



Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.

April 29

WASHINGTON

MARYLAND

VIRGINIA

PRESIDENT'S SITZMARK

FAREWELL ADDRESS

The baby cabbage said to the mother cabbage, "Mommy, as I sit in this row of cabbage and grow and grow day after day, how will I know when to stop growing?" "The rule to follow," said the Mommy cabbage, "is to quit when you are a head."

Well, after two years as president, I'm definitely ahead (of the posse?) and even Mrs. Roosevelt doesn't have to tell me it's time to go.

But, what's really exciting is that PVS is not only way ahead of other ski clubs in the area--it is still growing.

What other club offers more year-round activities, meets monthly in private homes, has such an abundance of capable volunteers, runs more rave-review ski trips, has better cooks or a more dimpled knee? And what other club has a wait list?

It's been a wonderful two years of learning and growing, and I thank all who made it so, both for me and the club.

On April 20, a new president and executive committee will be elected to govern the club and lead us whooping and hollering into the Millenium (starting with our January 1st extravaganza).

I wish them, and all of us, Godspeed and happy skiing on and on and on far into the 21st century.

Lu Beale, President



Annual Business Meeting

April 20, 1999 -- 7:30 P.M.

Home of Charlotte & Jim Kline
1912 Gables Lane, Vienna, VA
703-821-9288



Directions to the Kline home: From Beltway take Rte. 123 toward Tyson's Corner. Turn left on Horseshoe Drive which is after the 4th traffic light on 123. (The turn is just after MacDonald's on your left.) Go 1/2 around Horseshoe and turn right on Gables Lane. The house is located on the pipestem, but please park on Gables.

IMPORTANT MATTERS are dealt with at the Annual meeting:
Election of new officers and board members and voting on acceptance of new members. Everybody come!



SPRING DINNER

Still a few places left for the annual spring dinner at the Colonnade, 2801 New Mexico Ave., N.W. in Washington. Date is April 10 at 7 p.m.

Call Marilyn Clark ASAP to make a reservation. Dialing 703-978-9435 will get you a place on the list and a recipe for a gourmet dish to contribute to the festivities.

REMEMBER! Each person should bring dishes, silverware, and wine glass sufficient to enjoy the repast.



Cortina/Venice POST-TRIP party -- Sunday April 11, 1999 -- 5:00 to 8:00 P.M.
New Location -- directions will be sent to trip members.



April 12 (Monday) @ 5:00 - 8:00 PM POST TREMBLANT PARTY
at the Matthews place. Phone: 301-589-7612 for directions or with regrets. Bring your appetite, photos, souvenirs and tales of slope-side adventures for a great show-and-tell.

SEVENTH ANNUAL MT. VERNON MID-WEEK BIKE RIDE, THURSDAY APRIL 22



The seventh annual bike ride down the Mt. Vernon bike trail has been planned for Thursday April 22. We will leave at 10:30 a.m. from the Belle Haven picnic area just south of Alexandria, ride to Mt. Vernon and return for a total distance of about 14 miles.

The trail is flat to rolling. For those without a bicycle, rentals are available nearby.

For further information or just to let us know you're coming, call Shirley Rettig (703) 836-0147.

SKI GROUP 99 -- Potential trip leaders should attend the SkiGroup 99 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Crystal City -- Monday April 27, 5:00 to 8:00 P.M.

HIKE! It's that time of year again.

MAY 1, 1999 Jackie Wilson will lead a walk at Antietam Battlefield
SATURDAY beginning at 10:30 a.m. Trip will be cancelled in case of rain.

This will involve about four miles of walking on mostly flat terrain or gently rolling hills, most of the time on Park Service Roads. Approximate time is 4 hours. Bring your lunch. There are plenty of rest stops along the way. There will be a \$2 service fee unless you have a Golden Age or Golden Eagle Pass.

