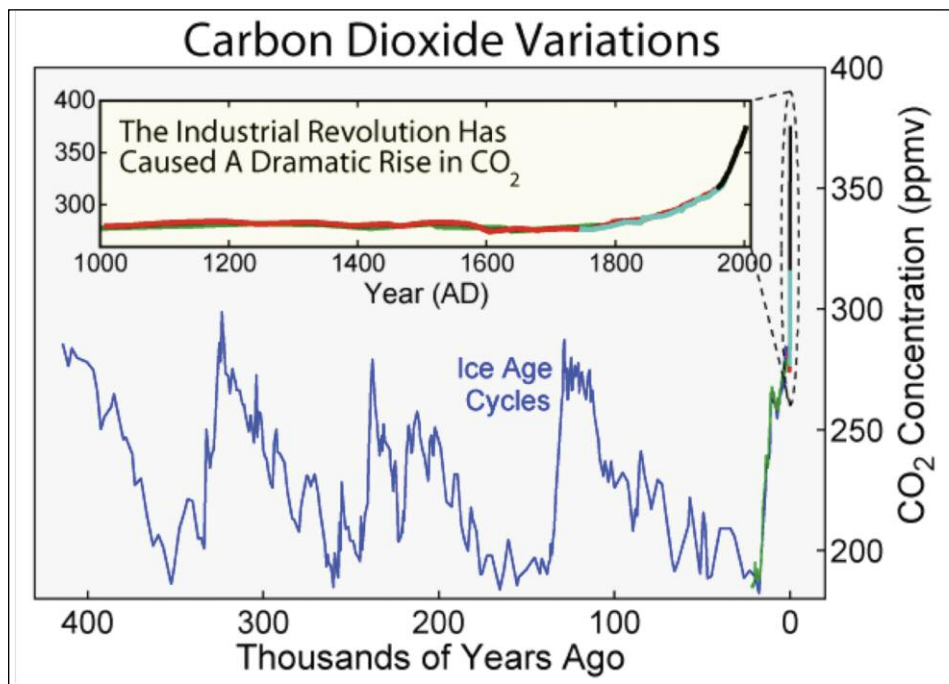


The problem is that industrialisation, explosion in global human population and the hunger for energy in the industrial world, have all forced burning of huge amounts of fossil fuels, so vastly increasing the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Added to this, deforestation and

alarming. It is reported that such high levels have not been known on planet Earth for at least the past three million years.

Of course, after the record low temperatures we have been suffering from during last month, we all have been wondering what happened to global warming. However, 'global warming' is the wrong term to use. Scientists do NOT know what happens when carbon concentration increases. All they know with certainty is that climate shall change. Additionally there is a risk, a very serious risk, namely that the planet may be pushed into a destructive runaway cycle, also referred to as positive feedback loop: meaning that the climate change caused by the increased emissions, can cause more carbon dioxide to be released into the atmosphere, which in turn shall change the climate even more and so on. In other words we might be playing God and accelerating the destruction of life on our planet. No one knows how high the risk is, or when will it happen, but a risk is definitely there.

In view of the seriousness of such a risk, the only wise council that remains would be to limit the emissions of carbon dioxide, or if possible find ways to remove it from the atmosphere.



Sequestration of Carbon Dioxide

For a long time, engineers have been dreaming about finding ways to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere directly and storing it as carbonates etc on the ocean floors. It is reckoned that at least 42 Giga tons of carbon dioxide has to be removed annually in order to make a difference (one Giga ton is 1000 million tons). At 400 ppm, to remove even one ton of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere would be a Herculean task.

To get a feel for how much carbon dioxide is emitted, it helps to remember that a car with a fuel consumption of say 10 litres per 100 km (28 miles to the gallon), emits not less than 160 gm per km, in other words by travelling 100km it consumes 8.8 kg of benzene (at specific density of 0.88), but emits 16 kg of CO₂ during the journey. In other words for every single Kg of fuel our cars consume, we emit 2 kg of carbon dioxide. At about 1 billion cars world wide, each travelling 15000 km annually (a conservative estimate), the total annual emission from passenger cars alone is 2.6 Giga tons.

Engineers therefore modified their dream, and concentrated on the sources of carbon dioxide instead. Sequestration has come to mean CCS Carbon Capture and Storage. The worse pollutants known are the coal fired power stations, and considerable efforts and ingenuity had been directed towards reducing the pollution from these sources. There have been several innovations in the quest to achieve CCS at the source of the pollution emissions.

CCS Carbon Capture and Storage

CO₂ released during burning of fossil fuels is separated from other gases in one of three competing technologies: pre-consumption capture, post consumption capture and oxy

fuel combustion. In the pre-consumption process, the fuel is first converted into hydrogen and carbon dioxide, the hydrogen is then burnt and the carbon dioxide collected. The conversion is done by gasification or reforming.

