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A Very Original Swiss Creation: The Ski-Boat

Winter sports enthusiasts, who are now disporting on the ski slopes, have been surprised to see a new sport in Switzerland this year practised by means of a device shaped like a scallop-shell and fitted with a shock-absorbent seat and a pair of handles.

This novelty, the Ski-Boat, has been produced by a Swiss inventor and patented in Switzerland and many other countries. It is a sort of a compromise between a ski and a toboggan, and is easy to manoeuvre, brake and stop by a simple movement of the body without the feet ever coming in contact with the snow. Thanks to its streamlined shape and efficient stabilisers, both children and adults find it easy to control on any kind of track whether the snow is powdery, beaten hard or even icy.

The Ski-Boat is remarkably light and uncumbersome. Made of layered polyester, it weighs just under 9 lb. and can be carried in the boot of any car, even the smallest, as well as in cabin-lifts and aerial cableways. The seat is protected against shocks by means of rubber shock-absorbers. The stabilisers and handlers are in aluminium.

Ski-Boat enthusiasts are already quite numerous. This new sport is well within the reach of the general public for it requires no special equipment and is popular with those slightly afraid of the accidents or dangers involved in skiing. But like skiing it requires a certain skill and training. Consequently one never grows tired of it. Certain skilled amateurs can even manage to negotiate a slalom course very well with it. Finally, a last advantage—and one to which nobody will object — the Ski-Boat can be purchased for a very modest price. (OSEC).

NEWS OF THE COLONY ★ ★ ★ ★

Auckland Swiss Club

SCHUETZENFEST 1964 IN HENDERSON

Busy volunteers turned up almost every weekend to have the "Schuetzenstand" ready for any weather conditions, and what a blessing it was on both days! Saturday, a hot but brilliant summer day, and Sunday with a few short but heavy showers, the roof on the building and on the target site gave welcome sheltering. Although a lot of work is still to be done, it is a credit to all who participated of what they have achieved in such a short time.

On both days the organisers were very busy on their assigned posts and if sometimes a bit of a rush was on, it was well handled, everybody taking turns to indicate the results which were anxiously watched by the competitors—every point adding up to the much-desired and coveted medals. For quite a few it was not such an

easy task, worse sometimes, for with an excellent start, good luck suddenly dropped, some missing just by one or two points.

Refreshments at the Picnic Bar, attended by Mrs Heidi Mueller, was often a very welcome break for the competitors. Following are the results of the competitions.—

Meisterschaff.—Range 1: Hans Enzler, 319 Punkte Gewinner des Wanderpreises; range 2: Arthur Muller, 308; range 3: Norman Muller, 307; range 4, Kurt Mischler, 290; range 5: Gerhard Uhlig, 283; range 6: Simi Hartmann, 280.

Reifacher Kranz.—Range 1: Arthur Muller, 163 (57, 54, 52); range 2: Hans Enzler, 158 (53, 52, 53).

Doppel Kranz.—Range 1: Simi Hartmann, 105 (52, 53).

Einzel Kranz.—Range 1: Frank Reichmuth, 52; range 2: Fritz Baertschi, 52.

Frauen.—Range 1: Sylvia Enzler, 51.

Gaeste.—Range 1: Otto Fitzi (Hamilton), 285 Meisterschaff.

The prizes were distributed on the following Saturday when a Schuetzentanz was held, attended by our honoured guests, the General-Consul, Dr J. P. Weber, and Mrs Weber. Introducing first Dr Weber to all the guests, Louis Mueller made a short welcome speech. Dr Weber followed and greeted the audience with a very friendly and humorous talk, applauded by everyone. Hans Enzler then proceeded reading out the results of the various competitions and distributing the prizes with the assistance of two very charming ladies, Mrs Sylvia Enzler and Monica Muller. Mr and Mrs Enzler had another surprise in store for the ladies, they were called up and received a pot of flowers and thanked for their assistance.