The Civil War battle of Antietam or Sharpsburg was fought on September 27, 1862. This 12-hour engagement produced 23,400 casualties, making it the single bloodiest day in our history. Gary Delphey, a volunteer at Antietam, will serve as our tour guide and will discuss the battle and answer questions.

Call Lu Beale, 202-363-3521, to say you are coming. We will probably car pool from Shady Grove.



Spring Fling 1999

Auction & Banquet

to benefit Disabled Sports USA

The Inn & Conference Center, University of MD University College, College Park, MD

Saturday, May 1, 1999

5:30 p.m. Silent Auction

7:30 p.m. Dinner

8:30 p.m. Live Auction

\$35 per Person (Includes Dinner & Auction—Advance Registration required)

Auction will include:

- ✿ incredible vacation packages
- ✿ variety of romantic weekend get-a-ways
- ✿ top-of-the-line ski & sports apparel & equipment
- ✿ lift passes for popular ski resorts
- ✿ dinner packages at top restaurants in the DC metropolitan area

There's something for everyone! For more information, call (301) 217-0960 ext. 3

Name: _____		Phone: _____	
Address: _____		Club Affiliation: _____	
Additional bidders: (If more than 4, please use a separate piece of paper)			
Name: _____		Name: _____	
Name: _____		Name: _____	
# of tickets: _____ (at \$35 each) Amount enclosed \$ _____			
Payment: _____ Check payable to Disabled Sports USA _____ Master Card _____ Visa _____ American Express _____ (Direct Club)			
Account Number: _____		Expiration date: _____ Authorized Signature: _____	
I'm unable to attend, but enclosed is my donation to Disabled Sports USA \$ _____			
Mail form and check to: Spring Fling Auction Committee c/o DS/USA, 451 Hungerford Dr. Suite 100, Rockville, MD 20850			

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL!

The ball, that is, that drops to signal the new year, century and millenium. That will also signal the next-day party PVS is throwing. Please let Sue Walsh know if you think you can come. (This is not a final commitment.) Call her at 301-589-7159.



A DELICIOUS MARCH MEETING

Morrison Street near the home of Pat Summers and Al Richman was a busy sight as 51 PVSers heading for the March meeting filled all the parking places nearby. Inside, they were greeted by a table groaning with goodies. A spinach and pasta dish brought forth cries for the recipe. There were biscuits as big as grandmothers used to make! Pat Summers said she loves to cook and added that she likes to try new dishes out so much that she would enjoy having the PVS meeting each month. What a dangerous statement! (Al Richman's reaction was not recorded.)

A very special happening at the meeting was the presentation of a Golden Ski award to Glade Flake for his great contributions to the club in his role as ski trip committee chair. Loud appreciative huzzas were sounded. (Bill Anderson commented that he had heard of people getting the shaft but never a golden ski pole.)

Further huzzas greeted the news that Fred Leonhardt and Serge Triau had won golds in races out west. In reports from way east--Cortina--Glade reported there was so much finery that green, blue, and pink mink coats were seen parading each night.

It was a very fun evening--and we send further huzzas to Pat and Al.

BLAST AT THE BEACH.....by Jack Peoples

Have you ever wanted to be with 15 PVS members and one spouse at the beach without any set schedule, no set time for anything except eating out or in?

Well, we did it. Don and Kathy Dillon were not great host and hostess, they were fabulous.

Eleven of us stayed at "D Lighthouse," their great home on the canal at Bethany, DE. It has 7 bedrooms and 5 baths on 3 floors. You had your choice of sleeping late, reading, walking, sightseeing, shopping and--as usual-- talking.

For 48 hours we drank, we ate--Sunday lunch was 20 oz of delicious steak with the usual trimmings at the Dillons. Nancy McKinley had never eaten such a large steak before. By the way, even the Knee was quiet at times because he likes to read.

Marilyn and Jim Panagopoulos had us over for hors d'oeuvre before dinner on Saturday--another treat. Turned out Ned Flaherty graduated from Gonzaga and Jim Panagopoulos from UConn--two schools playing an exciting game in the NCAA tournament, so that added excitement to the hors d'oeuvres.