In post-combustion capture technology, carbon dioxide is captured from the exhaust of a combustion process by absorbing in a suitable solvent. The absorbed carbon dioxide is then liberated, compressed for transportation and storage.

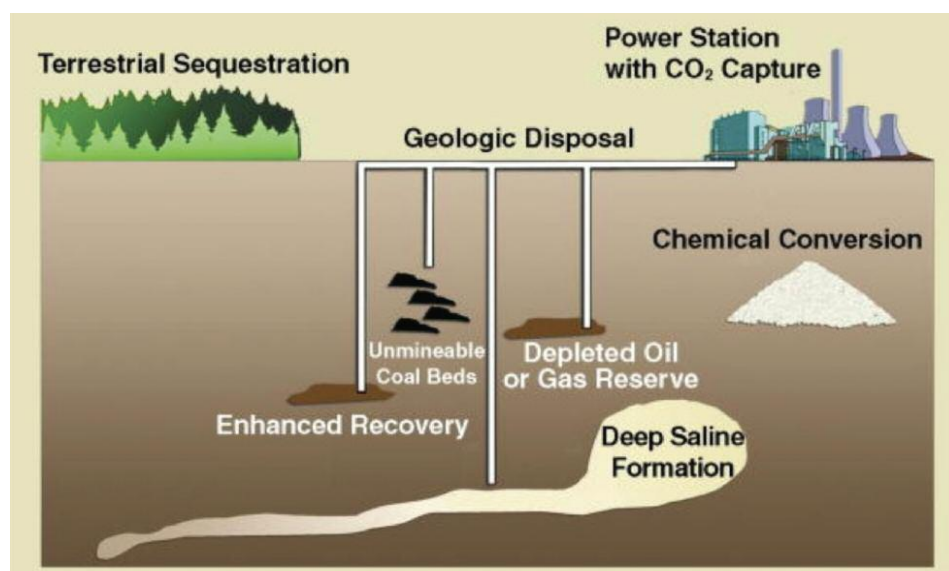
The process of oxy-fuel combustion is quite interesting. The oxygen required for combustion is separated from the nitrogen, and pure oxygen is fed to the combustion chamber. The combustion products in such case are pure carbon dioxide and water vapour, so making it straight forward to obtain concentrated stream of carbon dioxide.

Storage of the captured carbon dioxide is achieved in several different ways; the most common is to inject it in chosen geological formations which contain saline water. With time it shall dissolve into the saline water which makes it denser and shall sink to the bottom.

The subject is of course, vast, and can hardly be covered adequately in a few pages, but we should all be aware of the risks and the sought possible solutions.

Conclusion

The grand challenge identified by the National Engineering Academies to sequester carbon dioxide is still a long way from becoming effective. Most of the methods developed so far are feasible on an industrial scale, however, political will, international consensus and supervision are still lacking.



REMEMBER
The Stammtisch
every Thursday
evening
18:00-20:30

Join us in
the lobby
of the
Park Hotel
in Zug.

Sleeping in Straw along the National Swiss Path

Contributed by IMCZ board member and Events' organiser René Weli

The sunrise from family Ziegler's farmhouse window gave me one of those "it's-great-to-be-alive" feeling. It is located along the National Swiss Path # 99, a signposted trail, and one of the most famous in Switzerland. The path is an easy 45 minute scenic summit trail hike South of Seelisberg at 800m / 2400 ft. It overlooks Lake Uri with Fluelen/Altdorf and the Uri Alps in the distance. I could smell the dew from the Alpine flower green pastures in front of me and hear the groans of the traditional Swiss brown cows as they were herded into the barn next to my bed of straw building where I was sleeping. This scenic hike with an overnight in a farm house is a great way to combine a beautiful and easy hike with a fourth generation Swiss Alp farm family and is something anyone can do. The place is easily accessible with public transportation. One can simply plan and research the Lucerne boat, funicular and Swiss local postal bus schedules. Here are excerpts of what I recently experienced along with insights, descriptions, examples, websites to help Expats identify, plan and do a Swiss Path outdoor trip.

The rationale as to why and how it was built provides an interesting snapshot into life in Switzerland. The 35 km trail recognizes each of the Cantons making up Switzerland. The distance between each cantonal stone marking is proportional to the Canton's population and the order is determined by the date when it joined the Swiss confederation. The Swiss Path is designed so that every 5 cm represents one Swiss citizen and as one walks pass the cantonal stones one literally walks through the history of the country.

