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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



On a recent trip to Seven Springs Ski resort, while going down a black diamond slope, I saw a young skier (he was 12-13 years old) go flying by me, out of control and all of a sudden take a terrible fall. I observed the action first hand and noticed he had crossed his skis, and because of his speed it caused him to go high in the air and after losing all gear (it was a complete yard sale) he fell hard on his back. We immediately checked on his condition and were relieved to find out that although he stayed down on his back in obvious pain, was able to move all his extremities and he said he was ok but for the pain in his back. We stayed with him until the ski patrol came and we were convinced he was in good hands. Thinking about this incident reminds me of what a dangerous activity skiing is and how I have often thought of how I wish I had eyes in the back of my head to see skiers approaching. Of course, the next best thing is for us always to be looking around to know what may come our way and to ski defensively. Fortunately in the case I saw, there were not any skiers in the way of this young out of control skier. My other thought about this is why we don't see more ski patrols out on the slopes trying to slow down skiers who are out of control. We all need to be aware of ski safety.

Well, enough of that bad stuff and my preaching, because our club is having a great ski season and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ski trip committee and all the trip leaders for providing such exciting and fun trips this year.

See you on the slopes.

Serge Triaou, President

MONTHLY MEETING - MARCH 18, 1997, 8 p.m.



Home of Ruth V. Powers
7580 Potomac Fall Road
McLean, VA 22102
Tel: 703-821-2431

Directions: From Beltway, take Exit 13 (Georgetown Pike, Rte. 193). Go west on Georgetown Pike for one mile and turn right on Potomac River Road (brick wall says Potomac Overlook Subdivision). Go to end of Potomac River Road (about 1/2 mile) and turn right on Potomac Fall Road. No. 7580 is first house on the left after turn. Look for balloon on mailbox.

COMING EVENTS

"Ski Utah's Best" Post-Trip Party

Join us on Saturday, March 22 at 6:30pm at our house for a very "cordial" post-trip party! We'll reminisce, eat and share pictures. And don't forget to bring your new Park City/Deer Valley cordial glass for a toast to a memorable trip! Call for directions. Nancy & Ray McKinley 703-527-7126.

BIKE 'N BEER -- THURSDAY MARCH 27 10:30AM



Easy 20 round trip ride on the W&OD Trail to Leesburg and back ending up at the Old Dominion BrewPub (easily accessible from bikepath and one mile from starting place). *Starting Time:* 10:30am. *Starting Place:* Route 28 and W&OD Trail (Directions: Take Dulles Toll Road to Rte. 28 -- Sully Road. Go north on Rte. 28 about 3 miles. Just after passing under the W&OD Trail overpass, turn left at traffic signal into parking lot. [Also accessible without paying toll using Rte. 7 and going south on Rte. 28]). Beer/ale tasting and lunch at unique brewpub at 1:00 pm. Interested PVSers should call the leader Betty Byrne (202) 483-4048 to let her know if you are coming.

Wine Tasting with Pat & Don Cope on 29 March 97

This season is the 20th anniversary of a blind wine tasting of French and California wines. The tasting was sponsored by a British wine shop in Paris and the tasters were eminent French personalities of the wine trade. Unbelievably, the California wines, both red and white, were judged superior to famous French counterparts.

Since that time American wines in general and California wines in particular have continued to make very significant improvements. So, at the tasting in March we will concentrate on the wines of California; both to celebrate that famous anniversary and to just enjoy these great wines.

Don't forget that due to space limitation, this event is limited to 20 people, so call the Cope's early to make reservations at 703 836 5436.



CHERRY BLOSSOM MID-WEEK WALK - THURSDAY APRIL 3rd.

We Will meet at the top of the Smithsonian Metro Stop at 10:30 a.m. for a leisurely stroll around the Tidal Basin. If weather permits, we will picnic on the mall. Bring lunch or buy from the sidewalk vendors.

Interested PVSers should call Betty Byrne (202) 483-4048 or Marvin Hass (703) 751-4737.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 1997 - The Billy Goat Trail is open! So PVS will trek it again, Frank Shelburne leading. Meet at 10 a.m. in the parking lot across from Old Anglers' Inn. If the weather is iffy, give Frank a call at 202-331-9492.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 1997 - DOGS* RETURNS! Mark the date and see details in the April TOOT. (*Dining Out Group)

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1997 - Annual Spring Dinner at the Colonnade. This event is full, but call Marilyn Clark to be waitlisted. 703-978-9435.

