

# IMCZ NEWS



NOVEMBER 2014

## EDITORIAL

### Beautiful autumn

After one of the worse summers we had seen for a long time, we all were bracing ourselves for a cold, foggy and stormy autumn. We were however, pleasantly surprised by one of the sunniest and warmest Octobers in living memory. To the disappointment of ski fans, even November has made a good start. The ski fans will have to wait till the onset of winter for the snow. With the end of summer time and the early onset of darkness the night sky has been graced with the most spectacular views of the both waning and waxing moons, a very rare and welcome spectacle for this time of year in these latitudes. Many would blame the global warming for such unusual weather; however, I for one would blame the statistics and normal variability of this most complex phenomenon of our planet.



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## FUTURE EVENTS

- WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 12, ZIWC & IMCZ joint **Stammtisch** at ParkHotel, Zug [events@imcz.com](mailto:events@imcz.com)
- WEDNESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER, **Bowling at the White Line Bowling Centre**, Meierskappel [Stephen Butterworth](mailto:Stephen.Butterworth)
- WEDNESDAY 10TH DECEMBER, **Bowling at the White Line Bowling Centre**, Meierskappel [Stephen Butterworth](mailto:Stephen.Butterworth)
- SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER, ZIWC & IMCZ **Christmas Dinner** in Casino, [events@imcz.com](mailto:events@imcz.com)

### YOUR NEWSLETTER GOES PUBLIC

The board had decided to make the current Newsletter available to everyone.

Visitors to our site [imcz.com](http://imcz.com) can read the current Newsletter under About Us -> Current Newsletter

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## New Member's Reception

The choice for the autumn NMR fell on Restaurant Bären. We had good experience with it in the past, and its legendary Raclette is difficult to beat. So it was on Thursday evening November 6th that a big crowd of IMCZ members, one new member and two potential members, as well as several faces which have been missing throughout the year, gathered on the first floor of the Bären to enjoy a lively apero and then sit down to sample a delicious aperitif of cold slices of an assortment of meats with a salad and bread to be followed by a most delicious raclette. Several members helped themselves to more than one serving.

Altogether we had wonderful evening with free food and drinks and a very jovial and relaxed atmosphere. I am sure the new members and those who haven't been to an NMR before felt very much at home, appreciated and enjoyed meeting so many members.





## Visit to the WWZ Drinking Water Plant in Zug on Monday October 27th

Instead of the two score or so members who actually signed up to come to this event, only three members and two spouses turned up. A combination of unlucky circumstances contributed to this. First and foremost, was the fact that summer time was over and at the 18:30 it was pitch dark and to find the Tobelbrücke entrance was no easy task. Secondly, you needed to drive or take the bus at the peak of the evening rush hour, which put many potential participants off.

We met at the reservoir, where we were given an overview of how much water each Zug inhabitant uses daily. On average, each person uses 160 litres per day. We were given sixteen 10 litre buckets and asked to sort them into categories, bathing, cooking, toilet flushing, clothes washing etc. We had to allocate buckets to each activity. The biggest ranking daily activity was five buckets for toilet flushing. Zug's drinking water does not come from the River Lorze or the lake as you may expect but from springs and water pumped up from the water table. The installation contained a 3600m3 reservoir, fed by three different springs. It was built in 1878, after a disastrous fire in the City of Zug, which the firemen could not extinguish because they had insufficient water.



We then left the reservoir and crossed the old Tobelbrücke. When I first came to Zug in 1979 the bridge was still used for cars and there were often long queues of traffic at rush hour and at weekends. It was originally built for the tram line between Zug and Aegeri.



On the other side of the bridge, we entered a stainless steel door in the side of the hill. Who hasn't wondered what is behind all those steel doors? This was the start of the tunnel that runs into the hillside to collect the water from the aquifer. The water passes through filters here and travels through pipes to the reservoir. We then returned to the reservoir to take a more detailed look.

The round structure in the centre of the picture on the right is where the water bubbles out of the pipe from the spring that we had just seen on the other side of the bridge. Mr Andreas Fröhlich, our guide, switched the lights on and we saw that there are two large chambers or cisterns that act as reservoirs. One of these can be seen in the picture below. They need to have two so that one can be emptied and cleaned while the other is being used. A separate chamber underneath holds the water used by the fire-brigade. We couldn't actually see this chamber but were told that it is kept full at all times.



There were some interesting diagrams on the walls showing the water supply network for the whole of Canton Zug so we could all see where our own drinking water comes from.

After the water leaves the reservoir it passes through turbines which produce electricity before going onto the homes and businesses. The whole system is gravity fed and does not use pumps. Although the water from the springs is perfectly safe to drink, a minute amount of chlorine-bleach (Sodium Hypochlorite NaClO) is added to guarantee that it will still be safe after passing through the pipe network.

Afterwards we sampled three different types of water, two bottled (Contrex and Evian) and one from the reservoir. We were asked to guess which one came from the reservoir. After tasting, we were wondering why people pay for bottled water that they have to transport themselves when WWZ water is delivered to your tap for approximately 1/1000th of the price! Finally, we expressed our thanks to our guide Herr Andreas Fröhlich who spared no effort in making the tour both informative and interesting.

### SPECIAL STAMMTISCH PRESENTATION

## How to use physics to relax and energize

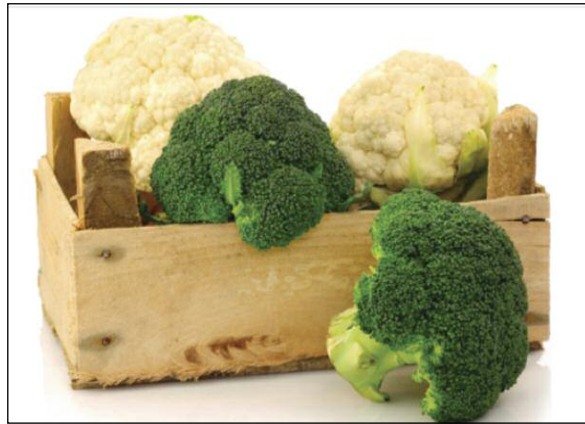
On Thursday October 30, IMCZ member Sebastiaan van Doorn gave a very well attended interesting presentation. The subject matter was how to cope with the increasing pressure and stress many of us face every day at the workplace. Apart from the usual well known therapies like taking a walk or a nap, he presented a new unique way to relax and energise oneself. By standing on a vibrating pedestal a lot can happen. Switching the apparatus on and off and controlling its frequency is done by a remote key like gadget. Apparently the vibrations can work wonders and relaxes the body muscles and enhances the blood circulation resulting in considerable well feeling.

Many members tried it out and go the feeling for what it can do. Altogether, it was a very interesting and informative presentation. Thank you Sebastiaan for an excellent effort.



