



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

Einen Guten Rutsch ins Neue Jahr!



Yes, a good *Rutsch*, the "slide" into the new year, to you! Where does that expression come from? It might have derived from the Hebrew word "*Rosh*", which means "beginning," as in *Rosh Hashanah*, "beginning of the new year." Still, it's fun to think of sliding into the new year, perhaps a bit out of control, as the girl at left seems to be.

Our unwelcome guest, the coronavirus, is still with us. However, nobody reported getting covid after the Holiday Dinner. Vaccinations appear to be holding against the variants, like Omicron, which is a Greek letter that looks like a big zero. Let's hope that's not symbolic of our activities!

GCGAC Annual Dues: The Club is looking forward to a more normal Club year in 2022 where we resume normal Club activities and therefore we will be collecting the normal dues for 2022.

Annual dues are payable on January 1 and past due on March 1. The dues are unchanged from before - \$30 per person. Mail your dues to:

Gold Country German American Club

P.O. Box 571

Grass Valley, CA 95945

Notes from the Board

Frohes neues Jahr!

After a wonderful and successful Christmas party, the Board met and planned a normal new year of programs. But once again the dreaded virus appears to be resurfacing as strong as ever. Only time will tell what makes sense in the near future. Stay tuned.

We still need to replace Dave as Secretary as soon as possible. We need someone to volunteer for this position immediately. If you are interested in joining the Board as Secretary please email me at shaffam@outlook.com.

-- Ron Shaffer



Pastor Christian Schwetter led an all-German-language Advent service, der Gottesdienst zur Weihnachtszeit, at Peace Lutheran Church in Grass Valley. Many Club members read passages aloud from the German Bible, auf Deutsch! No performance anxiety here!



Sabine Schwetter und ihr Mann, Pr. Christian, wearing his civvies at the club's Holiday Dinner.



Karen and Fred Herrmann auf Weihnachtsmann at the party. You're never too old for Santa!



HAPPY WANDERERS' HIKING GROUP

Hiking report: Our December 9th hike to Black Swan was cancelled due to rain. Our December 23 hike at Empire Mine State Park may well get rained out as well.

Mark your calendars for January 13 and 27 which hopefully will be sunny days. Stay well, all

Sue

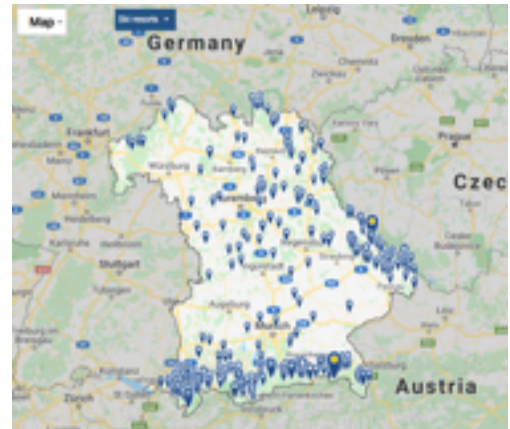
Skiing and Snowshoeing

The first German ski club was founded in Feldberg in 1892. Sixteen years later Rober Winkelhalder built the first mechanical ski tow at his hotel in Germany's Schwarzwald region. The first Winter Olympics was held in France in 1924 but featured cross-country skiing. It wasn't until 12 years later that downhill skiing was included in the games, in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

Today there are approximately 14.6 million German skiers, the most of any European country, taking advantage of about 700 ski resorts, mostly in Bavaria.

Schussing and other snow sports here and now:

If you like schussing and other snow sports, that is probably one reason you choose, like I did 36 years ago, to live in the Sierra foothills. Downhill skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing (there is a difference), and snowshoeing are all available to us within an hour's drive.



