

VOLUME XXXVI

# Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.

MAY 2002

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WASHINGTON

MARYLAND

VIRGINIA

## Greetings PVSers:

Recently while one of our local TV weathermen was reporting the local record high temperatures, by contrast he listed six Colorado ski resorts that were still open! So, the last PVSer to ski this season might not be Bob Schafer who went west with his family (grandkids) for Easter.

Goodbye and God bless Joe Blum. He was an impressively accomplished scholar and gentleman with humor on the wry. Joe began his skiing career at age 50 and enjoyed every season thereafter—including Steamboat '01.

Welcome new PVS members and ExComers. With you all aboard, our club will continue to excel! And a grateful thank you to Sally Finan, Reg Heitchue and Jim Slack for their service the last two years on ExCom. Reg will continue to serve as Vice President. As for Sally and Jim, their great record as trip leaders benefit many and remain as a rich potential.

When Ray McKinley beckons us to hold a meeting for members or the ExCom (there are 22 such events yearly) please say yes now or next year. Perhaps two or more members could join together and host an event.

Remember—we are PVS—the number one fraternity of skiers!

*Ned*  
Ned, the XXIVth



## MAY MEETING

Tuesday, May 21, 2002 - 7:30 P.M.

Home of Barbara and Fred Leonhardt  
606 Firehouse Lane  
Gaithersburg, MD  
Tel: 301-963-8111

**Directions to the Leonhardts':** Take Interstate 270 North to Exit 6B (West to Darnestown). Follow Route 28 West making no turns for 5.2 miles (as measured from the bottom of 270 Exit ramp). At signal at Tscheffely Square Road, turn right into the main Kentlands entrance. At 3<sup>rd</sup> stop sign, turn right on Leekes Lot Way and then an immediate right on Firehouse Lane to #606 (7<sup>th</sup> house on right). Carpooling is recommended.



**It may be spring but there is still ice skating. The next meeting will be at the Cabin John Rink from 11:00 to 1:00. Call Bette Walker (202-333-0766) for the exact May date.**

**May Midweek Atlantic Getaway update [Wed-Fri May 15-17, 2002]**



At Don and Kathy Dillon's and Betty Lawrence's Bethany Beach area houses  
**Signup/further info by telephone with the Dillons at (302) 537-7878 [email: [ddillon39@mchsi.com](mailto:ddillon39@mchsi.com)] or with Betty Lawrence at (703) 726-8165**



**Limit:** approximately 26 and currently full, but no wait list.  
*Check with Don Dillon for late space availability. Those*

*currently signed up should receive information packet from Don.*

In event limit is reached, PVS'ers can still participate in all activities by arranging own lodging at nearby beach motels (not likely to be a problem midweek in May).

Current plans under consideration include:

- 'Golf/tennis (Don Dillon -- coordinator).
- 'Strolls/bicycling; bicycle rental readily available easy rides planned in scenic low traffic areas.
- 'Wednesday dinner at the Dillon's with drinks/hors d'oeuvres before at Betty Lawrence's.
- 'Thursday dinner at the Bethany Beach water view restaurant,
- "Mangos" with cocktail party before at Jim and Marilyn Panagopoulos's Bethany home.
- ' Friday (optional) Lunch at "The Lighthouse" a Lewes marina pub/restaurant; (stroll and bicycle in historic district and nearby Cape Henlopen State Park)



**Cost:** not yet established (but essentially on *breakeven* basis).

**PVS E-MAIL LIST**

As was announced at the April meeting, Jan Marx is taking a turn with housing the PVS e-mail list. The intention of this group mailing is to let as many people as possible know about important and unexpected news or information. It is up to you to keep your address current. Let Jan know of any changes or if you know of anyone who has just acquired e-mail: [jebbmarx@aol.com](mailto:jebbmarx@aol.com).

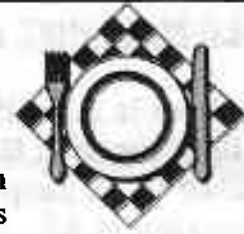
It would be good if fellow members notify those who do not have e-mail about any breaking news.



