

# IMCZ NEWS



OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2022

## EDITORIAL

I don't think too many people would disagree with the statement that "we are living in interesting times", as in the apocryphal Chinese curse. With the war in / over Ukraine, the disruption of food and energy security, the global economic disruption and the rupture in the traditional world-order there's a lot happening which is "interesting". Added to that is the controversial economic experiment in

the UK. However, for

most of us there is little we can do to change the way things are other than changing our behaviour to be more prudent or more opportunistic (depending on our individual proclivities).

I, for one, will rather focus on the "micro" issues around friends and family rather than fretting about the "bigger" issues I can't influence.

The winter season is upon us and it's time to start thinking about enjoying Switzerland in the snow. In the sports section of this Newsletter is Joe's usual "welcome to the ski-season" article and information about the forthcoming Ski-Show on 20th December. Plus there are lots of other IMCZ events to enjoy. So take a positive view, enjoy yourself with friends and family and take part in the different event being organised for your edification and delight.

Happy Autumn / Winter - Alan



## FUTURE EVENTS

The best place to get information on future events is the club website at <https://imcz.club/Club-Events>. You can also register and pay (where necessary) using the website. The next 3 events are listed below:

### Mushroom & Toadstool Safari – 11th October

The International Men's Club of Zug invites IMCZ, ZIWC members and friends to join a safari to discover the wonderful world of mushrooms, toadstools and fungi. We will be guided by a renowned mushroom expert Pam Roesch. Registration is open to IMCZ, ZIWC members and friends. Please see the Events section of our website for details and registration.

### Winter Sports Show – 20th October – Parkhotel Zug

IMCZ sports editor Joseph Dow has kindly arranged an evening of information on some of the cutting edge products and services in the area of skiing and winter sports. We will have Anavon elite Swiss ski maker from Disentis, DRAFT, showing the Frauenschuh fine Austrian clothing and others. People may begin to gather at 18:00 with presentations to start at 18:30. Registration (website) requested.

### Red Wine Circle – 17th November

IMCZ is proud to announce its second Wine Circle Event which will fittingly be held in the circular Huwiler Tower in the Zuger Altstadt, on Thursday 17th November 2022, from 18:30 till 23:00.

The event will be sponsored by the IMCZ, however each attendee is kindly requested to bring a bottle of their preferred red wine and we will all taste and enjoy these wines together. There will be nibbles provided, courtesy of IMCZ, as well as still/sparking water which will be available during the evening. See website for details and registration (required)

## IN THIS ISSUE

### PAGE 1

- Editorial
- Future Events

### EVENTS P.2

- Past Events

### HEALTH P.3

- New, sophisticated Country of origin and food fraud detection

### SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY P.4

- James Webb Space Telescope - first results

### SPORTS P.6

- Winter is coming ...  
So, let's fully embrace it and get ready to ski!!!

### BUSINESS / FINANCE P.9

- Investment Commentary

### HUMOUR P.10

### TITBITS P.12

- Member's Marketplace
- IMCZ Rates
- Corporate Space

### STAMMTISCH

Every Thursday from 18:00-20:30

We meet at different venues - please  
check our website for the location:  
<https://imcz.club/Club-Events>



## PAST EVENTS

### Wine Circle

On 21st July of this year, IMCZ launched the first Wine Circle event. During this event, we focused around white wines be it dry, sweet, sparkling or fortified. On that day, the weather was really lovely and the turnout was very good.

It was interesting to see the different wine varieties that the people brought with them. Of course the list is long, however just to give an idea, we had Alsatian Riesling and Gewürztraminer, Burgundy Chardonnay and Aligoté, white Bordeaux, Sauvignon Blanc from Loire Valley, Italian Prosecco, Sicilian White Marsala, German Pinot Gris and American Chardonnay. These and other wines were accompanied by different types of cheese and cold cuts.

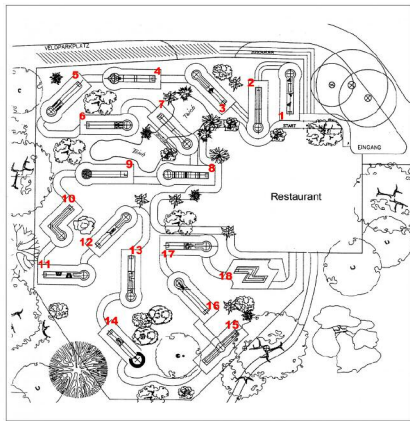
The event was held at the Huwiler Tower in the Zuger Altstadt. Is a truly historical building, dating back to around 1520 and connected to the ramparts of the old Zug city wall.

IMCZ is delighted to announce the second Wine Circle event which will happen on the 17th November 2022 at the same place. Please check our website for the latest information. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Ben Grech



Übersichtsplan  
18-Loch Anlage



### Mini Golf – hole in two

On August 18th IMCZ hosted a mini-golf and apéro evening at the beautiful Cham mini-golf. 18 hardy IMCZers, ZIWCers and friends turned up for the event. The evening was clouded by bad weather. Indeed, rain stopped play! We sat it out in the pavilion, enjoying an excellent apéro sponsored by the club and engaging in some lively and hilarious conversation. We even drank the prizes.

