

Welcome

Dear Club members - We have started into 2011 and will soon have our Annual General Meeting (see page 3).

Aside from the usual review of past and future events, plus a feature on our outgoing VP of Finance, Hans Hagenbuch, we are using this edition of the newsletter to call upon our members for feedback on what they are looking for from the club (see page 4).

We are particularly interested to hear from new voices, from passive members, and from members who are looking for activities that we are currently not offering. What are you happy with, what would you change?

Please tell us, and help making this club ever more vibrant.

Martin Hahn

Past Events

Kandersteg Hike (4-5 September 2010)

An annual tradition by now, the September hike lead us again to the Kandersteg area. A happy group of around 20 MIT-branded hikers came together and were greeted by fantastic scenery and great weather. This is one of the best locations to enjoy the Swiss mountains, right in the centre of the country.

We took a first easy walk that became more and more demanding. Wonderful snow-covered mountains behind us, and cute sheep chased our trail. We reached the summit of Kleines Tadelishorn, which offered superb views over the surrounding peaks.

We stayed at the nearby mountain hotel Schwarenbach, where we relaxed over a cold beer and dinner.

The next morning, our group departed for an easy walk to the Gemmi Gondola.

Well, the 2010 hike was again a success, and the ones who missed it may join the upcoming 2011 hike.



Donald Tillman



Geneva Observatory Visit (23 October 2010)

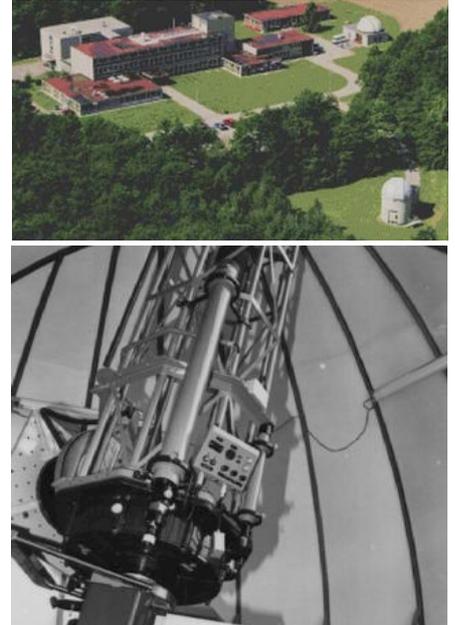
24 hearty souls arrived at the Auberge du Lion d'Or in Versoix for a lovely luncheon before joining another 10 at the Observatoire de l'Université de Genève à Sauverny.

The Geneva Observatory has two main telescopes on site and is connected to several other telescopes which are managed by the University; some located halfway round the world in Chile, among others. Our guide, Amaury Triaud, goes to Chile about twice a year for settings and direct observations. Data and instructions go between the two sites regularly by satellite. We also had a close-up look at one of the telescopes in the Observatory. We were given an introduction to modern astron-

omy by way of a collection of Hubble Telescope views of lots of bodies out there. The main thrust however of the work in Geneva is the identification of exo-planets – planets orbiting other stars which might have conditions similar to those in our solar system and maybe similar to those on earth. Geneva's astronomers discovered the first of these and about half of the 450 or so now known. The Q&A was very active. Overall the day was extra-terrestrial!



Howard Hornfeld



Tour of Hydroelectric Power Plant, Winterthur (11 September 2010)

A group of about two dozen MIT alumni and friends gathered in the outskirts of Winterthur on a beautiful sunny day in September for a tour of a small hydroelectric plant. People came from all over Switzerland.

We got a great education on the history of the area, how the plant was built, how it is operated and maintained today, and how it will be upgraded in the near future. Our engineering minds were intrigued by the various details. One of the most interesting aspects of this hydro-electric plant is its effort to keep a low environmental footprint. This includes having a special "fish ladder" so that fish can easily swim upstream and bypass the turbine area, as well

as special attention to ensuring that there is very low noise production. Thus, neither the local animals nor humans are disturbed by its presence.

Many thanks are due to Shira Lee, who came up with the idea for this tour and organized a fantastic event for us, and also to the Stadtwerke Winterthur, who sent several of their top people to "work" on a Saturday.



