



Members Reception in place of a normal Stammtisch. This year's Spring NMR will be held on Thursday, May 7th at the Parkhotel. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres are provided by the club to any attending member "in good standing" (see "paid membership dues", above). We hope to see both new and "veteran" IMCZ members at the NMR on May 7th!

First Thursdays

The first Thursday of March we were pleased to have Muthana Kubba speak at the Stammtisch about his recent trip to Baghdad. The first Thursday of April brought a sampling of English cheeses to the Parkhotel. The first Thursday of May is the NMR and the first Thursday of June will bring a representative from the Canton of Zug's Fachstelle Migration - the Migration Advisory Office. Notice the trend? We have been organizing a special Stammtisch once a month on the first Thursday and will be considering other specialties for the upcoming months. If you have an idea for a First Thursday sometime after June, just let me know.

IMCZ "joins" the Migration Advisory Office

The Migration Advisory Office (MAO, or in German, Fachstelle Migration) offers a number of services to "MAO members" in various languages: most Balkan languages as well as English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Turkish. MAO members can take advantage of a large number of services at sometimes shockingly low rates. This might be translation services or advice about foreigners' rights, labor law or unemployment. You can get help filling out a German-language form, a letter translated or even have your Swiss taxes done sometimes for as little as Fr. 70.-.

After a number of discussions with the MAO, the IMCZ board has decided to "join" the MAO as a club member. In exchange, all IMCZ members can take advantage of the MAO services without paying the annual registration fee and without having to wait and register at the help desk. MAO general advisory services are now free of charge to you as an IMCZ member. You can find out all about the MAO's services online at www.fsm-zug.ch. Even easier would be to come to the First Thursday Stammtisch on the 4th of June, when Catherine Newman will tell us what's in store for you from the MAO. You can also see me at an upcoming Stammtisch for an FsM flyer. So: for you as an IMCZ member, MAO membership is now included in your membership fee for 2009 at no extra cost!

FASC Summer Weekend in Gstaad

Another benefit of being an IMCZ member is that you are automatically a member of the Federation of Anglo-Swiss Clubs: FASC. Every year, FASC organizes a summer weekend event and this year's event is in Gstaad-Saanen from June 19th to the 21st. FASC members enjoy significantly reduced rates compared to non-members. You will find all of the event details on page 4, but you will need to sign up and pre-pay for the event by the end of April. If you'd like to attend, please send me an e-mail at President@IMCZ.com by April 16th so that we can reserve your place(s) and get payment arranged by the end of April. FASC membership is just another advantage of your membership in the IMCZ.

Tennis, Anyone...?

How about Volleyball? I'm no golfer, but I'm sure that the IMCZ golfers are already sharpening their clubs and waxing their golf balls in preparation for the spring weather that's sure to arrive by mid-June. Board member Paulo Arend is interested in getting some players together for regular tennis. Every month we get twenty to thirty bowlers together. Are there twelve of you out there who might like to get together for volleyball once a week? Interested in tennis? Contact Paulo at Board@IMCZ.com. Any takers on volleyball? Here's your chance to spike me into the volleyball court. Send me an e-mail at President@IMCZ.com. If we get enough members together, we can try to arrange a court in town.

Expats Unite!

Before closing, let me remind you about the upcoming Expat-Expo being held on Sunday, April 26th at the Lorzensaal in Cham from 11:00 to 17:00. Admission is free and you can find services and products aimed at Expats from nearly 90 different exhibitors - all in one place at the Expat-Expo. Find out all about it and see who's exhibiting at <http://www.expat-expo.info/Zug.html>.

Thanks for reading this far. Thanks for getting those membership dues taken care of. And thanks in advance to those who are brave enough to get back to me about the volleyball. As for me, I'm off to get my skis re-stringed, my bike tires rotated and my snow shovel hung up until September.

Enjoy the spring!

David LeBow
IMCZ President

IMCZ

Introducing...new members

THE IMCZ WELCOMES:

Felix Schibig is 58 years old, a Swiss citizen, and born in Cham.

He and his wife and daughter have spent many years abroad, primarily in Hong Kong and South Africa. A private banker by profession, he is a Director in Zurich-based Dominick Private Bank, with his main area of responsibility being Asia. Amongst his interests are cycling and motor biking. He and his wife have covered most of Western Europe on their 1600cc Harley Heritage, and they love exploring new places and getting to know new people.

Alain Samne is a Canadian whose interests include sports, food and travel. He speaks French and English.

Wolfgang Sidler is a Swiss native who enjoys new technology, gadgets, IT, private piloting and ham radio. He speaks German and English.




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International Watch Company Schaffhausen

In 1868, an American by the name of Florentine Ariosto Jones made the brave decision to found a watch factory in Switzerland from where he planned to supply the USA with movements. In fear of losing their livelihood to a factory, the watchmakers in French-speaking Switzerland, the traditional watch making region, put up fierce resistance. Jones turned elsewhere and found a perfect match in Schaffhausen. There he found a newly constructed hydroelectric power station to supply his machines and ideal conditions for his passion to build perfect mechanical movements for an international market. He also found watchmakers whose profession already had a long tradition in Schaffhausen. His company, now known as the International Watch Company (IWC) began making superbly crafted watches for discerning clientele.

IWC continues to this day to make these magnificent watches. In 2007, it opened the doors to the public, developed a museum to document its history and watches, and started tours of the factory.

Come join us on a tour of the IWC factory and take the opportunity to see how these fine watches are crafted. The tour takes place in the afternoon, so you can either have lunch in Schaffhausen or perhaps visit the nearby falls first. It will be a good day out seeing a lovely town and a great Swiss manufacturer.

This event is open to all ZIWC and IMCZ members. However, spaces are limited at the request of IWC, so please book early.

- Date:** Thursday, 23 April 2009
- Time:** 13.30 - 15.30 h
- Venue:** IWC, Baumgartenstrasse 15, 8201 Schaffhausen (see www.IWC.com)
We'll meet at Zug Bahnhof at 9.00 h to catch the 9.31 train to Zurich HB. From Zurich HB we'll take the 10.10 train to Schaffhausen, arriving at 10.52. The tour begins at 13.30, so arriving early will give you a chance to look around Schaffhausen, have some lunch, or perhaps go and visit the falls
- Cost:** Entrance Fee - CHF 6.00
Train - CHF 29.00 for half-price return by train to Schaffhausen
- Contact:** Jennie Brough, programmebookings@ziwc.ch or Tel: 041 750 87 61
- Booking deadline:** 12.00 h, Friday, 17 April. Spaces are limited, so please book early. Please note that for security reasons, IWC requires the name and nationality of all tour participants. This information will be forwarded to them following sign-up. No other details will be sent to them, just name and nationality.

The ZIWC Cancellation Policy applies.

ZIWC Monthly Luncheon



Please join us for a relaxing lunch at this popular restaurant near the water in Zug. If the weather is good, take a stroll by the water first or after and perhaps we can even sit outside to eat.

- Date:** Tuesday, 28 April 2009
- Time:** 12.00 h
- Venue:** Café Plazmühle, Landesgemeindeplatz, Zug
- Cost:** We'll order from the regular menu.
Typical prices: soup about CHF 10.50, pizza average about CHF 22.50, pasta starting at CHF 20.50, and light salad dishes starting at CHF 20.50.
- Contact:** Jennie Brough on programmebookings@ziwc.ch
- Booking Deadline:** Friday, 24th April 2009, 14.00 h.
The ZIWC Cancellation Policy applies.

ZIWC IMCZ TGIF AND DINING OUT THANK GOD IT'S FRIDAY!

(The gentlemen whistle and clap.)

