

VOLUME XLI
NUMBER 1

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

JANUARY 2005

Dear Fellow PVSers:

By the time you read this, 2004 will be history and the year 2005 will be upon us. The New Year will bring us some great ski trips and many other activities and socializing opportunities that we enjoy as the PVS family. In this regard, I want to express my appreciation to the club officers and members of the Executive Committee for their contributions that make PVS a great organization. The efforts of these dedicated people are largely transparent to most of you, but they make the club run smoothly and efficiently.

In addition to recognizing our officers and directors, I would be remiss if I did not also recognize the special contributions of our trip leaders. Unless you have led a trip, it is hard to appreciate the attention to detail required to put together a successful trip. We all owe a debt of gratitude to those members who take on the, sometimes thankless, job of running a trip.

Speaking of the coming year, I should note that, as usual, a committee has been formed to nominate officers and directors to replace those current PVS officers whose term will end in April. Serge Triau has graciously agreed to chair the nominating committee. You will be hearing more about the makeup of the nominating committee in the next issue of TOOT. I should also note that we have several activist members working on new activities for post-skiing season, and you'll soon hear more about those.

May you have a wonderful year on the slopes or doing whatever of the many fun things PVS has to offer.

Please accept my sincerest wishes for a great year in 2005.

Ref

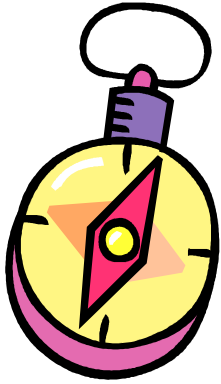


Welcome Winter



MONTHLY MEETING

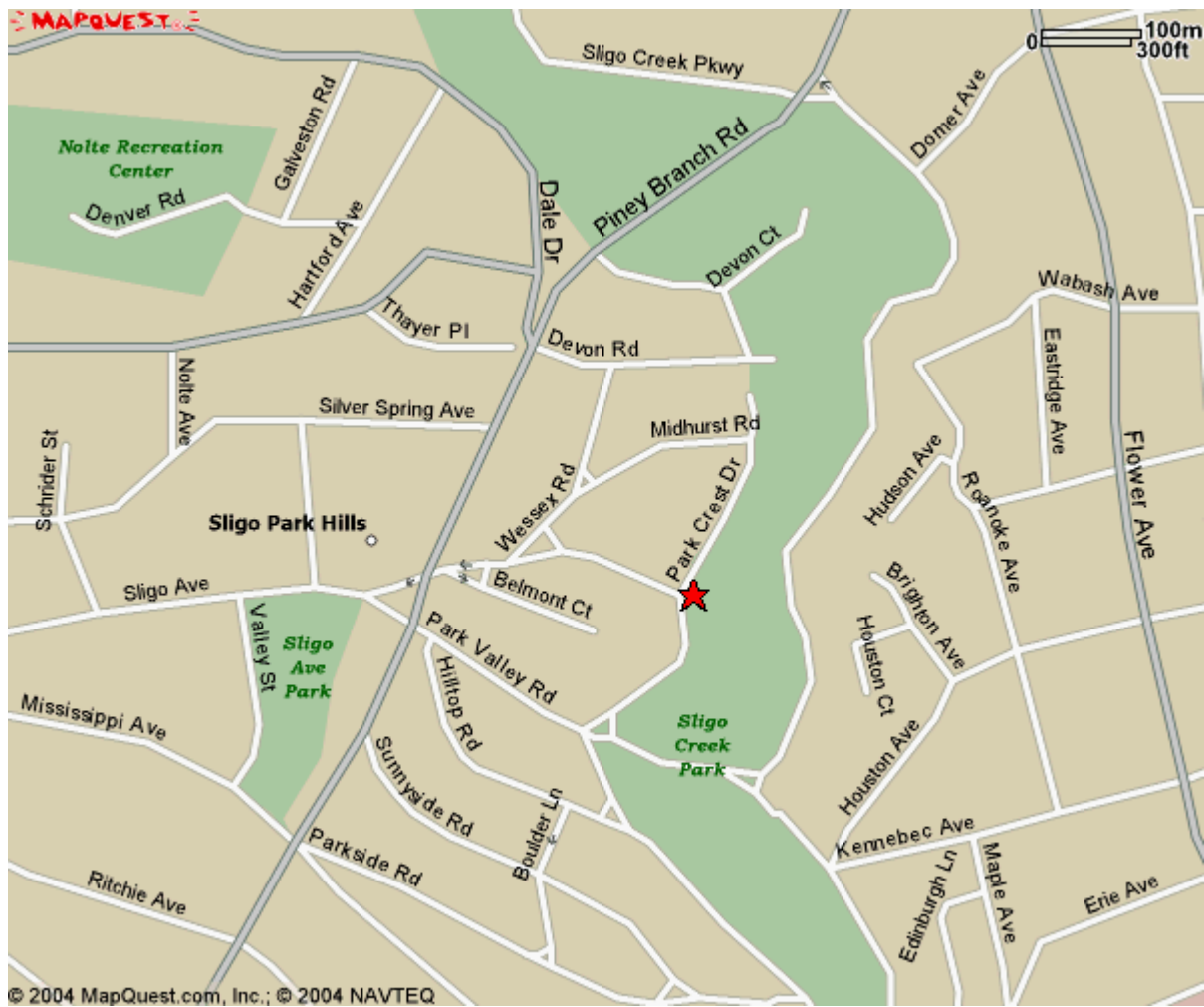
Tuesday, January 18
7:30 PM
at
Margaret Wyckoff's
in
Silver Spring, MD



