



VOLUME XX11 *Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.* APRIL, 1987
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

It's been a pleasure serving as president of PVS these past two years. The efforts and cooperation of many contributed to our successes over the period. Special thanks go to those who keep the organization functioning: Secretary Irene Farrell, Treasurer Margaret Wyckoff, Membership Chairman Marilyn Clark, Meetings Chairman Ray McKinley, TOOT Editor Lu Beale, and the TOOT production team of Jan and Bob Marx. With their help, PVS's status as the "best ski club for skiers" is assured well into the future.

Speaking of skiing, following are the proposed PVS trips for 1988:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Ski Area(s)</u>	<u>Trip Leader(s)</u>
Jan. 9	1 week	Mont Sutton	Jack Peoples
Jan.15 or 22	2½ weeks	Switzerland (1st wk.) 2nd wk. undecided	The Wyckoffs
Jan.25	2½ weeks	Spain (two areas)	Bob Grasley
Feb. 13	2 weeks	Lake Tahoe and Sun Valley	Dina Taylor
Mar 5	10 days	Jackson Hole (plus 5 days in Salt Lake)	Gorman Young

HAPPY SKIING!!

Sheldon Drews, President

APRIL ANNUAL MEETING

When: Tuesday, April 21st. 8:00 P.M.

Where: Home of Mary and Norman Engelman in Potomac, Md.

What: Very important business!! Do make an effort to attend! Besides the election of new excom members and the election of applicant members qualifying for full membership and discussion of upcoming ski trips, you will be asked to fill out a questionnaire relating to past trips - great opportunity to air your beefs and bouquets!

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR DIRECTIONS.



DIRECTIONS TO ANNUAL MEETING AT THE ENGELMANS':



Take Beltway Exit # 16 for Potomac via River Road (Rte. 190). In the heart of beautiful downtown Potomac, turn right (North) on Falls Rd. (Rte. 189). Take the fourth right turn (diagonally across from a cemetery) onto Kentsdale Drive. In about half a mile, on a corner, you will find 10450 (Chez Engleman). If lost, call 299-2633.



Coming Events

SATURDAY HIKE BILLY GOAT TRAIL

When: Saturday, April 18th. 10:30 A.M. (Rain date: Sun. Ap. 19th)

What: The annual PVS spring hike on the Billy Goat Trail along and above the shores of the Potomac River where every step is a challenge and every rock scaled a victory, where grown men groan and little children scamper. C'mon! Try it!

Place: Meet in the parking lot opposite Old Angler's, at 10801 MacArthur Blvd., Potomac, MD. (near Great Falls Park). It's a 4½ mile hike with 2½ miles of rocky trail above the Potomac.

Reminder: Wear sturdy shoes and bring your lunch.

Leader: Lu Beale (363-3521). No reservations necessary. Just come and enjoy.

Directions: Take the Beltway Exit 41 for Carderock-Great Falls. Go all the way to the end of parkway, turn left on MacArthur Blvd. and proceed a couple of miles to Angler's Inn. Parking lot on the left of road.

SATURDAY JOG

SIXTH ANNUAL FUN RUN AND BRUNCH WITH THE CLARKS

When: Saturday, May 2nd 9:00 a.m. Rain or shine.

Come join Marilyn and Dick Clark at Lake Accotink/Wakefield Park for this run/jog/crawl on a mostly level wooded trail around Accotink Lake with distances to suit all tastes. Following the work out, we will drive the two miles to the Clarks' home for brunch.

The brunch is limited to 24 and is almost full. If you want to just hike, come along. But if you want to eat, you must reserve a place. Call Marilyn (978-9435). There will be a modest brunch fee.

DIRECTIONS: Take Beltway exit 5 (Braddock Rd) in Virginia. Go West (outside beltway) one tenth mile to light and well-marked Wakefield Park sign on right. Drive to main parking lot (as far as road goes) and meet by the small bridge immediately on your left as you enter the lot.

INTERNATIONAL DINNER - Saturday, May 30th.

This popular affair held at the Alexandria home of Pat and Don Cope is limited and fills up rapidly. Call Marilyn Clark (978-9435) if you want to try for one of the few places left.