## BICYCLING GOURMET

### Calvert County Riviera

Thursday, May 23, 2002 11:00 AM



**Starting Point:** Chesapeake Beach, MD — only 30 miles from Beltway. Take Beltway exit 11A (Upper Marlboro), which places you on Rte. 4 south. Stay on Rte. 4 for 20 miles (past Upper Marlboro) and you will see signs for Chesapeake Beach which will direct you to turn left on Rte. 260. Follow Rte. 260 to the end (about 10 miles). When you reach the end, take a right turn on Rte. 261 south (sign to Railway Museum). Proceed south only one half mile on Rte. 261 and turn left at the first traffic light (sign to Railway Museum) and park in the big lot for the Rod 'N Reel restaurant on the left. Leaders will arrive by 10:30 AM; coffee and rest room available in adjacent tackle shop. **Route:** Route is on road (primarily one road-- Rte. 261), but traffic is light and drivers are polite. Ride will proceed north on Rte. 261 with short detour to use ½ mile of the North Beach boardwalk bike path. Remainder of route passes by a number of marinas with water views. Round trip 20 miles. Lunch at 1:30 PM at the Rod 'N Reel restaurant (with waterfront view) on return. **Weather:** Lunch will still take place at 1:30 p.m. even if weather not suitable for bicycling. **Historic Note:** At the turn of the century, a short line railroad from the DC area to Chesapeake Beach initiated operation and lasted until 1935. Photos and memorabilia from the days of the railroad and beach resort (with dreams of rivaling the French Riviera) are on display at the museum, which is in the restored railway station (adjacent to the Rod 'N Reel), from 1-4 PM.

**Leaders:** Marvin Hass (703) 751-4738 and Betty Byrne (202) 483-4048.

**Note:** starting time listed is for when we depart. Please arrive earlier to set up your bicycle, visit rest room, etc. If you arrive late, just head north on Route 261 and turn around in order to arrive back in time for lunch.

**April Ride Review:** Mt. Vernon Bike Path — The shade trees on the Mt. Vernon bike path were especially welcomed by the riders on this unseasonably warm day with the temperature reaching the mid-90s.

Pedalers were treated to one of the most scenic bike paths in the country with views of the Potomac river on an uncrowded weekday. Thanks for Shirley Rettig for leading this annual event with Karen and Knox Felker, David Warthen, John Brunelli, and Marvin Hass representing PVS.

**June Ride:** Tentatively scheduled for Thursday June 20.

### SAVE THE DATE!.....

**June 12, for a tour of the newly-renovated Botanical Gardens followed by lunch. Event will be led by Sally Finan. Details next month.**

**SPRING DINNER  
JUNE 15, 2002  
7:00 PM  
THE COLONNADE  
2801 NEW MEXICO AVE.**

Call Marilyn Clark at 703-978-9435 if you would like to attend. All attendees remember to bring dinner plates and flatware. Food assignments will be made late in May.

**GOLD MINE HIKE AND LUNCH—MAY 22, 10 A.M.**

The hike is 3.2 miles from the Tavern at Great Falls. It will be followed by light lunch at Bill and Susan Brown's home in Potomac. This event is limited to 15 people—and note there is limited parking. The cost is estimated at \$8.

Call Susan and Bill after May 3 for reservations and directions (Tel: 301-299-5187). Call Ruth Powers (703-821-2431) for questions about the hike.



Wine Tasting at the Lake 18 May 02

This event is limited to 20 people (space is still available). Call Pat or Don to sign up at 540-972-9838. Time is 6:30 PM. Cost for wine, food, and transportation is \$75 per person. If you have not been there, their Lakefront home is 15 minutes west of Fredericksburg, about an hour south of the Springfield exchange.

This year's tasting with multiple food courses will focus on some wonderful Italian (Tuscan) wine and food, not to mention a great California Chardonnay and a superb Chateaufeuf de Pape. It will conclude with Stilton, pears, and vintage Port.

If you are taking advantage of the free transportation provided from the Hampton Inn (at Rt. 95 and state Rt. 3) to the Cope's and back to the Inn, you should meet at the Inn office where the transportation will leave at 6 PM. Make you own reservation at the Hampton Inn, 540-371-0330. To get to the Hampton Inn, after crossing the Rappahanock River heading south on Interstate 95, turn east on Route 3. After a couple of hundred yards, you will see signs for the Hampton Inn set back on right side of Route 3.

Directions to the Copes: head south from the Springfield exit on Interstate 95 about 40 miles. Very shortly after crossing the Rappahanock River, turn west on US Route 3. Go west for about 14 miles. Your will need to turn left from route 3 at the traffic light to enter the gate at Lake of the Woods. Your name will be on a list at the gatehouse to get you though the gate. At the stop sign at the end of the gatehouse turn left onto Lakeview Parkway. Go barely a mile until you see a house on the right like a Swiss chalet, that will be Mt Pleasant Dr, turn right. Go several hundred yards on Mt Pleasant to 216 on the left.

For those staying over, there is some great sightseeing. Civil War battlefields of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Wilderness are all located between the Cope's and Fredericksburg, and Montpelier, Madison's home is just a half hour to the south.