Margaret Wyckoff
8100 Park Crest Dr. Silver Spring, MD
301-589-5532

FROM VA: Take Beltway - Exit 31 to Georgia Avenue **inside** the Beltway. Take Georgia Ave through Silver Spring business District to Sligo Ave. Turn left onto Sligo Ave. - Cross Fenton St. The next traffic light is Piney Branch RD. **STAY IN CURB LANE** and cross Piney Branch Rd. into Park Valley Rd. Go one block and turn left onto Park Crest Drive. Go one block to corner of Park Crest and Sussex and 8100 Park Crest Dr.

FROM DC: Take 13th St. to the north. After crossing Georgia Ave, 13th St. becomes Piney Branch Rd. After passing Eastern Ave you will see a school on the right side. Next traffic light is Park Valley Rd. Turn right and go one block to Park Crest Dr. Go one block to Park Crest and Sussex. Corner house is 8100 Park Crest.



There was joy to the world....

PAST EVENT

And for PVS too at the joyous holiday party Vince and Judy Macaluso's the Tuesday Christmas. Fifty PVSers outdid their usual culinary excellence in the goodies and they brought to the event, so the crush was constant around the tables holding the delicacies. Lots of eating--and also lots of conversation.



at
before
sweets
pretty



But there was more! A late Warren Miller film was shown on a large TV screen. Guest Barb Follett gave a presentation about three ski lodges in Canada which take skiers in by helicopter and then up the

mountains by helicopter to experience truly open mountain skiing. She made it sound exhilarating.



A special thanks to the Macalusos for hosting the event during such a busy season. It was a great beginning for the holidays!

....Jessma Blockwick

See website for more pictures. www.potomacvalleyski.org and the Knee for more details.

ADDITIONS AND CHANGES

Pat Egan 20898 Royal Villa Terrace, Sterling, VA 20165 703-433-1852

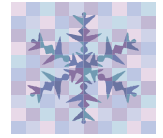
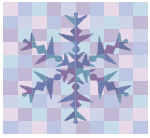
Betty Lawrence 10,000 Woodrow Street, Vienna, VA 22181 703-319-1860
lizl@verizon.net

(The Garrett's email change was cut off of some of the versions of last months Toot. I apologize.)