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## Broccoli and radish – our vegetables' gene pool

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

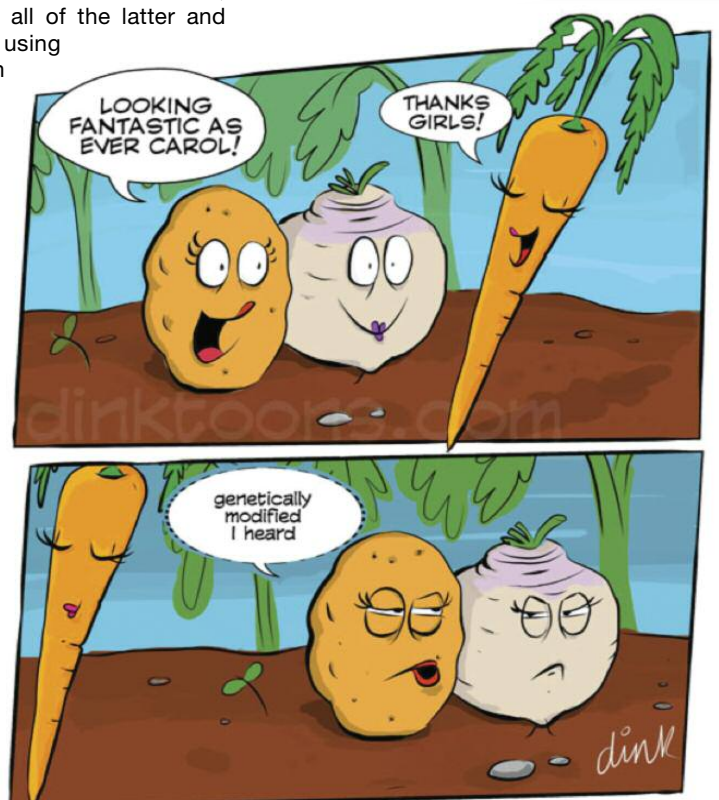
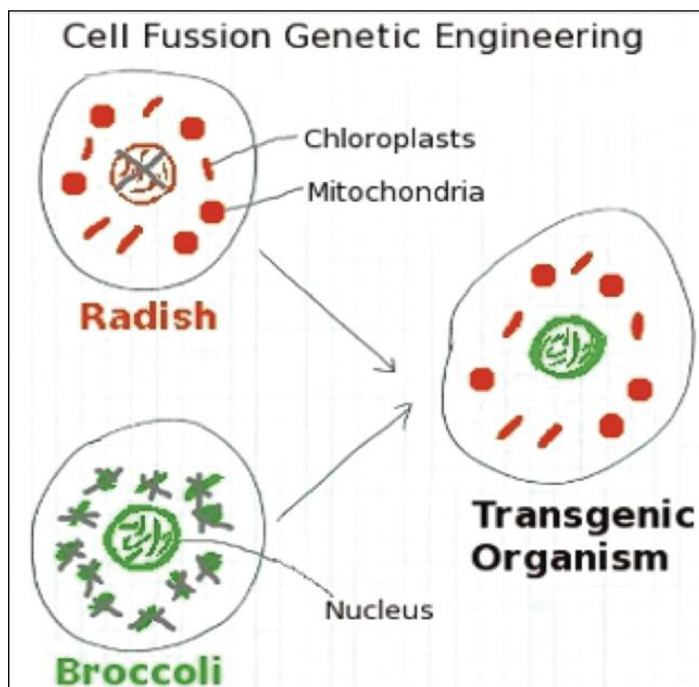
Cell fusion is a genetic engineering process in which the nucleus is removed from a plant cell and replaced by a nucleus from another plant that might be from a different species or genus. This creates a new plant with mixed genetics, a hybrid. It contains the mitochondrial and chloroplast DNA from one cell and the nuclear DNA from a different one. Typically, this is done to create cytoplasmic male-sterile (CMS) breeding lines, and is a natural way of inhibiting self-fertilisation. These hybrid lines are then used to create various common hybrid seed varieties which are found in most seed catalogues. They include many hybrid cabbages, broccoli, cauliflower and other crops. The technology has been around for the last few decades, and it is a naturally occurring breeding technique that now straddles the border with genetic engineering. Because CMS can occur naturally in some species, it is legally not considered to be a genetic engineering technology, provided it is not used beyond what could occur naturally.

The motivation for cultivating plant hybrids is that they can be imparted with properties such as faster growth, more uniform size and

disease resistance. Of course, the seed also commands a higher price and must be purchased annually. But without this technology, seed companies would need to use hand pollination, spray pollen-killing chemicals, or rely on naturally occurring male sterility or self-incompatibility. For example, hybrid onions are grown extensively using the naturally occurring CMS. The same result could however be achieved at a lower cost and in less time by using cell fusion CMS technology. Crop and vegetable seeds produced with this technology are currently allowed even in organic farming. One can argue that this is simply because there would be insufficient non-cell fusion CMS hybrid seed of e.g. broccoli to meet demand. Indeed, most of the big broccoli breeding companies only produce cell fusion CMS hybrids.

Although it is probably impossible for a sunflower to cross with a chicory naturally, crossing broccoli or cauliflower with radish is (at least in theory) possible naturally. In reality though, of 39 CMS varieties of cauliflower and 3 CMS varieties of broccoli, 22 of the former and all of the latter and were produced by using traditional cultivation

and crossing, selecting, and backcrossing techniques (*Der Gemüsebau*, 10/2002). As previously mentioned, the 17 remaining cauliflower varieties produced by cell fusion CMS are also considered to be non-GMO (genetically modified organism) because such crossing could occur naturally. Objectively seen, I would say this is perfectly justified, because the same result is achieved by simply short-cutting the natural crossbreeding and cultivation process. It is, of course, another matter altogether to go beyond the natural crossing barriers. Like most things in life, GMO is not black and white, and currently it is also far from being viewed objectively. The thing that concerns me most about this technology is not whether it is pseudo or actual genetic engineering, but rather if it is responsibly and reliably handled by the few global companies involved. It is a matter of trust, ethics, food supply and sustainability, and transparent communication - not only of those companies, but also of governments and authorities.





## Solar Energy revisited

Contributed by IMCZ honorary member and Newsletter Editor Muthana Kubba

Five years ago, in the October 2009 issue of this Newsletter, I duelled on Solar Power as the next big power generator to supply energy to the world, slowly replacing fossil fuels and reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Hopes and expectations were high then that solar power is the long term answer to the energy requirements of humanity.

It was indeed five years ago when a multinational consortium was formed under the name **Desertec**, to supply 20% of Europe's electrical energy from solar power plants in the North African desert, within one decade. The mighty consortium consisted of 20 heavy weight share holders and 17 associated partners. Among the heavy weights are ABB, Deutsche Bank, Siemens, Munich Re, E.ON, HSH Nordbank and the State Grid Corporation of China etc. However, it was a tall order indeed in which they were planning to cover 20% of the 800 GW consumed in Europe. This makes, yes, all of 160 GW, that is 160'000 MW of generating capacity, is a truly huge amount of power to be generated. Theoretically, 640 square km would suffice to generate this amount of electricity (about three times the size of Canton Zug) from solar energy. It looked all so promising, tangible and within reach. The finance was in place and the knowhow was there as well.

