

Swiss Club of Washington, DC

October 2025 Postillion



Message from the President

Gruezi, Bonjour, Buongiorno, Hello,

Happy October! I hope all of you are doing well and are looking forward to the cooler weather and beautiful foliage of the DMV's fall season.

As described further below, the Club has kicked off its fall events with a group trip to Pittsburgh, PA last month. A special thanks Board Member Richard Bottonari for coordinating such a fun event!

We are thrilled to present several other exciting events this month. A hike in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia is planned for October 12th. Our highly anticipated Raclette dinner and a special children's event are planned for October 18th. And, our annual General Assembly meeting will take place on October 24th at the Embassy of Switzerland. We hope you can participate in one or all of these events! See more information below.

Per the Club's constitution, the preliminary slate of recommended Board members for next year is listed below. The list below is subject to change, and the semi-final slate of recommended individuals will be presented at the General Assembly meeting after further consideration by the current Board. If you are interested in joining the Board or nominating an active Club member for Board membership, please submit the name of the member to me (kevin.sprenger@swissclubdc.org) by Wednesday October 15th.

President: Kevin H. Sprenger

1st Vice President: Olivia Hauser

2nd Vice President: Susann Kollmar

Secretary: Roger Wespe

Treasurer: Melanie Way

Membership: Michael Marti

Logistics Coordinator: Richard Bottonari

Children's Activities Coordinator: Gabriela Meier

Board Member at Large: Alexandra Phillips

Board Member at Large: Martin Perret-Gentil

Board Member at Large: Adrian Wiestner

Board Member at Large: Mark McCarthy

Swiss Embassy Liason: Annette Moser

Webmaster: Will Roberts

Best,

Fall Hike Sunday, October 12, 2025



The Swiss Club of Washington, DC invites you to lace up your hiking boots and join us for a group hike on Sunday, October 12th, as we explore the [Maryland Heights Trail in Harpers Ferry National Historical Park](#).

Sunday, October 12

Meet at the [Maryland Heights](#) trailhead at 9:30 AM

Parking available at [171 Shoreline Drive, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425](#). Please note that parking at the site is \$20.00 per car. From there, a free shuttle will take you to Lower Town and the trailhead.

The Maryland Heights Trail is a moderate to strenuous hike, offering a rich blend of natural beauty and historical significance. Along the 4.5 to 6.5-mile round-trip route, hikers will enjoy panoramic views of Harpers Ferry, the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers, and remnants of Civil War fortifications, including the 1862 Naval Battery and the Stone Fort Loop. The trail features steep climbs and rocky terrain, so please consider the difficulty level when deciding who to bring. We estimate the hike will take 3.5 to 4.5 hours, depending on the route and pace.

Be sure to bring appropriate gear—hiking boots, water, snacks, and a backpack—as no supplies are provided on the trail. There are no restrooms or drinking water along the trail itself, so plan accordingly.

After the hike, we encourage everyone to gather at [Harpers Ferry Brewing](#) (37412 Adventure Center Lane, Purcellville, VA 20132) around 2:00 PM to relax and enjoy refreshments with fellow hikers.

Not up for the hike? Feel free to explore downtown Harpers Ferry and meet us at the brewery afterward—all are welcome!

Please [REGISTER HERE](#) so we know who we should be expecting at the hike and/or late lunch at the brewery. Let's enjoy the crisp fall air, stunning views, and great company. We hope to see you there!





Swiss Kids Club Outing Saturday, October 18, 2025

When: Saturday, October 18th, 2:30-4:00,
before the Raclette Dinner

Where: [Beauvoir Playground](#), 3500 Woodley
Rd NW, Washington DC, 20016 (20 minute
walk to the Embassy!)

Who: all families with kids who wish to
interact with other swiss-speaking families/
kids are welcome to join!



Important: if you'd like to join us, we strongly suggest emailing gabriela.meier@swissclubdc.org with your phone number so we can add you to our WhatsApp group where we will be updating everyone about any changes, new information or updates.

Raclette Dinner Saturday, October 18, 2025





Join us for a festive evening of cheese, potatoes, wine, and good company at this popular event! This year will feature additional fun with lawn games (Connect 4, Bocce Ball, Corn Hole, etc) for kids and adults, alike.

Enjoy a picnic-style evening of cheese, wine, and good company at the Swiss Embassy. Dinner includes Raclette cheese with potatoes, pearl onions, cornichon, and dessert. This event will be held ****OUTSIDE****, rain or shine. Tents will be provided, but please wear warm clothes or blankets to enjoy the evening.

The gate for the event will be open from 4 pm to 5 pm and will close at 5 pm sharp. Please channel your swiss punctuality and arrive between 4 pm and 5 pm to enjoy a delicious meal! We look forward to seeing you there.

[Registration](#)



General Assembly Friday, October 24, 2025

[register here](#)

The Board of the Swiss Club of Washington DC



cordially invites current members to attend the annual General Assembly at the Swiss Embassy.

We appreciate your participation, input, ideas and suggestions!

Embassy of Switzerland
[2900 Cathedral Ave., NW](#)
Washington, DC

Friday, October 25

Dinner is at 6:00 pm

Meeting starts at 6:30 pm (Remote attendees start at 6:30pm)



Please [register here](#) and plan to bring a dish to share for the potluck dinner (salad, appetizer, entrée, dessert, bread, etc) - we will provide the drinks.