After a long week, let's us all get together to have some fun! Set your weekend off to a great start with a drink or two with some good friends, great music and gorgeous cocktails at the new Central American restaurant and bar, Spago.

Bring along your partner, friends or work mates and listen (or dance) to the live DJ (who will be playing till 2am).



Delve into the whole Central American experience with music, drinks and food when you join the Dining Out group for a meal at 20:30. Choice is yours: drinks only, dinner only, or both.

- Date:** Friday, 24 April 2009
- Time:** 18.00 h for drinks
20.30 h for a sit-down meal
- Venue:** SPAGO Restaurant and Bar
Bahnhofstrasse 12
6300 Zug
www.spago-zug.ch
- Cost:** Members cover their own drinks and meals.
- Contact:** Gerie Servi at letsigo@ziwc.ch
- Booking Deadline:** Contact Gerie by Monday, 20 April if you wish to join those staying for dinner.



"The Stammtisch"
every Thursday evening
18:00 - 20:00.

Join us at the
Park Hotel in Zug.
We are now in the
Walchwilersaal



FASC/IMCZ Gstaad Weekend

The IMCZ is an official member of the Federation of Anglo-Swiss Clubs, extended to all individual members of the IMCZ, and thus entitling you to participate in a variety of FASC events.

This year the FASC has planned its Summer Weekend to take place in Saanen-Gstaad, and as IMCZ member you are cordially invited!

- Date:** Friday - Sunday, 19 - 21 June 2009
- Time:** Friday evening (18.00 h) to Sunday afternoon
- Venue:** Hotel Steigenberger
- Cost:** see price list below
- Contact:** President@IMCZ.com, indicating the number in your party, length of stay and chosen accommodations.

Booking deadline: 16 April 2009; the IMCZ must relay firm commitments to the FASC. The cancellation policy applies. Your bookings are only confirmed upon payment.

For our summer weekend this year we are going to join the good and the great in one of Switzerland's most famous and beautiful resorts, Gstaad. The venue is the Hotel Steigenberger, which is a few kilometers outside the town at Saanen and has a splendid view over the entire valley.

The Friday evening barbecue will be followed on Saturday, after the breakfast-brunch, with a wide range of activities - you could spend the morning in Gstaad, or take the cable-car up the local hill, the Rellerli, which has a toboggan run and a fantastic view in all directions, or perhaps take a carriage ride. In the afternoon we can enjoy all our traditional sports in the spacious grounds of the hotel. There will be an opportunity for clay pigeon shooting, or even for a round of golf. On Saturday evening we shall hold our Gala Dinner, with dancing to an 80s- style disco into the wee hours.

Sports prizes will be presented at the Sunday brunch, which will leave you plenty of time to enjoy the rest of the day in this beautiful area.

As well as its gorgeous location and famed cuisine, the hotel has a wonderful spa on three floors where you can either indulge in the huge array of facilities and treatments on offer, or simply linger by the pool and relax.

Double and single rooms are available; you can also arrive a day or two earlier or stay longer at favorable rates (see price list which accompanies this description).

There is free parking at the hotel. For those arriving by train, there is a complimentary hotel pick-up service. For special needs (eg pick-up, vegetarian meals, items for young children, golf enquiries), please contact Nathalie Belet (nibelet@yahoo.com).

Reserve your weekend dates now, make a firm booking via your Club President, and don't miss this chance of a superb weekend in fantastic surroundings with all your old friends - and some new ones.

IMCZ New Members Reception, Spring 2009

The IMCZ's ranks have grown since the beginning of the year. The Board extends a hearty welcome to the Club and invites you to attend a reception for new members.

- Date:** Thursday, 7 May 2009
- Time:** 18:00 - 20:00
- Venue:** Walchwilersaal, Parkhotel Zug
- Cost:** Members attend at no cost; drinks and hors d'oeuvres are on the Club until 20:00.



All IMCZ members - new and veteran - are welcome. Longstanding members are encouraged to meet the Club's new arrivals, while recent entrants are invited to meet the people who have made the IMCZ what it is today. Reception attendees who are not yet members will have the option of paying an entrance fee of CHF 30.- or joining the Club outright on the spot.



Networking opportunities will abound, drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be provided courtesy of the Club. Reduced-rate parking has even been negotiated with the Parkhotel. Your distinguished attendance will be gratefully appreciated. The [ZIWC Cancellation Policy](#) applies.

GSTAAD FASC WEEKEND 2009 PRICE LIST

Friday June 19th, Saturday June 20th & Sunday June 21st, 2009

THESE PRICES ARE ONLY VALID FOR BONA FIDE FEDERATION CLUB MEMBERS
NON-MEMBER SURCHARGE CHF 40.00

PRICE PER PERSON OF HOTEL PACKAGE ARRANGEMENTS	DOUBLE ROOM	JUNIOR SUITE*	SINGLE ROOM
Friday to Sunday, 2 nights , including Friday evening barbecue dinner, Saturday breakfast-brunch, sports afternoon, Gala Dinner with cocktail & Disco, and Sunday breakfast-brunch.	365	415	395
Friday to Sunday, 2 nights , <u>late arrival after evening barbecue</u> , incl. Sat. breakfast-brunch, sports afternoon, Gala Dinner with cocktail & Disco, and Sun. breakfast-brunch; deduct chf 40.	325	375	355
Saturday to Sunday, 1 night , including Saturday sports afternoon, Gala Dinner with cocktail & Disco, and Sunday breakfast-brunch.	220	245	245
Supplement for any extra night , incl. breakfast, per person	+ 110	+ 135	+ 135
Supplement for Clay Pigeon Shooting package , incl. drive to range, instruction and 10 shots	+ 45	+ 45	+ 45
Prices for Golf: contact Nathalie Belet. Contact her also for any special needs (eg vegetarian meals, items for young children)	nibelet@yahoo.com		

1. ALL RESERVATIONS SUBJECT TO HOTEL'S CANCELLATION CHARGES.
 2. BOOKINGS ARE ONLY FIRM AFTER PAYMENT HAS BEEN RECEIVED.
- *Junior suites available at a premium of chf 50 per couple per night

Fructose, a “healthy” natural sugar from fruits?

Contributed by IMCZ member
Remo P. Jutzeler van Wijlen, Head R&D
Sponser Sports Food Ing. Appl Food
Sciences, MAS Nutrition & Health ETHZ

Fructose in our diet comes mainly from sucrose (common table sugar), high-fructose corn syrup made from corn starch, fruit, grains and also honey.

In fruit, fructose serves as a signal for sweetness and good nutrition. For our ancestors, foods with a sweet taste were likely to be “healthy” and to provide important nutrients. This quantity of fructose was small in comparison to today’s intake. Or can you imagine a stone-age gatherer squeezing 4-6 oranges to make fresh juice each day? Estimations are that mankind for millennia consumed about 20g of fructose a day, mainly from fruits.



In contrast, mean daily consumption of fructose in the US between 1988 and 1994 was 54.7 g/d, and accounted for 10.2% of total daily caloric intake. Consumption was highest among adolescents (12- to 18-year-olds), who consumed 72.8 g/d, or more than 12% of their total calories from fructose. The largest source of fructose was sugar-sweetened beverages (30%), followed by grains (22%) and fruit/fruit juice (19%).

So what is the problem with large amounts of fructose? First, when fructose comes from sugar or fructose-sweetened beverages, it comes without other nutrients from fruits or grains.

Second, the more soft drinks youngsters consume, the less milk they consume, which short-changes them on the calcium and vitamin D that are so essential for strong bones. Milk consumption amongst female teenagers dropped 36% from the Seventies to the Mid-Nineties while sweet drinks consumption doubled as mentioned in an earlier column.