However, five years on, what has been achieved? How far has the project proceeded and when would its first stage be commissioned? The answer is zero. The consortium has broken down and the project, in principle, abandoned.

Before delving into the details to find out why did such a promising project fail and to learn from the mistakes made, the media announced another bombshell! A private company together with private investors are about to sign a contract with the UK to supply British homes with 2 GW of electricity by 2018 out of renewable energy, namely thermal solar power. The plant is planned to be built in the Tunisian desert.

### The Failure of Desertec

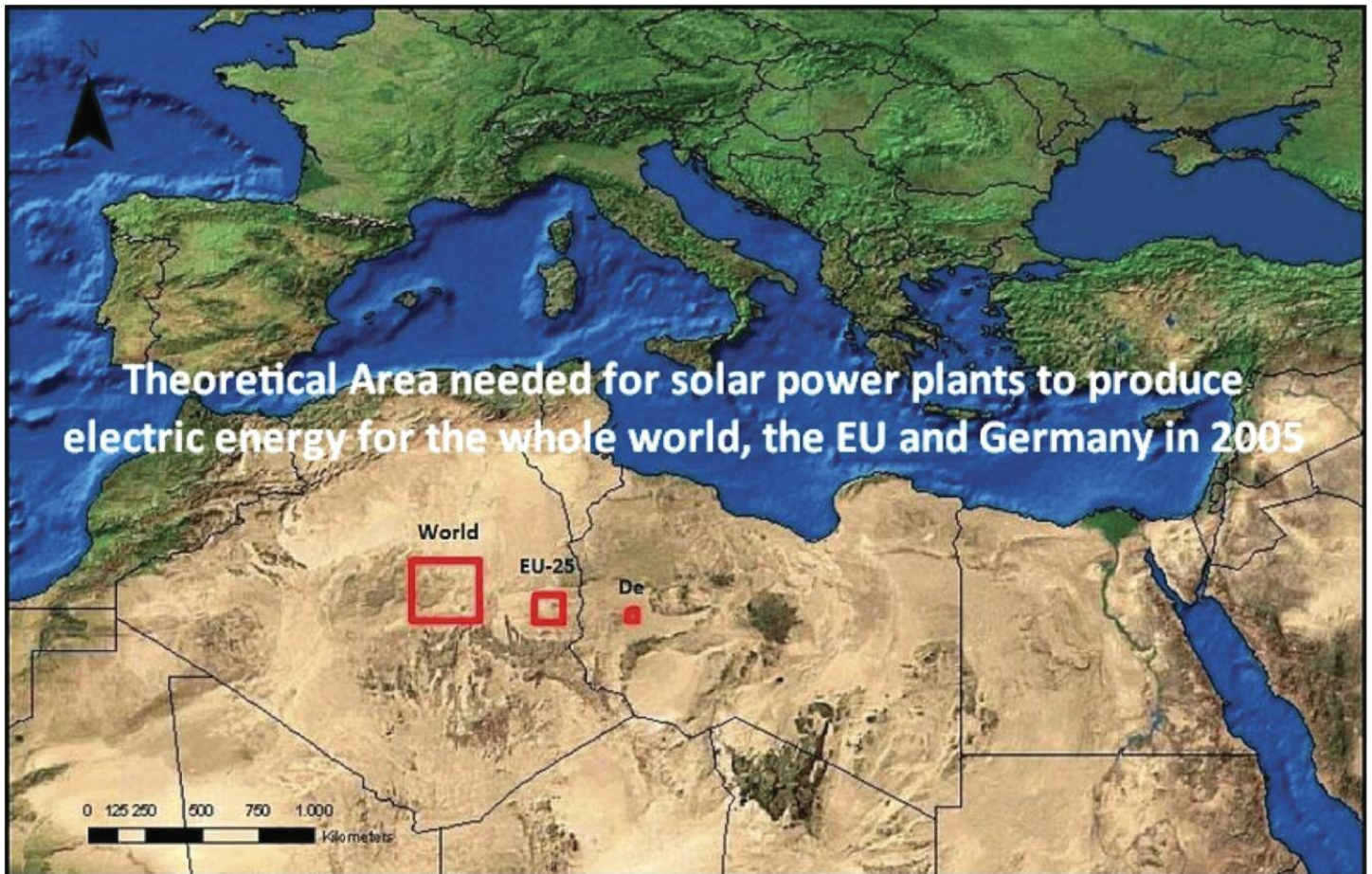
The project was obviously too ambitious and not very well thought out. It was based on thermal generation also called CSP (Concentrated Solar Power), i.e. sunlight shall heat a boiler to raise steam which would drive turbines to generate electricity, as opposed to PV, PhotoVoltaic generation, which converts sunlight into electrical current directly.

To start with the maximum practical size of a CSP station is about 250 MW. The maximum size is limited by the number and size of the

reflecting mirrors which have to be remotely controlled to keep the sunlight focussed on the boiler, as well as the size of the boiler, turbines, alternators and transformers. This would mean a total of 640 such stations in order to come up to 160'000 MW. Each station would require a mirror yard of one square kilometre.

The enormity of the infrastructure required to construct, operate and maintain such a project can hardly be imagined. Additionally, unlimited supplies of cooling water as well as sufficient amounts of fresh water have to be available for each station. If a location close to the ocean is chosen, then a water desalination plant of sufficient capacity would be required as well. Villages would need to be built for every cluster of four or five stations with accommodation for staff and all other amenities would be required. At least 130 such village would be needed. Furthermore, for every 10 villages or so a town with shopping, school, hospital etc must be provided. The list is long and it goes on and on.

One would think that after five years, at least one pilot station would have been built, or at least the legal and bureaucratic hurdles for securing a suitable location would have been overcome, but very surprisingly, nothing whatsoever has come out of it.





It is easy to put the blame on [Ms Aglaia Wieland](#), the appointed director of the project, but the single one factor was that it started on an unfortunate star, the financial crises, has virtually taken the wind out of the sails of Desertec. Additionally, if there is a lesson to be learnt from Desertec's failure, it is never to aim too high too soon. Put aptly: learn to walk before trying to run.

## TuNur Energy

In spite of the Desrtec setback, or possibly because of it, a company, [TuNur Energy](#) which was associated with Desertec for several years, but eventually withdrew from the group, is bidding together with some Tunisian investors, for the supply 2 GW of electric

power to the UK, sufficient to supply up to 2.5 million homes by 2018 from renewable energy sources. The plant proposed is similar to those foreseen by Desertec, namely using concentrated solar power (CSP): adjustable mirrors concentrating sunlight on a boiler to raise steam which drives turbines. The only difference being that it is of a manageable and realistic size.