This is an annual meeting to review the club's activities, receive feedback from its members, and share the club's statistics with its membership.

The Swiss Club of Washington DC benefits from an active and engaged membership, and the board is open to new ideas from its members.

If you are unable to participate in person, but would like to tune in for the reports and provide feedback, please state that in your registration. We will send a Zoom Link to members interested in joining remotely.



Sharing the Club's Pittsburgh Trip

Thirteen members of the Swiss Club of Washington DC had a blast on the club sponsored trip to Pittsburgh, PA. We had a great time bonding, eating, and enjoying the sites. After having lunch on Saturday, we were greeted by members of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh and had a short social hour together. We then visited the Swiss nationality room in the University of Pittsburgh's cathedral of learning and got a personalized information session by the fundraising chair, Philip Bottonari. Philip is part of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh and brother to DC Board Member, Richard Bottonari. The official tour guides also introduced the group to many other nationality rooms including 3 of the 5 original rooms, Russian, German, and Swedish, dedicated in 1938. University classes are held regularly in all 31 nationality rooms in the building. After checking into the hotel, and exploring a bit more of the city on their own, the group met for a delicious dinner at The Porch, followed by a trip to a viewpoint that overlooks the city: what a beautiful view. A highlight was a ride on the Duquesne Incline, a funicular that connects the lower city with Duquesne Heights. It was almost like being in Switzerland. We had many laughs, and enjoyed each other's company! After a comfortable night's rest, we met for breakfast at the hotel, and parted ways. A small group from the trip went on to tour Albert Gallatin's western Pennsylvania estate before returning home. We all agreed we had a great time and look forward to going back next year.



Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh



Meeting the Swiss American Society of Pittsburgh



DC Swiss group and Pittsburgh Swiss Group in the Swiss Nationality room



Riding the Duquesne Incline

L to R: Kevin Sprenger, Helen Bircher, Mark McCarthy, Michael Marti, Susann Kollmar



Riding the Duquesne Incline

L to R: Olivia Hauser, Adrian Wiestner, Andrea Escobar, Roger Wespe





At Albert Gallatin's house: L to R: Elizabeth Janey, Richard Bottonari, Liz Rubin, Tom Marabello, Olivia Hauser, Helen Bircher, Kevin Sprenger.

Follow us on Social Media Facebook and Instagram Page!!

Share your pictures and your experiences with the Swiss Club!

Thanks to some new additions to our club's executive board, we are renewing our social media presence and have started an Instagram page to share our updates. Feel free to follow us to receive timely updates on events and opportunities!

[Link](#) to Swiss Club of Washington DC's Instagram Page

[Link](#) to Swiss Club of Washington DC's Facebook Page

Interested in Playing Jass?

Reach out to Will Roberts for more information!

will.roberts@swissclubdc.org

New to the game? No problem, join a Jass clinic to learn to play!



Swiss Club Events for 2025

- Pittsburgh Trip
- Fall Hike
- October Kids Activity
- Raclette
- General Assembly
- Grittibänz
- Samichlaus

September 20-21, 2025
 October 12, 2025
 October 18, 2025
 October 18, 2025
 October 24, 2025
 Winter 2025
 Winter 2025

Board Members and Volunteer Coordinators

President: Kevin Sprenger, kevin.sprenger@swissclubdc.org

1st Vice-President: Olivia Hauser, olivia.hauser@swissclubdc.org

2nd Vice-President: Susann Kollmar, susann.kollmar@swissclubdc.org

Secretary: Roger Wespe, roger.wespe@swissclubdc.org

Treasurer: Melanie Way, melanie.way@swissclubdc.org

Membership Coordinator: Helen Bircher, helen.bircher@swissclubdc.org

Logistics Coordinator: Richard Bottonari, richard.bottonari@swissclubdc.org

Children's Activities Coordinator: Gabriela Meier, gabriela.meier@swissclubdc.org

Board Member: Martin Perret, martin.perret@swissclubdc.org

Board Member: Alexandra Phillips, alexandra.phillips@swissclubdc.org

Board Member, Adrian Wiestner, adrian.wiestner@swissclubdc.org

Board Member: Mark McCarthy, mark.mccarthy@swissclubdc.org

Board Member: Michael Marti, michael.marti@swissclubdc.org

Swiss Embassy Liaison: Annette Moser, annette.moser@swissclubdc.org

Webmaster: Will Roberts, will.roberts@swissclubdc.org

About Other Swiss Groups

Swiss Rifles:

Ken Schelbert, ken@schelberts.com

Swiss Folklore Group:

Erwin Buerlimann, President, Eburlimann@comcast.net

Die Stauffacherin:

Susann Kollmar, President, susann.kollmar@swissclubdc.org

Janine Ali, Vice President

Swiss Benevolent Society:

Alfred Kessi, President, president@sbsofdc.org

www.sbsofdc.org

Swiss American Club of Richmond:

swissamericanclubrichmondva@gmail.com

Swiss American Historical Society:

<https://www.swiss-american-historical-society.org/>

Advertisement

We invite professionals and corporations to place your ad on the Swiss Club website by contacting [Melanie Way](#).

Your ad will also appear on the e-Postillion which is sent to our membership on a monthly basis. All we need from you is a business card sized image containing your website/email information; anyone clicking on it will be linked to your website.

2025 prices are as follows:

\$75.00 for dues paying members and \$100.00 for non-members.

Great exposure to the Swiss community for a small cost.



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