In view of the enjoyable evening we vowed to do a re-run on the following Thursday, to which 14 of the original registrants and some other guests signed up. This time it was serious mini-golf, played in glorious weather. A great time was had by all, with plenty of Schadenfreude at each other's miscues, whiffs and cabbages, as well as socializing in the clubhouse.

Richard Beswick

### End of Summer Party Sep. 11th at the Siehbachsaal

This year, IMCZ's Summer Party was held a little later than usual and hence it was called the End of Summer Party. We chose a Mexican theme which provided us

with a great opportunity to dress up in Mexican costumes, including numerous sombreros which were provided to some of the guests. Our two energetic barmen, IMCZ Members Timo and Cledan kept the Tequila flowing and served up margaritas throughout the day.



Musical entertainment was provided by the rock band Cusp of Drunk, with IMCZ Member Ron Summers on the drums. We also had a couple of Mariachis to entertain us in a more traditional manner during lunch. Lunch consisted of a range of Mexican traditional dishes including Burritos, Fajitas and Quesadillas, all provided by Vallerie from Perfect Party. To top it all we enjoyed fantastic weather on the day which meant we could all sit outside under the sun. The large IMCZ party tent had its second outing and housed the buffet, bar and raffle prize table. Proceeds of the raffle will be donated to a charity for prostate cancer research, as agreed by the IMCZ Board previously. Guests were also treated to a Mexican themed quiz over lunch with several bottles of Tequila, wine and chocolates as prizes, as well as other prizes kindly donated by the local banks. All in all, the party was a great success with over 70 guests attending including many children who were able to enjoy playing pinata. Thank you to all the helpers on the day and also a special thanks to the ZIWC who sponsored the band and attended the event in large numbers.



## IMCZ BOARD MEMBERS

Thumbnail biographies of board members can be found on our website [www.imcz.club](http://www.imcz.club) under 'About Us' section

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## New, sophisticated Country of origin and food fraud detection

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

Food fraud, the intentional and misleading adulteration of food for economic gain, is a major problem to the industry and consumers. It is estimated that 10-30% of all commercially sold food is fraudulent! Improper labelling of the country of origin of a food or ingredient is the most common type of food fraud as it offers the potential of cost reduction and profit maximization. False information about the geographical origin of food causes economic damage of 30 to 40 billion dollars (about 28 to 37 billion Swiss francs) every year.

This is because apricots supposedly from Switzerland, for example, can be sold at a higher price. In the pursuit to uncover a fraud, experts rely on the stable oxygen isotopes in food - the so-called delta-O-18 value<sup>1</sup>. This is because temperature, rain and evaporation are reflected in this measurement, which makes it possible to determine the geographical origin of a food. However, because large amounts of reference and comparative data have to be collected for this purpose, this procedure has been time-consuming and costly until now.

At the university of Basel, botanists have now developed a computer model based on weather data and information on the growth period of a plant, with which they can simulate the oxygen isotope ratio in plants. According to the researchers, this simplifies, speeds up and improves conventional applications of stable isotopes and enables accurate and precise assignments of regions of origin. They put this to the test using an 11-year delta-O-18 reference dataset for European strawberries.

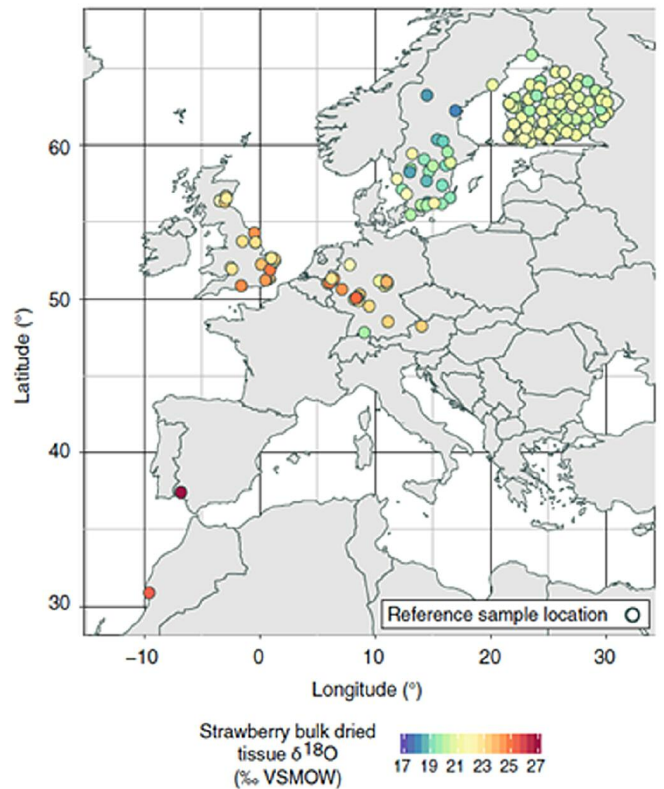
With minor adjustments to the parameters, the model can be used to determine all plant products, according to the authors of the study, undertaken at the University of Basel (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34453087/>). Moreover, the model is not only relevant for food forensics, but can also support crime investigators to determine the origin of confiscated drugs. Also nature conservation organisations such as WWF or Greenpeace could refer to the model to unmask wood from illegal sources.

