



G.T.E.V. Edelweiss

Wegweiser

September 2018

Edelweiss Trip to Bayern—June 2018

Fifteen GTEV Edelweiss Detroit members took vacations of varying lengths to Germany this summer. We did not travel together the entire time, but we did meet up from May 31-June 3 in the small town of Haldenwang near Kempten in the beautiful Allgäu region of Bavaria to take part in four great days of fun, dance, and Bavarian tradition.

GTEV Edelweiss Detroit belongs to the umbrella organization Gauverband Nordamerika (Gau-NA). Over 70 Trachten- and Schuhplattler clubs throughout the U.S. and Canada are Gau-NA members. Those clubs have about 5000 members.

Every two years Gau-NA holds a festival with dance competition; the winners of that competition are invited to Bavaria the following year to take part in a one-day competition called the “Bayerischer Löwe” with the top dancers from up to 12 different other regional umbrella groups. A different group hosts this every year – and 2018 was Gau-NA’s turn to host. Getting everyone to come to North America was not possible, so fellow Trachtenverein “D’Wagegler” of Haldenwang in the Allgäu offered to help us host it in conjunction with the Allgäuer Gaufest they hosted the same weekend.

Hosting an event on the other side of the ocean requires a great deal of coordination and planning, which started two years ago. Fortunately, Gau-NA’s 1. Gauvorplattler, Rudy Leschke (the lead dance officer), was up to the task. The day of the competition, 41 volunteers took their places to run registration, tabulate scores, lead the three dance circles, work as judges, and coordinate the musicians. Three Edelweiss Detroit members were very involved in this: **Rick Michels**, who is Gau-Musikwart for Gau-NA, coordinated the musicians as well as playing for many of the Gau-NA competitors. **Karin Dean-Kraft**, who is Gau-Pressewart for Gau-NA, led the dance circle that the ladies competed on. **Lauren Kraft** led the dance circle that the youth competed on and then went on to do the announcing for the groups that competed.



All in all, Gau-NA did an impressive job of hosting the event, and our Bavarian friends were quite complimentary of the outcome.

241 dancers competed ranging in age from 7 to over 60; Gau-NA had 27 competitors. 31 groups, 2 from Gau-NA, competed. No wonder the competition takes about 7 hours total! Over 1000 people from all over Bavaria were on hand to watch. Awards were announced late in the day and Gau-NA had a great showing. From Gau-NA, 260 people from 38 different clubs made the trip. Although we

Kurz Berichtet

We wish our members **Heather (Hacker) and Mark Wajer** all the best for the future. Heather and Mark were married on August 4.



Gute Besserung!



Several of our members have been sick during the last few months and are recuperating. They include **Horst Uebrueck, Bob and Eleanor Gracin, Roger Kraft, Helen Gassel, Rainer Naus, Hans & Maria Waidelich and Art & Dottie Kainz**. We wish all of you improving health, patience, and strength.

Gut Gemacht!

We're proud of **Janet Seefried!** She organized the GACC's Fashion Show in April. Over 200 people attended the luncheon, and Janet was able to get donations of so many wonderful gift baskets for the raffle. Thank you so much, Janet, for the hard work you put into this annual event!

Miscellaneous

Member **Toni Tuttle** contacted Rita Dziersk. Toni has gotten married since we last saw her! Congratulations.

Rita also got a call from **Henry Conrow**, who really appreciated the 90th birthday card with the signatures of so many of his Edelweiss friends. He sends regards to all of us!

Sharon Walker received dues from **Art & Dottie Kainz** along with a nice note. Both have been having some health issues and miss being able to come to Edelweiss events to see their friends. They send greetings to their fellow members.

Who's Sorry Now?

Probably **Andrea Edelhauser, Gudy Halbhuber, Ryan Porter, & Lynn Huthwaite!** Why? Their names were pulled at recent meetings for free 2019 membership. But they weren't there to accept their windfall and will have to pay their dues after all.



What's Your News?

Send it along to include in future Wegweiser issues. If you don't come to club functions anymore, we'd still like to know how you're doing and what you're up to. Contact a fellow Edelweiss friend or the editor.

Wo ist was los? Where are things happening?