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ADVANCED RESERVATION REQUIRED

August 14-26, 1997 join Nancy and Ray McKinley in Valle Nevado when we

Ski in Chile

Here is your chance to experience the thrill of skiing an entirely new continent--and doing it with your PVS friends. You thought the season was over, yet you can still ski one of the world's great ski areas. We've been there. Last September we skied Valle Nevado and toured around Santiago, the very European capital of Chile. It was, truly, our best ski vacation ever. The huge resort, built solely for skiing by the French in 1991 atop an Andean mesa at 9,600 feet, is gorgeous. Dark wood structures topped with starkly pointed roofs contrast magnificently with the vast snowfields and the towering Andes. And skiing is unreal. By itself, Valle Nevado offers some 26,000 acres (40 square miles!) of skiing amongst the majestic Andes Mountains. And Valle Nevado is now lift linked to two other valleys, La Parva and El Colorado, providing the largest ski circuit in the Southern Hemisphere (40,000 acres) and a 4,000 foot vertical. Most of the skiing is intermediate; however, there is more beginner and expert skiing than in any three U. S. resorts.

But skiing isn't the only reason to go to Chile. There is lots more to see. Thus, we are planning a 12 day trip. (Shorter and longer stays are easy; you can come early or late and leave early or late.) Ski for a week and then spend four additional days in beautiful Santiago. We'll tour the city including St. Cristobal, the downtown, 1,500 foot massif providing incomparable views and one evening we'll have dinner there. We'll visit Valparaiso, Chile's largest seaport, and lunch and tour at Vina del Mar, the year-round beach playground of South America's rich and famous. We plan a half day visit to wine country and a tour of the picturesque *Concha y Toro* vineyard. You may also indulge in optional visits to lake country and to Easter Island. Further, we are exploring the possibility of getting tickets to Chile's *Opera Nacional* which we visited. All told, our trip should provide a spectacular introduction to a dramatic new Hemisphere.

There are only three hotels at Valle Nevado (and thus no lifelines), so early reservations are essential. Land and air prices will be finalized soon. We now expect our trip will cost around \$2,700--a great deal for a 12 day adventure on a new continent. We've included full breakfasts daily, all dinners at Valle Nevado and some in Santiago. Please call us at (703) 527-7126. We have lots more information. Our complete flyer will be in the March TOOT. However, if you want to assure a spot, please send your check for \$100 (totally refundable through March, 1997) to the McKinleys, 2326 North Upton Street, Arlington, Virginia, 22207-4045, and payable to Nancy McKinley. *VAMANOS!*

P A S T E V E N T S

February Meeting

Dot Mills

Around forty recently returning skiers (Park City), departing skiers (Tahoe), and other post and pre skiers gathered at the home of George Hicho for a gourmet feast on February 18. What a delight! We all know we love eating as much as skiing - and we had a ball. Sue Walsh contributed her culinary expertise to help George make this a real special occasion.

President pro tem Lu Beale (with the assistance of an aluminum pie plate and spoon as a gavel) conducted the meeting. Not a lot of business except reports on trips past and to be, and plans for next year.

We all had a great time admiring George's wall of model trains. It's fabulous. You've missed something if you haven't seen it. And of course ski trip reminiscing occupied most of the evening. It was great.

Many thanks, George and Sue.



PARK CITY/DEER VALLEY SKI TRIP



**DEER VALLEY
RESORT**

A beautiful red western style hat, worn by Polly Brunelli, greeted our group of sleepy eyed PVS'ers on their 7:00 a.m. arrival at National Airport on February 6. The group boarded Northwest Airlines for an uneventful (best kind to have) flight, via Minneapolis, to Salt Lake City. One half of our co-hosts for the trip, Ray McKinley, saw to it that we made it without loss of people, skies or baggage to our waiting bus. Ray, at the urging of a number of sociable types who shall remain unnamed, set the priority of the day, "bus driver head for the first liquor store you can find." Having taken care of priority business the group then set out for Park City. "Our driver was not only cordial by pointing out places of interest but gave us an informational short course on the pioneers who settled in Utah.

By mid afternoon we were settled in the Shadow Ridge Lodge at the base of Park City's main ski area. That evening folks from the lodge greeted us with information and answered questions about the area. We were off to a great start!

