

150th Annual Schützenfest Celebration

The year was 1873. The newly formed Round Top Schützen Verein was organized, and staged its first Schützenfest on the outskirts of Round Top somewhere along Boggy Branch. The German immigrants, by this time, had their farms, businesses and the Town of Round Top incorporated and up and running. The Civil War, and the ensuing aftermath of this major event was now behind them. It was time to re-awaken the time honored shooting festival, which had been so popular in their homeland. Eight short years after this formation, the Verein purchased 5 acres of land on the banks of Boggy Branch from the Graf family. The following year, the Verein purchased an additional 5.5 acres from the same family and erected a dance hall, a shooting stand, and a beer stand which was completed in time for the 4th of July Celebration in 1882. This shooting feast has been ongoing, without interruption during 2 World Wars, the Great Depression, and several other major wars and events. Many of the current members can trace their ancestry back to the gentlemen who formed the club in 1873.

This year marks the 150th Annual Schützenfest. A very special milestone for the club and community. Such an achievement deserves a party!! And the party has been planned. Saturday and Sunday, September 17th and 18th, have been set aside for this once in a life time event. An entourage from Germany, inclusive of a 20 member Bavarian Band, are scheduled to help the Texans celebrate. The two day festival begins on Saturday at 4pm with musical performances by Texas Bavarian Band from Erkheim in Germany and the ever popular yodeling group, Enzian Buam from Frelsburg. Of course, on tap will be some very fine beers along with Wurst, Kartoffel (potatoes) and kohlsalat (coleslaw) for an evening meal.

The Bavarian Band will be presenting a Bavarian Evening complete with yodelers, singers, alphorns, beer drinking contest and a stein holding (Masskrugstemmen) contest. This special presentation will again be performed on Sunday, beginning at 3:00 PM.

On Sunday, the shooting competition will commence early in the morning and conclude once the new Schützenkönig (Shooting King) has proven that he is the best marksman. This event is closed to the public due to liability concerns. The Schützenhalle (Rifle Hall) will open at 2:00 PM and the celebrated performance of the Texas Bavarian Band will commence at 3:00PM. At 5:PM the crowning of the new Schützenkönig ceremony will begin. After leading the victor's march, he will be hoisted high into the air 3 times to the strains of the shooter's fanfare Hoch soll Er leben.....drei mal hoch (Hail to the King, 3 times Hail). The Koenig, as tradition has it, must tap the Ceremonial Keg and serve his subjects free beer. An evening meal of pork steak, sausage and all the trimmings will be available at a reasonable price. Meal to be catered by Gary Goebel and Crew. The evening culminates with dancing to the Gary Kunkel Band. All activities are free of charge.