The evolution of ski, snowboard and snowshoe equipment has improved the learning curves for those sports, making them easier and more quickly learned. Head sporting goods company was the first to add metal edges to skis back in the 50's, and quite a few years later metal edges were added to backcountry skis and some cross-country skis as well,

making them easier to turn and stop. Shaped skis have made the thin straight skis a thing of the past. So-called "waxless skis" have fish-scale patterns on the bottom of the skis which prevents the skis from sliding backward when climbing easier slopes without attaching "skins" to them. All cross-country skis and most backcountry skis are "waxless". It doesn't mean you don't need to wax them, but applying a liquid wax will help prevent snow from sticking to the bottom of "waxless" skis.

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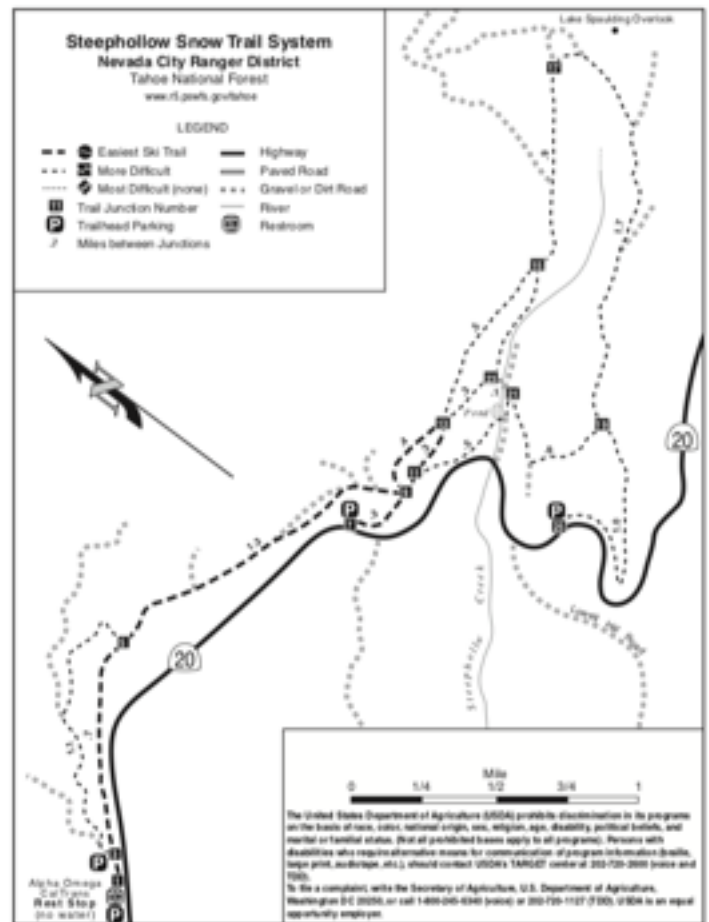
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In addition to the many downhill ski areas we have available, just off Hwy 20 a distance of 16.7 miles up from the 20/49 split in Nevada City is the Steephollow trail system. After parking at the scenic overlook called the Omega rest stop, you can begin a 5.1 mile ski/snowshoe loop trail. Halfway around the loop you can visit the Lake Spaulding overlook. This trail system is marked and maintained by the Nordic Skiers of Nevada County. It is self-groomed, meaning the first skiers/snowshoers after a snowfall break the trail on unplowed forest service roads. One note of etiquette when using the trail: Snowshoers should not walk in the track of the skiers since the skiers might use their own track to return to their starting point. This trail system can also be accessed 1.7 miles further up Hwy 20 from the Omega rest stop at a usually plowed pullout on the left side of the highway.

There are many other areas we have for snowshoeing and backcountry skiing such as Castle Valley, Yuba Gap, and of course the resort of Royal Gorge in Soda Springs to name just a few.

Fortunately we have the local store Mountain Recreation available to us, which rents and sells skis, snowshoes and snowboards. If you wish to try metal-edged backcountry skis, ask for the Madshus as they have them for rent. Regardless of what you choose to attach to your feet, if you can, get out there and enjoy the winter wonderland we have in our own backyard.

Tom Dyer



Author Tom Dyer on a ridge overlooking Donner Lake



Snowshoe expedition on Steephollow Trail (see map above).