As good as it sounds, and of course universally valid for any computer-modelling, careful choice of input data is crucial to the validity of output data. The different variables such as e.g. temperature, rain, sun radiation do not only depend on weather and seasonal changes, but also climatic shifts have to be considered over time. Only such a procedure allows to cope with the potentially vast temporal variability of agricultural products. Although origin predictions based on a computer model alone are clearly not accurate enough to define the exact growth region or country of origin, stable isotope modelling is a much faster approach than traditional methods and improves the detection of suspicious samples. It can be combined with other isotope databases of e.g. hydrogen, nitrogen, carbon or sulfur, which also show distinct geographical patterns depending on underlying geology and agricultural practice, thereby yielding more targeted investigation and verification with other authentication methods (e.g. trace element analysis) in a wide area of agricultural products.

Meanwhile, to make an informed choice does not necessarily become easier for consumers as the industry and authorities struggle to cope with the real-life difficulties in processed food manufacturing, resulting in a jungle of various label declarations, as seen in the example from Australia.

### Note

<sup>1</sup> (Ed) Oxygen has three stable isotopes – 16, 17 and 18. By far the most abundant is Oxygen 16 (8 Protons, 8 Neutrons). Oxygen 18 (10 Neutrons) is denser and so its take-up is influenced by climatic conditions locally.



## STILL CONFUSED ABOUT COUNTRY OF ORIGIN FOOD LABELS?

**'Made in' country of origin claims**

- Made in Australia from 0% Australian ingredients
- Made in Australia from less than 25% Australian ingredients
- Made in Australia from more than 25% Australian ingredients
- Made in Australia from more than 50% Australian ingredients
- Made in Australia from more than 75% Australian ingredients
- Made in Australia from 100% Australian ingredients

**'Grown in' country of origin claims**

- Grown in Australia

**'Packed in' country of origin claims**

- Packed in Australia
- Made in Canada
- Packed in Australia
- Grown in France

**choice**  
CHOICE.COM.AU



## James Webb Space Telescope - first results

Contributed by IMCZ member, Alan Cattell

In the last Newsletter, I gave an update on the successful launch and operational status of the JWST (James Webb Space Telescope) Having looked at the first results, I thought it would be interesting to show some of highlights from the initial "images" in the IMCZ Newsletter. ("Images" are not visible light of course – They are mapped to visible to give allow people to view them.) They are quite remarkable. All the images in this article and the text used to source the descriptions are sourced from NASA, ESA, CSA, and STScI.

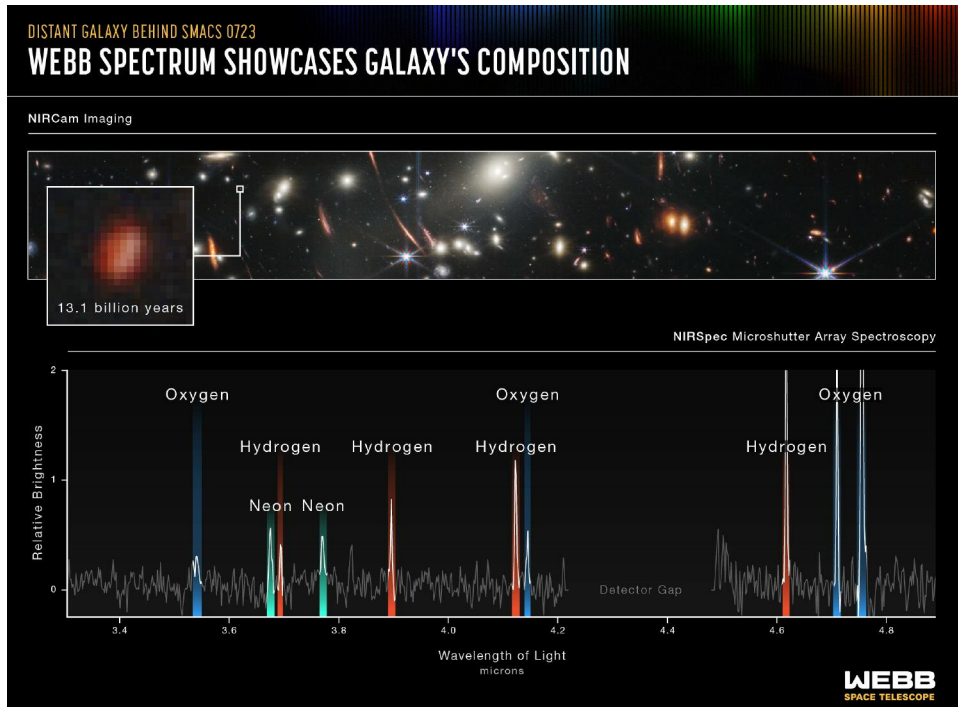
### Galaxy Cluster SMACS 0723

One of the key tasks for the JWST is to look as far back into the origins of the universe as possible, to improve our understanding of its early development. This image is a near infrared camera image of a galaxy cluster around 4.2 billion light years away. The cluster itself is the bright white galaxies in the image below. Thousands of more distant galaxies are also visible in the background.

