

VOLUME XXXV1

# Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.

JANUARY 2002

NUMBER 1

WASHINGTON

MARYLAND

VIRGINIA

Greetings, PVSers:

It seems perhaps we are in a somewhat ambivalent posture during the holiday season. But this is contrasted by the intensity of traditional meaning and memories, magnified in importance and intensity as things we need to do, sponsor, and experience with greater emphasis than ever.



As an example, thanks to Eloise and Mike Strand for their exceptional Holiday Party in their home full of cheer and tables laden with 65 gourmet food delights. With one group back from the wonders of Steamboat Springs and anticipating the five remaining PVS trips—let the season excel and the snows continue. Also, ExCom at the Clarks' was another "tis the season" success. Again, we are grateful to Marilyn and Dick.

And may God bless us everyone in 2002!

*Ned*  
Ned the 24<sup>th</sup>



MONTHLY MEETING  
JANUARY 15, 2002, 7:30 P.M.

HOME OF PAT SUMMERS AND AL RICHMAN  
3914 Morrison St., N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20015  
Tel: 202-362-6226

Directions to the Summers-Richman home: From the Beltway, take Connecticut Ave. heading south. Proceed to the District line at Chevy Chase Circle. Go 1/2 way around the Circle and stay on Connecticut Ave. into the District. Three blocks into the city, turn right onto Morrison St. between the American City Diner and the Riggs Bank. Drive one block to stop sign at 39<sup>th</sup> St. Continue across the intersection to the 5<sup>th</sup> house on the south side of the street. That is 3914. It is a semi-detached house and the porch light will be on. Park anywhere on the street.



### Ice Skaters...

The January "meeting" of the PVS ice skaters will be on January 9 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Cabin John Ice Rink. Call Bette Walker for information or questions. 202-333-0766.



Please add the following to your Club roster:

**Kerry & Marianne Hines**  
10706 John Turley Pl.  
Fairfax, VA 22032  
Home: 703-278-8332  
Off. K – 703-918-9608 Off. M. 703-962-4343

**Ilse Keel**  
10021 Weatherwood Ct.  
Potomac, MD 20854  
H. 301-251-1710  
O. 301-571-0525

**Sal and Lee Mahallati**  
37 Prospect Bay Dr.W.  
Grasonville, MD 21638  
H. 410-827-9649

**Kathy Quinden**  
14000 Saddlebow Dr.  
Reno, NV 89511  
775-853-8632

**WISP-----MIDWEEK-----JANUARY 9-11, 2002**

Call WISP now to reserve your room  
Ask for the Ski Chalet Demo Day Rate

Room per night (single or double).....\$58  
Voucher for Thursday Lift Ticket..... \$ 2  
Apres Ski Supplies per person  
(approximately).....\$ 5

- \*\* Let Shirley Rettig (703-836-0147) know if you are going so she can plan Apres Ski on Wednesday and Thursday nights and buy your vouchers from Ski Chalet.**
- \*\* Rooms paid individually. For each room call Wisp Hotel (1-800-462-9477) to reserve a room and pay deposit for one night with credit card or mail in check. With a roommate, individual cost drops to \$29 per night. Shirley will try to match you with a roommate if you need one.**
- \*\* Lift tickets are obtained individually at area with your voucher. 70+ skiers do not need a voucher as they ski free.**
- \*\*Meals are paid individually.**

**Snowmass January 17 - 24, 2002**

**We have had a couple of cancellations; if you are interested in finding out more information, please call Barbara or Fred Leonhardt at 301-963-8111 ASAP.**

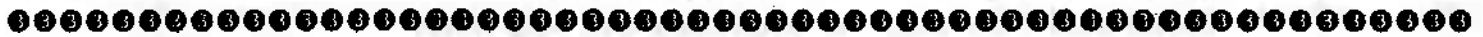
The pre-trip dinner/party at the Leonhardt's is at 4:00 PM on Saturday, January 5, 2002. Please call if you cannot come unless you have already notified the Leonhardt's.

All arrangements for the trip have been made. More information will be forthcoming in a mailing prior to the pre-trip meeting. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call.