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 meets on second and fourth Mondays of the month under the direction of Susanne Bader at her cozy house in Grass Valley.

As of this date, the class is "full."

The Intermediate Class is taught by Erica Meier. The class is underway reading a German murder mystery novel, *Blutige Affäre* by Dörte Jensen, and studying some mind-bending German grammar. 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 Wednesday, Dec. 8, 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. December 8 -- Christa.

The Intermediate German Language Class Holiday Party at Kathrin's Biergarten in Rocklin, CA, on 10 December 2021.

Karen Clark, Linda Snyder, Paul Trethewey, Mike Silence, Erica Meier, James Huber, and Kristina Wetherbee.

The group knows how to have fun:

They sang "Ein Prosit der Gemütlichkeit" to the amusement of all, solved the German crossword puzzle of the day and, as a team, wrote a long,

grammatically-correct German sentence using words from the puzzle.

Ja, viel Spaß!



Upcoming Events

This Month:

January 3, 2022: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 5
 January 10, 2022: Beginning Language Class, see p. 5.
 January 12, 2022: Conversational German, see p. 5.
 January 13, 2022: Possible Happy Wanderer's Hike TBA.
 January 17, 2022: Intermediate Language Class, see p. 5.
 January 24, 2022: Beginning Language Class, see p. 5.
 January 27, 2022: Possible Happy Wanderer's Hike TBA.

Tentative Plans for 2022:

What unfinished business will the new year bring?



January Birthdays

January 7	Jamie Hogan
January 13	Phillip Takacs
January 24	Hildegard Kramer
January 25	Hank Stoffel
January 28	Helene Suess

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



Gute Besserung

Bis jetzt sind noch
 Alle gesund 🍷

Sekt is the name given to German sparkling wine that closely resembles French Champagne. Sekt is typically enjoyed at midnight on New Year's Eve, known in Germany as Silvester. The midnight toast is "Prosit Neujahr!" "Prosit" derives from Latin for "may it succeed." So, may the new year succeed!

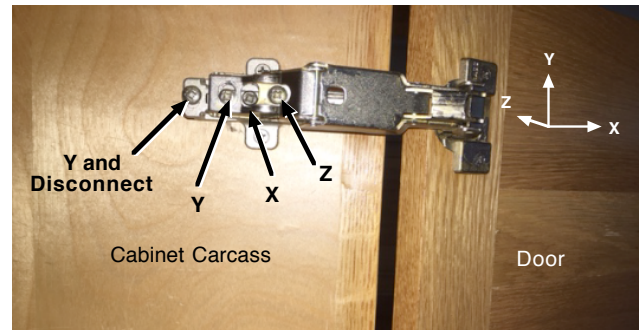


Teutonic Technology:



Hinges

Hinges made of grass? No, Grass is the name of the company in Höchst, Austria that makes hinges for European-style cabinetry as shown below left. The hinges are concealed inside the door for a clean and uncluttered outside appearance. Notice that the cabinets have no face frames to hide inaccuracies in door placement, so the gaps around the door edges are exposed. Fortunately, the hinges include an elaborate set of adjustments to align the



doors to exquisite Austrian precision. As shown above, each hinge can be moved in/out (X), up/down (Y), and left/right (Z). The entire assembly can be rotated and disconnected. The Grass engineers seem to have thought of everything, and the hinge assemblies are not as expensive as they look. Really.

GCGAC Board of Directors**Officers (Elected -- 5 votes):**

President: Ron Shaffer	323-797-6656
Vice President: Mike Silence	530-477-6659
Secretary: Open Position	your number here
Treasurer: Lou Ann Schwartz	432-0690
Program: John Hettrich	(650) 207-3681

Directors (Appointed):

Membership: Susan Vogt	432-0594
Dance: Kristina Wetherbee	432-9941
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, January 12, 2022, 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

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



Gold Country German-American Club is a Member of the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA®
719 Sixth St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20001

"Representing Americans of German Speaking Heritage"

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