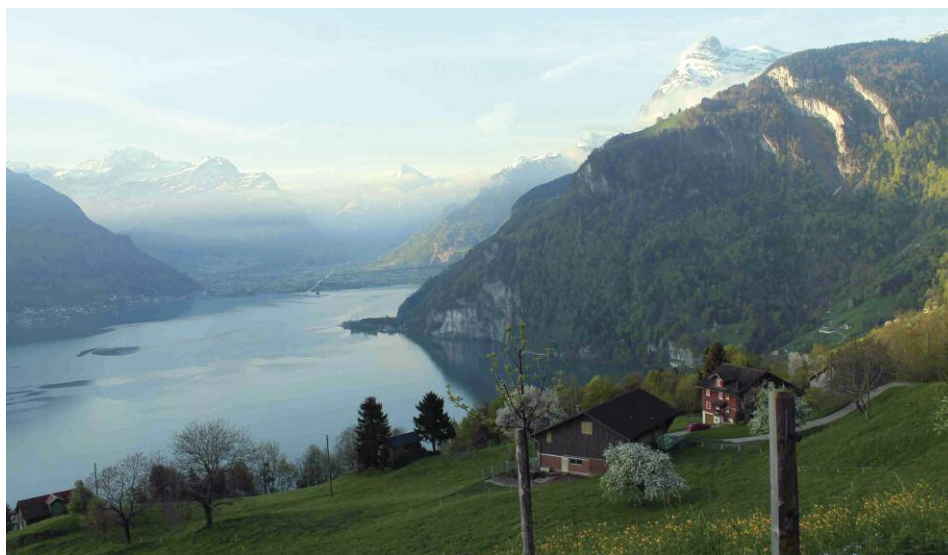
At the Ruetli for example, the meadow where Switzerland was founded, the stone markings of the three original Cantons of Schwyz, Uri and Unterwalden is found. The next Canton to join the Confederation was Lucerne in 1332 and its distance from the stones of the three founding Canton, at five cm per citizen makes up about 3.5 km is where the Canton of Lucerne stone would be found. (Lucerne's population of 70,000 x 5 cm = 3500 m = 3.5 km). With each stone set a distance of 5 cm per each citizen apart one gets a sense of Switzerland's history from its inception in 1291 to 1848 when it signed its Constitution



above Lake Lucerne. Seelisberg is reachable by a number of ways via public transport. The 360-degree view of the surrounding Alpine peaks from Seelisberg and Lake Lucerne below are breathtaking. Within Switzerland's super public transportation system one has a number of options based on hiking preference and available time.

One of the easiest ways to reach Seelisberg is via boat from the Lucerne train station or from the Brunnen lakeside pier. From Lucerne after a scenic two hour cruise you get off at the Treib landing, walk across the plank and board the funicular for the 8 minute from 430m to 800m ride up to Seelisberg. <http://www.myswitzerland.com/en/fondue-ri-de-in-a-funicular.html> Both the Lake Lucerne boat and Treib funicular accept the Swiss Pass or GA;(General Abonoment; annual Swiss season ticket used by residents.)

If you are looking for more of an outdoor experience you can start from the Stans train station and pick up the national Trans-Swiss trail signposted Trail #2 and hike the 21 km in about 6 ½ hours to Seelisberg. Also if you wanted to hike but were looking for something less than 6 hours, another option would be to take the Lake Lucerne boat and get off at Beckenried instead of Treib then pick up the Trans Swiss Trail #2 there. From Beckenried you can hike to Seelisberg in about 2 1/2 to 3 hours. For more detailed information on hiking from Stans to Seelisberg and the #2 Swiss Trans trail check the Swiss Mobility link in English: <http://www.wanderland.ch/en/routes/etappe-01503.html>



The Ziegler Farmhouse is part of a national program called "Schlaf im Stroh" / Sleep in Straw that links hundreds of Swiss farmhouses throughout Switzerland. The site is also available in English so Expat's can read and navigate it easily. <http://www.schlaf-im-stroh.ch/en/offers/>.

The panoramic National "Swiss Path" / "Weg Der Schweiz" # 99 signposted trail identifies the historic beginnings of Switzerland and was created in 1991 as one of the "700 Years" Switzerland projects. Each Canton is represented by a round granite stone marking the date it joined the Swiss Confederation.

with most of the 26 Cantons that make up today's Switzerland. The Swiss path link on the Swiss Mobility site provides an excellent description with segment details: http://wanderland.myswitzerland.com/en/routes_detail.cfm?id=318013

One of the nicest and easiest Swiss Path day hikes is the Seelisberg to Bauen segment. Bauen is this lakeside picturesque village nestled against the Oberbauen mountain.

