



GERMAN CLUB OF FOUNTAIN HILLS

DIETER HERMANS , PRESIDENT
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October 2009

Next Event



October: Trip to Wickenburg, Friday Oct. 16. 2009

We will meet at the parking lot of the Home Depot on Carefree Highway. Departure: 10:00 a.m.
Carpooling to Wickenburg will take us 1 hour.

In Wickenburg we will visit the Desert Caballero Museum (\$6, a lower group rate to be negotiated). We will have lunch at the Country Club. Thereafter we plan a trip to the historic Vulture Mine which is 12 miles west of Wickenburg in the wilderness. The visit of the Vulture mine (\$7, a lower group rate to be negotiated) requires a one mile walk on an easy trail but may not be for everybody. Those who do not wish to participate can continue to enjoy the Country Club.

The total trip will take 4-5 hours. To enable us to negotiate the entry fees and to make a reservation at the Country Club please call Irene Urban by October 5 (480-837-6724) and let her know if you would like to participate in this event and whether you will visit the Vulture Mine or not. Also tell her if you need transportation to the meeting place at the Home Depot.



We will participate in an event in the Fountain Hills Community Center on Oct. 7, at 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. where the local clubs present themselves to the public



Reminder: More Oktoberfests

In Surprise (German American Karneval Society) at the City of Surprise Baseball Complex working field, on Friday, Oct. 2 and Saturday, Oct. 3. For details call Mike or Rosie Lemonidis (480-837-3140)

**In Phoenix (AC4GC), at the Margaret T. Hance Park,
on Oct. 10, from 10am – 9 pm**

November: Annual Meeting, Saturday Nov. 14, 2009, 5:30 p.m.

As the term of the present Board will expire in December we will have to elect a new Board in November. You are cordially invited to play a more active role in the future of our Club and to join the new Board. Please consider becoming a candidate for one of the board functions (i.e. President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary) and let Joe Cifelli (602 996 1060, jcifelli@cox.net) know, who will coordinate the election process.

Additionally we will ask you for your input regarding next year's club activities.



**Happy October Birthday to:
Carlo Manarin**



About the Vulture Gold Mine

Henry Wickenburg and the Vulture Mine

Henry Wickenburg reached in Arizona in 1862. He was believed to be an Austrian or German immigrant, and had probably been a farmer. Some tales of Wickenburg's origins say that his real name was Heinrich Heitzel; some say he was running from the law in Europe. Whatever the reason, Wickenburg ended up in California during the gold rush. It was there that he learned how to prospect and pan for gold. He was likely part of Pauline Weaver's exploration party which traveled along the Hassayampa River. One version says this was when he spotted the quartz outcropping which later became the Vulture Mine.

Wickenburg initially worked the mine by himself, but began to sell the gold ore to other prospectors. By 1866 Henry Wickenburg had had enough of gold mining. He sold eighty percent of the mine to a man named Benjamin Phelps, who represented some eastern investors. The Vulture Mining Company was born.

The Vulture Mining Company announced plans to introduce modern mining methods, and to build a twenty-stamp mill on the Hassayampa River. The stamp mill site was to be twelve miles to the northeast, about one mile north of an existing settlement on the river. This settlement had already attracted merchants eager to provide the Vulture with goods and services. Henry Wickenburg retired from mining and established a farm near this settlement. The settlement became known as Wickenburg.

Henry Wickenburg, for his 80% interest, received \$20,000 in cash, and a note for \$65,000. The new owners soon claimed that Wickenburg didn't have a clear title to the property, and refused to pay the remainder of the price. Wickenburg spent most of his \$20,000 trying to collect on his note, but never succeeded.

Fountain Hills Oktoberfest.

A lot of our lady members showed up in their Dirndl's on Friday night and helped making this event a big success. They participated in the Opening Ceremony and volunteered selling Raffle tickets.

The opening Ceremony of the Fountain Hills 2009 Oktoberfest



some members enjoying the music



Our Ladies in their Dirndl's selling Raffle tickets



one of our members with the Guggenbach Buam Band directly from Germany