THEATRE - This TOOT may reach you too late to help, but, just in case, here, for the last time, are directions to the Montgomery Playhouse in Gaithersburg, Md. for our April 5th 6:15 theatre party:

Directions to the Playhouse: Drive north on Rte. 270 to the Bureau of Standards exit, Rte 124 West (Quince Orchard Rd.). Follow to Quince Orchard Blvd. Turn right. The Playhouse is the first left turn.

HIKE IN WHITE OAK CANYON AND CEDAR RUN - Saturday, May 16th.

This is one grand hike! Put it on your calendar now and start getting in shape by warming up on the Billy Goat Trail April 18th. It's rated strenuous but you'll love it. Look for details in May TOOT. For advance information call Lu Beale (363-3521).

BOLSHOI BALLET - August 1st.

This event is fully subscribed. For information call Steve Grenleski (384-9013).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Apr. 5 ... Theatre Party.
- Apr. 18 ... Hike on the Billy Goat Trail.
- Apr. 21 ... Annual Meeting at the Engelmans'. 8:00 P.M.
- Apr. 25 ... Spring Ski Auction. U. of Maryland. Call Fred Zedeck(892-1985)
- Apr. 28 ... ExCom at Bette Walker's. 7:30 P.M.
- May 2 ... Fun Run with the Clarks.
- May 16 ... Hike in White Oak Canyon.
- May 19 ... Monthly Meeting at Shirley Rettig's. 8:00 P.M.
- May 26 ... ExCom at Charlotte Reith's. 7:30 P.M.
- May 30 ... International Dinner
- Aug 1 ... Bolshoi Ballet

This year there will be a change in the usual schedule of two popular summer outings:

- * The Picnic/Sail at the Flakes' Annapolis home will be on Saturday July 18th (and not in August as customary).
 - * The Steak & Swim at the Elrods will be on Saturday August 22 (and not in July as customary).
- PUT 'em on your calendar!



THE KNEE

by

Ray McKinley

Spring has sprung.

I am imbued with beautiful new thoughts. With apologies (albeit small ones) to Cole Porter, once again I've become poetknee: April in D.C.

Daffodils are a blooming
Tax bills are looming,
Is the ski season done?

No, there's skiing in Utah
There's skiing in Aspen
There's skiing at Tahoe
So get up off your buns.

The Knee is doing just that. I'm now off for some late skiing in New Mexico (I would have put that into my poem, but what rhymes with Albuquerqueknee?). Anyway, let me know who, if anyone, skis later.

Bob Grasley, back from Iceland, reports he's found a new low in winter weather. Copenhagen is replaced by Reykjavik where it is always "sleet-ing, snowing and raining."

Mike Rysavy is recently back from three months in one of my favorite countries: Czechoslovakneea. Charlie Gordon watched over Mike's household while Mike was away.

At a recent event, pres Sheldon Drews picked up a glass of wine and finished it off. "Hey, that's my wine," protested Bob Wyckoff. Replied Sheldon realistically "Not any more."

Not to be outdone, at a recent ExCom meeting, Margaret Wyckoff said indignantly "What do you mean you want a Treasurer's Report? But, if you are nice I can tell you what is in the kitty." Cat food, Margaret?

My Kneedle of the Month goes to PVS ExCom. It's really important to read TOOT. Don and Pat Cope read in the last issue that the International Dinner had been scheduled at their house without anyone on ExCom even asking them!

Kneedle, Part II: It's also really important for ExComers to attend ExCom meetings. Bette Walker found that

an ExCom meeting had been scheduled at her house without anyone on ExCom asking her!

It was a genuine pleasure to learn that Jack Lilley (aka Jacques Clod Lilley, T-Bar expert) was, despite recent health problems, skiing in Vail. Watch out for the avalanches, Jacques Clod - they can do in T-Bars.

During Dina Taylor's trip, on the bus from Seattle to Whistler Mt., Dean Worcester lost something under the seat. Before kneeling in the aisle to look for it, he turned toward the back of the bus and asked, "Is this the direction to Mecca?"

The Whistler trip, in my humble and always noncommittal opinion, was a pleasant experience despite a record-breaking three-day rain. It gave new meaning to the term "bad wet-er."

The rain led to innovative costumes. Some wore water-proof ski boots to dinner. Gorman Young showed up in street shoes and rubbers "to stave off pneumonia." Many resorted to wearing garbage bags on the slopes.