To begin the Seelisberg to Bauen hike one needs to get to the mountain village of Seelisberg, a small village located at 800m

In Seelisberg one sees the Swiss Trail #99 signposts and can walk past breathtaking summit vistas making for exceptional photo opportunities, cheese making dairies, farm houses, forests and green pastures. Additional great photo opportunity would be the green meadows at the Ruetli where Switzerland was founded in 1291 and across the lake you one sees Tell's Chapel, where Switzerland's hero, William Tell escaped his Habsburger captors.



After an easy one hour hike from Seelisberg right on the Swiss Path #99 trail, savouring the majestic alpine atmosphere and capturing the local authentic experience there is a farmhouse run by a 4th generation family, the Zieglers. It is open to the public and available for reservations in advance. For CHF 28.- per person including breakfast you can overnight on their place in a program called "Sleep in Hay" or "Schlaf in Stroh"; children get a substantial price reduction. Check <http://www.stroh-traum.ch/033e179b3b0903016/index.html>

I recently experienced sleeping in the Ziegler's newly converted barn with a group of London based Swiss Travel Center staff. To prepare I wanted to know how this sleeping in straw really works. After going on the family Ziegler website I read that wool blankets and sheets are provided. Ok, so I now knew there is something on-site available to cover the straw and then it's my choice to bring along a sleeping bag or a linen cover. Since I wasn't sure if a linen cover was going to keep me warm enough, I decided to pack my own sleeping bag and use it. So when I arrived at the Ziegler's and was pointed to the converted barn where the sleeping stalls were located, I walked inside and found a perfect place. I threw two blankets over the straw that made for a nice flat bed. I then unpacked my pack, threw my sleeping bag over the wool blankets and had my sleeping arrangements all made. Inside the converted barn there were a number of other straw laden sleeping stalls, tables to use, public washroom and private inside toilet. The shower is in the lower part of the Ziegler house across the yard and available too. Everything was very modern, clean and authentic. I was also able to connect my iphone into a socket to load the battery as there were many outlets to choose from.

Dinner was organized in advance because we were a small group. The Zieglers will prepare dinner if there is a minimum of 6 people. At around 8.00 p.m. Mr. Ziegler brought over our very tasty spaghetti & meatballs dinner. A variety of drinks ranging from red & white wine, beer to non-alcoholic drinks such as

Elmro Citron, bottled water, Rivella were available. In addition the hot coffee and various homemade schnapps, cherry, plum and herbs made for a very fun-filled night. Also Mr Ziegler and his son gave us a tour of adjacent barn with his 16 prize cows and calves. The Zieglers pride themselves for caring for their farm animals and Mr. Ziegler Jr. explained about the ongoing building plans of extending the barn so they can corral more animals during the winter.

After dinner I took my schnapps filled coffee and walked outside to view the glimmering lights of Fluelen and Altdorf, villages along Lake Uri. The sky was very clear with bright stars all over. The sounds included the occasional clinging of cow bells inside the barn, the rush of nearby streams draining off the snow packed peaks but otherwise very quiet and peaceful. Next time I will take my sleeping bag and sleep outside as it was such a beautiful evening. However I wimped out thinking it's better to be inside snuggled inside a warm sleeping bag. There was a small window above where I was sleeping which I kept open. I wanted to capture as much of the fresh alpine air as possible and be as close to nature as I could. Yes, I slept very soundly and woke up just after sunrise.

After waking up, I stuck my head through the small window and saw this incredible view of clear blue sky, light clouds surrounding some of the 2,500 to 3,000 m snow peaked Alps with others very clear to see. The sun shone with its rays brightly reflected off the lake. The green pastures, spring blossom trees, Alpine flowers all so fresh, the air smelled exceptionally pure, good and healthy. After waking up and getting ready for the day it was time for breakfast.

The hearty breakfast included home made butter, cheese, breads and various jams. The hot coffee and tea had an excellent taste. It was a sunny morning so we moved the tables

and benches into the sun and ate outside. It was a glorious morning. Afterwards we took the mandatory "group pictures" including of course Lucia & Oswald Ziegler. Then we continued our hike on the Swiss Path signposted #99 trail and descended to Bauen, one of Switzerland's most romantic and picturesque villages nestled against the Oberbauen Mountain.

Once in Bauen there was time to look around at the Mediterranean flora. The palm trees seemed a bit out of place. But because Bauen lies in a cove, it is protected from the sometimes fierce "Southern" or Foehn winds. During the summer Bauen has morning and afternoon boat departures. For this trip our group took the 10.06 morning boat departure and continued our way for the next segment of our weekend trip. From Bauen the boat takes you past the Ruetli, the place where Switzerland was founded in 1291 and stops at many of the ports where you can get off or stay on board until you return to the Lucerne train station. My Ziegler farmhouse overnight experience added to the sweet memories I cherished of the Swiss Path experience. I am sure you would love it as well.