Ray and Nancy Garrett RNGARRETT@peoplepc.com

Marty Rine m.rine@cox.net

Ray McKinley Phone – (wk) = 703-482-9171



2005 Mid-Week Ski Trip

WISP, MD

Jan 12-14

Leader: Charles Huggins

301-424-5725 or rowhugb@juno.com

2005 Western Ski Trips

Snowmass, CO

Jan 20-27

Leaders: Gene and Wilma Sharer

301-975-9411 or wilma@sharerassociates.com

Beaver Creek, CO

Jan 27-31

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**Sun Peaks, BC**

Feb 12-20,

Leaders: Ray and Nancy McKinley

703-527-7126 or [ranmckinley@juno.com](mailto:ranmckinley@juno.com)

~~~Due to a cancellation, there is space for one woman.~~~

~~~~~  
**Mammoth Mtn, CA**

Mar 19-26

Leaders: Marty Rine and Jan Marx

Marty = 703-978-0179 or [m.rine@cox.net](mailto:m.rine@cox.net)

Jan = 703-451-9158 or [jebbmarx@aol.com](mailto:jebbmarx@aol.com)

~~~Only one airline seat left, but rooms available.~~~



WISP DEMO DAYS

Jan 12, 13, & 14, 2005



| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Room per night (12th & 13th) | \$69.00 |
| 9% state and county tax | 6.21 |
| Area user fee | 4.20 |
| Voucher for Thursday lift ticket | \$2.00 (free over 70) |
| Après ski supplies per person | 6.00 (approximately) |

- * Contact Charles Huggins (301-424-57250 if you are going so he can plan Après Ski on Wed and Thurs nights, and buy your vouchers at Ski Chalet.
- * Rooms paid individually. For each room, call WISP hotel 1-800-462-9477 to reserve your room, ask for the Ski Chalet demo day rate, and pay one night's deposit with credit card or mail a check. With a roommate, individual costs will be about \$40 per night. Charles will try to match you with a roommate if you need one.
- * Lift tickets are obtained individually at the ski area with your ski voucher on Thursday. Week day tickets are \$39. Those over 70 ski free.
- * Meals are paid individually. All rooms have a refrigerator so breakfast cereal can be eaten in your room.
- * Additional plans: Some people may wish to ski additional days, and they can work with the hotel for additional nights.

February 12-19, 2005, join Nancy and Ray McKinley to Ski

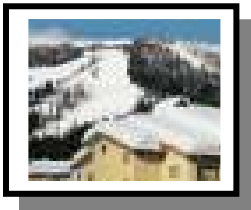


~~Due to a cancellation, there is a space for ONE woman.~~

We continue to look for new areas that PVS will love. We've found a true gem in Sun Peaks, Canada's newest destination resort. "Big" describes Sun Peaks--big fun, hospitality, mountain, terrain and vertical and a charming, Tyrolean, car-free village. The Resort logs an average of 2,000 hours of sunshine. Combined with 220" of dry snow and an average mid-winter temp. of 20 to 25 degrees F, make Sun Peaks a favorite ski holiday

Access is a piece of cake! We fly from Reagan National on Alaska Air non-stop to Seattle, leaving at a civilized 9 am. A brief layover to switch flights gets us to Kamloops, and then to the resort, by 2:30 pm. Wow!

Sun Peaks has 3678 acres, a vertical of 2,891 feet, 87 runs, 10 lifts including 3 high speed quads. It's huge! For non-skiers, there is oodles to do including; sleigh rides, gallery hopping, snowmobiling, back country snow cat adventures, snowshoeing, 30 mi Nordic skiing, a new tube park, sports center, and dog sledding.



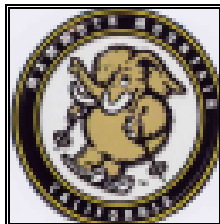
Nancy Greene's Cahilty Lodge

We're at Olympic Gold Medallist Nancy Greene's Cahilty Lodge. It includes heated tile floors in the bathrooms and kitchens, convenient ski in/ski out location. There is a hot tub and a work-out room. We have full, hot Canadian Breakfasts daily. We selected Studios featuring 1 or 2 queen beds, TV, VCR, kitchen, most with fireplace, and bath. We also offer Hotel rooms.

Aside from air, lodging and 5 of 6 day lifts, our trip also includes 3 dinners, happy hours, pre & post trip parties, bus & bellman tips, etc.

GREAT PRICES - \$1,732; 65+ \$1,685; LAND ONLY \$1,173, \$36 less in Hotel Room