Thanks a million, Kathy and Don. Let's do it again!

WINE TASTING AT THE COPES

Ruth Powers

Picture an evening of lively conversation, delicious food and drink in a lovely home, and you will have a glimmer of the delightful experience in store for a group of fortunate PVSers. In reality it was much more, as Pat and Don had orchestrated a menu of eight excellent wines and perfect accompanying hors d'oeuvres that provided an evening of taste sensations that all could appreciate.

The evening also served as a family reunion for Nancy Ewing and Dorie Waddick, who discovered last year that they are related through the Hetrick family. They share the same "grandfather" five generations back.

Thanks again to Pat and Don for a very special evening. It must have been a labor of love, for a great deal of effort was invested in selecting the menu and preparing for this delightful event.



PVS TRIP TO MONT TREMBLANT.....George Welti

At 5:30 A.M., Trip Leader John Mathews and his co-leader Ramona greeted Karen and Knox Felker, Lu Beale, Bette Walker, Joan de Graaff, Mike Hatanaka, Sally Finan and George Welti at Reagan National Airport. Air Canada flew us to Montreal, and from there we were bused to Mont Tremblant village. Algonkian natives claimed that "the trembling mountain" shook in anger whenever people desecrated nature.

At Mont Tremblant we were greeted by carpoolers Jackie Wilson and Mary Riley who guided us to our quarters near the base of the Flying Mile Lift and the new fast-moving Gondola (seven minutes to the summit).

Tremblant has the highest vertical rise East of the Rocky Mountains (2131'). Lu remembered learning to snowplow there in 1965 and publishing her experiences in the Washington Post. We had six days of skiing under sunny blue skies. Joan, George, Sally and Mike signed up for ski classes and participated in the races, as did John.

On Monday and Friday, John led the Potomac Valley Essers to eat out at Cassey's. On Tuesday evening, the Blue Ridge Ski Council Winterfest celebrated with a cocktail party. Wednesday, we supped at Sally and George's, and after dinner we had a sit-up demonstration by Mike and Lu. Thursday evening we joined forces with other BRSC clubs at a dinner-and-dance gala. A great time was had by all!



TRIP TO CORTINA d'AMPEZZO.....George Hicho

At 4 p.m. on Friday, February 19, 33 PVSers, minus Betty Lawrence, met at Dulles airport. Due to an unfortunate ice skating accident, Betty was still at a Virginia emergency room having a broken left clavicle tended to. The departing time was delayed for two hours, so Betty was along when the plane took off. Riding from Venice to Cortina on a bus gave us a chance to see the countryside and the increasing amounts of snow. After settling into our rooms in Cortina, that evening an exquisite dinner with fine wines awaited us.

On Sunday, a number of us scoped out Cortina and the skiing conditions while others used the day to rest and recover from some minor illnesses. Monday found all the skiers gathered together at 7:30 a.m. for a well-rounded skier's breakfast--prosciutto ham, cheese, butter, yogurt, whole milk, juice, European coffee, cappuccino, and chocolates!. David Abraham and Herb Lichtenstein had reconnoitered ski conditions for a number of areas, and had reports that Cortina had had no new snow since January, it appeared that all areas were skied off, and all black runs, minus one, were closed due to dangerous conditions.

A number of us had tried to take a bus to the Pocol area, and after circling Cortina a number of times, I called PVSers to get off or we might be riding around forever. We then climbed a hill that would make the Washington monument's steps look like the C&O tow path. Once on the top of the run, we encountered a snow squall that obliterated the way down the mountain. The snow was pelting us, swirling and blowing sideways. John Smith guided a number down. The squall subsided, so we continued at Pocol.