According to [Kevin Sara](#), the spokesman for the project, they have advanced fully detailed and fully thought through plans for the project. They plan to use air cooling so the plant need not be built near the sea, and shall use minimum amount of circulating fresh water. High voltage power lines shall transport the

electric power, 2GW is projected, to the sea where underground cables shall transport it to Italy whence it shall feed the European grid. Additionally, in order to supply the electric power during night time, the plan to store solar heat in molten salt, which would be used at night time when there is not sunlight to keep the electric power flowing. The project shall consist of ten separate units each generating 200 MW. The proposed size of the units is considered realistic, but question marks remain on the feasibility of air-cooling and long term durability under the hot, dusty and harsh desert conditions.

It all sounds very promising, but the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Let us wait and see.



## PROJECT 1:

Ten 200MW (2GW total)  
Concentrating Solar Thermal  
Plants in the Tunisian Desert  
producing clean electricity

## Impressions of a rail journey to Southern Italy

Contributed by IMCZ member Ian Stansfeld

We rose at 7am on Sunday, 6th July, full of excitement and expectation, showered and packed our rucksacks. I filled my lungs and sang a great deal of tuneless nonsense. The rucksacks limit us to 45 litres each for our two weeks away from home. Italy has a warm climate and it's July. Our itinerary doesn't include fancy meals or attempts on distant peaks so there will be no need for dinner jackets or mountaineering boots. I called Maria the proprietress of the Hotel Villa Margherita in Sorrento and booked us a room for six nights. Tracey also packed the picnic cool bag (32 litres). We said goodbye to the car as we passed it in the garage and at 8:45 walked the 700 meters down the hill to the nearest bus stop. We arrived at Zug station in plenty of time. It was now time for coffee and gipfeli in the station cafe. Our train was a Swiss train and left the station punctually at 10:00am. This first train took us through the scenic Gotthard pass and on to Milan. I started to read a novel called "Pompeii" written by Robert Harris and first published in 2003. Harris also wrote the bestselling novel "The Ghost", a supposedly thinly disguised portrayal of Tony Blair. Pompeii is a historical novel about a fictitious young aqueduct engineer who was present at the time of Vesuvius' eruption in 79 AD. We will be staying in this area and the novel brings it to life.



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pompeii\\_\(novel\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pompeii_(novel))

We stopped only at Bellinzona and Chiasso. The border guards (or customs officials, I don't know which) in their neatly pressed



uniforms, with stomachs extending far over their trousers, tote low slung guns. They were standing un-menacingly in the shade apparently reserving their energy in case they were called upon to act. We were spared this spectacle, but my imagination struggled with the illusion.

After 3 hours and 35 minutes, we arrived in Milan at 13:35 and had 25 minutes to make our connection. The current station, a very fine building, was opened in 1931 and is a mixture of different styles, Art deco and Liberty being the main ones. A white powder covers the tracks but does not disguise the reek of the products of the human digestive system. This seriously detracts from the artistic building.

The Italians opt for a different system of rail announcements to that of

the well organised Swiss. The Italian system is a lot more social and healthier. Firstly the platform number is a complete secret, the travellers have to congregate at the end of the platform and watch the electronic timetable display. Trains come and go. Tension builds. Gun toting police travel around on motorised golf carts oblivious to the injury to their dignity. We ask our neighbours if they know what's happening. Worry sets in and just as you start wondering what to do next, your train is displayed. It's 6 platforms away and now you race along with you luggage competing with every one including octogenarian athletes and oxygen starved pregnant mothers.

Our seats are reserved. In 4 hours and 15 minutes, this train will take us directly to Naples only stopping at Rome on the way. Directly across from us is a gentleman who will not make eye contact and will remain silent for the entire journey. In the seats across the aisle from us is a substantial Italian family. Two parents and a boy of about 8 years, he is almost as broad as he is tall.

The train is spacious, the carriages are clean and the toilets are spotless with functioning locks and all the disposables necessary for a hygienic journey. This was a very pleasant surprise. I have previously travelled from Milan to Zug and all the toilets except for one were out of service. This toilet had about 3 cm of fluid sloshing about on the floor. A lady complained about it and the guard came and locked it! Milan to Zurich is a long way to travel without toilets.

The silent gentleman finally managed to break into his hermetically sealed petrol station sandwich pack. He displayed no pleasure in his victuals. Shortly afterwards the

lady of the substantial family smiled and produced a very tiny bag containing 3 very small homemade sandwich rolls. Clearly lunch was not their main meal.

I find that one of the most enjoyable experiences in life is a hearty picnic. I felt a little guilty when Tracey opened the cool bag (32 litres) and produced a fresh crusty loaf, chopping board and bread knife. Little boxes of butter, ham, salamis, cherry tomatoes, cucumber slices, hard boiled eggs, pork sausages and much, much more appeared. A cold beer was the perfect accompaniment. The substantial young man never took his eyes off us.

Fortunately our fellow passengers left us at Rome and did not witness the sequel a few hours later. The journey was very smooth, swift and scenic. There were timeless farms with tiled roofs; small hill towns, and many gardens with the ubiquitous popular trees; none of these can be enjoyed from an aeroplane or when driving a car. We were contented.

Before setting out, our friendly neighbour had given us a large punnet of black cherries that she had plucked that morning. About an hour before arriving in Naples Tracey produced them, along with a bar of black chocolate and a bottle of Pinot Grigio. An hour of pure indulgence followed.

This hedonistic railway life was about to change. At 18:15 we arrived in Naples. We had to change trains for the Circumvesuviana line. It's not possible to reserve seats for this leg of the journey. The heat was sweltering and after some time we arrived on the platform. The electronic timetable is for decoration only. Don't even bother looking at a time table. Beggars circulate through the crowd and tattooed thuggish looking individuals scowl menacingly, whilst other extremely well dressed people stand around talking on their cell phones. It's a rich tapestry.

We had the time to observe two beggars at work. The first was a clean well fed neat individual. He presented to each victim in turn a small card covered in cello tape to protect it. On it, written in Italian and English, were words to the effect that he was hungry, had a wife and multiple starving children to cater for. He never spoke a word and was met everywhere with an irate shake of the head and firm refusal. The second was plump and genial, shod in sandals and carried a display box with BIC cigarette lighters. He wandered up amiably to a well-dressed middle aged lady, who the previous beggar



had failed to impress. She was talking on her cell phone and extracted her purse from her bag and gave him some change. She declined the lighter and turning away pulled a packet of biscuits from her bag and nibbled one. The beggar repositioned himself and was also rewarded with a biscuit. The lighter vending beggar went from one success to the next.