Jonathan Claman



Future Events

Visit of "Durchmesserlinie" and Annual General Meeting, Zurich (2 April 2011)

Please contact michael.helke@alum.mit.edu for details.

Annual Bike Tour, Lake Lugano (11-12 June 2011)

Please contact michael.helke@alum.mit.edu for details.

Kandersteg Hike (3-4 September 2011)

Please contact donald.tillman@gmx.ch for details.

Feature

Hans Hagenbuch (VP Finance, 2005-2011)

Born and grown up in Basel I graduated in Electrical Engineering at EPUL Lausanne and ETH Zurich. After that I joined IBM as a computer salesman with the goal to earn the funds for an MBA as fast as possible – at a dollar rate of 3.50 to the Swiss Franc an expensive exercise. I opted for the "accelerated program" at MIT's Sloan school which packed the full two year program in one calendar year. Later I went back to IBM in Paris, Zurich and Basel, eventually as branch manager. The thinking in probabilities from MIT and the salesmanship from IBM guided my entire professional career. At the age of 40 I got hired by the owning families to become CEO of Zellweger Uster, a Swiss conglomerate. After a short "visiting performance" as CEO with ATT/NCR (Switzerland) I became CEO of Messe Schweiz in Basel, the 10th largest venue in Europe with particular exposure to the watch and jewelry industry. More and

more I learnt to admire the real entrepreneurs, the start-up people, the craftsmen, and became a business angel, a few years as president of Business Angels Schweiz. I co-founded several companies and invested in a few more. One of them, almost fully owned by me, a software company in the field of records management/archiving has gained, though still small, a respectable market position in Europe. Having reached retirement age I substitute my professional duties with voluntary functions in the Swiss Mountain Aid, environment and animal protection. I live in Arlesheim/BL, am married, and have two daughters, one of them living in the US, and three grandchildren.



Hans Hagenbuch

Message to our Members

Help Shape the Future of the Club

It's time for a think. Your Executive Committee is taking a step back for a fresh look at what we are doing as a Club, what our purpose is, what we have done and where we are going. The starting point for this reflection is, of course, the membership, without whom there would be no club. So it is to our members, that we turn for answers.

Whether you are an active member or a passive member, please tell us what you expect from the Club, what you want to get out of it? Events have been a core activity and over the last 18 years the Club has offered an impressive range and number. Most were initiated and organized by members with suitable ideas and contacts. What sort of events do you like and would like to have more of? What kind aren't you interested

in and why. If you feel inspired to organize one, please let us know, and we will be happy to assist you. The activities of the Club, however, are not and need not be limited to events. For instance, we make an annual contribution to MIT and a group of Zurich based members meet for a monthly apero, to give two examples. What do you think of these activities? What else would you like the Club to do, aside from events? Would you be prepared to start up a new activity?

Your views matter and you can be sure they will be taken into account. Please write to us at yourviewsmatter@alum.mit.edu. If you prefer, you can let us know at the AGM.

The Executive Committee

Impressum

MIT Club of Switzerland

Website: <http://alumweb.mit.edu/clubs/switzerland/> (currently undergoing re-development)

Email: switzerlandclubpres@alum.mit.edu

Facebook: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=62565487029 (please email srope01@yahoo.com in case of questions)

Zurich Group: http://groups.google.com/group/mit_zurich (please email elke.hodson@wsl.ch in case of questions)

Board

Michael Helke (President)
Martin Hahn (VP Communications)
Howard Hornfeld (VP Events)
Sheila Ohlund (VP Members)
Hans Hagenbuch (VP Finance)

Eva Krug (Advisor)
Donald Tillman (Advisor)
Nicolas Haenni (Auditor)
Hans Herriger (Auditor)

Alumni Info

As per November 2008, there are 377 alumni in Switzerland. Undergraduate degree holders have grown to 24%. Graduate degree holders in Management are the largest group overall (16% of all degree holders). Senior Executives and Civil Engineering follow (10% each). For undergraduates, Electrical Engineering (9%) and Computer Science (3%) with Chemical Engineering (3%) retain the top spots.