Third, a substantial body of data suggests that calories from beverages are not perceived by the body in the same way as those in solid food. Calories in soft drinks appear to be “add-on” calories rather than suppressing intake of other foods by the amount of calories in the soft drinks. The current epidemic of obesity could be explained by the consumption of an extra soft drink each day.

Fourth, fructose consumption, either from beverages or food, may have detrimental effects on cardiovascular health insofar as an increase in triglyceride levels in healthy adults has been observed. Triglycerides are nowadays considered a major cardiovascular disease risk factor. In a study from Switzerland, dietary fructose was also found to predict an increased level of LDL-cholesterol (the bad one) in children.

Furthermore, unlike other sugars fructose increases serum uric acid levels. It is proposed that high levels of uric acid could set the stage for advancing cardiovascular disease. If this hypothesis is confirmed, it will provide another reason why nature preferred glucose over fructose as a substrate for our body metabolism during the evolutionary process. Soft drink consumption has been linked to the development of cardio-metabolic risk factors and the metabolic syndrome: individuals consuming at least 1 soft drink/d had a higher prevalence of the metabolic syndrome of approx. 48%.

Fifth, due to its low glycemic and poor insulin response fructose was considered ideal for diabetics. Even more, it still is the only sugar legally allowed for use in food products suitable for diabetics! Interestingly, low amounts and short-term ingestion of fructose actually

do increase glucose tolerance. Long-term intake, however, seems to initiate unfavourable metabolic changes (de novo fat formation, triglyceride levels, insulin resistance in the liver). After all, on a personal request at the Swiss Federal Department of Health I was told the problem has been recognized and adjustments are intended.

A final effect of high fructose intake is postulated regarding its influence on the insulin-regulated hormone leptin. A less distinct increase of insulin after fructose



intake causes a smaller release of leptin, which is involved in satiation and satiety mechanisms. Both insulin and leptin are central hormones in the regulation of food intake; any irregularity is likely to modulate our natural inborn energy intake and concomitant body weight control.



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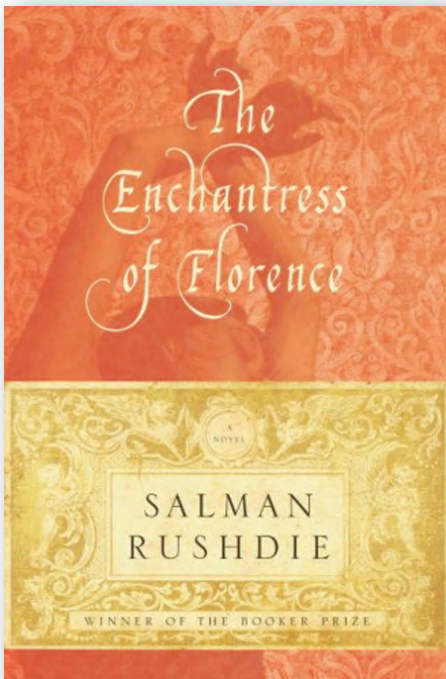
The Enchantress of Florence; by Salman Rushdie

by IMCZ Vice President/Newsletter Editor Andrew DeBoo

The Reading Circle for English Language Literature Zug convened on 2 April to debate Salman Rushdie's novel, *The Enchantress of Florence*.

Rushdie's latest novel opens fabulously, "In the day's last light the glowing lake below the palace-city looked like a sea of molten gold." The reader is transported to a semi-magical locale in an indeterminate era. Within another line the reader is in the company of a traveler moving toward this dazzling place. He seeks an audience with the ruler.

The great warrior king has a harem of wives, but is devoted to one whom he has conjured in his mind, so that she occupies



him increasingly day and night. The king, Jahanpanah, is cerebral and cultivated. He is thus not opposed to ideas from abroad, though he protects himself from menacing visitors by the staged passage through his close circle of advisors. But Mogor dell'Amore, as the leather-coated, long-haired stranger presents himself, has come outfitted with a charm of scents rubbed into his skin by the whore with whom he spent the previous evening. This and his cool eloquence bring him through to the last advisor, and an audience is granted for the following day.

By way of exhibiting his intellectual fortitude, the king invites the foreigner to his new forum of argumentation, in which teams of wise men can dispute with each other without fear of being put to death for speaking offensively to or of the king. Later in the his chambers Jahanpanah coaxes the stranger to unburden himself of the message that he has borne so long a distance, and precisely then alarm of a threat is given, whereon the ambassador is immediately jailed as a suspected assassin.

Thrown in the dungeon, tortured and put to the ultimate test of confrontation with a certain royal elephant that crushes any man it knows to be a danger to the king, the prisoner is again brought before the ruler, this time presenting himself as Niccolò Vespucci. The king challenges him to explain himself, and grasping the gravity of his situation, the man asserts kinship with the king.

Such boldness in pursuit of salvation surely requires close scrutiny, and the king has his wives assembled behind a screen to hear and criticize the anticipated narrative. Since it is the king who listens, it is understood that the teller is threatened with being hurled to his death from the palace ramparts should his tale not satisfy. Royal enchantment is a matter of survival.

Thus Rushdie sets the story spinning wheel in motion, an ancient tale that begins in a similar land of warring tribes and cousins, of beauties captured, forfeited, recaptured, given away and transported, of all places, to Florence. In the city where Ago Vespucci, Niccolò Machiavelli and Antonino Argalia lived and ventured.

By turns and beguilement, Rushdie weaves a tale of civic development under the Medici, of warring crusades in foreign lands by Argalia and a glorious return to his native city just when his skill as a slayer of men is needed. In those intervening years of wandering Machiavelli has served in public office and suffered humiliating defeat, returning to the family farm to scratch his livelihood from the earth as best he can, his scholarly activity in his library the only refuge from a complaining wife and the demands of half a dozen children. And Ago Vespucci, who cannot imagine living outside Florence, has heard that the name of his cousin, Amerigo the cartographer, has been given to a land that stood in the way of many who sailed for India.

But the enchantress, of course, the enchantress Qara Köz, Lady Black Eyes, astounds all three friends with her beauty and her charms. Even further, the entire Florentine population falls under her spell. So unspeakably gorgeous she becomes a demi-god. Of course she cannot escape the notice of high-ranking politicians and royalty, and unfortunately her spell-binding powers are not sufficient to quell all urges of intrigue.

So it is that in pursuit of her, fat-fingered, unctuous officials slowly turn the masses against her and attempt the assassination of her husband Antonino Argalia, who subsequently dies when their home is besieged. The other two friends, loyal to the last, contrive for her escape, and she flees to a new, western world. Where she bears a daughter who looks exactly like her mother. And so can carry on the story.

There is war, love, intrigue and sex, Swiss mercenary giants called Otho, Botho, Clotho and D'Artagnan. There is whoring and thievery, great voyages and epic battles to keep the king enticed, and naturally Qara Köz, Lady Black Eyes, whose beauty appears and is mentioned at intervals to bait the ruler forward. But there is also discourse on the ruthlessness of orphans, the notion of ideas as things threatening or destructive, the consideration that men need women so much more than women need men, or the evidence of how memories can become lodged in the mind like furniture stuffed into the rooms of a sprawling mansion, and the danger of what can occur when those piled-in memories are removed and the empty shell of a house must take stock of its forlorn condition.

Rushdie's novel is a fable woven into a tale grown out of realistic circumstances, imbued with magic, yet concrete and very real in its detail. It raises questions about what makes a story, why they are created and told, indeed why we read and how with so much surrender we take our pleasure in them.

For further information on the Reading Circle please contact Andrew DeBoo. The group's next text will be Mischa Berlinski's *Fieldwork*, to be debated on Thursday, 7 May 2009 at 19.30 h at the Stadt- und Kantonsbibliothek Zug.