Once the official part was over, our Swiss Band started to play and with surprise the guests noted a new member of the band, Mr Hans Iten, playing the "klarinet." His performance sounded very promising and we all are looking forward to hear him again on our next social night.

Mrs Doris Binder, accompanied by C. Rickenbacher, as usual gave another performance of her lovely yodelling, complimented in particular by Mr and Mrs J. P. Weber. One item specially was meant "buer eusi Appenzeller"—

Mir sind chlini Luetli, tiffig wie der Blitz,
und verzaellet eistig der besti Witz!

An excellent supper of Venison-Ragout with potatoes and salad was served, the meat being supplied by one of our members, Mr G. Geberd, who specially came from Taupi for this occasion.

The committee wishes to thank everyone who helped to organise the evening and furthermore, congratulate the "Schuetzenkoenig and Schuetzenkoenigin," Mr and Mrs Hans u. Sylvia Enzler. —H.B.M.

Hamilton Swiss Club

It was a beautifully planned picnic in the perfectly groomed grounds of Mr and Mrs Walter Risi. All was lined up: Kegelbahn, Schiesstand, very tasty Bratwurst for the barbecue, continental small cakes and everything necessary to quench the thirst. Lampions and Swiss flags were gaily fluttering in a gentle breeze against a blue sky and, together with a record crowd, it was the ideal setting to welcome our guests: our Charge d'Affairs, Mr Weber, and Mrs Weber, Vice-Consul Schaerer and Mrs Schaerer with family, the Swiss Society President, Mr Steiner, and Mrs Steiner, and the secretary-treasurer, Mr Kuriger. Heidi Arnold presented Mrs Weber and Mrs Schaerer with a bouquet. We were also delighted to welcome Swiss friends from Auckland, Taranaki and other parts of the North Island. Mr Weber spoke to us through the loudspeaker system on this his first visit to us.

But alas! Within minutes this perfect scene changed as people hurriedly made for the nearest shelter with their gathered belongings, driven there by very heavy rain showers. Instead of munching all the lunch goodies with plenty of elbow room, they were consumed cheek by jawl as it were, in the safe and comfortable haven of the Risi residence. Quite a few went home early on account of the unceasing showers, but those members who stayed on took the chance of leisurely chats with one another.

The Hamilton Swiss Club wishes to thank Mr Baumann from Papakura very sincerely for his donation of a magnificent silver cup, to be used as "Wanderbecher" trophy for inter-club Kegeln.

The committee members did have an unexpectedly difficult task running the picnic on account of the rain and it was to their credit that everything went as planned, particularly as far as the catering was concerned. Most sports had to be abandoned because the grounds were far too wet.

Our warmest thanks go again to Mr and Mrs Risi for their generous hospitality. This virtue rose to dizzy heights considering that there were untold wet-shod feet wandering around their home.

MARCH MEETING

Our March meeting on the 8th inst. was held in new surroundings. Many of our members voiced their approval of the roomy and gemuetliche "Pine Lodge." A "Bring and Buy" was held and trade was brisk. The committee thanks the club members for their generous response in bringing and buying.

It is also hoped that Pine Lodge will be easier found next time. Before a supper of hot cervelats and coffee was served, the lucky members who will shortly leave for their trip, were farewelled.

Swiss background music over our loudspeaker and several Jass parties made it a real home evening.

—H.B (Mrs)

Wellington Swiss Club

A very successful and highly amusing Car Rally was held by the Wellington Swiss Club on Sunday, March 8th. The twelve teams first had to find a specific parking meter each and had then the fun of filling a paper bag with the following sometimes-hard-to-come-by articles: a bottle top, a drinking straw, a coin of 1955, a living insect and a creature found under a stone. On the way, power poles, traffic signs and service stations had to be counted, distances guessed at etc., and so on.

On arrival at the ideally chosen picnic site in the Akatarawa Valley, the driver of each car had to change a wheel within five minutes. The back seat drivers had to show their power of observation by answering two final questions. The contestants could then relax, eat and drink and talk over the problems of the Rally. The organisers on the other hand still had to work out the winner by a points system. Mr Werner Frick and his team won with 92 points out of 100.