David and Herb went off to find the extremes and found a farmer, with a team of Clydesdales who pulled them to the top of the mountain. Word got around of this feat, and Penny Hanshaw took this same route later in the week. Finally, on Wednesday, blue skies appeared. Some of us went to Monty Cristallo and had a wonderful day. Don Dillon led the group down slopes adjacent to the long run, and finally a majority settled for repeated runs down that long run.

On Thursday, a group went to a ski area called Kronplatz, where the snow and the runs turned out to be fantastic. Some of us are still eating our hearts out because we didn't go. Friday was spent in a wonderful day of skiing on Ra Valles. Later, after lunch on the mountain top, Bill Anderson, Betty Lawrence and Pat Egan spent the time soaking up the sun on lounge chairs. It should be noted that Betty, with her broken shoulder, nevertheless skied all week.

The dinners and apres ski events arranged by John and Pat were exceptional and we thank both of them for providing us with a wonderful skiing vacation.

Venice

Bob Harmon

On leaving Cortina, we took the not-quite-100-mile trip south to Venice by bus, and then by boat from the mainland to our hotel, Gabrielli Sandwirth, which looks out to sea. What a contrast between the two stages of our trip -- between the majestic Dolomites, rising abruptly and steeply from the earth, on the one hand, and water-logged but magnificent Venice on the other! A contrast between nature and art, you could say. We spent three days in Venice, and it's a fabulous place. First of all, it's so great to be in a city without cars! Also, it is most refreshing to have a few places left like Venice which by their very nature are able to maintain their uniqueness (the inevitable McDonalds notwithstanding), even as all the world's cultures, inexorably and at an ever-accelerating pace, are merging into one single vast, gray, homogeneous world-culture.

The whole city is like a museum. The colorful but badly deteriorated exterior walls of so many of the buildings, especially along the Grand Canal, are punctuated by ornate doorways, windows, balconies, and decorative sculpture which bespeak the city's past glory. We had good weather, especially the first two days when it was warm enough to enjoy sitting in the ubiquitous outdoor cafés. Among the activities which some of us participated in were a guided tour of the doges' palace, a guided walking tour, visits to art galleries and St. Mark's Basilica, taxi-boat trips the length of the Grand Canal, evening concerts, a visit to a glass manufactory (where we did much to bolster the local economy and contributed greatly to the U.S. trade deficit), and a few people took a gondola ride.

To sum up, combining Cortina with Venice was a great idea! Many thanks to John and Pat for running a superb trip.



SKI TRIP PLANNING FOR 1999-2000



I would like to ask for any PVS members interested in being involved with the running of ski trips (either as trip leaders or assistant leaders) to please contact me. We have to start planning and scheduling our trips for next year now, and there is need for some additional people to help by proposing trips they would like to run. I am also interested receiving your ideas for your favorite trip places for next year. We were able to get input (from a sign up sheet of choices) at our March general meeting but I would like to hear from those who were not at the meeting.

Serge Triau
301-84-1128
lizandserge@erols.com

THE KNEE

by
Ray McKinley



In just a single week, ending on March 15, the DC area received some 20 inches of snow. That is about ten times as much snow as had fallen in the entire rest of the winter and last winter combined. Perhaps Shakespeare's warning "Beware the ides of March," was referring to premature removal of your snow tires.

So it goes with global warming. The Knee doesn't know much about the subject, but it appears to be bad for skiing. Indeed, in recent years the Ski Liberty glacier has been shrinking--especially when they turn off the ice machine.

Warm weather hereabouts hasn't deterred some stout hearted PVSers (or that may be stout drinking PVSers) from late season ski trips. To prove my point, as you read this a significant group of 40 of us are still skiing in Vail.

Indeed, just before leaving for Vail, I flew over some California High Sierra Ski Resorts. They had just gotten a foot or so of new powder. It had just fallen, as the conifers were still glistening white--a winter wonderland. God but it's beautiful! From 6 miles up, the snow is pristine and all-encompassing. Our sport really changes winter. It's not the slush and snowplows of mid March. It's a fluffy, white, soft, genteel, glorious state of our environment.