In a recent conversation, Helen Price told Ted Cardwell as he was deprecating his own skiing ability, "You are too modest." Ted responded, "Oh, not at all. I'm just like Norm Engelman."

I appreciate the way the Canadians treat skiers like adults. In the U.S., at ski area boundaries there are ropes, signs, alarms, land mines, etc. In Canada, there are simply occasional signs reading, "Ski Area Boundary. Not Patrolled." Now, that's adult.

The Elrods have still not moved into their new house. Nevertheless, they plan to have the pool ready for this summer's Steak & Swim - but in August, this year.

As mentioned last month, there is an upcoming questionnaire on ski trips. As a prelude, I've been asking people their favorite ski areas.

Tony Soler and Dean Worcester are Alta fans although Dean says his single best day was at Arapahoe Basin.

Eugenia Ufholz likes Val d'Isere for an overall area. Dot Mills loves St. Anton. Dina Taylor and Mary Jane McCarthy both favor La Plagne.

Huey Roberts likes Aspen.

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WHISTLER

WONDERFUL WHISTLER
by Rosemary Soler



To quote our esteemed Knee, Ray McKinley, "Whistler is a world class resort and doesn't know it." This is a truism if there ever was one. Everything that has been written and said about it is not an exaggeration. The vastness of the terrain in your descent of the two big mountains, Whistler and Blackcomb, is not only awe-inspiring but wearying! By the time you reach the Village you know you've done some skiing. Franz' Run, stretching from top to bottom is North America's longest vertical drop continuous run. Likewise, is Blackcomb's Cruiser which boasts three downhill miles nonstop. You experience all types of snow on the way down from fresh powder at the top to sandy-type corn snow at the bottom, which can be delightful skiing if the temperature is right. The conditions the first few days of our trip were great with fresh snow falling off and on. This is the up side. The down side follows.

After a brutal flight time of 6:05 am 23 FVSers led by Dina Taylor got off the runway headed for Seattle by way of Atlanta, (a circuitous route to say the least), to meet our bus for the five hour trek up 99 to Whistler Village. The length of the trip was mitigated by the beauty of British Columbia as the road wound up and up overlooking Howe Sound, a spectacular body of water framed by the peaks of the Coastal Range. Once settled in our comfortable condos, with some needed rest, we hit the slopes for those first very good days and then the rains came, and came, and came!

Most of us knocked off during the height of the deluge, which gave us some time to get acquainted with the Village shops and gourmet restaurants, of which there are many and varied; Italian, German, Chinese, etc. The rains kept coming though, to the point that while in the Village shopping one night, I felt like Sadie Thompson in "Rain" (Somerset Maugham's classic tale of the South Pacific monsoon season.) While coming out of a shop with Irene Farrell trying to head back to our condo, we felt like it wouldn't be long before we would have to tread water. Irene had rigged up head gear to ward off the rain that Huey Roberts said made her look like "The Flying Nun" That wasn't the only eccentric getup. By the next day with the precip still with us and with cabin fever setting in, we braved the slopes with garbage bags pulled over us. A particularly colorful sight was Mary Jane McCarthy, Dean Worcester and Charlie Gordon in their orange plastic, looking like three "runaway baggies" sailing down the slope with Mary Jane's skirt picking up the wind behind like a jib. Needless to say the condo dryer was overworked at quitting time and there weren't enough places to hang our soaking ski clothes. Eugenia Uholz said she "felt so weighted down, like her mittens were holding a ton of water - they were so sodden."

However, the next day dawned with a little sun and blue sky. Although it was sporadic, it gradually cleared and luckily the snow had not deteriorated that much. Burr Schuler brought along his

(Continued next page)



WONDERFUL WHISTLER (Continued)

video camera and made tapes of the group skiing the Ego Bowl (which is just what it says) when the sun allowed, and of the trip parties which we all enjoyed with mixed emotions, as its rather a shock to see yourself on television. At our first party, the guest of honor was Jim McConkey, of McConkey's Sport Shop in the Village. He is one of the movers and shakers of the Whistler area, having come there in its infancy. He spoke of his career at Grey Rocks and Mt. Tremblant in eastern Canada when he was assistant to Ernie McCulloch, Ski School Director. He had also been at Alta in the early days and had worked with Stein Erikson. Gorman Young, Helen Price and Charlotte Eddy joined the trip a few days late. Gorman and Helen had known McConkey at Tremblant.

