



Enzian Ski Club

NEWSLETTER - December 2018

Club Meetings at
Deutscher Club
787 Featherbed Lane
Clark, NJ 07066
732-574-8600

*****Next Meeting*****
Thursday January 3, 2019
8:00pm

President

Siegfried Brunnacker

Vice President

Klaus Reh

Recording Secretary

MaryLou Reh

Corresponding Secretary

Janet Volpi

Treasurer

Inge Volk-Biehl

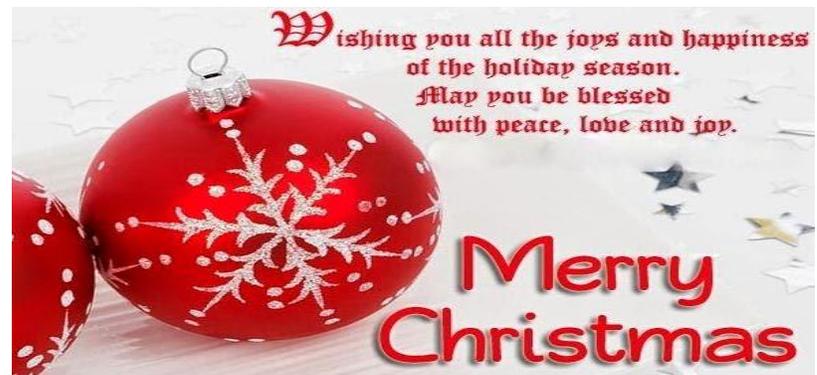
Financial Secretary

Susi Beckmann

Webmaster

Susan Stonitsch

A Message from the President



Calendar of Events

2019 Ski Trip to Val d'Isere, France -Sunday, February 10
- Sunday, 17.



Save the Date

The 2019 Dinner/Dance will be held at the Manor in West Orange, NJ on Sunday, April 28, 2019. Details to follow...

Visit our website at

www.enzianskiclub.com

Missed a meeting?
Read the meeting minutes on
our website.
Want to know more about club
outings, ski trips and
membership?
Find it all on our website!



January birthday wishes go out to: Jerry Baltz, Walter Duerr, Sylvia Habermann, Hank Maturi, Klaus Reh, Florette (Foxy) Vasall, Renate Wohlleben. *We also want to wish Irenej Krayewsky Happy Birthday, Irenej celebrates her birthday on December 22.

*****If you would like to send out a Happy Birthday wish, please contact Janet Volpi at auntjv@yahoo.com. Please include the **name** and **Birthday month**.**

Reminder!

Your membership dues are due starting with the new season. Please make sure to pay your dues at the first meeting. Unless your dues are paid in full you will not be able to participate in club events.

We have not increased the dues, and the amount for the year is only:

\$30.00 – for a single

\$35.00 – for a family (including children under 18)

Please make your check out to Enzian Ski Club and mail it to: **Susi Beckmann**, 21 Marnel Road, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865. If you have any questions, Susi can be reached by email **susi@ptd.net** or phone: **908-454-8013**.

We thank all of you who attended this year's Christmas Party. We had a wonderful turnout, a total of 67 people. And, we welcomed our friends from Connecticut & New York City.

The party started with an open bar, with a choice of red or white wine, beer and a number of schnapps. The tables were decorated in green table cloths, and red napkins, with fresh, red poinsettia plants decorated with red, white & silver bows. We send a big THANK YOU to Martha Brunnacker who always does a fabulous job of arranging our Christmas parties. Martha has put together our Christmas parties for many years. She contacts people, selects and orders the food, plus coordinates the seating arrangements, and makes sure we have music to dance too. We also thank Irene Ilaria for her selection of the red poinsettia plants and her decorating ideas, and Inge Volk-Biehl who does a good job collecting the money from our club members. Even the late comers had to pay.

Siegi welcomed everyone to the party. He thanked the Club Committee and wished a Merry Christmas & a Happy and Healthy New Year to all. He asked us to bow our heads for the Blessing.

Irene Ilaria, welcomed everyone with "It is exciting to see you all through the years. The Enzian family and friends have gathered to celebrate the Christmas Holidays. Many old friends are not here, but their happy smiles..we keep, in the memory of our hearts. And, so we continue to celebrate the cherished holiday with our Enzian Family. Thank you to everyone who contributed and worked on behalf of our club. Lets bow our head--"Thank you Lord for the many friends we meet along path. - Thank you, for

keeping us thru the year. - Bless this food we have. - Keep us safe thru the coming year. Thank you Lord Amen." "And, may someone here tonight have a winning lottery ticket--but remember you need to buy a ticket to win!"

We enjoyed a delicious hot buffet, prepared by the chef from the Deutscher Club---which included salad, buffet rolls, chicken, roast pork, beef stroganoff, salmon, Swedish meatballs, red cabbage, spatzels, bread dumplings, and mixed vegetables. Along with coffee and tea, we were treated with fantastic desserts. The many desserts were prepared or donated by our women members, and we thank them for their delicious contribution.