Mr Scharer and Mr Wehrli did a very able job organising this Rally and they certainly deserve our most sincere appreciation. The weather changed from a rainy early morning to a superbly sunny afternoon, thoroughly enjoyed by those who played football and by those who just sat around and had a good old chat. —L.N.

Christchurch Swiss Club

February 23rd did not dawn as sunny as many of the Christchurch Swiss Club members had hoped it would; in fact there was no sun at all. This was the day set aside each year for members to meet at Mr Suter's farm in Akaroa to pick pears, to drink sweet cider and to generally enjoy themselves.

As the clouds lifted from around the hills, many Swiss began to arrive; people who were determined to make the day a success, rain or shine. Everyone was busy exchanging news when the sound of singing filled the valley. Up the long drive to Mr Suter's house came about 26 sailors from the "Allabrogia," which was in Lyttleton on that day, all singing and yodelling. Everyone forgot about the gloomy weather and went outside to greet the boys.

Mrs Suter was kept very busy making cups of coffee, scones and apple shortcake which disappeared just about as soon as it was made.

Many of the boys went riding on two of Mr Suter's horses. By the end of the day the boys were more tired than the horse—judging by the way the horses shot up the hills with the riders hanging on desperately to whatever they could find!

The youngest Swiss to put in an appearance was Heidi Kunz, two-weeks-old daughter of Mrs S. Kunz and the late E. Kunz. Mrs

Kunz and her daughter will be returning to Switzerland at the end of this month.

The day turned out to be a great success and the last of the Swiss Club left about 6 o'clock. —J.F. (Mrs)

SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

A Special Riflemaster Committee Meeting has been held on March 1, in accordance with the decision of the last Annual General Meeting of the Society and the following rules for the Society's Annual Shooting Competition have been decided upon.

RULES FOR SHOOTING COMPETITION

1. The Swiss Society of New Zealand (later on called "Society") organises a shooting competition to be held uniformly on a Saturday and Sunday in February, March or April of each year, with the intention to make the contest an annual event of the Swiss community of New Zealand.
2. **Competitors** may be any Swiss, or descendants of Swiss, belonging as member to the "Society" or to a Swiss Club, and who are domiciled in New Zealand, provided they have attained the age of 15 years.
3. There will be **Individual and Group Competition** based on the following conditions:
 - a) **Rifle:** British .22 without optical aids.
 - b) **Ammunition:** I.C.I., .22, medium length, solid bullet.
 - c) **Distance:** 50 meters from muzzle to target.
 - d) **Position:** Lying, support of rifle by free and braced or unbraced arms only.
 - e) **Target:** 10 points. Diameter of outer circle 16 cm.; diameter of bull's eye (black) 11 cm. For the competition the targets and their respective report forms carry a common number, allowing therefore only one predecided serial of shots to be accepted as competitive serial by the same competitor. A touched circle counts as hitting the circle.
 - f) **Shots:** In not more than 45 minutes, and without interruption each marksman shoots: (1) a try serial of two shots, (2) a main serial of six shots.
 - g) **Order of Precedence:** Individual competitors qualify according to the total score of the 6 shots of their main serial. Equal scores of the main serial require to include the try serial for decision of rank. When both serials amount to an equal score the number of higher shots decide for better qualification. Group competition will be decided by the total scores of the individual main serials. On equal scores the procedure will be analogous as for individual competition.
 - h) **Handicap:** Seniors, 60 years of age and older, Juniors 18 years of age and younger, as well as all ladies get 1 point in addition.
 - h) **Handicap:** Seniors, 60 years of age and older, Juniors 18 years of age and younger, as well as all ladies get 1 point in addition.
 - i) **Control:** Each single shot must be shown and entered immediately into the report form by the control person assisting each competitor. Immediately after the last shot the report form has to be signed by both competitor and control man, and collected by the range master.