



Gold Country German American Club



P. O. Box 571, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Promoting German Culture and Stronger German-American Ties in Northern California

www.goldcountrygermanamericanclub.org

Members: Combat Lethargy!

We all know how it feels, especially now. The weather has been maddeningly hot and dry, forcing us indoors in the hot afternoons, maybe even taking a siesta. Over the past year and a half, in addition to growing older, we have grown accustomed to locking ourselves down inside our homes and avoiding social occasions, because of the coronavirus risk. We're mostly all vaccinated, now. We can go out and have fun, but oddly, the hermit mentality persists. It leads to lethargy. Time now to break the lethargy mold! The way to do that is to get up and **do something** -- for the GCGAC! Here are some opportunities for you to combat lethargy!

1. Storage Container Move at Dennis Naumann's. Date and Time: Wednesday, July 28, from 8 a.m. until maybe 10 a.m. -- before it gets hot. Place: Dennis Naumann's at 13480 Pearson Road, Grass Valley.
Contact: Email: Betsron@fsaccess.net Phone or Text Message: 530 263-6360 Dennis has put in a lot of work on this project already and he needs your help now!

2 We need a new Hiking Coordinator for the Happy Wanderers group. This, from Carol Yoder: There will be no further hikes after mid-August unless someone steps up. The Coordinator finds leaders for hikes for 2-3 months in advance, sends out the leader's announcement to the group, and provides hiking details for publication to the newsletter editor.

Participation on hikes has decreased since pre-Covid times. We resumed our club hiking in May, and it hasn't been hot or smoky all that time! All hikers must be vaccinated in order to hike. The Happy Wanderers are our club's largest contingent, and we can't let the hiking group die for lack of participation and a coordinator who will get hikes on the schedule. Please contact Carol at carolannyoder1@gmail.com if you would like to take over the Coordinator duties.

3. Coming soon: Oktoberfest Helpers. John and Renate haven't started a volunteer list, yet -- Our Oktoberfest party isn't for another nine weeks -- but when they do, be sure to volunteer for something!

4. As Ron mentioned in his Notes from the Board, the Alpine Dancers group has dwindled to just two dancers. We still have the traditional costumes, but if the knowledge base is allowed to die, we will be "all dressed up with no place to go." To keep the folk dancing contingent alive, contact Kristina Wetherbee.



Notes from the Board

Dear Members, The Board met on July 14 for the first time in a year in person rather than on Zoom ! Our new Treasurer has uncovered problems with the Club's status as a non-profit organization due to missed filings with the government agencies over the past few years but is in the process of resolving these issues and getting us back into good graces with the tax boards. We also reviewed our activity calendar and are looking forward to the upcoming Oktoberfest in September. Again, our Program chairman is in need of help from Club members in putting on Club activities, so please contact John Hettrich and volunteer. We also discussed the demise of the Dance group and the Singing group due to lack of participation. Anyone interested in keeping these groups alive need to speak up now before they are gone for good.

See you at the Oktoberfest !



Reminder: The **Papa Oom-Pah-Pah Band** will **play at our Oktoberfest!** We will have words to songs projected on a screen so you can sing along with the German music. Fun!

Bring on Oktoberfest!!

HAPPY WANDERERS' HIKING GROUP



Cloudy skies (what?!) on the way to Lock Leven.



Hikers at lake side. Photos by Aeron Davis.

UPCOMING THURSDAY HIKES AND LEADERS

Our trip leaders will send out more details the week before the hike including meetup locations. At that time, you will have the opportunity to sign up for the hike. RSVPs are required.

August 12: Penner Lake: Ron Shaffer

Others to be announced!

Heidelmann Lodge



Recently, Club member **Dennis Naumann** finished some major refurbishment work at the [Heidelmann Lodge](#) located on Donner Summit near the Sugar Bowl ski resort. This work included a top to bottom cleaning and important fire safety enhancements. But, you ask, what is the Heidelmann Lodge, and why was Dennis there, working? For that answer, we must consider some history:

In nineteenth-century Europe, only royalty and the very rich owned mountain chalets. Ordinary, working-class people could not access the beauty and serenity of the mountains. However, in 1895, as part of a socialist/proletariate movement, *Die Naturfreunde* (The Nature Friends) organization formed in Vienna to provide working people with places of recreation like the lords and barons had. Many German-speaking Europeans (including those from Hungary and Czechoslovakia) became members of *Die Naturfreunde*.