Further information for learning about and planning your Swiss Path Experience at: http://wanderland.myswitzerland.com/en/rou ten_detail.cfm?id=318013

Other useful information at www.seelisberg.com ,

<http://www.stroh-traum.ch/033e179b3b0903016/index.html>

<http://www.stroh-traum.ch/033e179b3b07f4804/033e179b3b07f7306/index.html>

René is the owner of ECHO Trails www.echo-trails.com

Trip Tip / St. Gallen

Contributed by IMCZ member Peter Sproston

The grey, wet weather having defeated the intention to get in some golf, we decided to drive over to St. Gallen to fulfil a long-standing wish to visit some of the sights we missed on a previous visit.

We drove there via the motorway. This is by far the longest route, some 160 km that takes one past the Rhine and borders of Austria and Germany; however it is a smooth and relaxing drive. The place to park is in the Einstein car park, right under the Einstein Hotel. It is no more than ca. 200m from there to the church and library. The entrance fee is Fr. 12.00 and includes not only the library but also the Lapidarium in the cellar. This latter provides an interesting overview of the establishment and growth of the church going back over 1'000 years. There is also a film, well made and informative. To provide a brief history the ticket is printed in four languages and can be used to complement the film.



The library is stunning and beautifully presented. There are some fascinating books there as the library is considered one of the best in Europe for literature of its kind. Some 400 books pre-date the year 1'000 and comprise probably the best collection of such antiquities. The books on display bear

descriptions in both English and German, there are also supporting summaries to put the books and/or their authors in historical context. The variety of books on display but especially the woodwork, carving, sculptures and pillars, as indeed the wonderful symmetry of the whole is extremely impressive. They even have an Egyptian mummy on show with representative sarcophagi. The mummification process has not enhanced the lady's attractions but is at least diverting. For the German-speaking there are guides (no extra charge!) giving commentaries on the books and the building itself.

From the library to the church is but a few steps. The interior design reminds one of the church in Einsiedeln. The rococo architecture and colours, shades of green and pink and gold, are every bit as impressive. There is a sense of space and elegance that impels one to sit and wonder at the craftsmanship used to create such an incredible structure. Behind the screen a wedding was being celebrated which cast a happy, festive glow on the innocent bystanders.

To conclude the trip we went over to the Weinstube zum Baumli. This is a place of great character blessed with a very long history and much frequented by the university



alumni, one of whom recommended it to us some years ago. If one can it's best to get into the room overlooking the street (see picture) as the warm wood-clad atmosphere there is absolutely charming. It is always busy there and we had to wait for a table, but one while away the time in the apero bar on the ground floor. There are many wines and a local beer I can heartily recommend. The food is excellent and service fast. Eat here if you can!

We took a more direct route back winding our way along quiet roads well off the beaten track. Of course, it took us longer but we were more than compensated for that by the lovely countryside and superb views, at least until we arrived outside Rapperswil.



If you like history and beautiful buildings there are few more rewarding places to visit than St. Gallen. I can warmly recommend the effort and time to get there!

Places to see:
Stiftsbibliothek, Stiftskirche

Place to dine:
Weinstube zum Baumli,
<http://www.weinstube-baumli.ch/>

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ODDITIES & END?

Is the extreme hypercarver ski about to make a comeback?

Contributed by our sports editor Joseph Dow

With all this beautiful May weather and automatic snow alerts, for resorts long closed, popping into my inbox, I can't stop thinking about skiing. What else is new?! Guess it's just that "Global Warming" warping my mind. So, I thought I'd just muse about some unusual skis.

Just like the amazing variety of textures to the snow surface, there are myriad ways of getting down the hill in addition to the typical carving or all-mountain ski. Besides snowboards, there are other alternatives, which have come in and out of vogue and sometimes still exist amongst a niche segment of the skiing population (Monoskis from the 70s are still somewhat popular in France, a lot of perpetual beginners still waddle down on skiboards and lately, I've seen maniacs piloting mountain bikes fitted with skids instead of wheels.)

In the last few seasons, I myself have been using some of the fatter skis with waists of 79mm, 96mm, and 112mm and many skis even wider are not uncommon. I stopped responding to the lame jokes (*with the heavy*

German accent) "You are wearing sie Wasserski. Vhear ist die Ocean?" With this diversity of snow tool blossoming around me, I was again intrigued by the idea of using something radically short.