**BANFF/LAKE LOUISE, CANADA**  
Saturday, February 2 to Saturday, February 9, 2002  
Contacts: John H. Smith (301-299-8376) or Jack Peoples (301-438-7298)

**PVS CHAMONIX**  
Friday, March 8 through Saturday, March 16, 2002  
(Optional extension to Prague)  
Contacts: Mary Ward and Jim Slack (703-754-8814)



March 15-30, 2002, join Nancy and Ray McKinley for



*A Grand European Ski Extravaganza and Sailing Holiday*

- *A Week in 4 Star Luxury in Courchevel 1850, in the Trois Vallées*
- *5 Day Cruise in the Picturesque Greek Isles and 2 Days in Athens*
- *An Outstanding 3-day Add-on in Historic, Exotic Istanbul, Turkey!*

Courchevel is perhaps the world's greatest ski resort - the elitist of the Trois Vallées area of France, the largest ski resort complex in the world--23 miles wide and over 6000 vertical feet! You can take advantage of the largest

>> Need One For Greece!! Please Call Us Immediately <<

interlinked sports area in the world. Our package gives you ski privileges in all three valleys. Courchevel is perfectly situated for all. With over **210 lifts, 600 km of slopes**, and endless off-slope possibilities, Les Trois Vallées is some 17 times the size of Vail! And we are at Courchevel 1850, at the top--*la crème de la crème*. In Courchevel's heart, we'll stay at 4 ★ Les Trois Vallées Hôtel and spa for ski-in, ski-out luxury. Just down the slope is the center of the beautiful town, home of fabulous shopping and restaurants. Enjoy great rooms, all breakfasts and 4 gourmet dinners at the lovely hotel. All rooms have **unobstructed mountain views** and are designed with perfect European luxury.

Our second week is in **Greece**. 2 nights lodging at the Hotel Stanley, downtown Athens with breakfasts and tour of the **Acropolis** and Athens included. Depart Athens Monday on Royal Olympic Cruise Lines in **upgraded cabins**. Visit Kusadasi and Ephesus, fabled Turkish sites, as well as the most famous Greek Islands, **Mykonos**, Patmos, Rhodes, Crete, and Santorini. On our return, we have a **tour to Delphi** with lunch. Too soon, March 30 we return to the United States. SPECTACULAR PACKAGE TO TURKEY: A special 2 night 3 day add-on in Istanbul: air from Athens to Istanbul, stay at 4 ★ **Taxim Plaza**, day tour of Istanbul, world famous bazaars, **Haggia Sophia**, lunch. Return April 1.

**Full French Ski Extravaganza & Greek Isles Cruise \$3,097; Turkey Add on \$360**

**Do both weeks or either week alone-French Week \$1,987, Greek Week \$1,889.**

Please call us for potential other availability or more information (703) 527-7126.



PVS Steamboat Trip December 2001 ◀◀◀◀◀◀◀◀

Our trip to Steamboat Springs this December was remarkably successful after some initial concerns.

My first concerns were about snow conditions. The mountain camera showed lots of green grass at the time of our November meeting. Steamboat did not open for the Thanksgiving weekend, and it appeared that we might have limited skiing on machine-made snow. Fortunately, a 16-day sequence of storms built up a 30-50 inch base and most of the mountain was open when we arrived. The snow improved daily with a few inches falling each night. A more substantial snowfall on Saturday lasted into the night and presented us with 9 inches of light powder on Sunday. I got out on the hill before the lifts opened so that I could make some of the first tracks. The later risers in the club had to settle for merely excellent ski conditions.

This was my first trip since the September 11 attack and I was concerned about possible long delays at the airport. A five-minute wait took care of check in. There was a long line at security but the delay turned out to be just 10 minutes. The metal detector was set so that most people had to be checked with hand wands. The return trip was even easier, with a Skycap meeting the bus and saying that the airline had asked him to check in the group. He might have been lying, but we were delighted to just get off of the bus and have someone else do all of the luggage handling. There was no delay at all for security in Denver but the large area set up for a queue indicates that this is not always the case. In all, the trip was as easy as any that I have taken in recent years.