The train rattles and clacks up to the platform. The line between Naples and Sorrento was opened in 1932. We didn't know at the time, but there are two types of rolling stock, the FE220 units (introduced in the 1970's) and the ETR211 (introduced in 2008). This clip gives an insight into this joy ride.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZVrvnx-y-as>

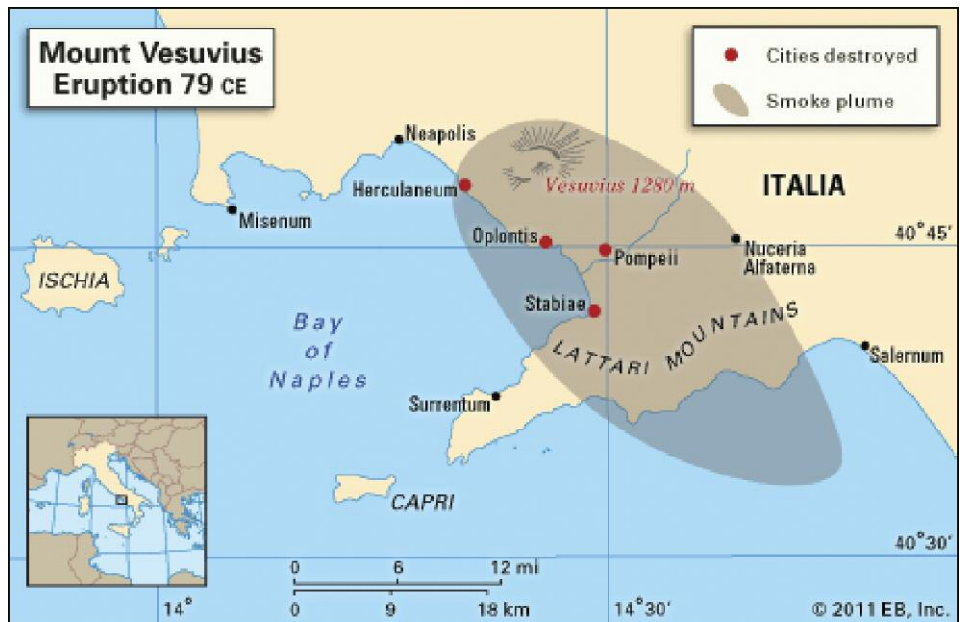
This was our first experience of what would be our daily transport to the sights we planned to see. We were lucky enough to secure seats, many had to stand. The air conditioning wasn't just not working it was non-existent; the windows provided 0-60 air conditioning that was more like a blast furnace. The rattling was deafening, but just as we believed it couldn't get any worse, we were subjected to music terror. Through the forest of pungent bodies we could see the bay of Naples and on the other side the spectacular slopes of Vesuvius. At this time there is a 50% chance of the volcano erupting in the next few years. It has erupted 8 times in the 19th century and 3 times in the 20th. This interesting daily telegraph link gives more details.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/1551650/20m-railway-line-under-the-cloud-of-Vesuvius-and-mafia-war.html>

This ride is about an hour from Naples to Sorrento and travels through some of the poorest slum districts of Naples. Perspiring profusely (glowing in Tracey's case) and melting, we were pleased to arrive at our station S. Agnello, one stop before Sorrento. We then walked one kilometre to our hotel. These are narrow streets and the stone houses are centuries old. It had a mediaeval feel.

Our hotel was a fine old villa set in a quiet neighbourhood. The night porter was expecting us and welcomed us warmly. We went to our room which we liked immediately. The room was cool, with a high ceiling, free standing antique wardrobe, sky blue tiled floor, clean white walls and a perfect en-suite. There was also air conditioning but we didn't need it.

We immediately left the hotel and walked the 2 kilometres in to the centre of Sorrento. We passed Lemon groves and several fine hotels and villas. The town was built before the Romans arrived. It was built by Greek settlers about 600 AD and the street plan in the old town dates from that time. The evening was balmy and we headed for the main square Piazza Torquato Tasso. This is a bustling square with many



people and roadside cafes. We found a free table and ordered Bruschettas, grilled Chiabatta bread rubbed with garlic and topped with chopped cherry tomatoes and chopped fresh basil, with olive oil, balsamico, salt and pepper. We slaked our thirst and observed the people around us. They were courteous, civilised, well-spoken and mainly English. This town was an old fashioned enclave of genteel tourism. Many shops were open and everyone was at ease, taking the evening air. We finished our evening with the famous Italian liqueur Lemoncello. After this we returned to our hotel for a very comfortable night after our very enjoyable day.



# Dreams Come True: Practical Skis for Deep Snow

Contributed by IMCZ  
sports' editor Joseph Dow

Last month, I declared that two types of skis, Classic Carvers and Cross Carvers, should cover about 95% of ski conditions encountered on Swiss ski resort runs. So, what to do about that other 5%?

Despite being a ski fanatic, I do not think I would ever buy a pair of strict "powder" skis with fully-rockered tips and tails and no cambered section under the boot, such as Whitedot Freeride Redeemers (Tip 138-142mm/Waist 128mm/Tail 132-128mm), Hendryx Idiosynaptics (146/122/140), or Birdos Puder Luders (149/123/139). However, there are some skis capable of excellent performance in true "3D snow," while also functioning well within a wider range of usability on the piste.

Many years ago, I experienced deep snow for the first time in Chamonix, France on a pair of 205cm traditional "pencil" slalom race skis. Coping with up and down as well as left and right, without any significant floatation from my skis, was daunting and exhausting. Yes, my technique needed some improvement, but wider skis make a huge difference and provide accessibility to deep snow skiing for mere mortals like us.

None of the following models will compare to the classic and cross carvers on very hard-packed snow, and bulletproof ice will be more than a challenge, but the extra width will offer more float in powder. So if you must have another pair of skis for those elusive powder days but actually want to take them out of the Skikeller more than once per decade, here are some realistic possibilities ...

## Versatile skis well-suited to but not limited to powder snow

### Cross Carver wide – ski waist around 77 to 82mm

Lately, I have noticed many companies adopting this slightly wider sidecut into their mainstream skis, even Didier Cuche's signature ski and women's all-around models. I first encountered it with the AK The Off ski. This type is definitely not a "powder ski" but is much better than normal carving skis in soft snow from powder to chopped-up and piled snow to slush. This sidecut, especially at the narrower 77mm waist dimension, will actually perform quite well on hard snow and is probably the most versatile ski shape I have tried. It is interesting that the manufacturers have generally started to incrementally increase the waist measurement from 77mm to 80mm to 82mm over the last few seasons.

Up on the Vorab glacier above Flims, I had the chance to compare the AK Off to another AK ski, the Pro Elastak, a wide slalom ski (119/68) about 10mm narrower than the Off in the waist and tip. The Pro E is a wonderful carver, but the Off was much smoother and easier to ski in the very soft and wet spring conditions. Later in Montafon, Austria, I had another warm late-season day on the Pro and was left wishing I had chosen the Off for that trip, too.