- ◆ September 14-16 – Carpathia Oktoberfest. Edelweiss will dance on Sunday at 1pm & 3pm
- ◆ September 23 – Siasswasser Tanzmusi and the dancers will be alternating performances at the St. Joseph Church, Detroit, annual Oktoberfest. We've had such fun the last couple of years at this event. Join us!
- ◆ Sept 28, 29, 30 and Oct. 5 & 6 – Oktoberfest at Heimat Windsor (not sure yet when we'll go as a group)
- ◆ October 6 – GACC German-American Day
- ◆ October 14 – Dance Practice & Meeting
- ◆ October 28 – Dance Practice
- ◆ November 11 – Edelweiss Gedächtnismesse at St. Clement of Rome Church, Romeo
- ◆ November 16-18 – Isartaler Pittsburgh's Fahnenweihe. Siasswasser will be playing and Edelweiss will be dancing. We're proud to be able to participate in our Isartaler friends' big event.
- ◆ December 9 – Edelweiss Weihnachtsprogramm

Trip to Bavaria—cont'd from pg. 1

participate every two years, this is the biggest turnout Gau-NA has ever had in the 15 years we've taken part.

It wasn't just the competition that took us to Bayern. We also wanted to take part in the Allgäuer Gaufest, a two-day festival that included the 47 clubs in the Allgäu as well as clubs from other parts of Bavaria. On the day that the parade was held, 3000 people dressed in their finest Tracht took part. 110 different marching brass bands, Trachten- and Schützenvereine, horse drawn wagons and carriages, old tractors representing the Allgäu's agricultural tradition, and several Alphorn groups (another Allgäu specialty) made the parade colorful, beautiful, and meaningful. Over 200 from Gau-NA took part with flags from Gau-NA and seven clubs. Many of our Gau-NA clubs also danced an individual Ehrentanz and danced in an impressively large Massenplattler (group Schuhplattler) on the stage, in front of the stage, and in the aisles both at the Friday night Heimatabend and on Gaufest Sunday.

Edelweiss had twelve members and three friends go along from the U.S. We met up with seven of our Bavarian members while there. The brass band from Rottenbuch that played here in Detroit in 2017 was at the Gaufest, so we saw many of our friends. About twenty years ago a group from the Allgäu visited us and played for our Oktoberfest at the Carpathia Hall. After all these years, they made it a point to find us among the 3000 guests at the Gaufest—what a fun reunion! Over the years we have made many friends throughout Gau-NA as well as in Bavaria.

Edelweiss Detroit members are proud to uphold the traditions and ethnic costume of Bavaria as we have done since our founding in 1931. A benefit to membership is the opportunity to have great adventures and so much fun with fellow members who are both friends and family.

Who went? Rita Dzierzk; John & Annette Edelhauser; Barb, Erwin & Caroline Rauschendorfer (and boyfriend Evan); Karin, Roger & Lauren Kraft; Colleen & Rick Michels; Christa Luttmann. Our German members who met up with us—our Münchnerin Anita Biereder; the "Rottenbuchers" Margot, Robert, & Leo Helgert; and Lissi Zeller; and the "Sonthofen" friends — Tony & Elvira Patzelt & family.

Karin Dean-Kraft, Pressewart

Photos are courtesy of a fellow Gauverband Nordamerika member, Stephen Hargreaves, who belongs to Alt-Washingtonia Schuhplattler Verein of Washington, D.C.



From the Archives

Andy Seefried has come across quite a few newspaper clippings over the years that he has given to the club historian. Recently, he found an article from 1966 that was published in the then *Detroit Abendpost*. It was about Edelweiss's trip to Montreal for Alpenland's Fahnenweihe with Trachtenschau & Preisplatteln. Edelweiss took 2nd place with these dancers: Andy & Betty Werner, Anna & Joe Stano,

Gerda & Jack Miles, and Sue & Nick Bahnweg. Hansi & Ricky Ritterhaus played the music. It's a wonderful article that most believe was written by Ricky Ritterhaus, who at that time wrote a lot of our Abendpost reports. Andy Werner was described as "a young, energetic Vorplattler." He is also quoted: "Die Sitt' und Tracht der Alten ist wert a bisserl Schweiss. Wir wollen sie erhalten, ob's kalt is' oder heiss!"

"Customs & Tracht of our forefathers are worth a little sweat. We want to uphold them, whether it's cold or it's hot.