This year due to air schedules we have only 30 spaces. To reserve, send your check for \$250 per person payable to Ray McKinley and send it to McKinley's, 2326 N Upton Street, Arlington, VA 22207-4045. Please call us for a copy of our flyer and lots more information at (703) 527-7126.



SEE the---and SKI the-- MAMMOTH

Jan 3, 2005 Snow Report: an incredible 8-10 foot base; 3 inches of fresh snow, on top of the 90 inches from the last storm last week. Lots of terrain = 15% expert, 20% advanced, 40% intermediate, 25% beginner

Saturday, March 19 to Saturday, March 26

ONLY ONE SPACE LEFT.

We have one seat on the airline left. However, there are more rooms at the hotel so if alternate transportation can get you to Reno (to join us on the bus), we could accommodate 2 more people.

- > Less than 65 = \$1,350
> Seniors 65 and over = \$1,313
> Land only = \$1,020
> Single supplement is \$480

THE TRIP INCLUDES: Round trip United Air Lines from Dulles to Reno

- ~ Round trip bus from Reno to Mammoth Lakes
~ 6 nights at the Shilo Inn on Main St in Mammoth Lakes (breakfasts included)
~ 1 night at the Sands in Reno
~ 5 day lift tickets - option for the 6th day.
~ Welcome wine and cheese party
~ 2 group dinners; 3 Après ski parties
~ Baggage handling, transfers, and hotel gratuities

Marty Rine 5256 Lonsdale Dr, Springfield, VA 22151
Marty Rine = martyski@erols.com 703-978-0179
Jan Marx = jebbmarx@aol.com 703-451-9158

JFF or Just For Fun

EDITOR'S NOTE: Marvin forwarded to me some articles that might be of interest. I have taken excerpts from some since this is a "light" issue of Toot. If you want the full article, contact me.

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## **SPENDING A Special Ski to Fit Almost Every Slope**

**By JIM RENDON**

Published: December 12, 2004

"You can find the perfect ski," Mr. Hochman said. "It's just a matter of cutting through the clutter." There is plenty of clutter out there....the selection is dizzying. Rossignol skis have 39 models in 9 categories on the market this year. Adidas-Salomon has 35 models, and the K2 brand has 29.

"Think about it as the difference between a hockey skate and a toboggan," Mr. Cutts said. "If you are on ice, you want a narrow blade to bite into the mountain. With powder you want a lot of surface area so you can float."

One company, K2, hired a group of female skiers to help test and design skis in an effort to reach more women. Like other manufacturers, K2 has softened and lightened the tips and tails of its skis for women because it found that women did not initiate turns as aggressively. And manufacturers now put the bindings closer to the tip because women have a lower center of gravity.

At K2, the women also added pastel colors and flowers to the design. "We would never have done this five years ago, when men were in charge of designing" women's skis because of concerns about how women would feel about the stereotypically feminine look, Mr. Mechura said. Marketing to women may also make good business sense, Mr. Cutts said. "It is often women who make the decision about whether a family goes skiing," he said. "It is important to market to women, and companies better wake up to that."

Manufacturers now design skis and bindings to work together. K2 acquired...Marker this summer. Rossignol makes its own line of bindings, and Head owns Tyrolia. While this practice probably started as a way for ski manufacturers to generate additional revenue for their own bindings, Mr. Hochman said it has led to real performance improvements. "They wound up with great results without expecting to. These ski and binding systems are designed to let the ski flex completely through a turn. In the past, the bindings and boots would combine to create a flat spot in the ski at the point where most of a skier's weight was applied, causing the ski to skid. Now the heel and toe piece move slightly when the ski arcs, allowing the ski to bend uninterrupted, which results in cleaner turns."