There were no serious mishaps on the trip, except that Charlie Gordon got separated from the group and strayed onto an unusually steep trail called "The Bite" which he said was aptly named, as it was "mean as a snake" and he had nowhere to go but down. On the last day with all the confusion of trying to get in a half day's skiing before our bus arrived, Huey Roberts lost his wallet presumably while boarding the chair. But it was found and turned in, much to Huey's relief. Then it was on to Seattle and our flight home.

Even with the rain it turned out to be a great trip, and left us all with the admiration one feels when they encounter a beautiful and formidable ski area. Thanks Dina - we want to go back.

MARCH MEETING AT HOME OF BARBARA AND FRED LEONHARDT by Nancy Garrett

Aye, and t'was an evenin' for the wearin' o' the green. Of the 40+ PVSers in attendance on March 17, at least 30 showed allegiance to the Emerald Isle.

Gracious hosts Barbara and Fred Leonhardt carried the St. Patrick's Day theme throughout their lovely home with green table clothes, napkins, shamrocks, and green bottles of white wine. The food table was lavish with green vegies, brussel sprouts, pizza yummys, and ham and cheese for party rye.

Throughout the Leonhardt home one sees ample proof of an interest in skiing - so many lovely sculptures, statuettes, wall hangings and on and on. Entertainment was provided by an interesting short film by J&B Productions on Mont Sutton - 10 years ago. We saw beginner skiers Brian and Eric Marx on Allegheny which many of us skied in January. A video tape produced by Burr Young from the Whistler trip was shown - normally, backwards, fast-forward and at a dead stop. Pictures were on hand from Vail and Sutton. Advance plans for PVS '88 trips were presented by President Drews.

What a delightful St. Patrick's Day. Thank you, Barbara and Fred, for a lovely evening.

TAHOE GATHERING OF PVS SKIERS by C. Huggins

On March 1st four members of PVS left Dulles airport for Reno, Nevada to ski the lake Tahoe Ski Areas. Three (C. Huggins, J. Peoples, & J. Pulos) by Western Airlines, and Steve Grenleski by United Airlines. A baby diaper in the commode grounded the Western plane for forty minutes, and they had five minutes to board the Salt Lake City to Reno flight. Fortunately six other people were also going to Reno, and they held up the flight five additional minutes until all were on board. Western lived up to their slogan that it only takes ten minutes to get baggage from one plane to another. Steve Grenleski arrived in Reno fifteen minutes after the three on Western Airlines. Steve had stopped in Denver, and it took United Airlines three days to realize Steve was not skiing in Colorado and get his skis to Reno. The four stayed at Circus-Circus, Reno's largest hotel, on the ski package which included \$18.00 rooms with a free morning buffet, and a happy hour drink on return from the slopes. They skied Squaw Valley on Monday, and Kirkwood on Tuesday. On Wednesday the fellows were skiing Heavenly, and who should appear on the slopes but the four Marx's who had flown out on Tuesday night and were staying in the West South Lake Tahoe Motor Inn. Jack Peoples was having trouble with the "Sierra Concrete" (Soft Snow) as he kept thinking of the light powder at Sutton, but he finally got with the Heavenly skiing as he realized this is what the natives expect in cold nights and warm days with soft snow. All eight skiers had a good time skiing Heavenly. The high winds prevented skiing both Nevada and California in the same day as some of the lifts were forced to shut down.

All the skiers quickly discovered that if they visited the promotion desk of each casino and showed their airline ticket that they would give you several dollars for the slot machines, coupons for free drinks, and discount coupons for meals. The skiers just couldn't visit all the casinos at South Lake Tahoe, Reno, and Sparks in one week.

The four Marx's skied Heavenly until Saturday and the four fellows had a rain day on Thursday visiting Virginia City where four hundred million dollars of silver was mined in twenty years. On Friday, they were back on the slopes at Northstar, and on Saturday, all eight skiers went to Alpine Meadows where they were joined by Jim Slack and Mary Ward, PVS skiers now living in the bay area. Jim and Mary gave all the skiers an excellent tour of the mountain. At the end of the day, all ten skiers had supper at a German restaurant on the north side of lake Tahoe, and discussed California skiing with Jim and Mary. It was a nice experience for all to get together and ski in California. Skiing came to a happy ending on Saturday night, but all the skiers hope to return some day and ski some of the twelve areas they missed on this trip, and perhaps to again visit with their bay area ski friends.