- **AK Green**, 135/82/115 (replacing "The Off," which was narrower at 131/77/110 and even narrower at 128/77 in previous years), full camber
- **Hendryx Kobra GLH**, 117/79/111, (being replaced by the narrower Degüello GSS, 114/69/99), flat under foot/ super low progressive tip & tail rocker
- **Stöckli Y77**, 134/77/107, tip rocker
- **HEAD Didier Cuche Supershapes LTD**, 133/80/111 (sidecut on previous version was 128/78/114), full camber
- **Lusti SCTwide**, 130/77/112, full camber
- **Lusti LTwide (Ladies' model)**, 130/77/112, full camber



### All-Mountain/ Freeride – ski waist around 85 to 95mm

These skis have some significant width, but are still quite serviceable on the piste, even on hard snow, but they really come alive when the snow softens a bit. On a trip to Crans Montana with Muthana Kubba and Phil Woodford, we had heavy snow on the first day. I was on a pair of Hendryx 917s and probably had the best day of powder skiing of my life. Later in the week, on beautifully-groomed snow, I was also able to carve precise, ultra high speed turns with the 917s. The slightest bit of softness in the surface makes the 917 a joy. The ski is beast and blasts through slush with ease, if you have the leg strength to control this extremely stiff ski. However, the hardest ice is a bit difficult, although still manageable.

- **Hendryx 917**, 132/95/126, camber/ low progressive speed rocker
- **WDF The One**, 119/89/113, full camber
- **Stöckli Y85**, 136/85/110, tip rocker
- **Stöckli Stormrider 88**, 127/88/113, powder rocker

### All-Mountain Wide/ Powder Carver – ski waist around 110 to 115mm

These wide skis are different from "normal" powder skis because they have an aggressive sidecut with a tight turning radius. However, this is definitely a ski for powder and can carve nice turns on all types of soft snow, especially late-Spring slush. I was demoing a pair of WDF Preachers in Flims on an IMCZ April ski trip a few years ago and had a blast in the thick slushy conditions that made others struggle mightily. I bought a pair and the ski gave me a whole "second season" in the late spring. The only drawback to a ski this wide is its performance on true ice.



Following a very warm day, the snow melts and refreezes overnight and the snowcat grooming produces that icy, corrugated surface that does not soften until mid-afternoon, even with full sun. That nasty surface is the Achilles heel of these skis. Unless you wear motorcycle impact shorts under your ski pants, these skis will leave your hips black and blued in the late spring morning as you lose the edge over and over again! The fun in the slush is worth starting the day at noon in the later part of April and May. So, sleep in, lounge on the sun terrace with some Jäger tee, and you will have the entire mountain to yourself by the afternoon.

- **WDF The Preacher**, 155/112/133, full camber
- **Icelandic Shaman**, 160/110/130, full camber

### Big Mountain – Ski waist around 118 to 120mm

This is the type of ski used by the pros, hurtling down couloirs in Chamonix, Alaska and other extreme locales in those freeride movies. Sure, those guys ski powder, but they also have to be able to handle wind-swept surfaces and rock hard ice. I picked up a pair of these bad boys, and I will let you know how I find them when I finally try them out. Stay tuned!

- **Hendryx Rhino Chaser**, 150/120/145, camber/ low progressive rocker
- **WDF Ragnarok**, 143/118/130, camber/ tip rocker



Hendryx Kobra GLH



Hendryx 917

WDF The One



Hendryx Rhino Chaser



Stöckli Y77



AK Off



Birdos Puder Luder



Hendryx Idiosynaptic



### PRAY FOR POWDER!!!

#### Additional Information:

- **AK skis (Switzerland):**  
<http://ak-ski.ch/en/our-skis/piste/green/>
- **Whitedot Freeride skis (UK):**  
<http://www.whitedotskis.com/skis/preacher>
- **Hendryx skis (Sweden):** <http://hendryxskis.com/en/skis/>
- **Icelandic skis (USA):**  
[http://www.icelanticskis.com/ski\\_detail.cfm?pid=282](http://www.icelanticskis.com/ski_detail.cfm?pid=282)
- **Stöckli skis (Switzerland):**  
<http://www.stoeckli.ch/ch-de/produkte/ski/ski-185/allmountain?cat=22>
- **Birdos skis (Switzerland):**  
[http://www.birdos.ch/products/standard\\_PL.html](http://www.birdos.ch/products/standard_PL.html)
- **Lusti skis (Czech Republic):**  
<http://lusti-ski.ch/sctwide-skirosswide/>
- **HEAD Didier Cuche Pro Model:**  
<http://www.ski-shop.ch/shop/detail.asp?id=563>

If you have questions about skiwear or equipment or want a recommendation, feel free to send me an email: [jjdow@hotmail.com](mailto:jjdow@hotmail.com).



# Laughs and Enjoyment

Organised and compiled by IMCZ member Stephen Butterworth

Nine players turned up for the evening, none of whom were among the high rollers, and naturally without them the field was open to all. And what an evening it turned out to be, full of laughs and enjoyment. In the end, Gail Brenton for the ladies and Stephen Butterworth for the fellows walked away with the wine bottles. Catherine Butterworth was producing some cool strikes and spares including a brilliant strike for me (!), so the new ball is just the thing.

Talking of new balls Terri Werder will have a new ball soon, so watch out there is going to be fun

and games towards the end of the year. Another surprise was our guest Josef Grossmann, he has a style like Beat Züger and Adrian Lüdi, and for a first timer, he is going to be a good bowler. (He knows if he becomes a member, he'll have plenty of wine to come!)

Angelina collected her long overdue wine bottle which she won in the August tournament, so Adrian needs still to collect his in November. The high rollers shall hopefully all appear in the next session in November.



First Name	Surname	Game1	Game2	Game3	Bowled total	overall_avg	handicap	STRIKES	SPARES	Split
Janis	Meier	112	111	139	362	123	62	4	9	6
Stephen	Butterworth	119	120	115	354	119	65	6	7	3
Catherine	Butterworth	123	92	122	337	119	84	2	10	2
Josef	Grossmann	88	115	111	314		84	6	3	1
Ian	Brenton	98	93	116	307	117	67	3	5	
Roger	Dixon	73	102	104	279	116	68	3	5	5
Gail	Brenton	99	92	81	272	83	84	2	4	2
Terri	Werder	79	75	108	262	73	84	1	4	1
Angelina	Parfenova	70	62	32	164	86	84		2	2

First Name	Surname	Game1	Game2	Game3	Handicapped	overall_avg	handicap	STRIKES	SPARES	Split
Catherine	Butterworth	123	92	122	589	119	84	2	10	2
Josef	Grossmann	88	115	111	566		84	6	3	1
Stephen	Butterworth	119	120	115	549	119	65	6	7	3
Janis	Meier	112	111	139	548	123	62	4	9	6
Gail	Brenton	99	92	81	524	83	84	2	4	2
Terri	Werder	79	75	108	514	73	84	1	4	1
Ian	Brenton	98	93	116	508	117	67	3	5	
Roger	Dixon	73	102	104	483	116	68	3	5	5
Angelina	Parfenova	70	62	32	416	86	84		2	2

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[www.gfsa.ch/Insurance.html](http://www.gfsa.ch/Insurance.html)  
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Tel 041 781 50 80  
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mail@gfsa.ch







SONGS  
OF  
*joy*

STIMMUNGSVOLLE GOSPEL-,  
POP- UND WEIHNACHTSLIEDER

SO 23. November 2014 Kath. Kirche St. Martin Baar, 17 Uhr  
SA 29. November 2014 Ref. Kirche Affoltern am Albis, 20 Uhr  
SO 7. Dezember 2014 Marienkirche Unterägeri, 17 Uhr

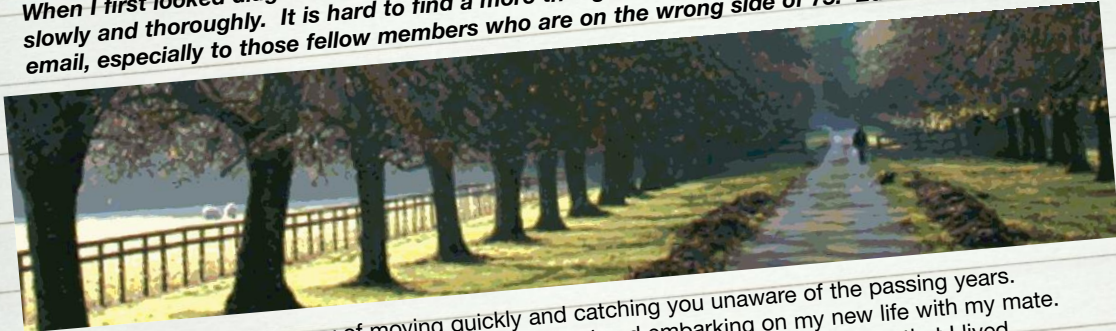
**Musikalische Leitung: Mirjam Lüthi**  
[www.vocal-emotions.ch](http://www.vocal-emotions.ch)

**EINTRITT FREI  
KOLLEKTE**



## *A thought provoking email*

*When I first looked diagonally across this email, I quickly realised that it was worth reading slowly and thoroughly. It is hard to find a more thought provoking lines than those in this email, especially to those fellow members who are on the wrong side of 75. Editor*



You know ... time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams.

But, here it is... **the back nine of my life** and it catches me by surprise...How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go?

I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that I was only on the first hole and the back nine was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But, here it is...my friends are retired and getting gray...they move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me...but, I see the great change...Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant...but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd become.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore... it's mandatory because if I don't on my own free will... I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so...now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!! But, at least I know, that though I'm on the back nine, and I'm not sure how long it will last...this I know, that when it's over on this earth...it's over. **Yes, I have regrets.** There are things I wish I hadn't done...things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

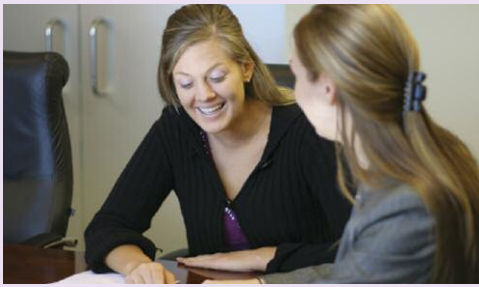
So, if you're not on the back nine yet...let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life, do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!! Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether you're on the back nine or not!

You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life...so, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember...and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!!

**"Life" is a gift to you.** The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one. Remember **"It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver.** Last but not least, never forget that **today is the oldest you have ever been, yet it is the youngest you will ever be, so enjoy this day while it lasts**

*P.S. The back nine refers to golf. The back nine holes are the last nine holes in a game.*





## How was your evening?

Two women friends were chatting in the office:

So, how was your evening last night?

A disaster! After getting home, my dear beloved hubby wolfed down in four minutes the dinner that took me all afternoon to prepare, "granted" me three minutes of passionate love before rolling over and falling asleep two minutes later.

A nightmare and you?

Oh, mine was incredible. My hubby was waiting for me to get back home from work. He took me out for a very romantic dinner. We then walked back home, under an amazing starry sky, along the canal, for a good two hours. Once home, he lit up all the candles and we had foreplay which lasted for at least an hour. We then made love for another hour and we chatted until late. It was wonderful.

The same day after work, their husbands met at the pub...

So, how was your evening last night?

Incredible! When I came home, the food was ready. I ate, we made love and I fell asleep. Wonderful night, I just love my wife. You?

A nightmare! I came home early to fix the kitchen shelf. When I switched on the power drill, the fuse went out. The whole house went into darkness. Couldn't find the bloody fuse box, so when my better half arrived, I took her out for dinner. It was the only thing I could do to avoid getting an ear-full...! The dinner was so expensive that I couldn't afford a taxi, so we had to walk home. It took ages and once there, the house was still in the dark, obviously, so I had to light all these candles to avoid knocking everything over. I was so wound up and pissed off that it took me an hour to get a hard on, and another one to finish. In the end, I was still wound up and it took me ages to fall asleep, while she kept yapping on and on about everything and nothing ... a total disaster.



## Applying for a job

The following moral/ethical dilemma was put to candidates applying for a lucrative job:

'You are driving down the road in your car on a wild, stormy night, when you pass by a bus stop and you see three people waiting for the bus:

1. An old lady who looks as if she is about to die.
2. An old friend who once saved your life.
3. A gorgeous blond who looked like the perfect partner you have been dreaming about.

Which one would you choose to offer a ride to, knowing that there could only be one passenger in your car? '

Before making a choice, think very carefully.

You are applying for a job and you need to think 'out of the box'.

To find out the winning answer turn to page 15.



## Grandmother

In a trial, a small-town Prosecuting Attorney called his first witness, a grandmotherly elderly woman, to the stand. He approached her and asked, "Mrs. Jones, do you know me?" She responded, "Why, yes, I do know you, Mr. Williams. I've known you since you were a boy, and frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a big shot when you haven't the brains to realize you'll never amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you."



The Lawyer was stunned. Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, "Mrs. Jones, do you know the Defence Attorney?"

She again replied, "Why yes, I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster, too. He's lazy, bigoted, and he has a drinking problem. He can't build a normal relationship with anyone, and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire state. Not to mention he cheated on his wife with three different women. One of them was your wife. Yes, I know him". The Defence Attorney nearly died.

The Judge asked both Counsellors to approach the bench, and, in a very quiet voice, said, "If either of you idiots asks her if she knows me, I'll send you both to the Electric Chair."

## Signs

Sign over a Gynecologist's Office: "Dr. Jones, at your cervix."

In a Podiatrist's (foot doctor) office: "Time wounds all heels."

On a Septic Tank Truck: "Yesterday's Meals on Wheels"

At an Optometrist's Office: "If you don't see what you're looking for, You have come to the right place."

On a Plumber's truck: "We repair what your husband fixed."

At a tyre repair shop: "Invite us to your next blowout."

At a Towing company: "We don't charge an arm and a leg. We want tows."

On an Electrician's truck: "Let us remove your shorts."