The first morning at breakfast, Lu Beale noted Ron Ewing sitting at a table with eight women and referred to it as Ron's harem. That afternoon, the other half of our co-hosts, Nancy McKinley arrived in Park City, and because Nancy wasn't skiing she managed, in addition to providing the wonderful nightly apres skiing, to attend to business for her employer who happen to have an office in the lodge. (How lucky can a woman be?) That evening at a great little Italian restaurant Ned Flaherty was observed, by wife Jackie and others, ogling a charming waitress.

Midweek David Abraham made friends with an Austrian skier who took him on 14 runs, covering 21,000 ft of vertical. David actually (believe it or not) appeared bushed that evening. Rachael Abraham, not to be outdone by her husband, is reported to have skied an estimated 87 ft of vertical...cross-country skiing.

Sheldon Drew, Nat Seeman, Bob Harmon, John Smith and Myron Marquardt, solved a number of world political, economic and social problems during the week at breakfast and apres ski. John and Polly Brunelli met Stein Erickson at Stein's Lodge. Mr. Erickson is said to have given John an apple, allegedly a Stein Smith, looking similar to a Granny Smith. Dina Taylor was so impressed that she arranged for a large group to dine one evening at Steins. It was great! Other dining outs: Grappa's, Wasatch Brew Pub, Ciceros, Chimaya got great reviews, but thanks to our co-hosts great tastes and research, Ray and Nancy arranged dining at Ziggy's, Thea's and Bistro 7000 which were all super..and the desserts...to die for!

There were a few "bummers," Pat Tengel's back, Ellen Burgess' knee, Bette Walker's fight with her ski and Jessma Blockwick's personal tour of the local hospital, but all fared well.

Ski conditions for the week were fabulous, great snow, plenty of sunshine and some fresh powder dusting one of the seven days that half our group skied. It should be noted that this was a 7/10-day ski trip. The other half, those who stayed 10 days, enjoyed the same conditions. The biggest problem was choosing between skiing at Deer Valley or Park City on any given day. The week was highlighted by everyone receiving recognition for outstanding accomplishments during the trip, a cordial glass and accompanying peach liquor. A really great week, thanks to all, and especially to Ray and Nancy for a terrific ski trip!

---Nancy and Ron Ewing

BRSC EASTERN WINTERFEST RACE AT SUGARBUSH, VT. JAN. 30, 1997 - C. Huggins

After a three year hiatus, Sugarbush marked the return of PVS to racing against the other clubs. Our team consisted of three racers over 70, eight 60-70, and one youngster at 40 years of age. Team captain, Charles Huggins, had all 12 racers out on the racing slope at Sugarbush south for several practice runs thru the gates. It was unfortunate that the race on Wednesday was at Sugarbush north four miles away on the Inverness slope, and was run at a temperature of four degrees in a very cold wind.

Our women in the 60+ category were very fast as Sally Finan finished first and Jean Jennings finished 3rd. Our men were not as good as the women as Charles Huggins finished 4th, twenty seven hundredths of a second behind the third place medalist who was twelve hundredths of a second slower than the second place medalist. Jack Peoples failed to beat Sally Finan and payed up his bet at the awards banquet. It was unfortunate that the race had no 70+ category or George Welti, Norman Engelman, and Charles McGrath would certainly have captured some of the medals. Three of the sixty group will join the 70+ group next year, and all are wanting Serge Triau to push for it at the next BRSC meeting in May. Our team finished 5th out of 7 clubs and the racing times are listed in the table below.

Our team was #1 in the Bib door prizes with six bib numbers being drawn for prizes (George Welti, Betty Byrne, Charles Huggins, Alexa McGrath, Jean Jennings, and Nancy Laymon). Alexa McGrath (A non flyer) captured the big prize - a round trip airfare to any place Ski Trips Unlimited is running a ski trip over the next year. Alexa may be looking for offers on the air ticket to the Winter Carnival at Snowmass in Jan. 1998.

Racer	Blue Time	Red Time	Avg.	Finish Position in 110 Racers
Sally Finan	58.85	56.55	1:55.40	52
Betty Byrne	1:35.51	1:42.38	3:17.84	84
Nancy Laymon	1:13.56	1:13.77	2:27.33	75
Jack Peoples	1:00.80	58.40	1:59.20	59
Norm Engelman	1:20.21	1:21.35	2:41.56	78
Charles Huggins	51.10	50.85	1:41.95	28
Shirley Rettig	1:04.61	DNF	-	73
Stanton Mead	47.57	1:12.23	1:59.80	61
George Welti	1:26.28	1:39.54	3:05.82	81
Charles McGrath	1:53.58	DNS	-	93
Alexa McGrath	2:02.68	DNS	-	94
Jean Jennings	59.05	1:00.72	1:59.77	60

* Only medals were awarded to the first three place finishers in each ten year age category thru 60+.