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In search of the perfect ski village

The hunt begins and ends in Europe, where the ski village was born—creating a blueprint for resorts around the world. Because no matter how magnificent the mountain, the heart of any ski vacation is what's at the bottom of the hill.

By Brad Tuttle

Budget Travel

Updated: 5:49 p.m. ET Nov. 10, 2004

November issue, Budget Travel magazine – "They don't ski the powder. Of all the cultural peculiarities that North American skiers and snowboarders discover in the Alps, that one leaves them the most dumbfounded. In Colorado and Vermont and British Columbia, diehards have been known to stand in lift lines before daybreak if it means fresh tracks. But in Europe, the overwhelming majority prefer the fluffiness squeezed out of the snow to make for easy cruising runs. Carving turns in powder, while fun, is an awful lot of work, and anything coming close to the W-word is a no-no for Europeans on holiday. That just means more freshies for you and me.

Everything else that goes along with the Alpine village experience in Europe makes absolute sense. Instead of day trips or long weekends, people primarily come for weeks at a time so that it's actually possible to relax. They use intricate train and bus links in lieu of cars, reserving the compact village centers for peaceful walking. And then there's that indefinable charm—the snow-topped chalets, narrow alleys, cozy après-ski pubs, and sheltering mountain surroundings are so irresistible that resorts around the world have been imitating them for decades. We're spotlighting three of these storybook ski villages, in Switzerland, Austria, and Italy. Each is authentic to its roots, more affordable than people imagine, and perfect in its own way."



THE KNEE

By Ray McKinley

2005 is now upon us. It's full of bright promise, fluffy white powder and the expectation of a truly great ski season. I wish you all a most Happy Knee Year.

A few resolutions: First I promise to be good to you all. You and the rest of PVS are my subjects. Without you, there would be nothing to write about. Also without you as readers, there would be no reason for the Knee. Keep up the good work.

I also promise to be good to my knees. After all, I don't ski on my elbows. I often massage my knees with a light weight, kneetsfoot oil. (What else?) This helps keep the knees from getting chapped and red. I do not massage this column with kneetsfoot oil. This Knee is intended to be read!

PVS goes to the ends of the earth—Part II. Last summer the Knee reported that Dick and Sandy Laeser traveled to the North Pole on a Russian icebreaker. (Recall that Jacques Hadler did the same trip in the 80's.) Now we've gone the other way. Penny Hanshaw is just back from Antarctica. She had a ball at the bottom of the world.

John and Polly Brunelli drove to Philadelphia with friends to attend the Army Navy football game. I wonder which side retired Admiral John was rooting for?

Former PVSers Roy and Malda Elrod spent most of December visiting four islands in Hawaii. It was to celebrate their 60th annkneeversary. Right on! As has been said, "Here today, gone to Maui."

Let me give you two hints for success.

1) Never tell anyone everything you know.

Peggy Burns brought a recipe created by Lu Beale to the PVS December meeting/party. It consisted of hard boiled eggs and lots more, spread on crackers. Peggy just thought that our doyenne Lu Beale should have a presence at PVS's most joyous event of the year. Right on.

The meeting was a kick! We had a great talk/video on heli-skiing and the latest Warren Miller flick. A couple of other tidbits on Judy Macaluso's December party. The beautiful round, blue Oriental rug in the dining room was specially made in Morocco. Rather than only serve white wine, Judy