Ubiquitous PVS, One More Time: Last month Alice Swalm ran into Jim Slack and Mary Ward at a performance at the Barns of Wolf Trap. So far neither party is suing.

Sorry to hear that old friend Bob Wyckoff is back in the hospital. The Knee and all the rest of PVS wish both Bob and Margaret the best.

Don't ask me why, but knife rests seem to be coming back. Joan Flake admired them at a dinner party, and the hostess made a gift of 12 of them to Joan. And Marilyn Clark just bought a single Baccarat knife rest. Apparently hubby Dick will still be forced to have tired knives.

Bet not many of you cared about last

month's item that Ned Flaherty and Betty Byrne both lived on Chicago's Astor Street. But Karen Felker did. She also visited friends that lived on Astor Street. If you spent only fifty percent of your time on the street, were you a half Astor?

Condolences to Janet and Bob Marx on the recent loss of Janet's mother.

Don Cope is rapidly recovering from minor surgery. *In lieu* of a prescription pain killer Don was prescribed red wine! (And, for a change, the Knee is not making this up.)

As ski season winds down, PVSers are planning other travel. Jackie and Ned Flaherty are heading to Milwaukee for a christening. The Dillons are checking out NC colleges. And the Felkers are here today, gone to Maui.

PVSers had a ball at Don and Kathy Dillon's beach house. It's at one of my favorite places--South Bethaknee.

Not that we drank anything, but a local bar had a sign, "Live Well, Laugh Often, Love Much." Add "and Ski Oodles" on the end and I could live with that philosophy.

Not that we drank anything (2), but on visiting Marilyn and Jim Panagopoulos' new beach house for cocktails, they had a kneet sign. "Martha Stewart doesn't live here."

George Hicho was helping Betty Lawrence replace a pipe. The water came on in his face. Thus George was all wet prior to arriving at the Dillons for cocktails. Not that we drank anything.

Not only did Betty Lawrence get her pipe replaced, but she is the fastest woman in Virginia. That's in her age group and based on her Telluride (Tellmyride?) NASTAR time. Congrats!

Barry good and Barry bad news. Bob Barry was recovering from knee replacement surgery (Having me removed?), when Vivian fell and may have knee surgery. They are looking for someone to run their Rehoboth B&B this summer.

Neither David Abraham and Reg Heitchue nor Dick Harsh were PVS's first heliskiers as the Knee reported. Jack Peoples did it in 1987--in Chile. David, Reg and Dick were the first North American heliskiers. Another *knea culpa*.



CALENDAR

- Apr. 10 ... Spring dinner at the Colonnade, p. 2
- Apr. 11 ... Cortina/Venice Post-Trip party, p. 2
- Apr. 12 ... Tremblant Post-Trip party, p. 2
- Apr. 17 ... Vail Post-trip party
- Apr. 20 ... Annual meeting at the Klines', p. 1&2
- Apr. 22 ... Seventh annual Bike ride to Mt. Vernon, p. 3
- Apr. 27 ... Ski Group 99 for potential trip leaders, p. 3
- Apr. 27 ... ExCom at Bette Walker's
- May 1 ... Antietam hike, p. 3
- May 1 ... Spring Fling at the University of Maryland, p. 4
- May 18 ... Monthly meeting at the Leonhardts'
- May 20 ... Kent Island Bike ride, lunch, and trip to bird sanctuary
- May 25 ... ExCom @ McKel's
- May 27 ... Midweek bike ride
- June 15 ... Monthly meeting at Betty Lawrence's
- July 10 ... Annual Pre-Ski-Season party at the Heitchue's
- Jan. 1 ... 2000, Millennium Party
- Nov. ... PVS 35th Anniversary

June 27
 excom @ Drews
 July 18 dinner + game Moss Hunt light + up the sky
 July 25 excom @ Smith + temple

Bette Walker
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→ O Peva
 August Fall Europe

Nov 6? AVFS club
 Jan Millennium
 Nov 2000