The trip lacked a formal PVS leader and there were no scheduled group get togethers. This is where Sally Finan emerged as the woman of the year and the heroine of the Steamboat trip. Sally organized after-ski parties every day. She provided food and drink, with help from George Welti and others. Sally earned the gratitude of everyone on the trip.

At Steamboat, we met a number of PVS members who were traveling independently. There was Demetri Chaconas and his daughter Caterdina, Joe Blum, and John Pules. Joe unfortunately caught pneumonia and spent most of his stay in the Steamboat Springs Hospital. I believe that he has fully recovered from this illness.

The PVS women outnumbered the men in the ranks of expert skiers. Penny Hanshaw, Sally Finan, and Caterdina Chaconas were more adventurous than most of the men. Sally was the only woman over 30 to ski through the trees on Closet and Shadows.

Most of the group are hoping to return to Steamboat next year. We can count on fun, exercise, and the companionship of other PVSers. Snow like we had this year would just be a bonus.

David Lerner



**CORRECTION;** The action taken by the Executive Committee at its November meeting was to vote that hosts for ExCom meetings would be reimbursed \$150 to cover food and drink costs.

**FOUND;** After the November meeting, Ruth Powers found a baseball-type cap with the words "Jackson Hole" on it. Call her at 703-821-2431 to claim it.

**AND WHAT A MERRY HOLIDAY PARTY IT WAS!!**

PVSers were welcomed by twinkling lights on the lawn of the Strands' gracious home when they arrived for the annual holiday party carrying, not gifts for under the tree, but gifts for the palate.

And what bounteous gifts they were! Counting hosts and attendees, there were 66 people spreading out through the spacious rooms to eat and converse. Some of the Steamboat Springs skiers, who had just returned the night before, still had strength to show up and report on their great week in Colorado. Unnumbered appetizers were followed by entrees—a teriyaki beef prepared by Eloise drew rave reviews. And more! Somehow the Sterno underneath the dish caught the tablecloth on fire—and as the can was flicked away, it landed blazing on the tiled floor. Fortunately no serious damage occurred.

So on with the next course. A dessert highlight was the large cake Burr and Byoung Shuler brought. Burr had asked the baker to put on it a red Santa on blue skis. So the cake came with the words (in icing) "A red Santa" on the top of the cake and the words "on blue skis" across the bottom of the cake!

The meeting was short, in the holiday spirit, but included a warning from Charles Huggins that health insurance policies may not cover skiing accidents after the first of the year. He suggested people check their policies carefully.

A joyous evening indeed to open the holiday season, and our enthusiastic thanks to Eloise and Mike for so beautifully hosting the event!



**IN MEMORIAM: Lt. Colonel Mervyn John (Jack) Lilley (Ret.)**

Jack Lilley was a charter member of Potomac Valley Skiers and he served the club as social chairman, a member of the Executive Committee and as vice president. He was an active skier up until a few years ago. Prior to the formation of PVS, Jack was active in the Ski Club of Washington, D. C., serving as director of special activities, a board member and vice president.

Jack was born in Canada, but lived most of his life in the Baltimore and Washington, D. C. area. He had lived the past four years with his daughter in Macon, GA. Jack had degrees from John Hopkins and George Washington Universities. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army in Africa, Corsica and Italy.

Funeral services with full military honors will be held in the chapel at Arlington National Cemetery on Monday, January 7, 2002 at 1:00 p.m.. Attendees may arrive at the chapel as early as 12:30.



# THE KNEE

by

Ray McKinley

Skiing simply isn't the same as it was before September 11. Those we consider ski heroes aren't heroes; NY and VA police and fire fighters are. And in terms of world events, skiing, or sports, isn't in the same league. However, we all need to unwind. Over a century ago, John Muir wrote, "Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you while cares will drop off like autumn leaves." Our sport does provide us with a communion with nature, and a rare moment to be at one with a calm, peaceful world. It works for me.

More seriously (sic), let me be the first (and perhaps only) one to wish you a Happy Knee Year. The Chikneese have officially declared 2002 to be "The Year of the Knee?" Of course it's completely true. Would I ever mislead you?