In a Non-smoking Area: "If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and take appropriate action."

At a Car Dealership: "The best way to get back on your feet -miss a car payment."

Outside a Muffler Shop: "No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."

In a Veterinarian's waiting room: "Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"

At the Electric Company: "We would be delighted if you send in your payment. However, if you don't, you will be."

In a Restaurant window: "Don't stand there and be hungry; Come on in and get fed up."

In the front yard of a Funeral Home: "Drive carefully. We'll wait."

At a Propane Filling Station: "Thank heaven for little grills."



## Contributed by IMCZ board member and Webmaster Roger Brooks

All web sites included in this series are offered in an unbiased way and do not necessarily reflect my personal views or those of the IMCZ; the reason for bringing them to your attention is that I found them interesting and informative, perhaps offering an alternative point of view, but above all else definitely worthy of note.

### Whatever happened to Memristors?

Several months ago, Newsletter editor Muthana Kubba wrote an article explaining the fourth fundamental electronic component, the memristor. There is some controversy over whether HP's original announcement of a memristor realization in 2008 was scientifically sound, as detailed here:

<http://arxiv.org/abs/1207.7319>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memristor>

Perhaps that explains why the projected date of HP's commercial release keeps slipping, but this doesn't keep HP from steaming full speed ahead, at least on the PR front:

<http://www.bit-tech.net/news/hardware/2014/06/12/hp-the-machine/1>

<http://www.pcpaper.com/category/tags/memristor>

However, the delays may give competitors, from Panasonic (3rd article under last link above) to startup Crossbar (links below), a chance to eat HP's lunch:

<http://www.dailytech.com/How+Silicon+Valleys+BestKept+Secret+Crossbar+Beat+HP+to+the+Market+wRRAM/article33122.htm>

<https://www.crossbar-inc.com/events/press-releases/crossbar-unveils-major-technical-innovation-behind-terabyte-storage-on-a-chip.html>

#### CROSSBAR – A COMPLETELY NEW CLASS OF RRAM

Crossbar RRAM technology is based on three simple layers:

- Non-metallic bottom electrode
- Amorphous silicon switching medium
- Metallic top electrode

The resistance switching mechanism is based on the formation of a filament in the switching material when a voltage is applied between the two electrodes. This simple and very scalable memory cell structure enables an entirely new class of RRAM, which can be easily incorporated into the back-end-of-line of any standard CMOS manufacturing fab.

Crossbar has successfully developed its demonstration product in a commercial fab. This working silicon is a fully integrated monolithic CMOS controller and memory array chip.



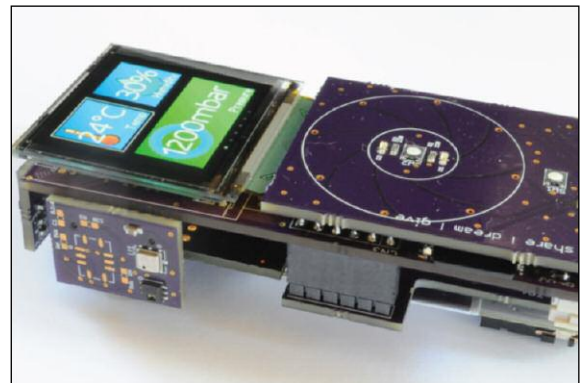
### Back to the Future

How many of you are fans of Star Trek (TOS: The Original Series)? If you are one, you probably remember the all-purpose handheld device called a tricorder, which might be considered the computer equivalent of a Swiss Army Knife. The dream is closer to realization than one might think: 10 finalists are vying for \$10M in prize money from Qualcomm:

<http://spectrum.ieee.org/tech-talk/medical/diagnostics/10-finalist-teams-announced-for-tricorder-xprize>

A more modest version is not in the running for the prize, but could be self-built by an enterprising do-it-yourselfer:

<http://spectrum.ieee.org/tech-talk/computing/hardware/make-it-so-open-source-arduinobased-tricorder-nears-completion>



### Save the Sounds

Here you can find the sounds of equipment which is going the way of the dinosaurs, or perhaps the dodo. The site features the sounds of a wide range of obsolete technical artifacts, from cash registers, typewriters and dial telephones to "Space Invaders", the original Nintendo "Game Boy" and the Texas Instruments "Speak and Spell" (featured in the film "ET").

<http://savethesounds.info/>





## Free Media

If you need some sound or graphics for a website or a newsletter article, and don't want to bother with license fees or risk a lawsuit for copyright infringement, here are some useful websites.

- Music: <https://archive.org/>  
<http://ccmixter.org/>  
<http://freemusicarchive.org/>
- Pictures: <http://commons.wikimedia.org>  
<http://pixabay.com/>
- Icons: [https://www.iconfinder.com/free\\_icons](https://www.iconfinder.com/free_icons)  
<http://www.flaticon.com/>  
<http://iconmonstr.com/>



## Get Ready for a Meltdown!

The Swiss Federal Government has increased the radius around nuclear power plants within which the public should be provided with iodine tablets in case of a leakage of radioactivity.

As a consequence, the Canton of Zug will be distributing iodine tablets throughout the northern part of the Canton during the next month. The website with the details is only in French and German:

<http://www.kaliumiodid.ch/>

but there is an information sheet in 8 languages:

[http://www.kaliumiodid.ch/download.php?id=3\\_ecc61347](http://www.kaliumiodid.ch/download.php?id=3_ecc61347)



## Get Due Compensation for Flight Delays

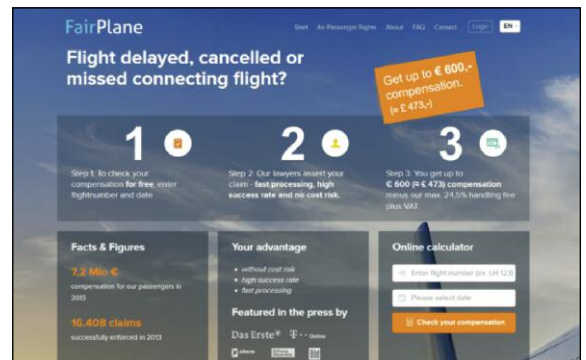
Get Due Compensation for Flight Delays

EU regulations that also apply to Switzerland entitle air passengers to monetary compensation for delays:

Distance:	1500 km or less	1500 – 3500 km	3500 km or more
Delay:	3 hours or more	3 hours or more	4 hours or more
Compensation:	CHF 300	CHF 480	CHF 725

However, airlines can sometimes be reluctant to pay. If you want to avoid the hassle of pursuing a claim with the airlines, there are agencies which will do it for you for a modest commission, such as:

<https://www.fairplane.co.uk>



## Answer to the Applying for job joke

The winning answer was, ***“I would give the car keys to my old friend and let him take the old lady to the hospital. I would stay behind and wait for the bus with the my dream lady.”***



## Members' Marketplace

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 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.-

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- 1/3 Page, horizontal (19 x 9.2 cm), Fr. 85.-
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