Years ago, when I was racing (yeah, OK, it was a NASTAR corporate "beer league" night program, but we sure took it seriously,) I bought a pair of 95cm Völkl Double Troubles for balance training. These were similar to the skiboards, mentioned above, except I actually skied carved, parallel turns on them using poles. Despite their miniature length, the turn shape was a very long GS type, and the Double Troubles were amazing fun at the end of the season on very thin cover. I thought I had found the ultimate "fun carver," and then I took them on a spring day with thick, wet snow up to Killington, VT. The Double Troubles were that and more in 3D snow. Any error in body position would be punished in an immediate and violent manner. Maybe that's why coaches recommended using them to improve racers' technique? Lean too far forward and you experienced an instantaneous face plant before you know what hit you; Lean too far back and you quickly go horizontal. That day left

me battered and bruised. After that, the Double Troubles went from my basement in Boston to my Keller in Zug, never again to see the light of day.

Fast forward to today. Back in December, some friends borrowed a few skis from AK Skis to test for a weekend. Since the skis were on easily-adjustable demo bindings, we tried them all. Among the test skis were two skis specifically provided for my friend's girlfriend, a 166cm race carver and a 158cm all-mountain carver. I was amazed how stable, maneuverable, and fun these relatively-short skis were. It got me thinking about the extreme carvers, also known as hypercarvers or fun carvers, that came about during the mid to late-90s and about what had happened to them. Could these be what I thought the Double Troubles were, until that day at Killington, and did anyone still produce them?

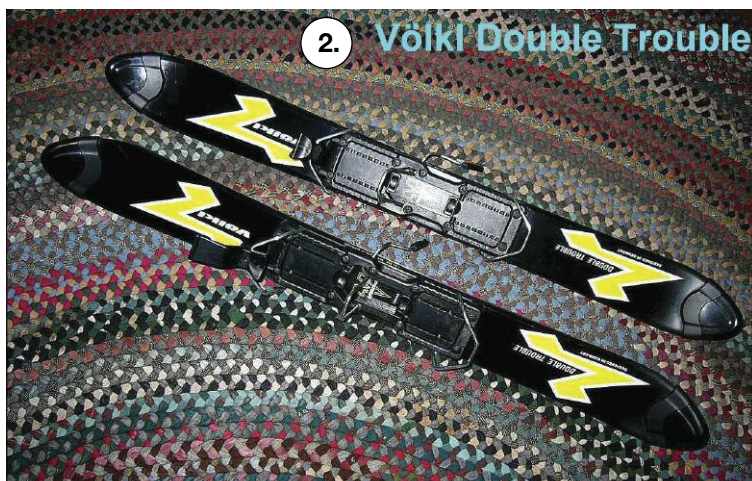
The hypercarver was a ski with a geometry nearly identical to a modern slalom carver ski (a typical sidecut would be 118mm-66mm-105mm (Tip-Waist-Tail) with a length around 140 to 155cm.) Some examples were the Völkl FunCarver and the Stöckli Raver XXP. The idea was to ski without poles and make deep, trench carves



1. Carving Cup



3.



2. Völkl Double Trouble



4.



5.

with the hands touching or the body almost brushing the snow. In bizarre “bodycarving” competitions, skiers used enormous, sometimes homemade “box” lifter plates to achieve the radical body angles.

Around the time from 1996 to 1999, these types of skis were popular in Europe, especially with the Italians. Before moving to Switzerland, I came over for a ski trip to the Jungfrau and remember seeing a special carving slope, complete with traffic lights, at Mürren! Supposedly, the advent of the similarly-shaped, modern slalom carvers rendered the hypercarver irrelevant. That is an interesting theory about the skis themselves, but what happened to this unique way of skiing?

Surprisingly, there are still special carving competitions, although they seem irregularly-held, and some serious ski companies make hypercarver-type skis. For the FIS Carving Cup, there is a competition team, sponsored together by the Swiss RTC (*Ready to Carve*) and Stöckli ski brands. The most recent races listed on the FIS website were in 2012. Interestingly, the Stöckli team members are using their Laser SL slalom race skis as opposed to a distinct hypercarver. RTC, on the other hand, has a line of short “Classic Carvers” from 138cm to 168cm. This past season, the company reintroduced, by popular demand and by special request, the 28’er model at 128cm. Another brand, Lusti from the Czech Republic, specializes in short skis and produces a fun carver down to a length of only 110cm, along with other carving tools, such as skiboards.

According to the Carving Cup website, there are two disciplines in the world of extreme carving competition: Slalom Carving (CAR SL) and Speed Carving (CAR SP.) Both involve extremely offset courses and options,

not available in a normal slalom, for choice of line around the buoys. There is a jury and points awarded for style are considered in addition to the time. I’m still not quite sure the exact differences between the two races. It is interesting that the racers use skis on the longer end of the hypercarving ski spectrum with some using the 165cm slalom racing skis and some on the longest RTC Carver at 168cm. That probably comes from the fact that these competitions are still essentially “races” and the FIS also mandates a minimum ski length.