A Trip to **BAGHDAD**

by IMCZ Secretary Muthana Kubba

The material of the presentation at a special edition of the weekly **Stammtisch** on 5 March will be presented in three **IMCZ News** issues in installments.

First Installment

I decided on short notice to take advantage of the improved security situation in Baghdad and pay a visit to my hometown, the city where I was born and raised. The last time I was there was 14 years ago. I saw then my late mother for the last time. The country was suffering heavily under the most rigorous sanctions humanity had ever known. The people were suffering and saw no future for them or their children. Young people were very frustrated and angry. The expressions on their faces said it all and reflected their misery.

In these 14 years, there were 8 more years of crippling sanctions under the iron fist of Saddam and his henchmen, an American led invasion, and 5 years of the most virulent insurgency known, and one year of relative calm.

I was curious to find out how the people of Baghdad were managing after such unbelievable suffering and unspeakable violence completely unknown to them in the past. How deep were the scars of wars and violence, and what is the future going to be like?

Saddam's Legacy

When I left Iraq 31 years ago, it was a flourishing country. Many say it was about to leave the league of developing nations and join that of developed ones. It was an open secret then that Saddam, the vice president at the time, would grab power and become the president. I knew that we'd be heading towards rough seas with unpredictable outcome, which was what prompted me to start a new life here. True to my predictions, within a year of my departure he forced the then reigning president, Mr. Al-Bakr, to resign, declared himself president and put Mr. Al-Bakr under house arrest. Within a year of grabbing power he attacked Iraq's eastern neighbor Iran in September 1980. Iran is three times the size of Iraq both in geographical area and population. The war lasted eight long years, consuming one million young lives on both sides and draining Iraq's bursting coffers completely, forcing Iraq to borrow heavily from its Arab neighbors to maintain the war effort.

August 1988 marked the end of this terrible and completely senseless war, after a cease fire was agreed. We all thought that after such a terrible war, Saddam would have learned his lesson and would concentrate on rebuilding his devastated country. Pipedreams. Less than two years later on the 2 August 1990 he attacked his southern much smaller neighbor Kuwait. Again there was no reason or provocation whatsoever to start yet another war. He was ousted from Kuwait within 7 months by a coalition led by the USA. Worse than the war, devastating sanctions were imposed on the country by the United Nations, ostensibly to force Saddam to disarm and destroy his arsenal of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), but really to punish Iraq for its aggression.

13 Long Years of Sanctions

In the last 30 years since Saddam grabbed power, what hurt the country and its people most were the crippling sanctions imposed by the United Nations in 1990. It is not just that oil could not be exported and hard currency could no longer be earned, it affected all walks of life: magazines, books, literature in any form as well as toys, food, medicine, clothes, building materials etc. In fact it was not possible to send a letter weighing more than 20 gm to Baghdad, irrespective of its contents. I personally had to smuggle urgently needed medicine via Jordan for my best friend there who was suffering from cancer. There was no way I could send them to him otherwise. The only link with the outside world was an 850 km desert road to Amman, Jordan.

The level of knowledge of all professionals in the country, whether medical doctors, surgeons, engineers, technicians, you name it, remained at a standstill at the 1990 level due to lack of literature, interaction, travel ban and funds. Worse, no spare parts were available for all essential services. Power stations, telephone exchanges, sewage treatment plants, grain silos were slowly grinding to a halt, some being kept running by



University of Baghdad



No head scarf



Free drinks and food

cannibalization and improvisation. The cars and trucks were falling apart due to lack of spare parts.

The sanctions were designed, very naively, to punish Iraq for invading Kuwait. But it was Saddam who invaded Kuwait and not the Iraqis, and who was being punished? The Iraqis of course. Saddam was busy building palaces and living in super luxury, and laughing his head off at the naivety of the UN sanctions committee.

Naturally, the government started the money press going in order to pay its way, resulting in typical war-induced inflation: from \$ 1.0 = ID 0,3 to \$ 1.0 = ID 2200, 7000-fold inflation. Fairly rich and well to do people became virtually poor overnight, some became destitute. A university professor's salary was under \$30.00; that is not per month but per year.

In 1996 a program called Oil for Food was permitted. Ostensibly it was designed to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people by allowing some oil exports, the dues of which would go into a special fund, from which reparations and the cost of all UN operations in Iraq would be paid, as well as food imports into Iraq. The outcome was the biggest known scam in the history of the United Nations. Both parties to this agreement were corrupt to the bone. Corrupt officials in the UN saw a once in a lifetime opportunity to get rich quickly, and Saddam with his clique, who wanted to divert some of the funds from the blocked accounts into his own coffers. Just to illustrate how this works, a friend of mine in the United Arab Emirates got a large contract for the supply of detergent powder (Tide). UN approval was obtained and deal was sealed, however, before the Letter of Credit was opened in his favor, he was approached by an Iraqi government official and asked to supply the powder with the active ingredient reduced by 40%. They will accept the degraded shipment, but he must pay them 25% of the contract sum in cash. He refused to play and the letter of credit never arrived.

The American Led Invasion in 2003

Iraq reverted to a relatively small third world country, vastly weakened by devastating sanctions, starving for hard currency and everything from simple pencils (which were banned as dual use items) to badly needed spare parts for power stations. It was still ruled by the same dictator who grabbed power in 1979 and started two unprovoked, devastating wars. Yes this country which in March 2003 was so weak, famished and bereft of its intelligentsia that it couldn't hurt a fly even if it wanted to, was invaded by the most powerful nation on earth in March 2003.

The ostensible reason for the invasion was that it possessed weapons of mass destruction; harbored Al Qaida terrorists and was a threat to its neighbors. None of these turned out to be true. No weapons of mass destruction were found and no Al Qaida terrorists were found either. As a direct consequence of the invasion, the worst and most ruthless Al Qaida terrorists infiltrated the country. Furthermore, the arch enemy of the United States of America in the region, Iran, gained in strength and influence and became the dominant power in the Gulf. What is worse, the delicate balance in this multi-ethnic and multi-religious country was upset. Additionally the armed forces, police and secret services were all disbanded. This was the single most disastrous decision taken by the invaders. The result of this folly was a most violent and virulent insurgency. The Al Qaida infiltrators added a new dimension of violence and horror, unknown to Iraqis.

Somehow the facts that Saddam opened the doors of all prisons in the country few months before the invasion and distributed firearms to the heads of most families were simply ignored. It wasn't just the political prisoners who were set free, but the criminals, murderers and very violent prisoners who should be locked for life were freed as well. Add to this the wholesale plundering that took place immediately after the fall of the government, and which was tolerated, some say encouraged by the invaders, then the poisonous and murderous cocktail to destabilize the country was completed.

The result is known to all of us.

Flight to Baghdad

In spite of the endless flow of bad news, which monopolized the media in the West for five years since the invasion, I wanted to go there and see for myself how the country has managed the endless and unspeakable hardships. In fact I also had a personal reason to go.

My only brother, who was still living there, was unwell and I wanted to see him, before his condition or the situation in the country would deteriorate.

Luckily, I found a weekly direct flight from Copenhagen to Baghdad, on which I managed to book a seat.