had a watcher to assure that if red wine was spilled on the carpet, it would be detected and cleaned immediately. Also Judy found \$0.81 on the upstairs bed after everyone took back their coats. Running PVS meetings can be quite profitable!!

Having Barb Follett at the meeting to woo us into trying CMH heli-skiing was a win-win situation. We learned that heli-skiing isn't solely double black diamonds—and it is a truly breath-taking, beautiful experience. And it turns out that Barb works for the company that is doing the re-incorporation of PVS as a Virginia nonprofit corporation. Thus, as a bonus, because we invited her to the meeting, we saved funds on re-incorporating. Such a deal! A tip of the ol' Knee Cap goes to our Treasurer Ray Jones for finding out about it and making it all happen.

Early season skiing: In mid-December, David and Rachel Abraham were in Utah for a week of skiing. David reports that because of earlier rain (Rain in Utah in December—not possible!) there was actually some ice on Utah's slopes. Yuck! The same week, applicants Dave and Susan Payne were in Colorado and report great conditions. The Paynes welcomed in 2005 whilst skiing at Mount Tremblant. Happy Knee year!

Not exactly useful information. With its new terrain, the Whistler/Blackcomb ski area is now 1/82nd the size of Rhode Island!

It's not exactly skiing, but Mike Santoro returned December 17th from an interesting, but challenging, 22-day tour of India that included a sunrise boat cruise on the sacred river Ganges in Varanasi.

It's simply marbleous. John and Polli Brunelli have some spectacular new, stone countertops in their kitchen. It's certainly nothing to be taken for granite. Of quartz, they are not even slightly jaded.

Club Secretary Dottie Villars has a new job with the US AID. She will be traveling worldwide some 75% of her time.

A tip of the ol' Knee Cap also goes to Mike and Eloise Strand. They will be opening up their Wintergreen ski home for a weekend. It will be open to a group of handicapped skiers from Walter Reed National Medical Center. Eloise will also help teach them skiing and cook some meals. What a kneet idea. Right on!

CALENDAR

Jan 8.....Sat. Snowmass Pre-Trip Brunch at Sharer's; 11:00 AM
 Jan 11 Tues Dec/Jan ExCom at Clark's
 Jan 12, 13, 14 Wed-Fri WISP Demo Days
 Jan 15....Sat Sun Peaks Pre-Trip Party at McKinley's; 4:30 PM
 Jan 18 Tues Monthly Meeting at Wyckoff's
 Feb 15 Tues Monthly Meeting at Clark's
 Feb 22 Tues ExCom at Villar's
 Mar 5 Sat Mammoth Pre-Trip Party at Welty/Finan; 4:00 PM
 Mar 15 Tues Monthly Meeting at Leonhardt's
 Mar 16 Wed Hexagon Show
 April 19 Tue Monthly Meeting at Vagonis'
 Nov 5 Sat 40th Anniversary Party at Bolger Center



Change of postal or email address:

Call Wilma at (301) 975-9411
 or send email message to
wilma@sharerassociates.com

E-mail Notice

If you want to start receiving Toot electronically, please let me know.
 Thanks, Jan = jebmarx@aol.com.

POTOMAC VALLEY SKIERS Website ~~~~~ www.potomacvalleyskiers.org

CURRENT PVS BOARD & OFFICERS -2004-05

EXCOM:

President – *Reg Heitchue*
 Vice President – *David Abraham*
 Secretary- *Dottie Villers*
 Treasurer – *Ray Jones*
 Membership- *Wilma Sharer*
 Program Cmte Chair –
 David Abraham
 Events – *Ray McKinley*

Mid-week Events: vacant
 Ski Trip Cmte Chair – *Bob Marx*
 TOOT Editor – *Jan Marx*
 TOOT Proofreader – *Bob Marx*
 TOOT Mailer – *Marilyn Clark*
 Meeting Records – *Sara Huggins*
 Historian – *Jan Marx*
 Webmaster - *Marvin Hass*

First Term:

Marilyn Clark
Dave DeVilbiss
Mike Strand

Second Term:

John Brunelli
Ray McKinley
Dottie Villers



2005 Mid-Week Ski Trip

Jan 12-14, 2005 WISP MD

2005 Western Ski Trips

Jan 20-27, 2005 Snowmass
 Jan 27-31, 2005 Beaver Creek
 Feb 12-20, 2005 Sun Peaks
 Mar 19-26, 2005 Mammoth