So, I finally decided to go with an RTC 48’er for next season. It’s described as an all-around fun carver, and it’s not so short as to have the negatives of the Double Troubles, I hope. Maybe, I wimped out and should have specially ordered the 28’er. Well, we’ll see how the 48’er works out, first! Now, the season is definitely over, but October is not too far away! Maybe I can inquire about the possibility of an IMCZ group for a tour of RTC’s facilities near Brig. Until then, Think Snow!

For more information:

FIS Carving Cup: www.carvingcup.com

German Carving Ski Site: www.carving-ski.de

RTC Skis: www.rtc-ski.ch

Lusti Skis: www.lusti.cz and www.lusti-ski.ch (for the Swiss site)

Stöckli Slalom Carver Ski: www.stoeckli.ch/ch-de/produkte/ski/racing/laser-sl

General Unusual Skis: www.exoticskis.com

Interesting Carving Videos:

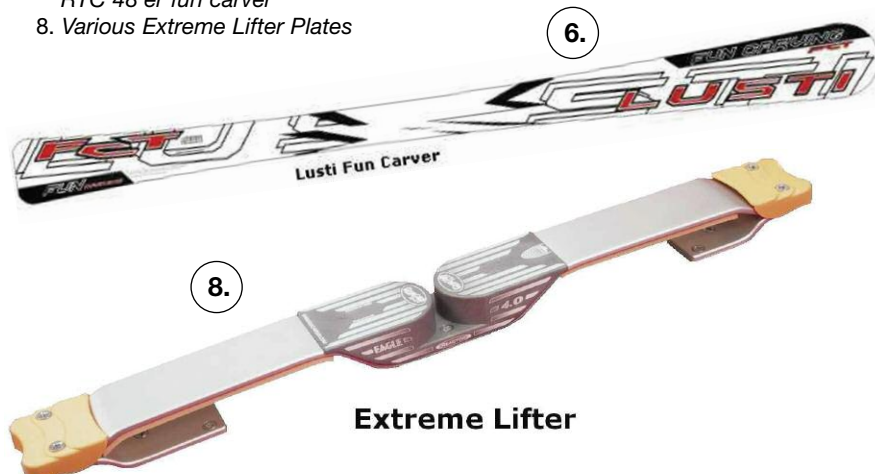
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BV3rN5HYfzM>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVwXQWOozm8>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zj7fkilZLo>

Photo Descriptions:

1. FIS Carving Cup Racer
2. Völkl Double Trouble
3. Völkl FunCarvers
4. RTC 28’er
5. Stöckli Raver XXP
6. Lusti FCT 110
7. Stöckli FIS GS compared to RTC 48’er fun carver
8. Various Extreme Lifter Plates





Good Turnout

Organised and compiled by IMCZ members Stephen Butterworth

A total of twelve people booked and turned up at this month's bowling session on May 15th. We had a good evening of fun and pretty close bowling. The Ladies wine was taken by Gail Brenton for the second time running, having got actually the highest score of the evening. Well done Gail! It was much more difficult to gauge the winner among the men. In the end Dan with 2 strikes towards the very end, was able to just win the second bottle of wine. Sergiy Shtangey and Roger Dixon had strong bowling also until Dan pipped them. Very close and a lot of fun. There were two new players, my dear wife Antoinette and Jack Sami's wife Esther.



First Name	Surname	Game1	Game2	Game3	Bowled total	overall_avg	handicap	STRIKES	SPARES	Split
Otto	Steuri	141	125	134	400	146	44	5	10	3
Dan	Rabil	123	135	123	381	126	60	6	7	4
Beat	Züger	120	121	111	352	134	53	4	7	5
Sergiy	Shtangey	140	107	103	350	117	67	5	7	1
Roger	Dixon	123	120	99	342	116	68	4	7	2
Stephen	Butterworth	106	82	150	338	121	64	6	5	
Ian	Brenton	100	115	88	303	125	60	2	6	2
Gail	Brenton	84	104	90	278	82	95	4	4	3
Esther	Sami	81	99	75	255	85	90	5	3	1
Rolf	Ekman	95	63	83	241	91	88	1	5	2
Antoinette	Butterworth	65	92	82	239	79	90	4		3
Jack	Sami	57	71	79	207	102	79	1	1	4