It was a rainy and foggy Copenhagen when I arrived there on the last flight on Thursday, 5 February 2009. As soon as I arrived in the hotel to catch a short sleep, I booked a taxi for 5:30 am the next morning to take me to the airport. With less than 4 hours sleep, I arrived at the airport at 6:00 am to board flight NRD856 due to depart for Baghdad at 8:10 am. At 8:00 o'clock sharp a new departure time appeared on the departure board: 11:30 am! 3 1/2 hours delay with no explanation or apology. By then I had made new acquaintances with fellow countrymen, and the long hours of waiting passed quickly. It transpired that NRD Nordic Airways had gone bankrupt on January 25, and a new company SkyWings had taken over. On arriving at gate D101, there was a huge stationary queue of all the passengers who were 100% Iraqis, waiting to check in. Two more hours of waiting before the queue started to move. On inquiry it transpired that there was no pilot available to fly the aircraft. Finally an (Iraqi) pilot showed up with his crew, who managed competently to fly it to Baghdad. There was considerable commotion on board before everyone was seated. It was caused mainly by the full booking to the very last seat (the previous Friday's flight had been cancelled due to the provincial elections in Iraq). In addition nearly all passengers had considerable, bulky and quite heavy hand-baggage, which they didn't declare at check-in. At long last the engines were kicked in and the MD83 was quickly airborne. It was 13:10, five hours after the scheduled departure time.

The flight time was only 4 hours and 20 minutes; from Zürich it would take just over 3 hours, not really that far. We arrived at 18:30 at Baghdad International Airport. It was clean, polished and fairly well organized by Middle Eastern standards. The passport and customs formalities were simple and straightforward, yes almost European. A far cry from the fearful formalities during the old regime, whenever we came in or went out of the country. During the flight, rumors circulated, that some of the baggage was left behind due to overweight. Luckily my own bag did show up, many fellow travelers were not so lucky. Not waiting to see the scenes of angry passengers frantically looking for their luggage, I decided to disappear quietly, and in no time I was on my way to Zaiyoona district, where my only brother lives.

The next installment will appear in the May 2009 edition of the IMCZ News.



Republic Bridge

Gearing up for the Recovery is no Plain Sailing

by IMCZ Treasurer
John Henry Smith



We are all aware that from October 2007 the reflexive interaction of stock markets and economies fed a fierce vortex of global contraction. The media told us that the causes were a complex array of factors that had their origins in over-greed, malfeasance, and lack of regulation in the U.S. culture of over-indebtedness. Smelling the blood dripping from the housing market's subprime mortgages, the SP500, after reaching a peak

on October 9, 2007 of 1,565.15, slid to its deepest point of 676.53 points on March 9, a fall of 56.8%, as the economic whirlpool spun deep into the U.S. economy.

Both the Bush and Obama administrations, with Congress in tow, sought to contain the damage at first in a hit and miss sort of way¹ and then with Paulson's controversial TARP², Bernanke's TALF⁵ and Geithner's PPP⁴.

These bail-outs were intended to stop the U.S. economy from sinking further, but will their hole-bunging properties be enough to prevent the good ship Lollipop⁵ from being sucked down by the very currents it had itself created? To escape these perilous forces and regain economic sovereignty, any solution must address five priorities.



Bailing out the good ship Lollipop

Priority 1 - Stop deflation

Jan Hatzius⁶, the Chief U.S. Economist of Goldman Sachs, believes that the combination of 8% to 10% unemployment in 2009 and the extent of the economy's under-utilized resources are beginning to reduce pricing power. This is confirmed by the price declines in such key industries as real estate, auto and energy. Further, another economist, Alan Nasser⁷ points out that no direct assistance will be given to home owners, who will still have negative equity for many years to come and some may never ever recover the prices they paid.

With a loss of \$6 trillion in housing equity and \$8 trillion stock and retirement wealth wiped out, Americans are forced more into saving and debt servicing modes, which further fuels the deflationary spiral, forcing companies to cut production and downsize to match slackening demand.

The objective of President Obama's stimulus package is to act as the consumer-of-last resort by undertaking projects to repair infrastructure, improve the health service, develop alternative energy, and heighten skills through education programs. These targets will add another \$3.5 trillion to the Federal Reserve's balance sheet, which some observers believe will not be enough, rather seeing a need for \$4 to \$6 trillion.

The good news is that vast expenditures will in themselves reverse deflationary trends, but the bad news is that depending on how the stimulus is funded it could later produce anything from a mild to very serious inflation.

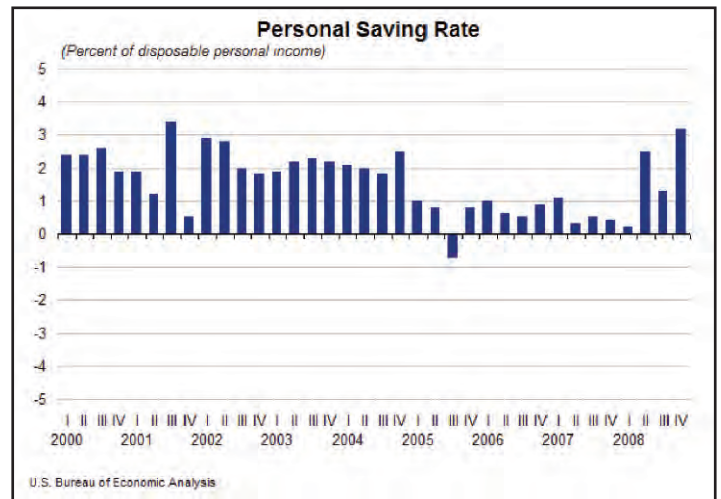
Priority 2 - Reduce leveraging

Economic progress, particularly in the U.S. has been pocked-marked by booms and busts; the most notable were the Wall Street Crash of 1929 and the Dot.com bubble of the late 1990s. Bubbles are typically characterized by unsustainable prices and the over-leveraging of credit. The mix of subprime mortgages with those of higher quality in opaque securitization packages that had the blessing of the credit agencies triggered a massive over-leveraging opportunity that never

showed up on bank balances sheets.

On the consumer side of the equation, Reuters⁸ reported a consumer credit burden of \$2.6 trillion, of which \$790 billion is credit card debt and rising because the credit squeeze is forcing more consumers to turn to their credit cards. It is thought that the average household owes about \$10,000 of this kind of debt with 35% of cardholders paying late.

The U.S. administration is determined to tackle this deep-rooted problem. As all economies need the leveraging of dormant balances to generate earnings and growth the key focus hopefully will be at the very least the reduction of non-transparent leveraging and stronger capital adequacy rules as well as improved screening practices for the vetting of credit applications.



Priority 3 - The return of trust in the financial markets

In view of the ravages wrought by the financial markets on the livelihoods of ordinary people, the regaining of trust will be a steep and difficult path to climb. The measures of the TALF and the PPP programs are designed to rekindle this confidence on both the supply and demand sides of the economy. And from the ashes a new kind of qualified risk taking and innovation will emerge and contribute to stabilization and growth. Whereas the tarnished banks themselves must recapitalize and address their profitability issues in a new dawn of prudent practices. This all means that the fundamental capitalism of Ronald Reagan is being washed out of the system by the controls that will be designed to better manage systemic risks. In turning the page hopefully a new equitable era will deploy resources for the greater benefit of the people as a whole instead of serving the vested interests of influential minorities. However a disadvantage of 'Greater Good' capitalism is likely to be both slower growth and asset price deflation.

Priority 4 - Capital formation and the path to growth

The source of capital formation is the product of savings and wealth, whether generated internally or borrowed from abroad.

As a percentage of disposable personal income, the graph⁹ shows the prevalence of a very low personal savings rate in the U.S. The regime of low interest rates enabled Americans to seize the opportunity of owning their homes but created an even greater disincentive to save when from 2005 to 2007 mortgages rates began to rise and the burden of debt servicing grew to bursting point.

A significant contributory factor in the subprime saga was the massive influx of dollars from the saving countries of the East in the years 2002 to 2004, causing the Fed Funds rate to fall to between 1 3/4% and 1%.