Members (& Friends) Picnic – July 22, 2018 – Spindler Park

Forty members and friends attended our annual picnic. Thanks go to **Hubert Turner** for donating the Wurst and to **Erwin Rauschendorfer** for being our Wurst chef. Everyone brought a delicious dish to share, so the “sides and salads” table was overflowing. And so many yummy desserts! Thanks to all for the food donations and to Kitchen Obmann **Annette Edelhauser** for organizing the paper goods and serving utensils. Volunteer Bar Obmann **Rick Michels & Eric Walker** and all their helpers did a fine job of providing all the refreshments for the day.



Rick, Erwin, Fred Walker, and Eric Walker gave us some beautiful music after we were full of food. We're so fortunate to have such talent among us.

The last few years it's been in the 90s for our picnic. We all hoped that this year would be a little cooler. It was! High 60s and a nice soft rainfall all day. Thank goodness we were in the pavilion and there wasn't much wind. Yes, it was a little chilly for a while, but it didn't dampen our spirit at all. Good conversation with good friends is always worth a little sacrifice.

Ruhe in Frieden



Ehrenmitglied **Maria Moisch** died on July 2, 2017. She was 97 years old. Maria was born in Transylvania, Romania, and came to the U.S. in 1956. She is survived by three daughters, four grandsons, three great grandchildren, and a sister among other extended family. Her husband George predeceased her.

She joined Edelweiss in 1963 and was awarded Ehrenmitglied status at least 20 years ago. Edelweiss sends its condolences to her family.

Side Note About Maria Moisch

We had not heard from Maria Moisch in many years and have wondered about her, given her age. A recent online search revealed that she passed away in 2017. The Wegweiser has been mailed to her since its first publication. We hope that someone from her family will come to the Gedächtnismesse in November where we will commemorate Maria with a Totenbrett that will then be given to the family.

Ruhe in Frieden



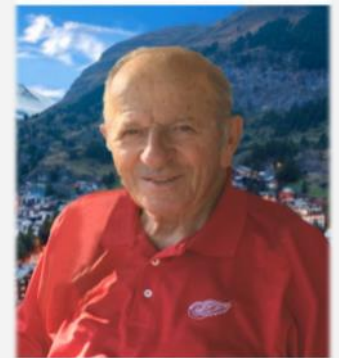
Ken Baker passed away on September 2. He is survived by Anneliese, his wife of 62 years, and their two children, six grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Ken was 82 years old and had recently suffered a stroke.

Ken gave many hours of his time to the club since joining in 1963. In 1996 he was awarded the Goldenes Edelweiss for his time and diligence towards Edelweiss.

Most of us think of sports when we think of Ken. He was a dedicated umpire and referee for the Michigan High School Athletics Association. He especially loved football and playing golf, accomplishing holes-in-one many times.

Ken, your fellow Edelweiss members will miss you and the friendship and humor you brought to your Verein. To your family, especially your much-loved wife Anneliese, we extend our deepest condolences.

Ruhe in Frieden



Our long-time member, **Albert Buechel**, passed away on June 23 at the age of 87. Even though he was more closely associated with the Swiss Club, he and his wife Dorothy were at nearly all of our events. His always smiling face, friendly and warm demeanor, and fun loving personality made him a pleasure to know. Albert joined Edelweiss in 1973 and was awarded the Goldenes Edelweiss in 1991. His presence will be sorely missed by his fellow Edelweiss members and by his many friends in the German-Austrian-Swiss community.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife, their seven children, eleven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. He is also survived by three of his thirteen siblings.

It's Been a Busy Summer of Dancing

SUMMER 2018 RECAP - It's been a busy summer for 'Edelweiss,' Detroit's dance group. Our dancers have performed four times since our last meeting in June. Our Verein should be very proud of the hard work our dedicated dancers put in during the year to be able to showcase traditional Bavarian dances throughout southeast Michigan and beyond!

Every year, the Carpathia Club holds a three day Fest throughout Father's Day weekend. Our Edelweiss dancers performed on two different band breaks Saturday evening, June 15, showcasing both our Schuhplattler Tanz and numerous Volkstänze.