Notice the arcs in the image. These are gravitational lensing artifacts where the light from more distant galaxies is "bent" around the galactic cluster – as expected from general relativity.

What's interesting from this image is that the galaxy cluster is acting as a colossal lens, magnifying (and distorting) the background galaxies.

The most remote galaxies in this scene – the tiniest galaxies far behind the cluster –look very different from the spiral and elliptical galaxies we see in our local universe. They are much clumpier and more irregular. The hope is that such images will help the researchers measure ages and masses of Webb's highly detailed image may help researchers measure the ages and masses of star clusters within these distant galaxies.



But JWST is not only an imaging device – it can measure the spectral output from the objects it's observing. As an example, the image above shows the spectral output from one of the most distant objects and this allows us to assess its chemical composition, temperature and ionised gas density. (The age of the universe is estimated at 13.7 billion years – and this example is from a galaxy 13.1 billion light years distant). This helps us understand how stars formed at the start of the universe.

### Carina Nebula

A nebula is a giant cloud of dust and gas in space. Some nebulae are the result of gas and dust ejected by the explosion of a dying star (e.g. a supernova). Other nebulae are regions

where stars are being born, often known as "star nurseries". Carina is one of the latter.

This image is a near infrared image (0.6 to 5 µm wavelength light) with the "colours" mapped to visible light (0.38 to 0.7 µm to create this colour-mapped image.

The image shows the edge of a nearby, young, star-forming region about 7,600 light years away called NGC 3324 in the Carina Nebula. The image reveals for the first time previously unseen areas of star birth.

The region is actually the edge of a gigantic, gaseous cavity within NGC 3324 which is being carved from the nebula by the intense ultraviolet radiation and stellar winds from extremely massive, hot, young stars located in the centre of the bubble, above the area shown





in this image. The high-energy radiation from these stars is slowly eroding away the “wall” of the nebula.

One of the huge benefits of the JWST is its ability to look at different spectral areas. The image left shows the same area, but with a composite image of both near and mid infra-red. The longer wavelength mid infrared allows objects to be seen which are otherwise not visible in near infra-red.

These spectral differences allow us to estimate the density and size of the dust particles along with their temperature and composition.

This period of very early star formation is difficult to capture because, for an individual star, it lasts only about 50,000 to 100,000 years – but the sensitivity and resolution of the JWST have allowed us to capture this rare event.

## Jupiter

Although the “focus” of the JWST is distant galaxies and exo-planets, it’s a very versatile telescope and can be used to image much nearer objects in incredible detail, e.g. Jupiter.

Left is a close-up image (colour mapped of course) in near infra-red showing the giant storms, powerful winds, auroras, and extreme temperature and pressure conditions of Jupiter. Generally, the longest wavelengths appear redder and the shortest wavelengths are shown as more blue. Scientists collaborated with citizen scientist Judy Schmidt to translate the Webb data into images.

“We hadn’t really expected it to be this good, to be honest,” said planetary astronomer Imke de Pater, professor emerita of the University of California, Berkeley. De Pater led the observations of Jupiter with Thierry Fouchet, a professor at the Paris Observatory, as part of an international collaboration for Webb’s Early Release Science program. “It’s really remarkable that we can see details on Jupiter together with its rings, tiny satellites, and even galaxies in one image,” she said.

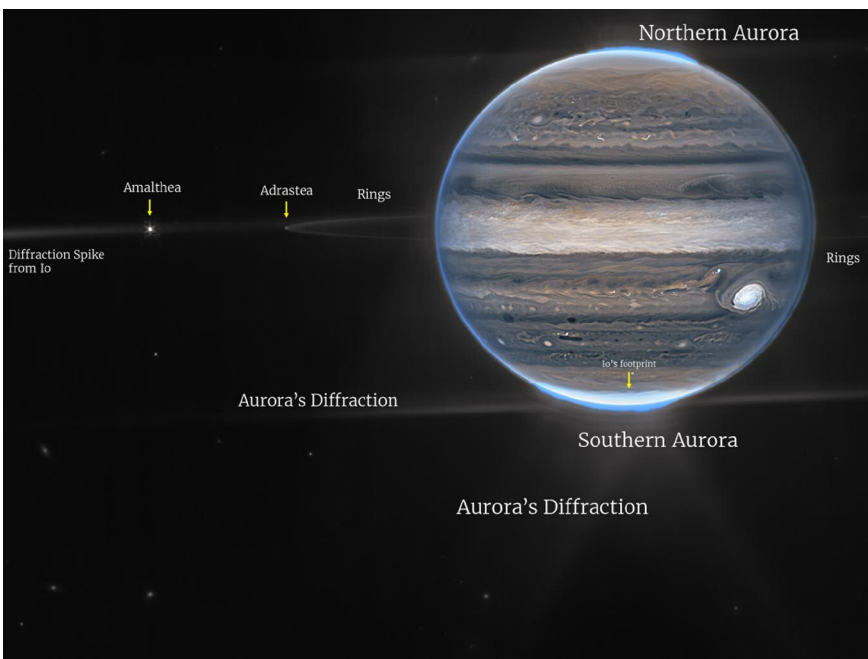
More details are visible in the annotated wider-angle view. The moons Amalthea and Adrastea can be seen as can the (faint) rings of Jupiter. The polar Aurora activity is quite marked.

The Great Red Spot, a famous storm so big it could swallow Earth, appears white in these views, as do other clouds, because they are reflecting a lot of sunlight.

“The brightness here indicates high altitude – so the Great Red Spot has high-altitude hazes, as does the equatorial region,” said Heidi Hammel, Webb interdisciplinary scientist for solar system observations and vice president for science at AURA. “The numerous bright white ‘spots’ and ‘streaks’ are likely very high-altitude cloud tops of condensed convective storms.” By contrast, dark ribbons north of the equatorial region have little cloud cover.

## Comment

These remarkable images from JWST are just the beginning. In its first couple of months of operation it has already demonstrated capabilities which are completely new, showing us previously unseen objects and much more distant objects than have previously been observed, in astonishing detail. Now the real work starts - the detailed analysis of specific targets of interest to increase our understanding of the universe and its evolution substantially.





## Winter is coming ...

Contributed by IMCZ Sports' editor Joseph Dow

# So, let's fully embrace it and get ready to ski!!!



In that spirit, the club has revived our legendary **Winter Sports Show** for a fourth iteration, which will occur on the evening of **Thursday, October 20th** at the Park Hotel in Zug.

Here are some of the exciting presenters we have lined up to kick off the season:

**ANAVON skis** - This maker of handmade Swiss skis comes from the Disentis valley in Graubünden to show us their latest models, including the unique dual-sidecut ADP Dual Performance 3.0, ASR and new ARX alpine skis.

**Frauenschuh clothing** - Based in Kitzbühel, Austria, this maker of fine clothing, combining natural and high-tech fibers, offers timeless, understated outfits. Despite the name, the brand serves both women and men. The boutique, DRAFT., from Zürich, will put on a fashion show for us.

**LAAX resort** - A representative from Flims Laax Falera will give us tour of this wonderful ski area in Surselva. We are hoping to have a club ski weekend/day as we've done in the past and will try to organize a trip to Laax for next spring. If you are curious, a sheet to sign up for information and to give us an idea of the interest in such an event will be circulated.

The previous three shows were a great success and we look forward to having all of you participate and enjoy the presentations. Afterwards, there will be a chance to ask questions and mingle with presenters and other club members and guests.





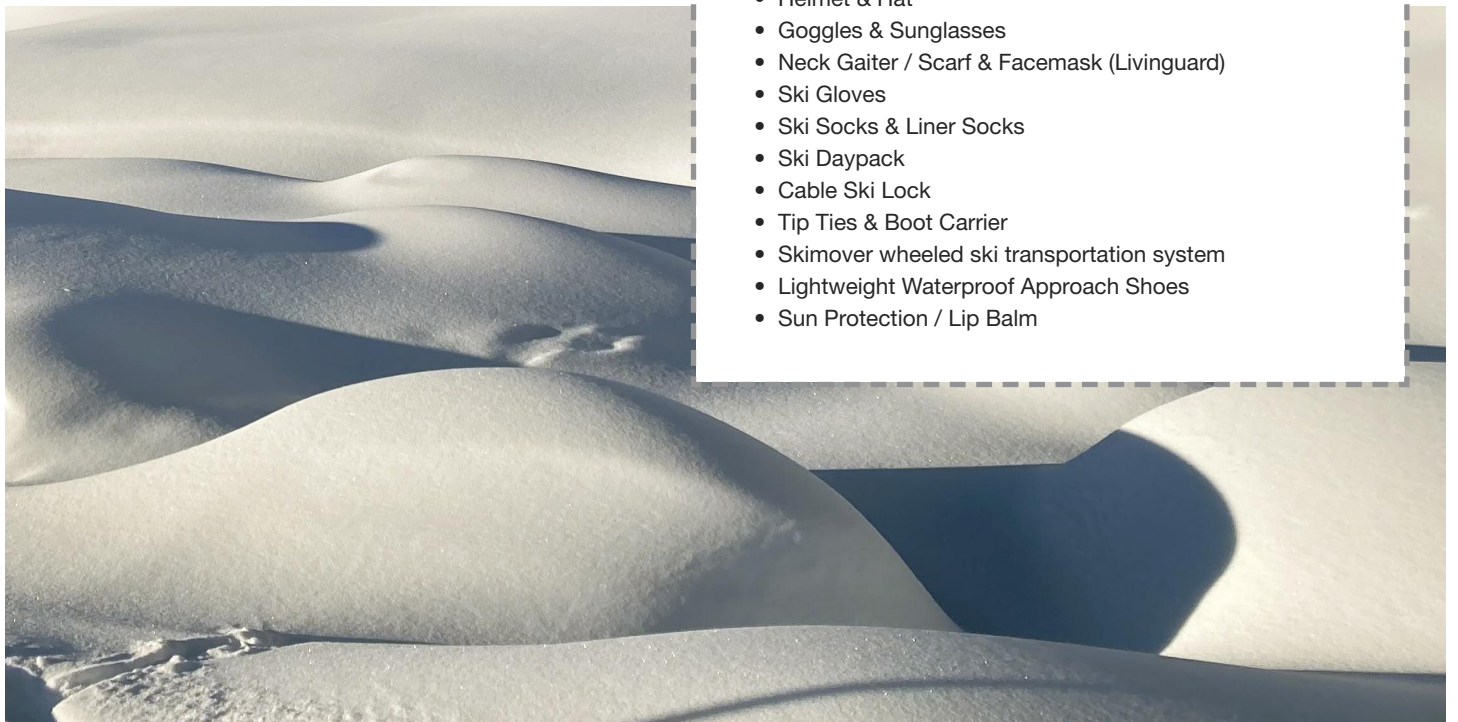
## Additional Information:

- **ANAVON** Swiss Tailor-made Ski: [anavon-ski.com](http://anavon-ski.com)
- **FRAUENSCHUH** Clothing: [frauenschuh.com/en](http://frauenschuh.com/en)
- **DRAFT.** : [www.shopdraft.ch/store/frauenschuh](http://www.shopdraft.ch/store/frauenschuh)  
Wildbachstrasse 68, 8008 Zürich  
hello@shopdraft.ch
- **LAAX** (Flims Laax Falera): [flimslaax.com](http://flimslaax.com)
- **Skimover Transport Systems:** [skimover.ch](http://skimover.ch)
- **SBB Snow 'n Rail program:** [sbb.ch/en/leisure-holidays/leisure-offers/snowrail.html](http://sbb.ch/en/leisure-holidays/leisure-offers/snowrail.html)
- **REGA:** [rega.ch/en/](http://rega.ch/en/)
- **Swiss ski conditions:** [snow.myswitzerland.com/snow\\_reports](http://snow.myswitzerland.com/snow_reports)

# DRAFT.

**PRAY FOR SNOW!!! PRAY FOR SKIING!!! PRAY FOR SNOW!!! PRAY FOR SKIING!!!**

*If you have questions about the upcoming ski show, skiwear or equipment or want a recommendation, feel free to send me an email: [jjdow\[at\]hotmail.com](mailto:jjdow[at]hotmail.com).*



Following our tradition, here is my latest recommended list of gear to make your days up in the mountains as comfortable as possible:

### SKI GEAR CHECKLIST

- Skis & Bindings (Swiss skis: anavon)
- Ski Boots
- Ski Poles (carbon shafts - superior shock absorption & wrist pain relief)
- Ski Outfit – Ski Jacket (insulated) & Dedicated Ski Pants (Frauensschuh)
- Mid-layer Top (something with a full zip provides versatility)
  - Zip-Jacket, Vest, or Sweater
  - Down, Merino Wool, Fleece or other Synthetic
- Base Layer (top & tights)
  - Merino Wool / Microfleece
- Accessories
  - Helmet & Hat
  - Goggles & Sunglasses
  - Neck Gaiter / Scarf & Facemask (Livinguard)
  - Ski Gloves
  - Ski Socks & Liner Socks
  - Ski Daypack
  - Cable Ski Lock
  - Tip Ties & Boot Carrier
  - Skimover wheeled ski transportation system
  - Lightweight Waterproof Approach Shoes
  - Sun Protection / Lip Balm



INTERNATIONAL MEN'S CLUB OF ZUG

# WINTER SPORTS SHOW

OCTOBER 20, 2022 | 18:30  
PARK HOTEL, ZUG

**Admission is free**



## Investment Commentary SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2022

WAGNER & ASSOCIATES Investment Consulting

Contributed by IMCZ member Christian Wagner

### ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

The financial community avoids the word “recession” like the plague. If the common definition is two successive quarters of negative growth, then the USA is in a recession even if the negative numbers are small. Almost as important for the world economy is the condition of the Chinese economy which also shows signs of economic problems. The plea by the prime minister to make every effort to grow, and the fact that interest rates have been cut twice recently are warning signs.

### BOND MARKETS

The drop in the monthly inflation rates in July for the USA and Germany has soothed markets. Several market participants are already talking about signs for a turning point which would at least deter too aggressive monetary tightening. Maybe they are right, but it is far too early to assume that it has already been reached. The inflation targets of the central banks in question are much lower, and this positive news comes in the summer break, the figures after September will be more meaningful.

### EQUITY MARKETS

The markets also benefited from better inflation numbers but the main problems persist. The purchasing power of consumers is still under pressure, and the costs for companies are steadily increasing. Support packages for consumers (energy, taxes) cannot offset the losses completely, and companies are faced with more laws and decrees (climate protection, price limits).

### CURRENCIES

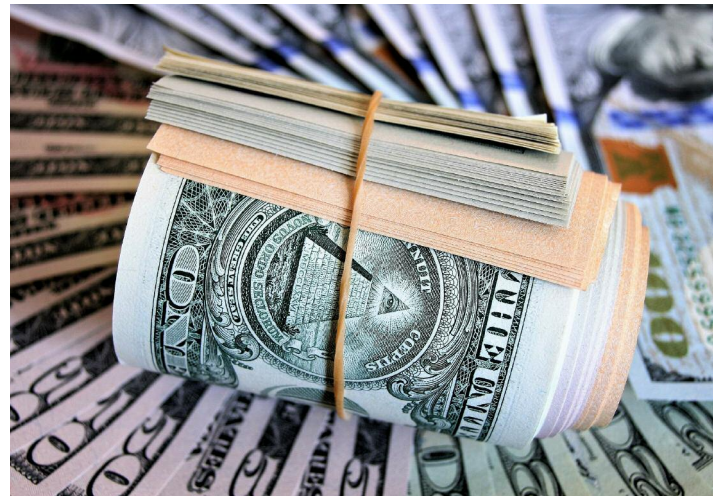
Over the past 12 months, the Turkish Lira has lost 53% but the central bank has cut interest rates further despite an inflation rate of almost 70%. In view of the large current account deficit and the high indebtedness of companies in foreign currency, more trouble is unavoidable.