In early 2008, however, we can see a jump in savings levels as house prices plummeted from their inflated values and foreclosures increased, thus signaling the onset of the rapidly developing economic slump. The American dream of appreciating house values as a way of storing capital growth had finally burst, just like other assets bubbles before it.

Priority 5 - Find the right balance between consumption and savings

It is inescapable to acknowledge that a right balance must be found between the rate of real national savings and consumption; to live within one's means in a workable and orderly capitalistic society with the reasonable and controlled leveraging of debt. I believe the lessons of this recession/depression have been sorely learnt, even though they were there for all to see; but alas the greed factor dominated! We should give thought to the sentiment that a certain Mr. Micawber¹⁰ wisely expressed when he counseled;

“Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen shillings and six pence, result happiness.

Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds and six pence, result misery.”

Summary

The bunging up of the good ship Lollipop with stimulus packages in place or yet to come will keep the financial system afloat sufficiently to ride out this storm either through dumping the toxic ballast

overboard or at least by reducing their dead weight. However the packages will not address the navigability of the good ship when faced with the headwinds of inflation unless its sailors, from the captain to the cook, learn from their mistakes. What will be gained in refitting the ship with better steering gear will certainly be lost in the speed of recovery.

As of the date of writing, the SP500 lost 48% of its value from its peak. For the Index to recover to its November 9, 2007 high of 1,565.15 from today's value of 815.94 is a move of 92%¹¹! This broad index, as a mirror of wealth lost, makes it clear that the recovery will not be plain sailing for a long time to come.

- 1 Saving Bear Stearns and letting Lehman Brothers go bust
- 2 Troubled Assets Relief Program - \$680 billion
- 3 Term Asset-Backed Loan Facility - \$1 trillion
- 4 Public-Private Partnership - \$1 trillion
- 5 “On the Good Ship Lollipop” was sung by 6 year old Shirley Temple in the 1934 film “Bright Eyes”
- 6 In a CNBC interview of March 19, 2009
- 7 Professor emeritus of Political Economy of Evergreen State College, Washington
- 8 Reuters dated Mar 6, 2009: U.S. Consumer credit rises \$1.75 billion in January; Feb
- 9 U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
- 10 David Copperfield (1850) ch. 12 by Charles Dickens
- 11 (1565.15-815.94)/815.94 = 91.82%

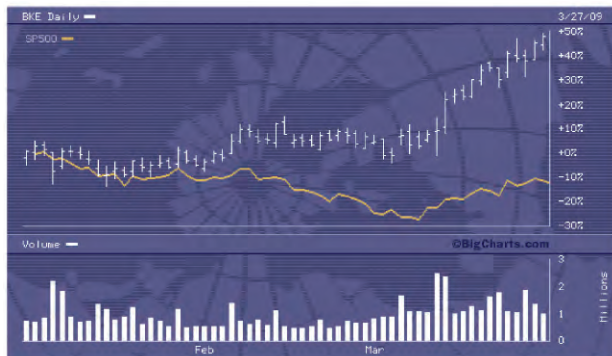
Investment Corner

by IMCZ Treasurer John Henry Smith



As there are several categories of investment styles, each Grail stock will be analyzed in accordance with a stated style or strategy, i.e. Momentum Investor, Value Investor, etc.

Assessments and Analysis based on March 27, 2009 closing price \$29.14	
Analysis of:	The Buckle, Inc.
Industry:	Specialty Retail – Apparel Stores
Strategy:	P/E Growth Investor
YTD Performance:	+51%
SP 500 YTD Performance:	-10%



COMPANY DESCRIPTION

The Buckle, Inc. is a retailer of medium to better-priced casual apparel, footwear and accessories for fashion conscious young men and women. As of February 2, 2008, the Company operated 368 retail stores in 38 states throughout the continental United States, excluding the northeast, under the names Buckle and The Buckle. The Company markets a selection of mostly brand name casual apparel, including denims, other casual bottoms, tops, sportswear, outerwear, accessories and footwear. The Company provides customer services, such as free hemming, free gift-wrapping, easy layaways, the Buckle private label credit card and a frequent shopper program. Most stores are located in regional shopping malls and lifestyle centers. The Company had 368 stores on February 2, 2008.

CATEGORY	CRITERIA OF A P/E GROWTH INVESTOR	SCORE	REPORT CARD
This methodology considers Buckle, Inc. a "fast grower"!			
P/E Growth Ratio:	The Price/Earnings ratio (P/E) relative to the EPS growth rate based on the average of the 3, 4 and 5 year EPS growth rates.	BKE's P/E ratio of 14.56 and its EPS growth rate of 26.31% over the period produce a favourable P/E/G ratio of 0.56.	PASS
Sales & P/E Ratio:	A P/E ratio below 40 for sales over \$ 1 billion.	BKE's sales of only \$792.1 million do not satisfy this criterion, but an investor can analyze the P/E ratio relative to the EPS growth rate.	NEUTRAL
EPS Growth Rate:	Earnings growth between 20% and 50% based on the average of the 3, 4 and 5 years EPS growth rates.	BKE's average EPS growth is 26.3% for the period.	PASS
Total Debt/Equity Ratio:	Equity 3 to 10 times debt.	BKE's debt/equity ratio is 0.00%.	PASS

DISCLAIMER: The above financial data is for informational purposes only, and is explicitly not a recommendation made by IMCZ, which cannot be held liable for its accuracy and that any purchase and/or sale of securities in whatever form based on this information is entirely at the reader's own risk.

contributed by
IMCZ Secretary
Muthana Kubba

Google, What Next?

Google, What Next? A revolution is taking place in front of our eyes, and yet not many of us are even aware of it. What started as a simple search engine a few years ago has grown into a multi-faceted, truly huge conglomerate of data information and retrieval giant. In fact the size and extent of the data stored and administered by Google is so huge that some concerns are being raised to limit or at least regulate it in some way, in order to prevent misuse at some stage in the future. Let me guide you in this short treatise through some of the functions available through Google now or in the near future. For the experts among you, I beg of you to have patience and understanding because not all of us are IT wiz kids.

1. Web Search. This is the default search mode when Google is opened. From its name, it looks for Internet web sites which have the search criteria in them. Skill in putting in the right combination of search words or concepts is best acquired by trial and error. Important to remember is that enclosing words within double quotation marks (“...”) forces Google to display only web pages which have this sequence of words exactly. What is less known about the search function is that if the search words are in a different language, then web pages of that language which contain the words in that language will appear. This is particularly useful if the language in question uses a different alphabet than English, e.g. Russian, Arabic or Hebrew.

2. Image Search. I know this sounds trivial for some, but many are not aware that you can search not only for text in a website, but for images as well. How? On the Google main page Web search is the default setting, but if you click Images then it will search for images instead. Don't wait, go now to your computer, click on Images and write in the search box, 'Ski Weekend' and enjoy the results.

3. Translator. Of all the free translator sites available, I found the Google translator the best and most comfortable to use with the least number of irritating commercials. You can translate short texts from or into 41 languages, including Arabic and Hebrew. How do you get there? On the Google home page at the top left corner, the search criteria are shown: **Web Images Maps News Video Gmail more**. Click on more and choose, “Translator”. If you don't find it, click on 'Even more'. I tried the Google translator for English into German: The cheese tasting party shall take place on Thursday April 2nd resulted in: Die Verkostung von Käse Party findet am Donnerstag, 2. April. Actually not bad if you remember that machine translation normally produces unintelligible gibberish.