A personal privilege word from the Toot editor: Immense thanks for all the suitcase-packing, luggage-delivering, telephone-calling, hospital-visiting, and ski-toting by the PVSers at Park City!

VOTE ON APPLICANT MEMBERS

The following applicant members have met all requirements for active membership in PVS:

- Roland and Lorraine Brockmeyer
- John and Pauline Brunelli
- Ruth Powers
- Jack Ragen
- Therese St. Louis
- Richard Will
- Gladys Youngblood

Voting will be held at the annual meeting in April.



Following are brief bio's of the candidates for two-year terms on the PVS Executive Committee:

SUZANNE BOISCLAIR was born in France, was raised there and also in Belgium. In 1943 the circumstances of war drove her to the Belgian Congo (now Zaire). There she worked for the Red Cross, and a little later she worked for the Radiodiffusion Nationale Belge in Leopoldville (now Kinshasa) in the capacity of Radio Announcer. At the end of two years spent in Equatorial Africa we find her in the U.S.A.. She had married. The Belgian Embassy in Washington, then the World Bank shaped her husband's international career enabling her to join him in many glorious trips and missions. Years later though the marriage failed and Suzanne took the momentous decision to become American, with permanent residence in the States. Ever since, Washington has been the base to return to from whatever places a wanderlust that has not yet abated had taken her.

I managed to finish school with a B.A. from American University. After a second marriage failed, I started working in earnest for the United States Congress: first for a Representative from Maine, then for THE Senator from Massachusetts, finally joining for 15 years the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment from which I retired before it was abolished.

Sports? Yes, ski: a winter passion - golf, windsurfing, bicycling: all strenuous summer delights.

I am looking forward to be part of the success of our PVS Club.

RON EWING - Born and raised in central Pennsylvania never skied until he and the family went to Europe in 1966. He's been skiing ever since. Ron and his wife, Nancy, joined PVS four years ago and they have gone on a number of ski trips and participated in other PVS sponsored events.

Ron graduated from Penn State University with a degree in electrical engineering and he has a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Utah. His professional career has been with industry and government. He worked for the Ford Motor Company, SKF Industries and a subsidiary of the Singer Sewing Machine Company. His government service, including a stint in the Army, spanned 28 years. Having held numerous jobs in the Department of Defense, Department of Energy and the CIA, he retired from the latter in 1993. Ron then started his own technology consulting business and he stays active in the company.

Ron and Nancy have two daughters, both married, and a son. Besides skiing Ron enjoys woodworking and recently has returned to playing golf. Ron lives in Fairfax Station, Virginia.

JANET WALN was born in the one-time Confederate Capital of Missouri (Marshall, Texas for the woefully uninformed) and lived much of her (first) childhood and teen years there. She graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacagdoches, TX with a degree in elementary and special education, and has taught in Texas and Florida schools.

Janet and Chris met on a football weekend blind date at Texas A&M in 1968 and married anyway three years later (20+ years ago!). They have lived in the DC area off and on since 1980. Recent years were spent in CA. Janet has worked as a teacher, receptionist, dental assistant, yacht documentation specialist (BOAT/USA), mortgage loan closer. She aerobes, gardens, needlepoints, cycles, gourmets, calligraphs, and skis when she isn't working, moving or sailing.

Janet fell in love with skiing at Snow Basin, Utah, where Chris taught her the fundamentals. She joined PVS in 1986. Downhill at Mont Sutton and cross-country at Sutton on Haut are her favorite ways and places to ski. Dearest ski memory is placing 3rd in the "Mad Dog Slalom" at the 1985 BRSC Ski-o-Ree at Canaan Valley while skiing with the Pentagon Ski Club.

Proposed Changes to PVS By-Laws

The following changes to the by-laws have been proposed by a committee appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Committee. The proposed changes will be voted on at the annual meeting on April 15, 1997. Additions are underlined. Deletions are shown with a line drawn through them.

1) PURPOSE

Good fellowship and the shared enjoyment of good skiing.