Friday, June 29, many of our members traveled to "south-Detroit" aka Windsor for Heimat's first annual 'Ladies Night in the Biergarten.' The hot-sticky weather didn't stop anyone from making merry with friends from near and far! Our Gauverband's President Tom Vogt and his wife Kathy even made an appearance!



The Austrian Club hosted their annual Waldfest Sunday, June 24, on a warm afternoon at the Austrian Park. Edelweiss, again, performed during two different band breaks to an appreciative crowd.



In early August, the GACC hosted their annual Deutscher Tag at the beautiful Austrian Park on Sunday, August 12. Your Edelweiss dance group performed during two band breaks in the evening to another appreciative audience.

The GACC hosted a band from Germany, called 'Schwabens Combo,' for the crowd's listening and dancing pleasure. Some of our members housed a few of their musicians. As we have experienced in the past, being a host family takes a lot of effort but is well worth the life-long friendships it can bring.

Anni, Megan, and Chrissy

Finally, Edelweiss, Detroit travelled down to the Oak Shade Grove in Oregon, Ohio for the annual German-American Festival (GAF). This event sees around 40,000 attendees throughout the three-day event. We were fortunate to get an invite to dance during four band breaks for the large crowd! The daunting schedule was a bit intimidating but our dancers did a fantastic job throughout the day!

Come on out and support our dance group this Oktoberfest season at some local events you can find listed on the club website! We look forward to seeing your smiling faces!

1. Vorplatter – Eric Walker



Vorstand Erwin Rauschendorfer played for us and played with Rob Schwalbe at the German-American Festival in Toledo. Kevin Walker dancing the Kreuzpolka at GAF.



Our Birthday Kids!

August

Andrea Edelhauser—3
 Rosemary Sandercott—8
 Rita Dzierzk—8
 Eric Walker—9
 Anna Boudreau—11
 Annette Edelhauser—12
 Andreas Werner Sr.—16
 Roland Putz—17
 Janet Seefried—20
 Marianne Billo—25
 Jim Green—27
 Caroline Rauschendorfer—28
 Leo Helgert—29
 Christa Luttmann—29
 Johann Waidelich—31

September

Carl Fina—11
 Roger Kraft—18
 Hilde Rabiteau—24
 Ernie Ritterhaus—24

October

Frank Sinz—3
 Leo Novak—3
 Anna Marie Rauschendorfer—6
 Christian Mulligan—6
 Michael Mulligan—11
 Anita Biereder—21
 Sonja Bresett—22
 Hubert Turner—23
 Manfred Nitsche—24
 Ryan Porter—27

November

Rachel Winquest—3
 Anna Stano—5
 Maria Winquest—12
 Barb Rauschendorfer—12
 Renee Edelhauser—14
 Susan Hoshield—15
 Chrissy Walker—21
 Paul Schwalbe—21
 Philip Carpentier—24
 Lauren Uebrueck—29
 Richarda Ritterhaus—30



Unsere 60-er!
 Extra happy birthday wishes go
 out to our newly minted 60s!
 Annette Edelhauser & Roger Kraft

Gedächtnismesse—November 11

Our annual Gedächtnismesse in memory of our members who have passed away during the year will be held on Sunday, November 11, at 2 pm. As in the past, it will be held at St. Clement Catholic Church in Romeo. Everyone may attend the service with music by our own Edelweiss musicians.

Reservations are needed for the luncheon after-



wards. Call Annette Edelhauser at 248.840.1953 or sign up at the meeting. The cost is \$10 per person which includes cold cuts, bread, beer, wine, and soft drinks. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share so that we have our usual delicious feast.

It's always a beautiful day remembering those we miss and spending time with good friends.

2 pm—Sunday, Nov. 11
St. Clement of Rome
343 S. Main Street
Romeo, Michigan

Dues are Due!

If you haven't paid your 2018 dues yet, please send a check (\$25 made out to GTEV Edelweiss) to 4. Kassier Sharon Walker at 1821 Welling Drive, Troy, MI 48098.

Wegweiser Editor

Send your news to: Karin Dean-Kraft —
 734.479.4025
 gtevedelweiss@yahoo.com

Edelweiss Christmas Program—December 9

Our Christmas program is a wonderful way to start the Christmas season and get in the right spirit. Sunday, December 9, is the date, starting with a quick 2 pm meeting and program starting at 3 pm followed by dinner. More information will be in the next Wegweiser.

