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YEAR 79

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Swiss Alps - Jungfrau-Aletsch
- ASO elections
- Swiss Society AGM

INSIDE:

From the Editor	2
ASO in NZ	3
Blüemlisalp ire Summer- nacht	4
Swiss Society AGM	5
Special celebrations	6
Biometric passports	7
AGM minutes 2012	8 - 9
Non-Swiss perspective	10
Kids' corner	11
Easter colouring competition	12
Jungfrau-Aletsch fun tips	13
Swiss club news	14 - 18
Photo gallery	19
Swiss club news	20
Chuchichäschtl/ Garden diary	21
Health corner	22
Obituary / Swiss news	23
Swiss Alps - Jungfrau- Aletsch	24

Eiger, Mönch und Jungfrau...

Surely everyone's heart beats a bit faster at reading the names of these mighty mountains. The Eiger, Mönch und Jungfrau, together with the Great Aletsch Glacier, undoubtedly form the most spectacular alpine landscape in the heart of Switzerland and Europe. The names of the mountains - Eiger (ogre), Mönch (monk) and Jungfrau (virgin) alone get our imagination going. The famous North face of the Eiger is the pinnacle (literally) of many aspiring climbers.

From an early time, the mountains and environs attracted visitors from all over the world. British mountaineers started to scale the main peaks of the Bernese Alps from the early 19th century. The first ascent of the Eiger via its west flank was made by Swiss guides Christian Almer and Peter Bohren, and Irishman Charles Barrington on 11 August 1858. The 1,800m high North face was first climbed in 1938 by an Austrian-German expedition.

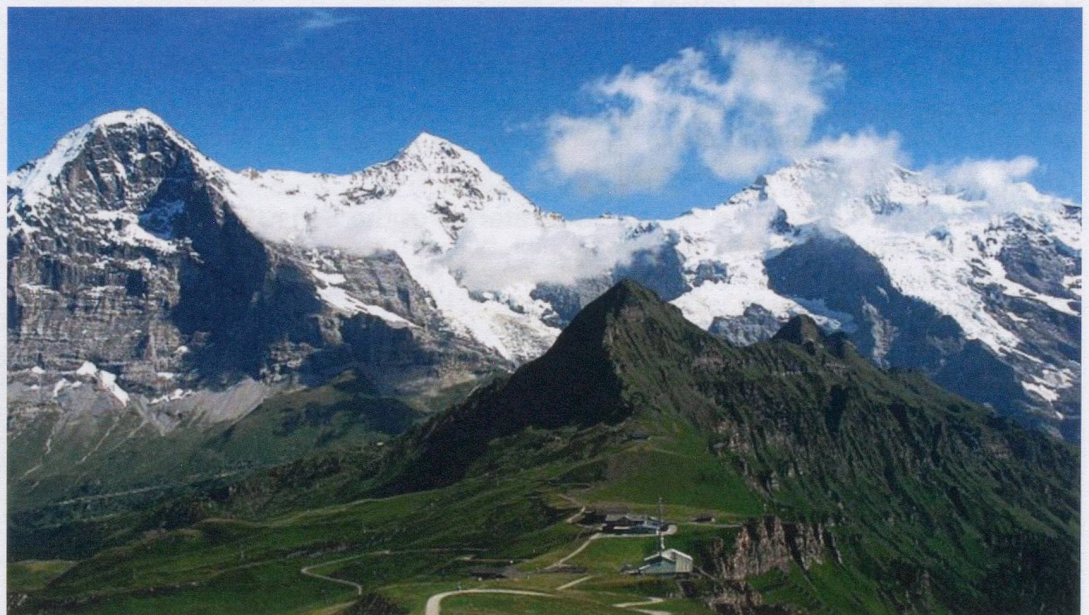
While the Eiger North face is out of bounds for most people, the exciting story of early mountain pioneers is re-told on the two-hour Eiger North Face Trail. This trail connects the Allmendhubel with the Spielbodenalp and is accessible from Mürren.

With good binoculars, it is quite possible to spot some live action, as climbers attempt the North face on an almost daily basis.

Climbers on the Eiger's North face can also be watched through telescopes from the Kleine Scheidegg over which the North face towers. From the Kleine Scheidegg, visitors are able to explore the region further. The Jungfrau track rail enters the Eiger via a tunnel, where two internal stations provide access to viewing-windows in the mountainside. The railway terminates at the Jungfraujoch, the highest railway station in Europe located between the Mönch and the Jungfrau. From here, visitors gain astounding views of the Bernese Alps and the elegantly sweeping Great Aletsch Glacier.

The rocky landscape of the the Eiger, Mönch und Jungfrau forms part of a vast UNESCO World Heritage Site. Established in 2001 and expanded again in 2007, the site encompasses some 824 square kilometres of rock, ice and alpine vegetation. The resulting "Swiss Alps Jungfrau-Aletsch" UNESCO World Heritage Site contains nearly all of the Bernese High Alps between the cantons of Berne and Valais.

Sources: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eiger>, <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1037>, <http://www.jungfrau-aletsch.ch>



Eiger, Moench und Jungfrau
http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei:Eiger,_M%C3%B6nch_und_Jungfrau.jpg (Photo by Steinmann)