2) SECTION I - MEMBERSHIP

E. Membership shall not exceed two hundred dues-paying persons.

F. If any member should behave in a way prejudicial to the physical or financial welfare of other members, the Executive Committee may, by a majority vote and at its sole discretion, take whatever steps necessary, including expulsion of that member, to insure the well being of the club. ~~Absentee members, upon application, shall be restored to active membership ahead of new applicants.~~

3) SECTION IV - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

D. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the general direction of the club and shall have power to transact all ordinary club business including membership and financial issues. Four members of the Executive Committee constitute a quorum.

TOTAL NUMBER OF ON-SNOW PARTICIPANTS

Year	Alpine	Snowboard	Cross Country
1991	10,427,000	1,557,000	4,371,000
1992	10,782,000	1,227,000	3,470,000
1993	10,495,000	1,841,000	3,727,000
1994	10,620,000	2,061,000	3,627,000
1995	9,281,000	2,254,000	3,428,000

* Data from Ski Industries America



THE KNEE

by

Ray McKinley

During this time of year we reasonably discuss skiing. However, it's also just past President's Day. Perhaps we should briefly consider other rhetoric.

Four score and seven years ago, our forefathers... (The Knee only had one father, not four--and today shouldn't we discuss foreparents, or better, twoparents.) Akneeway, 87 years ago neither our twoparents or anyone had ever heard of PVS or our current PVSers. But some are approaching 87. And as we age we are getting better.

To wit: our own Sally Finan just won a NASTAR award for "Fastest Woman over 60." (Indeed, Sally replaced Liz Triau.) After completing a mountain tour in Park City, our 62 year old guide said to Dorothy Mills that he hoped some day to ski as smoothly as she does. At Steamboat, Bette Walker asked if they had discount ski rentals for seniors. "How old?" she was asked. Bette responded with her age. "Not possible--prove it." She did, and got a week of ski rentals gratis. Right on--and left on. If nominknee Lu Beale is elected PVS president, we could well be the first ski club whose president is an octogenarian. (An octogenarian is someone whose um-twoparents go back four generations.)

Should PVS have a President Beale, the Knee hopes her messages are called "Fruit of the Lu."

Great news about Ruth Schrider. After major back surgery (no one ever has front surgery), she was to be hospitalized 3 weeks and prone, in a full back cast, for 6 months. Not quite. When two orderlies came to carry Ruth to her first therapy session, she said, "I'll walk, I've already walked all over the hospital, including stairs." She was home in 5 days. She's still in bed, but can walk around home without her cast, and on longer walks, outside, with it. Ruth will be ahem "back" to ice skating in 6 months. Cool.

It is not true that the Knee suffers from Attention Deficit Dis...

Recently, at "Ski Liberty," they received some really heavy snow. How heavy was it? It was so

heavy, that Liberty had to close the glacier because of the avalanche danger. It's true, the Knee would never fib about Liberty. A special note for Ski Liberty patrollers Jim Wingrove and Bob McNeill. A search of the archives reveals the first reference to Ski Liberty. In December, 1979 the Knee described ski conditions, "very good to excellent skiing with some grassy patches."

Locally, we are not doing badly. The number of trails available in the DC area has increased by 300 percent in the last 10 years. Also the number of lifts has tripled and total uphill capacity has sextupled. Right up.

Did you know that "Over the Hill Gang" is a franchised, for profit organization? Did you care?

After being hospitalized in Utah three nights with a potential heart problem, TOOT Editor Jessma Blockwick now has a clean bill of health, she toots.

You read it here first. Watch for Canada's newest destination resort to be BC's Sun Peaks. It's near Kamloops. Formerly Tod Mountain, it was bought and renamed by a Japakeese company, Kneeson Cable. They have already put \$100 million into upgrading, and hired Olympic Gold Medalist Nancy Green as Director of Skiing.

From my "Be Careful Where You Mail Your Mail" Department: On returning from Utah in mid February, the Knee and Nancy had two postcards, both with about 50 cents postage. One was from Dick Harsh, from Canada and was dated February 8. The second was from Myron Marquardt, from Mexico. It was smudged, but was apparently postmarked November 1! The smudging was likely from the donkey's back!

Myron Marquardt had been at a Mexican Elderhostel to learn some *Espanol*. Dick Harsh was in Canada's Bugaboos to become PVS's first heliskier. Did he ever. In a week Dick skied 136,000 vertical feet (the Knee skis flat feet), won "Skier of the Week" and had "the greatest week of skiing in my entire life." Incidentally, being a Futurist, Dick's postcard was postmarked in Blue River BC on 10/11/97. Hrrrrrr.

The truth can now be told. This column doesn't contain Knee puns. I write in Kneebomics.

