Der Englische Stammtisch –

The English Roundtable

Scene 1: History
The English Roundtable started in 1997 when Barbara and Jim, the founders, initiated it for the first time. It was meant for their VHS class that had just finished a few English courses with Barbara and which were, unfortunately, not to be continued.
The venue of the Roundtable was Gleisweiler, the aim: speaking English, not to forget what had been learnt before and at the same time having a nice time together by just chatting and drinking.

The rule: no German language for at least two hours. This rule was rarely if ever violated and is still intact now.
In 2004 a partnership started between the American Schools of the Military Base in Heidelberg (Jim) and the University of Landau (Birgit). The project meant to give Landau students the chance to do their internship at these schools – in a foreign country right at the doorstep (in Germany).
With the birth of this project there was a constant growing influx of students to the English Roundtable in Gleisweiler, too. Even former Landau students still join the Roundtable as often as they can.

Many people interested in the English language have joined the Roundtable so far, be they students or not and whatever level of English they speak, having fun on each last Friday of a month.
We can truly speak of an International Roundtable now!

Not only do members come from Germany, but also from e.g. Guatemala, Botswana, the US, Mexico, Great Britain, Russia, Vietnam, ...
A few pictures of the Roundtable when it started…

… in 2004
A few pictures of the Roundtable ... in 2008
There are also other activities in which members of the Roundtable are involved, e.g. ....
The walking tour along the winestreet (last weekend in August)
Cedric is the only one who is a member of the Roundtable from the first month of his life!

He may be the youngest, but he is the greatest.
The Gleisweiler winefest .... (first weekend in August)
The Roundtable as Basis for Project Exchange: American Books (from Heidelberg) for the Project “English for Preschool Kids”
Singing is an obligatory element of the English Roundtable – and Pfälzer Folksongs are definitely preferred.
We have our own musicians ...

(and sometimes even a guest with a didgeridoo ...)
... and finally we even have an English Roundtable Hymn!
Pfaelzer Wind
For O so many years
The local tale is told
Wherever Pfaelzers hang out
The atmosphere is gold
For these unique people
It is their sense of fun
To make up grandiose sayings
And sing in unison

*******Refrain***********
Refrain:
It is the wind, wind, wind
The Pfaelzer wind
It will still blow
When we're 6 feet below

The sun and the grapes
In glass the golden wine
Here are the people happy
Their attitude is fine
Across the bright green vineyards
Blows the Pfaelzer wind
And everybody knows that
Happier they've never been

*******Refrain***********
The mountains and the valleys
The woods and fields below
The fortresses and castles
The Rhine does northward flow
Our beautiful homeland
Will never let us down
As long the wind does blow
We'll never wear a frown

*******Refrain***********

(Old Pfälzer Folksong, translated by Jim Ruehmling
Elwetritsche created by Keramikwerkstatt Rupp)
Eating is also important.