First Name	Surname	Game1	Game2	Game3	Handicapped	overall_avg	handicap	STRIKES	SPARES	Split
Gail	Brenton	84	104	90	563	82	95	4	4	3
Dan	Rabil	123	135	123	561	126	60	6	7	4
Sergiy	Shtangey	140	107	103	551	117	67	5	7	1
Roger	Dixon	123	120	99	546	116	68	4	7	2
Otto	Steuri	141	125	134	532	146	44	5	10	3
Stephen	Butterworth	106	82	150	530	121	64	6	5	
Esther	Sami	81	99	75	525	85	90	5	3	1
Beat	Züger	120	121	111	511	134	53	4	7	5
Antoinette	Butterworth	65	92	82	509	79	90	4		3
Rolf	Ekman	95	63	83	505	91	88	1	5	2
Ian	Brenton	100	115	88	483	125	60	2	6	2
Jack	Sami	57	71	79	444	102	79	1	1	4



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Airport Security

The T.S.A. (Transportation Security Administration) recently disclosed the official airport screening results using the new all body scanners for the year 2012:

Terrorists Discovered	0
Transvestites	133
Hernias	1,485
Hemorrhoid Cases	3,172
Enlarged Prostates	8,249
Breast Implants	59,350
Natural Blondes	3

Idiosyncrasies

- Don't sweat the petty things and don't pet the sweaty things
- Atheism is a non-profit organisation, but
Can an atheist get insurance against acts of God?
- Is there another word for synonym?
- What if there were no hypothetical questions?
- What do you do when you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?
- Would a fly without wings be called a 'walk'?
- If the police arrest a "mime" (an actor who communicated by gestures only), do they tell him that he has the right to remain silent?
- It a turtle doesn't have a shell is it homeless or naked?
- One nice thing about egoists, they don't talk about other people.
- Do infants enjoy infancy as much as adults enjoy adultery?
- How is it possible to have a civil war?
- If you are pasta and antipasto, would you still be hungry?
- It you try to fail, but succeed, which have you done?
- Why are haemorrhoids not called "Assteroids" instead?

Growing Old

- Eventually you shall reach a point when you stop lying about your age, and start bragging about it. It is so nice to hear, "you don't look that old"!
- The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.
- Some people try to turn back their odometers.
Not me! I want people to know why I look this way.
I've travelled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.
- Two guys, one old, one young, are pushing their carts around Wal-Mart when they collide.
The old guy says to the young guy, "Sorry about that. I'm looking for my wife, and I guess I wasn't paying attention to where I was going."
The young guy says, "That's OK, it's a coincidence. I'm looking for my wife, too...
I can't find her and I'm getting a little desperate."
The old guy says, "Well, maybe I can help you find her... what does she look like?"
The young guy says, "Well, she is 27 yrs. old, tall, with red hair, blue eyes, is buxom...wearing no bra, long legs, and is wearing short shorts. What does your wife look like?"
To which the old guy says,
"Never mind --- let's look for yours."

Small Classified Ads

- WEDDING DRESS FOR SALE .
Worn once by mistake. Call Stephanie.
- JOINING NUDIST COLONY!
Must sell washer and dryer £100. Call Peter
- FOR SALE BY OWNER. Complete set of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 45 volumes. Excellent condition, £200 or best offer. No longer needed, got married, wife knows everything.
- MAN WANTED to work in a dynamite factory.
Must be willing to travel.
- DOG FOR SALE. Eats anything and is fond of children
- AUTO REPAIR SERVICE. Free pickup and delivery.
Try us once; you will never go anywhere again.
- USED CARS. Why go elsewhere to be cheated. Come here first.
- DINNER SPECIAL.
Turkey \$2.35; Chicken or beef \$2.25; Children \$2.00



The sad news about David (see Obituary May newsletter) has brought this series of excellent hints to very interesting websites to an untimely end. The editor hopes that some other club member would pick up where David left off and continue this series.

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Sudoku

Surprisingly, in spite of the fact that the May puzzle was very difficult ('diabolic' on the difficulty scale), there were above average responses and correct solutions. Congratulations to all those who tried it and got the right solution. However, there is only one winner, and this time it is Gordon Mehrtens. Congratulations Gordon. Your drinks during the next Stammtisch you attend are on the house.

This month's puzzle is exactly the opposite of last months. It is very easy, and designed to entice those members who have never tried to solve a Sudoku before to try solving this one, and feel the kick when all the columns, rows and squares fit in like a jigsaw puzzle.

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

Solution May 2013 Puzzle

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

The winner shall be drawn from the pool of correct solutions received. His drinks during the next Stammtisch he attends shall be on the house. Please simply tell the waiter or waitress that your drink is on the house, he or she shall find their way to the Paymaster, that is yours truly or Max, or any other member of board who might be present in case you can't find us.

The easiest form, in which the solution is sent, is nine rows of nine numbers in a Word document, Excel or 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, on or before the last day of the current month.



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Your Aston-Martin old-timer with the roll top roof?
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