ADDENDUM by Jan Marx

PVSers Mary Ward and Jim Slack are doing fine living out there at Mountain View near San Francisco. They live in the second story of a house that is on a foundation (can't explain that!) and it is haunted. Mary reports that her horse is about to foal and she herself was amazed to find that horseback riding is the sport which most closely parallels skiing. They share a house in Truckee and declare Alpine Meadows to be the most friendly and enjoyable of the ski areas.

VAIL ADVENTURE by Dorothy Mason

The Vail trip February 21 - March 1, was a house party, eating orgy and a super ski vacation. Only seven of us: Leader Nancy Garrett and Ray; Myra and Ken Evans; Helen Mc Mahon, guest; Charlotte Reith and Dot Mason; but we were compatible. We could even agree on where to eat each night.

Piedmont Airlines set us down in Denver right on the minute and in no time we were on the road. First stop - a shopping mall. We had decided on individual breakfasts and lunches and, of course, we each had to buy snacks. Two hours later, we were in the van with enough food and potables to last for weeks.



Saturday night we settled in and tried the in-house jacuzzi for two.

Sunday dawned bright, calling all skiers to slopes and others to town to explore, and we liked what we saw.

It would be nice to say we established a pattern on Monday. We did take off early for Lions Head to do our own things. Dot, however, discovered a broken binding. She went to a shop for replacements, had to return to Vail for her Visa Card, came back and got the skis. Part way up on the lift she discovered she had lost her goggles. In less than good form, she returned to the shop, found the goggles, and took a taxi home.

Meantime, the good skiers had not yet found a passable "ski-in" trail promised by the travel agent. (They did on the next to last day.) And the "ski to the slopes" proved a myth. Fortunately, the walk was short and downhill.

By Tuesday, we had a routine, except 1. we had 3 days of snow, some of it heavy, which changed plans; and 2. Barbara Leonhardt invited us to Beaver Creek for Thursday lunch at the club restaurant on top. While the others skied, Dot rode to the top on a cat. No ordinary cat - this one was enclosed, heated, and equipped with overstuffed chairs. Too bad Helen changed her mind too late and missed it.

The view from the dining room windows of this new restaurant was obliterated by falling snow but lunch was delicious and the group of 12 individuals very convivial. We all reassembled at the base in "Jerry Ford's Conference Center" where a guitarist put on a tremendous show, lasting until six. Just before closing time, Charlotte's missing purse was brought down from the top intact.

We ended our week with a champagne breakfast. En route to Denver, we lunched on left-overs, and Saturday night we were still munching snacks before going to dinner.

Now we are living on happy memories. To Nancy- thanks for those memories.

NOTE TO MEMBERS FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

Sincere thanks to all of you who volunteered to host or coordinate events. We most certainly do appreciate it. We haven't gotten back to all of you yet, but we haven't forgotten about you and will be in contact with you as the need arises. Your willingness to help PVS makes our club something very special.

Ray McKinley

The following applicant members are now eligible for full membership and will be voted on at the April 21st Annual Meeting:

- Emile Sherrard
- Eugenia Uholz
- Janet and Chris Waln
- Wayne Yessler

PVS OFFICERS

- President Sheldon Drews
- Vice President ... Jan Marx
- Secretary Irene Farrell
- Treasurer Margaret Wyckoff
- Membership Marilyn Clark
- Program Chairman . Ray McKinley
- TOOT Editor Lu Beale
- TOOT Production .. Jan & Bob Marx
- USSA Eastern Rep.. Art Topping
- BRSC Reps..... Sheldon Drews
- Gail Pease
- Bob Wyckoff
- Answering Service. Jan & Bob Marx
- (451-9158)

EXCOM

Second Term:

- Lu Beale
- Charlie Huggins
- Janet Marx

First Term:

- Aase Berling
- Bette Walker
- Margaret Wyckoff

TOOT EDITOR WELCOMES ANY CONTRIBUTIONS, LITERARY OR ARTISTIC, YOU WISH TO MAKE TO THE NEWSLETTER. PLEASE SEND ALL SUCH MATERIAL TO LU BEALE, 4040 51st ST. N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016.

DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWSLETTER MATERIAL IS THE 4th TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH.