



MIT Club of Switzerland

Newsletter December 2007

Dear Members and Friends

Many refreshing and interesting events are behind us, and many stimulating discussions among us MIT Alumni have enriched our weekends. Let us review the past activities and give an outlook to the activities in 2008.

New Secretary of the Club and new member booklet

Nida Farid is our new Club secretary. Thanks a lot to Nida for taking over this important job from Josué, who left back to the US. Nida will be officially elected at the next AGM, but is already in charge. In addition, Sheila Ohlund will support the board as an observer.

Next spring we will update our member booklet. Therefore, please **send your updated address, email, and possibly an electronic picture** of you, to Nida: farida@alum.mit.edu. Thank you for your help.

The big dig: Surprising audience



It was a big surprise how many interested listeners came to the most interesting lecture held by Prof. Einstein of MIT. Walter Steiner made the event open also to other organizations of civil engineering in Switzerland, and the lecture hall was completely full. A big success, where also several MIT Club members got fascinated by this huge 15 billion project in the middle of Boston.

Mountain Hike to Tschingelhorn Hut



The Hiking group, spanning over three generations, and the wonderful Tschingelhorn hut.

Eighteen Club members, family and friends (one of them four-footed) enjoyed fine-to-outstanding weather for an overnight hiking trip in the Jungfrau region. Martin Hahn had organized the trip, but unfortunately was ill so Club president jumped in as trip leader. Starting from the end of the postal bus line at Stechelberg, we climbed for a few hours to the Hotel Tschingelhorn, a very hospitable alpine hut about 600 vertical meters above our starting point. They get their supplies via a miniature cable car, but even the owners must hike up. After checking into the Tschingelhorn, about half of us continued hiking for another two hours to the high lookout at Tanzbödeli, far above the tree line. After a generous and hearty dinner in the Tschingelhorn's cozy dining room, which is all wood and windows, and a last view of the dark mountain panorama, in which we could see only two lights, everyone gratefully climbed into their beds. On Sunday morning, promptly at 7:30, the whole building began creaking and bustling with activity, and soon the breakfast table was full. Saturday's scattered clouds had yielded to an almost perfect blue. We began our descent through the UNESCO-registered nature protection area at 9, and made it back to Stechelberg in good time, pretty exhausted, and with a heart full of nice memories.

Cinémathèque Suisse



MIT Club of Switzerland



The visit to Cinémathèque Suisse, the worlds sixth largest film archive, was really astonishing. You can't believe the amount of paper, film, posters and memories that are stored in this archive. The small group of MIT Club members got an impressive overview of the Swiss film history and current developments in film formats and trends. Personally, I was most impressed by the huge mess in the archive. Piles and piles of paper, demonstrating the absolute enthusiasm of the employees to make film history ready for the future. Thanks to Pierre Ihmle for organizing this great tour to Cinémathèque.

Outlook 2008 (tentative): Please reserve the dates



- March 15: AGM and visit to SR Technics, one of the world's leading providers of technical solutions to airlines. We will get an insight into the fascination work of airplan maintenance (Kloten)
- May 10/11: Traditional bike tour around a lake. No need to further promote: The bike tour becomes more and more established and attractive to all our members. Fun and Sport!
- May 10: Alternative program for dance and glamour freaks: Universities Ball in Hotel Dolder
- July 5 (tentative): Shipyard visit and boat tour, Lausanne
- Sept 6/7: Hike in the alps
- November 15: Solar lab and the Swiss Light Source Synchrotron at Paul Scherrer Institute

Please reserve the dates.

I wish to thank all the "helping hand", the board members, and you for our support and commitment. On behalf of the board, we wish you a Merry Xmas time, a happy New Year, and we are looking forward to seeing you again at the upcoming events in 2008.

Kind regards

Donald Tillman
President
<http://alumweb.mit.edu/clubs/switzerland/default.htm>

Lavaterstr. 45, 8002 Zürich
Mobile: +41 79 757 74 25
E-mail: swissclub@alum.mit.edu