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### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The political left is demanding a special tax on, in their opinion, unfair earnings of large international oil companies like Exxon Mobil, BP or Shell. They completely ignore the fact that such companies only account for less than 15% of total production. National oil companies (NOC) of countries like Norway, the Gulf States, Saudi-Arabia or Russia produce around 60%, smaller independent companies the last 25%. A windfall profit tax would weaken the competitiveness of the companies concerned just when energy has become so important. Moreover, it would increase the dependence on uncertain producers.



## SEEKING A 4½ ROOM APARTMENT IN ZUG

Having lived in Asia for 35 years, I returned to Zug a year ago. After searching for a new home in Zug, I was lucky enough to find an apartment that was perfect for me.

After only 9 months in my new home, the owner decided, for his personal reasons, to terminate my rental agreement.

I am now desperately looking for another 4½ room apartment to rent in Zug.

### PLEASE HELP ME

Your support in this critical and highly emotional matter will be very much appreciated.

**Rita Hadorn**  
Tel: 079 269 76 51  
Email: rita.hadorn@gmail.com

This selection for the Newsletter has a loose link to education. I hope you enjoy it.

## Father Fosters Future Failures

This takes place during the online teaching era. I teach geometry. A student has requested a one-on-one virtual meeting to discuss his grade. Only he is visible on his screen.

It immediately becomes clear that this meeting was actually initiated by his father, who is sitting just out of view, telling his son what to say, despite the fact that I can hear him perfectly. He begins to argue over a test grade.

Father: "Ask her how we got this wrong. I know that ratio is correct."

The son repeats the question. I explain exactly why it's wrong and how to set it up correctly.

Father: "No, she's wrong! I have an app that does these triangles, and that's what it told me to write."

Me: "Sir, this is your son's exam, not yours. Who exactly took this test?"

Father: "Well, I did, of course! I take all his tests for him! He might fail, otherwise!"

And yet he did the problem wrong. That was a long year.



## Seize This Opportunity To Rethink Your Teaching Strategy

This incident is almost all second-hand from a witness.

I have terrible hand-eye coordination due to my epilepsy. It takes my brain a bit to process that there is something being thrown at my face, basically, as numerous broken glasses and black eyes can attest.

Every one of my teachers knew this. My eighth-grade math teacher had a thing where he would throw a foam softball at the students when he wanted to get their attention or get them to answer a question.

Around halfway through the year, I had a petit mal seizure during this math teacher's class. During these seizures, everything turns black and I stare off into space unresponsive, which physically looks like dissociation or not paying attention.

My teacher saw me "not paying attention" and got angry, so he took his foam softball and chucked it at me as hard as he could... realizing at the last second that I was having a petit mal seizure. He watched in horror as the ball bounced off my still unresponsive forehead. Apparently, I didn't even blink.

When I woke out of it a few moments later, I had to go to the nurse with a big red spot right in the centre of my forehead, with the teacher stammering apologies in the background and me being extremely confused.

## "Higher, Further, Faster, Baby!"

I used to have a classmate whose first name was Marvel. I'm not kidding. Her sister was named Wonder.

Marvel hated her name, especially all the jokes and teasing we made at her expense. In fact, I'm the one who coined the nickname "Marvellous Misfits," which our old teacher found so funny that he referred to our class that way for an entire year.

Many moons and years later, I bring my daughter for her first day at school — my old elementary school, to be precise. And guess who is her Homeroom teacher? It's Marvel, dressed up as Captain Marvel.

Marvel: "Hi, kids! My name is Marvel [Surname], and I'm the Marvellous Homeroom teacher of you Marvellous Misfits!"

Later...

Me: "Hi, Marvel. I don't suppose you remember me? I'm—"

Marvel: "Ah, [My Name]? Wow, it's been a while."

Me: "Yeah. I must say, I didn't expect this of you."

Marvel: "The teaching or the Marvellous puns?"

Me: "Both. But let's focus on the jokes. You used to hate them so much."

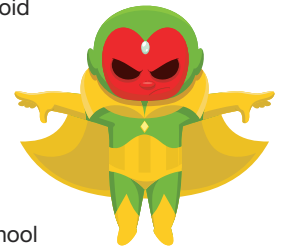
Marvel: "Well, I figured that if I couldn't avoid them, I'd just have to own them. Just go with the flow, you know? It's what my sister Wonder does, and she's the life of every party."

Me: "Wonderful."

Marvel: "Exactly."

Marvel was a great teacher. She made school fun and enjoyable for her students, really stimulated their interests, and encouraged their hobbies.