Huettenmusikant also played a variety of Christmas Carols, both in English and in German, while a group of our members sang along. We also had a few dancing with the stars on the dance floor!

It's always a pleasure to see Florette (Foxy) Vasall at our party and we wish her a "Happy Birthday" on January 1, 2019. Foxy's friend Crystal accompanied her to the party and will be joining the Enzian Ski Club.



Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, All is bright
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
Holy Infant so Tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Al-le-lu-ia!
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!

Austria's "Stille Nacht"

The world's most famous Christmas song, "Silent Night," comes to us from Austria (*Österreich* in German). Called "Stille Nacht" in its this beautiful Christmas Carol is now sung and enjoyed around the world in over 140 languages.

A Christmas Carol Goes Around the World

But the familiar melody we recognize today as “Silent Night” or “Stille Nacht” is not quite the same one that Franz Gruber composed, and although the song was not truly “lost” or “forgotten” — as legend would have it — the world-famous carol did take many years to become as well known and as ubiquitous as it is today. In the intervening years Joseph Mohr is known to have written a “Stille Nacht” arrangement around 1820, and new hand-written arrangements by Franz Gruber appeared before his death — one for a full orchestra in 1845, and another for organ in 1855. By 1900 “Stille Nacht” had made its way around the entire globe.

But we should start at the beginning.

On a cold Christmas Eve in 1818 pastor **Joseph Franz Mohr** (1792-1848) walked the three kilometers from his home in the Austrian village of Oberndorf bei Salzburg to visit his friend **Franz Xaver Gruber** (1787-1863) in the neighboring town of Arnsdorf bei Laufen. Mohr brought with him a poem he had written some two years earlier. He desperately needed a carol for the Christmas Eve midnight mass that was only hours away. He hoped his friend, a school teacher who also served as the church’s choir master and organist, could set his poem to music. And one of the many amazing things about this carol is that Franz Gruber composed the “Stille Nacht” melody for Mohr in just a few hours on that December 24, 1818.

Recent flooding of the nearby Salzach river had put the church organ out of commission, so Gruber composed the music for guitar accompaniment. A few hours after Gruber finished his composition, he and Mohr stood before the altar of the St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf to perform their own work. A local choir group backed them up as the sounds of the brand new carol broke the silence of that “Stille Nacht.”

Because flooding had damaged its foundation, the St. Nicholas Church was demolished in the early 1900s. The Salzach river (which also flows through nearby Salzburg), has a tendency to flood. For this reason, the entire town of Oberndorf was relocated to a less flood-prone location some 800 meters upstream in the 1920s. Around the same time, a new parish church was constructed, and a small memorial chapel, the *Stille-Nacht-Gedächtniskapelle*, replaced the original Nicola-Kirche.

For many years in the latter half of the 19th century, when the carol was beginning to become more popular, people who knew anything about “Stille Nacht” assumed the melody must have been composed by a more famous composer, possibly Beethoven, Haydn, or even Mozart. Although Gruber had made a written claim as the composer prior to his death in 1863, doubts lingered on into the 20th century. The question was officially settled only several years ago when an arrangement of “Stille Nacht” in Joseph Mohr’s hand was authenticated. In the upper right-hand corner of the arrangement Mohr had written the words, “Melodie von Fr. Xav. Gruber.”

Around 1832, when Gruber’s melody was performed by folk singers from Austria’s Ziller Valley (**Zillertal**), several musical notes were altered, and the “Silent Night” melody became what we know today. But Austria’s **Stille Nacht Gesellschaft** (Silent Night Society) not only works to protect the Mohr-Gruber legacy—it encourages the use of the original notes that Gruber composed.

In Austria “Stille Nacht” is considered a national treasure. Traditionally the song may not be played publicly before Christmas Eve, and any commercial use of the 180-year-old carol is verboten. Contrast that with the situation in most other countries, where you are likely to hear

“Silent Night” playing in the local shopping mall or even as part of a radio or TV commercial. Nevertheless, “Silent Night” enjoys a revered position among Christmas carols all over the world, no matter what it may be called or in which language it may be performed.



Interior of the Silent Night Chapel (Stille-Nacht-Kapelle) in Oberndorf bei Salzburg, Austria. The stained-glass window depicts Josef Mohr, the author of the lyrics for “Silent Night,” with a brief history of the chapel and the church.

Joseph Franz Mohr was born an illegitimate child on 11 Dec. 1792 in Salzburg. He became a Catholic priest in August 1815 (only after receiving the special papal dispensation then required for illegitimate persons entering the priesthood). Mohr’s final resting place is in the tiny Alpine ski resort of Wagrain where he died penniless in 1848. He donated his modest earthly fortune for the education of the children in the community. Today the Joseph Mohr School stands as a fitting memorial—only yards away from the grave of the man who wrote the words heard round the world.

