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POTOMAC VALLEY SKIERS

No July Issue
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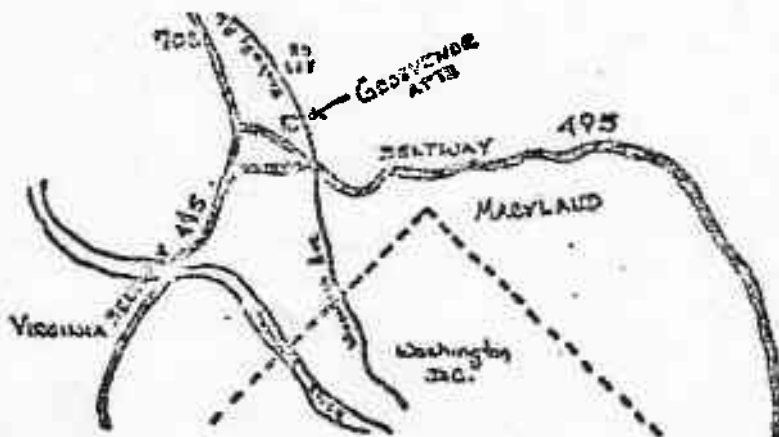
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Aug. 15 PVS Meeting at Grosvenor Apts.
- Aug. 21 Excom Meeting at Keith Lyon's
- Sept 19 PVS Meeting, site to be decided
- Sept 25 Excom Meeting at Pete Lang's
- Oct. 17 PVS Meeting at Marina Towers -
wine tasting party
- Nov. 21 PVS Meeting at the Iam's
- Nov. 22 Four day Thanksgiving trip to
Killington
- Dec. 9-10 Seven Springs Ski Trip
- Dec. 12 PVS Meeting, site to be decided

AUGUST PVS MEETING

The August meeting will be held Tuesday the 15th at 8 p.m. at Grosvenor Apartments, 10500 Grosvenor Pl., Rockville, Md. (This building is immediately north of the one in which the January PVS meeting was held.) Take the elevator all the way up, then walk up one more flight to the top floor meeting room. You may slake the thirst engendered by the climb with some of Garry Deighton's Sangria. There will be films of the Raft Trip, too.
Directions:

The Grosvenor Apartment complex are 3 towers immediately north of the Beltway on Rt. 355 - Wisconsin Avenue extended. The map below should be self explanatory.



REMINDER

Time to pay your annual PVS dues. Send a check now to Elke Stecher, 4 Radburn Ct., Rockville, Md. 20850, or take one along to the August 15 meeting. Fees are Active \$10; Spouse \$8; Junior \$3; Absentee \$5; and Absentee Spouse \$4.

SURVEY

How many PVS members have qualified in NASTAR competition? If you have, send details to Diane Broadhurst, 813 Crocus Drive, Rockville, Md. 20850, or call 762-0346. We'll publish an Honor Roll in a forthcoming TOOT.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Sandie Deighton has begun compiling the new membership list which will be mailed to all members this year. If there are changes in your name, address, phone number or whatever, please call her at 424-5707 to update your listing.

TWENTY-FIVE RUN THE 'YOUGH'

Although the blue skies and bright sun which were ordered for the rubber raft trip never showed, twenty-five members and their guests had a splashing good time on the Youghiogheny on Sunday, July 30. For most, the outing began Saturday morning with the viewing of the whitewater kayak and canoe olympic trials on the Savage River. For others Saturday was used to explore the surrounding area in general. Saturday evening, forces were joined together at the 5 Pines campground near Farmington for an evening of merriment. Following the cookout dinner, the troops went into town for "alamend left, dose do, swing your corner" or what is otherwise called a reasonable facsimile of square dancing. Several then topped off the evening by a moonlight dip in the pool. Sunday, after a hearty breakfast, we broke camp and drove to Ohiopyle where the remaining four members of the party joined us and we then met our guides and leaders from Mountain Trails and Streams Outfitters. After a briefing on the 6 man rafts, the paddles and what to do in case of emergency, we put into the water just below the falls. The trip was roughly five hours in duration including a lunch stop and stop for swimming. The main activity was that of paddling, but considerable time was spent at non-productive directions too such as water fights, getting off rocks, bailing, etc., etc., etc. In general much fun was had by all.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Since our abortive attempt to learn to ski at Taos (where else would you find a beginner's area called "Fanny Hill?") we have felt we were constitutionally better suited to apres than to ski. However, a spring skiing trip to New England has offered us new hope - we have discovered Ski Touring.

We began at Loon Mountain, which has excellent touring instruction and a well-maintained trail, an old logging road. Both instruction and trail are well suited to beginners, even those who, like us, cannot ski downhill. We are not particularly agile, but we soon mastered the slide step used in touring. We are super-cautious (we prefer level ground) so we quickly learned to slow and stop a downhill run. These simple techniques were enough to get us started on elementary touring, and we were on the trail that first day.

Cannon Mountain was next. While Ron polished his NASTAR technique (he won a bronze medal) we took on what was billed as the beginner trail. Unfortunately no one told us the trail ran down Mittersill's expert slope for several hundred yards, or that it regained all the descent in one enormous uphill climb. We negotiated Scylla largely on our back and Charybdis largely prone, but we survived, exhausted, exhilarated and amazed.

At Madonna, on a morning sparkling with "sugarin' snow" and brilliant sun, we abandoned the touring trail to follow a road up to a hidden lake. The beauty, the peace, above all the quiet of the touring trail are indescribable. The only tracks we saw were those of deer, raccoon and squirrel. Even by late afternoon only two other skiers had traveled our road.

Ski touring is economical, no doubt about it. Equipment is reasonable, clothing is anything you already have, trails are free. But what touring does for the mind and heart and soul is above price. Anyone, from rank beginner to expert, can participate, and at any level. One may join a touring club for day or weekend trips, or choose a leisurely tour across a neighborhood park or golf course. One may choose the simple joy of easy walks, or the challenge of mountaineering; the companionship of a young family touring together, or the solitude of a cross country racer. There is something here for everyone, of whatever skill or inclination.

Sure, we're the typical beginner, all enthusiasm and no experience, but we like ski touring and we think you will too. So, for the next several issues we'll be featuring articles on touring safety, equipment, trails, etc. We welcome your comments.

Diane Broadhurst