She also got every single student of hers hooked on the Marvel Cinematic Universe — some to an exasperating degree — but that's another story.



## From The Mouths Of Babies (Who Are Really Going Places)

I'm a kindergarten teacher in Singapore. My class of five-year-olds is doing an activity where they tell their dream job and why they want to do that job.

We get the usuals: astronauts, movie stars, and racecar drivers...

Girl: "When I grow up I want to become the Prime Minister of Singapore."

Me: "Ah, that's a nice dream. Why?"

Girl: "My daddy says that our Prime Minister is the number-one highest-paid politician in the world. He earns more than number two, three, four, and five combined. That's why I want to be the Prime Minister. I want to earn all that money and become rich."

Me: "So, it's just for the money?"

Girl: "Isn't that the whole point of being a politician?"

Co-worker: "She's not wrong about that."

Me: "Yeah, at least she's honest about it."



## Making Assumptions About Assumptions

I'm on a high school trivia team, and we are going through a practice game to prepare for the upcoming tournament. I'm on a team with three other people, one of whom is a person I've known for almost four years, and I am close with his girlfriend. I am given an assigned question which means I am the only player allowed to answer it.

The teacher asks a question about a country, and I do not know the answer.

Teammate: \*Excitedly\* "Oh, oh, [My Name]!"

He points to himself while giving me a look as if I should know the answer. I remember that his family is from Honduras and I assume that he is giving me the answer.

Me: "Honduras."

Teacher: "Incorrect."

Teammate: "[My Name]! The answer was Mexico! That's why I was pointing at myself."

Me: "[Teammate], you aren't from Mexico; you're from Honduras."

Teammate: "Yeah, but everyone always assumes that I'm from Mexico. I figured you would too."

Me: "[Teammate #2] is actually Mexican. Why didn't you point at her?"

Teammate: "Oh, crap."

We went on to lose three out of four of our games in the first half of the tournament, and then we lost four out of five of our games in the second half. We did not move on to the playoffs for obvious reasons.



## Please God, Let These Be Rhetorical Questions

Student: "Yeah, there's something wrong with my academic transcript."

Me: "Oh, okay. What's wrong with it?"

Student: "It's got fails on it." (I start looking up his record on the database.)

Me: "Yeah, I can see the fails. Did you pass those subjects?"

Student: "No."

Me: "Okay, so you failed the subjects, and now they're on your record as fails. That's normally how it works."

Student: "Well, yeah... but can't you, like, take them off? It looks bad!"

Me: "..."

Student: "How am I going to get a job?!"



## A Whole New Grade Of Stupidity

(An online math student is calling to complain about her grade. Her assignment was submitted three days late.)

Me: "The assignment was late by three days. The 30% late penalty cost you 18 points."

Caller: "But it's not right. 30% of 60 is not 18."

Me: "Yes, it is. Think of it as three times six."

Caller: \*counting in a low voice\* "Yeah, I guess it is. But the late penalty shouldn't apply to me."

Me: "Why is that?"

Caller: "Because I submitted the assignment BEFORE you graded it."

## What A BS Degree

(I've been helping a student from China get her books for her Master's programme. Her English is fine, but she has a strong accent. After I've finished helping her, the next customer steps up.)

Customer: "If that's how she speaks English, she's going to have serious trouble with Dutch. She'll be useless in class!"

Me: "Actually, her courses are all in English, so she won't have to learn Dutch."

Customer: "What? That's ridiculous! They're making all these courses in English to let lazy foreigners get in easily. What about us, hmm? We have to put up with having to speak a foreign language in our own country just so she can come here and basically get handed a place at university by the stupid management. I bet she'll get a job here, too. Everyone seems to think it's more prestigious to hire some foreigner than someone who actually knows the language and the culture and everything!"

Me: "... Anyway, let's get your books. What is your major?"

Customer: "International relations."

## Don't Bite The Hand That Shreds You

(At the school where I teach, there's a new teacher who seems to have a habit of talking down to people: students, custodians, and most notably, the school secretary. One day, the new teacher storms in and slams a paper down on the secretary's desk.)

Teacher: "Listen, you lazy b\*\*\*\*! This is the third work order I've put in about a broken desk. It's been two weeks. Why isn't it fixed?"

Secretary: "I just file the paperwork. You'd have to talk to the custodians."

Teacher: "I don't talk to a dumba\*\* janitor! I shouldn't have to! I went to college!"

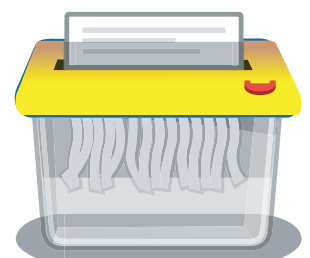
Secretary: "You'll have to take it up with [Custodian]."

Teacher: "Did you just talk back to me?! I can have you fired for that! I'm a teacher; you're just a secretary. You're here to serve me!" \*storms out\*

Me: \*to the secretary\* "Wow, did that really just happen?"

Secretary: "Yep. He's cussed me out twice this year already." (I watch as she calmly picks up his work order and slides it into the shredder.)

Secretary: "I have no idea why they haven't fixed that desk yet."





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