In early twentieth-century America, many immigrants from Europe brought skills and craftsmanship with them to their new homes in the US. In the San Francisco area was a substantial German-American craftsman population who found one another and formed the *Deutscher Arbeiter Bildungsverein, ABV* (German Workmen's Educational Association). Among those workmen was Dennis Naumann's grandfather. In 1912, a local chapter of *Die Naturfreunde* was founded. For recreation, club members would make outings to Mt. Tamalpais via ferry boat or railway to explore the then-rustic and uninhabited hills. After much searching, the Nature Friends found a shabbily built cabin with a perfect location and a nearby water spring. A Nature Friends member named Wilhelm Heidelmann bought the property on behalf of the Nature Friends Tourist Club. Club members, all volunteer labor, including Dennis's grandpa, renovated the cabin and its surroundings, and by 1917 had completely replaced the cabin with a new lodge built in the style of an alpine chalet. This lodge, the Nature Friends Clubhouse, eventually became called the Muir Woods Clubhouse.

What about the lodge on Donner Summit? In 1927, Nature Friends clubs in San Francisco, Oakland, and Los Angeles formed a coalition. The San Francisco and Oakland branch members often took long camping trips to the Sierras and determined a lodge like the one on Mt. Tamalpais was needed there in the Sierras. By 1931, volunteer Nature Friends club members had built a beautiful lodge near Norden, California, at Donner Summit, and named the lodge *Sierrahaus*. Heartbreakingly, in 1943, the *Sierrahaus* was destroyed in a fire. After the war, in 1947, work had begun to replace the *Sierrahaus*, and the new structure became known as Heidelmann Lodge. Foundation and framing were done by a contractor from Auburn, but all of the subsequent finish work was done by volunteers from the club, including Dennis Naumann's father, Frederick Horace "Dutch" Naumann, who was deeply involved in the construction, including installation of the lodge's boiler. From that time until now, repair and maintenance of the Heidelmann Lodge has been by volunteer Nature Friends members, who include our GCGAC member, Dennis Naumann. The sense of duty to volunteer for work at the Heidelmann Lodge had been instilled by Dennis's father and grandfather. It is a family tradition.

The Heidelmann Lodge is open to the public, but call first to make sure it is available to visit: (530) 426-9947. It is located at 19880 Donner Pass Road, Truckee, California. It is part of a complex of buildings called Tri Lodge, which includes the Claire Tappan Lodge built by the Sierra Club and Cal Lodge, originally built by student body from UC Berkeley.

Activities



German Language Classes

Interested in learning German? There is **only one** (as indicated by Herr Erhobenem Zeigefinger at left) place in Nevada County to take classes, and that is RIGHT HERE at the Gold Country German-American Club!

Classes are FREE with club membership.

A Beginning level class will start in September under the direction of Susanne Bader and will take place at her cozy house in Grass Valley.

The Intermediate Class is taught by Erica Meier. The class has just begun reading a new German murder mystery novel, *Blutige Affäre* by Dörte Jensen. If you're waiting for a good opportunity to join the class, now is the time, at the beginning of the story. Intermediate students assemble in person at various class members' homes, now that members have become vaccinated. For more information, call Erica at (619) 335-6499

Conversational German Group

Greetings! The Conversational German Class will meet Tuesday, Aug. 10 at 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. at 10078 Grinding Rock Dr. Grass Valley. Call me if interested to join the group at 530-913-1836. See you at 2 p.m. Aug. 10th. -- Christa.



The namesake of this street sign across the street from Weiss Brothers Nursery is **Herman Joerschke**, an immigrant from Germany born 1847. He owned property in what is now known as the Brunswick area of Grass Valley. He had three children, and his family owned and operated the Glenbrook Inn until his death in 1920; there also is rumored to have been a Joerschke Reservoir, although that might have been a whimsical name for a pond on his property. Now the question is, who was Maltman? Was he/she German, too?