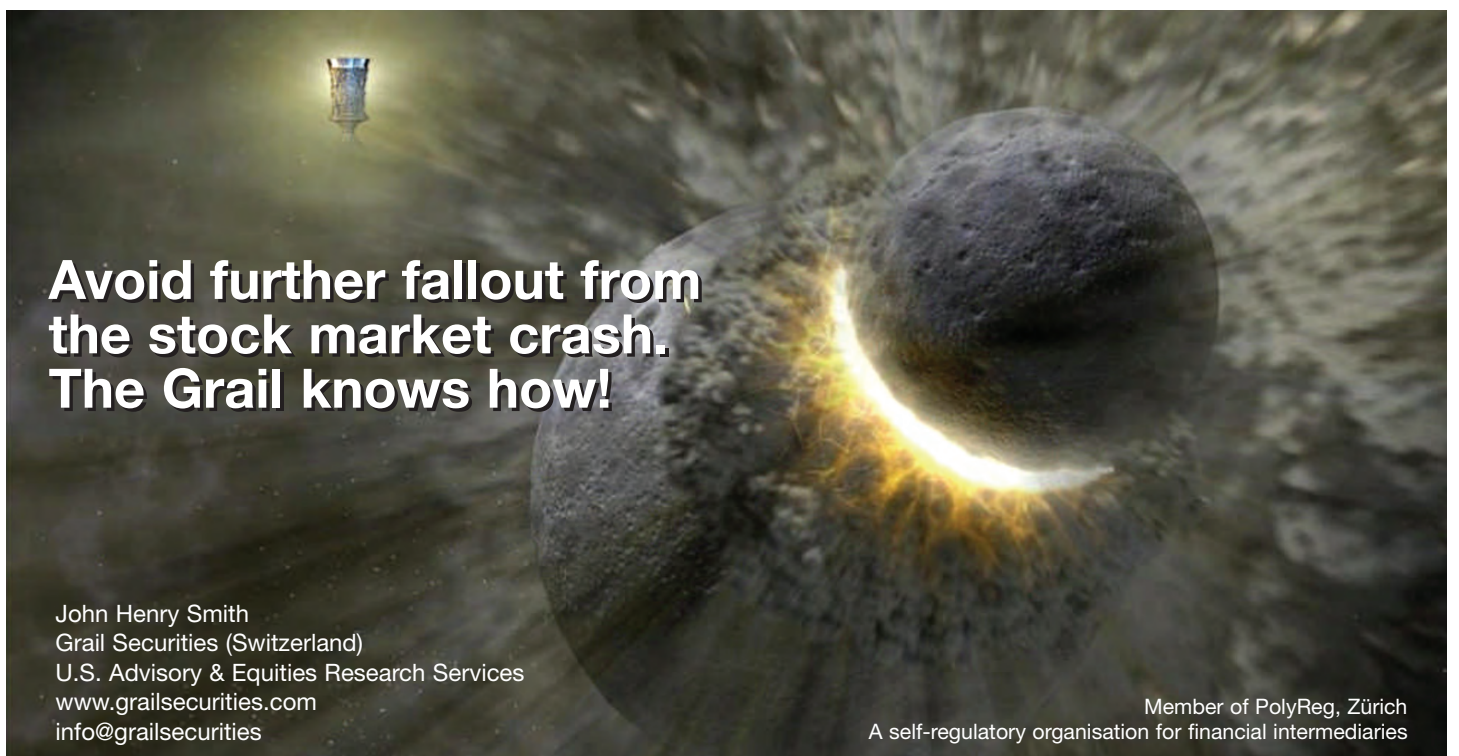
4. Google Earth. Of all the gimmicks presented, this one has really caught on and has become extremely popular with people and corporations from all walks of life. Basically what it does is give you the possibility of zooming in to any spot on Earth to view it with extraordinary resolution. Who hasn't zoomed in to his own house to see if he can see his parked car? I zoomed in to see my house in Baghdad to find out if it is still standing... yes it was! For those who haven't used it yet, just go to <http://earth.google.com/> download the program and off you go. Using Google Earth effectively requires some dexterity and experience. You have to play with it for a while before you get the bug! The altitude is also shown, and it is possible to tilt and turn the view with a few mouse clicks. Extremely effective if you want to see, for example, the profile of Zugerberg from different perspectives.

5. Street View. Another gimmick? Maybe but highly effective. Now it is available in the USA and a several other countries, but Google is catching up quickly and soon we shall be able to see a photo of the Industriestrasse and Parkhotel with it. Take a virtual walk and go to <http://maps.google.com/help/maps/streetview/> to join in the fun.

6. World Library. One of the more controversial free services offered by Google is a scheme to digitise all books in all languages in the world. A very ambitious scheme indeed, not least because of copyright issues. Google has been very clever; they have signed agreements with authors and publishers, at least in the English language, so that they shall get a percentage of the income Google generates from advertisements within the respective sites. Google is pushing ahead and soon we can look up and read any book we choose. The scheme is called **Digital Book** and it shall be, like all other Google services, open and free to the public. For more information look up <http://www.google.com/googlebooks/library.html>

7. Google Sky. Is another service which Google is offering free of charge. A complete catalogue of the visible stars from Earth. Imagine the constellations of Andromeda, Hydra, Daneb, and Vulpecula are now just a mouse click away for amateur star gazers. Google sky shall eventually allow astronomers to glide through images of more than one million stars and 200 million galaxies. Check <http://www.google.com/sky/> for more information.

There are many more cards up Google's sleeve, and we should be prepared for more spectacular surprises from them. One theme much talked about is to publish a profile of every human being on the planet. 7 x 10⁹ entries are not impossibly huge, but the legal battles which await such a scheme certainly will be.



Avoid further fallout from the stock market crash. The Grail knows how!

John Henry Smith
Grail Securities (Switzerland)
U.S. Advisory & Equities Research Services
www.grailsecurities.com
info@grailsecurities

Member of PolyReg, Zürich
A self-regulatory organisation for financial intermediaries

Joe's SKI TIPS



Contributed by IMCZ member Joseph J. Dow

PIZOL (Bad Ragaz-Wangs)

www.pizol.com

A lot of you may have heard about my unfortunate ski mishap at Hoch-Ybrig. Well, I'm on the mend, having suffered only a torn hamstring and bent pair of Voelkl race stock GS skis. I'm not sure which hurt more. Anyway, I hope you all enjoyed Muthana's Engelberg trip and I will hopefully be at our IMCZ ski event next year.

Location: Eastern Switzerland in Heidiland, exactly 1 1/2 hours from Zug (Zug - Thalwil - Bad Ragaz). Essentially a stop beyond Flumserberg (although on a different line), Pizol is extremely easy to get to from Zug. The free bus from the Bad Ragaz railway station to Talstation Martells is only about a 5 minute ride. Also, Flumserberg seems to siphon off the Zurich crowds, leaving Pizol relatively crowd-free.

Village: The village I always go to is Bad Ragaz, which is a thermal bath mecca. I've only been skiing here on day trips, but I have stayed at the Hotel Tamina once on business and it was quite decent. The little town is pleasant, but is not within walking distance to the lift station and doesn't have the feel of a ski village.

Scenery: Beautiful and unique in that you can see the grids of the big towns laid out in the large valley below, which leads into Liechtenstein.

Runs: I've been to Pizol twice and I've never gotten over to the Wangs side of the area, mostly because the runs are so good on the east side. From Pardiel, you have three excellent, long main runs (2 reds and an advanced blue) that are serviced by a brand new 4-person high-speed chair. So, you have excellent scenery, no queue, and three piste choices for nice cruising. What else do you need? Really. The first day, I spent the whole morning until lunch on these runs and then high winds shut the chair down preventing me from traversing over to the Wangs side. In all, there are 40 km of piste runs with 1,618 m of vertical drop.