Ankneeway, 2002 is also the year to be good to your knees. After all, you don't ski with your elbows. Make a Knee Years Resolution to massage your knees. I frequently massage mine with, of course, kneetsfoot oil. It keeps the knees from getting red. I do not massage this column with kneetsfoot oil. This Knee is intended to be read. That was really bad. I love it.

Congrats to Bob Marx who received his state's (Minkneesota) Lifetime Achievement Award. My home, Knee Jersey never gave the Knee nuttin'.

A tip of the ol' Knee Cap to Jessma Blockwick. Month in and month out she continues to do a superb job of putting out the TOOT!

PVS lost a founding father person (the Knee is never sexist) and we all lost a really super southern, true gentleman when Jack Lilly died in December--in Atlanta. Jack will be missed.

Before she left on the Steamboat trip, Shirley Rettig did a warm-up trip--literally. Shirley spent a week snorkeling in the US Virgin Islands!

Sally Finan and George Welti took a pre trip to Spain before they headed for "the Boat" (where

Sally became *de facto* trip leader). Several sources have told the Knee what a great trip Steamboat was. Congrats to all who made the trip a success--and to the four plus feet of new snow that greeted PVS!!

Walt and Annemarie Brenner were also "warming up." They're back from Kauai and Annemarie's first trip there. They are redoing their California home's kitchen before heading to the slopes. Walt is doing most of it. Ouch!

A question from Charlie Huggins. In how many states can you ride a ski lift and go skiing? I originally guessed half of them, but my list is now over 40 (what of Kansas? Nebraska? S. Carolina?)

Bob McNeill (Marty had nothing to do with it) now has a ski lift chair, from Ski Liberty, of course, in his back yard. Bob claimed it this fall after he discovered his back yard has a greater vertical than Ski Liberty. It's true!

Food for thought: Nancy and Ray Garrett's son, John, is now a waiter at what is arguably the best US restaurant, the Inn at Little Washington.

And Shahrsad Miller's son, Ray, was nominated for one of the behind the scenes Emmys. Shahrsad, meanwhile, is up to her ears in contractors redecorating her Arlington home.

Indeed, it seems as if most of PVS is rebuilding. Ham and Terry Morton are redoing their Myrtle Beach home, and Ron and Nancy Ewing are (still) redoing their kitchen. Dusty!!

After meeting with her Doctor (I presume Dr. Arthre, who did the surgery with his scope), PVS Secretary Karen Felker had successful knee surgery. So now Karen cannot read this column (You may need to cogitate on that one!)

And then there was the "Red Santa Claus" story. It happened at our grand Dec. Holiday Party at Mike and Eloise Strand's. (More on their fire next month.) Burr and Byoung Schuler decided to bring a patriotic, seasonal cake--white icing, with a red Santa Claus, on-blue skis. Now, Byoung still retains "a tad" of an accent. When the cake arrived, it was covered in white icing, with a huge red, white and blue flag in the center. Above the flag was written, in red script, "A Red Santa Claus." And below the flag, also in red letters was "On Blue Skis."

**CALENDAR**

- Jan. 5 ... Snowmass Pre-Trip Party at the Leonhardts'
- Jan. 9 ... 10, 11 – Demo Day at WISP, p. 3
- Jan. 9 ... PVS Ice Skaters, p. 2
- Jan. 13 ... Banff Pre-trip Party at Pat Tengel's and John Smith's
- Jan. 15 ... Monthly Meeting at Pat Summers' and Al Richman's  
pps 1 & 2
- Jan. 22 ... ExCom at Lu Beale's
- Feb. 2 ... Chamonix Pre-trip party at Mary Ward's and Jim Slack's
- Feb. 19 ... Monthly Meeting
- Feb. 20 ... Zoo Walk and lunch
- Feb. 26 ... ExCom at Margaret Wyckoff's
- Mar.28 ... Bicycling Gourmet, Glen Echo to Botanical Gardens\
- May 11 ... Tour of Hillwood and lunch

**TOOT Editor – Jessma Blockwick – Email – [jblockwick@starpower.net](mailto:jblockwick@starpower.net)**

**Bette Walker**  
**#806**  
**2801 New Mexico Ave., N.W.**  
**Washington, D. C. 20007**