Some of this information came through club member Elinor Barnes, who is active in the Nevada County Historical Society. Thanks, Elinor!

Upcoming Events

This Month:

August 2, 2021: Beginning/Intermediate Language Class, see p.5.
 August 5, 2021: Happy Wanderers' Hike. Penner Lake. See p. 4.
 August 11, 2021: Conversational German, see p. 5.
 August 11 2021: Board of Directors' Meeting, see p. 7
 August 16, 2021: Beginning/Intermediate Language Class, see p.5.

Tentative Plans for the Year:

Oktoberfest? September 25.
 German-American Day November 5
 Holiday Dinner December 3.
 All at Seaman's Lodge!



August Birthdays

August 1	Karen Clark
August 2	Paulette Berquist
August 2	Lilly Sackl
August 7	Marlee Chamberlin
August 8	Tom Dyer
August 14	June Anderson
August 18	Vanessa Smith
August 19	Richard Fuller
August 23	Sharon Cabello
August 29	Anneliese Grasshof
August 29	Richard Snyder

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



Gute Besserung

Theresa Arth

SIEMENS

Siemens Mobility, a separately-managed branch of the Siemens company in **Munich, Germany**, has been awarded contracts worth \$3.4 billion from Amtrak to build 83 trainsets (engines plus cars) to be deployed in the USA to replace 50-year-old rolling stock in the Amtrak fleet. The locomotives will be hybrid battery, diesel, and catenary (overhead wires) electric using fully-integrated digital diagnostics for enhanced reliability, fuel economy, and emissions. The passenger cars will feature large panoramic windows, more comfortable seating, onboard wi-fi, safety enhancements, lifts for customers in wheelchairs, and many other new amenities in the German style. But, here's the *really* good news:

The new trainsets will be manufactured at Siemens Mobility's factory in **Sacramento, California**, (pictured at right, below) to comply with Federal Railroad Administration Buy America Standards. The factory employs more than 2,100 workers and uses its own a 2.1 MegaWatt solar installation to provide the majority of its needed power. If you are an expert welder of stainless steel, there is probably a place for you at Siemens in Sacramento. Delivery of the new rolling stock is scheduled for 2024. All aboard!



Artist's Rendering



GCGAC Board of Directors

Officers (Elected -- 5 votes):

President: Ron Shaffer	323-797-6656
Vice President: Mike Silence	530-477-6659
Secretary: David Moss	432-2236
Treasurer: Lou Ann Schwartz	432-0690
Program: John Hettrich	(650) 207-3681

Directors (Appointed):

Membership: Susan Vogt	432-0594
Dance: Dave Moss	432-2236
Happy Wanderers: Carol Yoder	530-210-0215
Newsletter: Paul Trethewey	265-0763
Publicity: to be filled	
German Language:	
Conversational: Christa Benson	530-913-1836
Intermediate: Erica Meier	619-335-6499
Beginning: Susanne Bader	510-282-0721

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on :

**Wednesday, August 11, 2021, 4:00 p.m. at
Bret Harte Inn, Grass Valley, CA, or by
Zoom Conference Call**

GCGAC Committee Chairs (appointed, non-voting)

Refreshments: Volunteers	
Get Well & Sunshine:	
Christel Denzler	878-0504
Annaliese Grasshof	(916) 783-5411
Kaffee & Kuchen: TBD	
Inter-Club Liaison: Hank Stoffel	269-3137
Webmaster: Paul Trethewey	265-0763
Property: Dennis Naumann	477-1622
Historian: Kristina Wetherbee	432-9941
Facebook Team: Kristina (above) & Elany Prusa	530-432-8736

Be sure to check out the official club web page! It has all kinds of interesting stuff, including photo galleries, links, and prior newsletters. It's located at:

www.goldcountrygermanamericanclub.org

Newsletter printed at: Walker's Office Supplies, 791 Maltman Drive., Grass Valley, CA 95945 530-273-2283



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“Representing Americans of German Speaking Heritage”

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