Lift System: 11 lifts of which 2 are gondolas. Excellent, fast, main quad fed by a gondola from Matells in the valley around Bad Ragaz. On the top, it is susceptible to wind, which can often shut down the lift and even the entire area. Below Pardiel are a couple of nice runs serviced by a t-bar at Schwamm that is adequate when the quad is shut down. There is also a narrow black run that drops off from the main blue and ends up at Schwamm.

Food: Berggasthaus Pardiel, above the quad lift, is excellent and even has rooms for overnight stays. The chef makes daily specials which border on gourmet. Apfelstrudel is excellent, although nothing can beat the apfelstrudel served at the top of the Frontalpstock in Stoos, which may be the best in the world.

Conclusion: : An excellent, lesser-known ski area providing a lot a skiing, convenient to Zug.

ODDS AND ENDS:

Ski recommendations - after demoing the entire Stoeckli line for the second year in a row (at Stoos), I think there is no better ski for piste skiing in Switzerland than the Stoeckli Laser GS in a shorter length. I recommend the 172cm for most men. I like the ride of the 178cm the best, but it may not be as versatile as the 172 for day-to-day recreational skiing. I'm also intrigued by the skis offered by the Swiss brands: AK and Kessler.

Swatch Access Snowpass watches: Most ski areas in Switzerland have the system where you can have your Swatch Snowpass watch programmed with your lift privileges, avoiding the need for a deposit on the electronic card and making lift entry much easier with a wave of a hand. This is especially convenient if you are skiing with a pack and positioning the card, buried in a pocket, is quite cumbersome. The service is free and the watch will cost you about CHF 65 for a basic snowpass model.

Next review: Look for the next review in the December IMCZ newsletter at the beginning of the season, probably exploring the fantastic little resort of Stoos above Schwyz.

Think snow!

Joe





FROM THE LANES ... **On Strike at the Cherry Bowl**

On 16 March 2009, eighteen high rollers assembled at the Cherry Bowl to better their averages and shake hands with the pin boy. The lady strikers were underrepresented in number, and the men saw in a changing of the guard.

Of the eighteen bowlers, thirteen broke the century mark in every game, a remarkable 72%, and sixteen - that's 89% - broke 100 at least once.

Carol Gipson represented the ladies all on her own, turning in scores of 111, 141 and 152 for an evening total of 404. Carol collected a fine bottle of wine for very good score, not simply for the default of not having a challenger.

Over on the men's side, the gentlemen issued a changing of the guard. Andrew DeBoo had gone home with the men's prize five months in a row, so the field of challengers was restless.

Beat Züger set the mark with 155 in the first game, followed by Hal Trufan with 147 and Otto Steuri with 146.

In the second game David LeBow captured 167 pins, Beat Züger 159 and Hal Trufan 153.

The men's third game was not only tight, but also tied. Beat Züger and David LeBow both rolled 174, while Hans-Peter Schobert delivered 155 pins. On the evening, Beat Züger collected 488 pins, David LeBow 460, and Hal Trufan 441. Beat Züger took home the men's prize as the well-deserved winner, having finished second to Andrew DeBoo twice in the last five months. We'll see if this becomes a trend.

The IMCZ's regular bowling event for Club members takes place on the **3rd Monday of every month**. Other dates in 2009 are:

**April 20th • May 18th • June 15th • July 20th • August 17th
September 21st • October 19th • November 16th • December 21st**

Members are encouraged to come out and cheer for the bowlers if they do not intend to bowl themselves.

The evening opens at **19:30, crush of strikes and thrill of spares starts at 20:00**, and the event is open to registered and prospective IMCZ and ZIWC members. Stephen Butterworth has negotiated a splendid 25% discount with the Cherry Bowl (just off the end of the freeway in Sihlbrugg). Early arrival to assure good shoes, a good ball and some liquid calisthenics is encouraged. **Reservations are required**, since the Cherry Bowl must be notified of how many bowlers to expect. Please **contact Steven Butterworth by the preceding Friday** via e-mail or phone, butterworth.sp@gmail.com or **041/790 4172**. If you register to bowl and can't attend, you must let him know by the preceding Friday. The **IMCZ No-Show policy** applies. The cost for a regular (not a Challenge) evening is CHF 20.00 for two hours of bowling and shoe rental - a bargain indeed - and concludes at 22:00.



contributed by IMCZ Members

- Those who jump off a bridge in Paris are in Seine .
- A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
- Dijon vu -- the same mustard as before.
- Practice safe eating -- always use condiments.
- Shotgun wedding: A case of wife or death.
- A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy.
- A hangover is the wrath of grapes.
- Dancing cheek-to-cheek is really a form of floor play.
- Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?
- Condoms should be used on every conceivable occasion.
- Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.
- When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.
- What's the definition of a will? (It's a dead giveaway.)
- Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
- In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism your count votes.
- She was engaged to a boyfriend with a wooden leg, but broke it off amicably.
- A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
- If you don't pay your exorcist, you get repossessed.
- With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
- When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds.
- The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.
- You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
- Every calendar's days are numbered.
- A lot of money is tainted - It 'taint yours and it 'taint mine.
- A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
- He had a photographic memory that was underdeveloped.
- A midget fortune-teller who escapes from prison is a small medium at large.
- Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.
- Once you've seen one shopping center, you've seen the mall.
- Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.
- Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.
- Acupuncture is a jab well done.



Members' Marketplace

Are you **selling** your yacht
(harboured in Piraeus)?

Your Aston-Martin old-timer with the roll top roof?

A gorgeous view of the Bay of Biscay,
with a little bit of house attached?

Or are you cashing in the half of your stamp
collection that is finally worth something?

Perhaps you're **looking** for all of these things?

**Then ADVERTISE here,
in the IMCZ News;**

The Members' Marketplace is reserved for unformatted
advertisements of 150 characters (approx. 3 lines) of text.

These are free of charge to IMCZ members.

Advertisements must be submitted as illustrated below.

Longer advertisements cost CHF 30.-

Example:

FOR SALE: gorgeous view of Bay of Biscay with stunning
sunsets and high waves. Wee house (12 rooms), dock and
yacht included. Call Bill at 041 123 4567.

Members' Marketplace

TENNIS INTEREST GROUP

Would you like to play tennis, but are
having a hard time finding a good partner?

Our board member Paulo Arend is
organizing an Interest Group.

If you're interested, please contact
him at board@imcz.com

Farewell... adieu The IMCZ wishes well to:

Winter (?)... don't hold your breath.

IMCZNEWS Wants Your Help with Newsletter Preparation

The IMCZ News is delivered monthly. You can contribute, share your interest
and become better known! Our attractive newsletter is gaining popularity
among advertisers. **Submission deadline:** 25th of a calendar month.

You can also contribute through page assembly or proofreading. If you
would like to help, please contact Newsletter Editor Andrew DeBoo at
Newsletter@IMCZ.com.

Do you have a flair for advertising sales? Promote IMCZ and the
newsletter! Benefit through subsidized events (Stammtisch, for example).

Ron Summers (sumnersgraphics.com) can be thanked personally on a regular
basis at the Stammtisch for his graphic design support.

IMCZNEWS Advertising Rates

Circulation: 255 plus online download.

Issued: Monthly

Format: A4 vertical, full color.

Ad content delivery:

electronic by e-mail, .pdf, .jpg, .gif

Advertising Rates:

- Full page, A4 vertical. (19 x 27.7 cm), Fr. 200.-
- 1/2 Page, A5 horizontal (19 x 13.5 cm), Fr. 110.-
- 1/3 Page, vertical (6.3 x 27.7 cm), Fr. 85.-
- 1/3 Page, horizontal (19 x 9.2 cm), Fr. 85.-
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