The EXCOM has approved the following TRIP SCHEDULE,

- 1) Steamboat Springs, CO  
Leaders: Sally Finan and George Welty,  
December 10th to the 17th, 2002  
PVS  
703-716-9023
- 2) Snowmass, CO  
Leaders: Barbara and Fred Leonhardt,  
January 16th to the 23rd, 2003  
(With possible extention to Vail from  
January 24 to January 28th. Limited to  
those on the Snowmass trip)  
PVS  
301-963-8111
- 3) Tahoe Nevada Area  
Leaders: Shirley Rettig and Charles Huggins,  
February 1 to February 8 th, 2003  
BRSC Sponsor  
703-836-0147
- 4) Whistler Area, BC  
Leaders: Nancy and Ray McKinley,  
February 28th to March 8th, 2003  
PVS  
703-527-7126
- 5) Crested Butte, CO  
Leaders: David Lerner and Bob Marx,  
March 15th to the 22nd, 2003  
PVS  
703-281-8923

## **STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO.**

**This is one of PVS's favorite ski areas—and this year we will**

**Be back at the ever-popular Sheraton. Call for more details.**

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### **Ski Snowmass, CO      Thur. Jan. 16 - Thur. Jan. 23, 2003**

A repeat of the 2002, PVS trip to Snowmass, CO has been approved for 2003 with Barbara and Fred Leonhardt leading the trip. We again will be staying at the slope-side, Snowmass Mountain Chalet (SMC). The trip includes: airline from Dulles to Eagle & return, motorcoach to/from Snowmass, 7 nights lodging, 5 of 6-day lift ticket, daily hot breakfast and daily soup lunch at the SMC, pre-trip dinner/party, welcome party, 3 group dinners, 3 apres ski, and luggage handling. Unfortunately with the security tax, fuel surcharge, and price increase of the air, the cost of the trip is estimated at this time to be \$1650-1700 for those under 70 and \$1585-1635 for those over 70. Land-only option is also available. Due to its popularity last year, the trip is expected to fill rapidly. To reserve a spot, please send a check for \$200/person deposit (which is fully refundable until Aug. 1) made out to Barbara or Fred Leonhardt, 606 Firehouse Ln, Gaithersburg, MD 20878 (301-963-8111); mark "Snowmass 2003" in the memo line on the check. Singles, please also include a note indicating your roommate choice; an effort will be made to match singles ASAP but, until a match is made, singles will be put on the waiting list.

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## **TAHOE TRIP**

**We will be staying at the Horizon Casino at Stateline, Nev. The**

**Ski trip will include a welcome party, one dinner buffet, and an après**

**ski party on the Tahoe Queen. Package price will be approximately**

**\$1100, double occupancy.**



The Trip You Have Been Asking for--March 1-9, 2003, join Nancy and Ray McKinley to

# WHISTLER BLACKCOMB

We went there on our first PVS trip in 1995 and **everyone wants to go back**. Whistler Blackcomb is massive--two mountains and a **one mile (5,280 foot) vertical**--oodles of great skiing for all levels, from beginners to true double diamond skiing. **7,000 acres** blanketed with powder--over **500 inches of snowfall** last year. We include:

- 7 Nights in Luxurious 4 Star lodging in one of *Conde Nast* Traveler's Top Ski Lodges.
- 5 of 6 Day lift passes good at both mountains
- One Night in the Hotel Vancouver and a day to see the Vancouver sights
- Group dinners, happy hours, pre and post trip parties

In 1995, 62 PVSers joined us. This year we are limited top 40. To reserve a space, send your check for \$250 per person payable to Ray McKinley (refundable through July when prices will be firm) and send it to us 2326 North Upton Street, Arlington, VA 22207-4045. Please call us for more information at (703) 527-7126.

Crested Butte is a jewel of a ski area just a few miles west of Aspen. We will be headed there on March 15, 2003 with return on March 22. We'll leave from Dulles airport and fly into Gunnison Colorado. Crested Butte is a short bus ride from there. We will stay at the Sheraton Resort Hotel at the base of the mountain. Cost will be approximately \$1400, and it will include transportation, lodging, two group dinners, after ski and pre trip parties, as well as lift tickets. Skiing is free for those over 70, so some of you will be able to deduct the cost of the lift tickets. Crested Butte is a mid-sized ski area with an excellent selection of slopes for skiers of all abilities. The town of Crested Butte is probably the most charming in all of Colorado. Your trip leaders will be David Lerner and Bob Marx. A deposit of \$100 will hold your place. Deposits will be refundable from now until 30 days after the price is finalized.

CRESTED BUTTE

## PVS BOARD - 2002-2003

President..... Ned Flaherty  
 Vice President..... Reg Heitchue  
 Secretary..... Karen Felker  
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 Membership..... Marilyn Clark  
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 TOOT Production.... Bette Walker  
 Ski Trip Chair .....George Hicho  
 Midweek Activities....Ruth Powers  
 Ombudsman.....Bill Anderson  
 Meeting Records..... Sara Huggins  
 Historians.....Lu Beale and Jan Marx

## EXCOM

### First Term

David Abraham  
 Barbara Leonhardt  
 John Smith

### Second Term

Joan Flake  
 Eugene Sharer  
 Margaret Wyckoff

## Courchevel/Greece/Istanbul 2002

By Mike and Eloise Strand

We set out from Dulles under the well-organized eyes of Ray and Nancy McKinley with only a few initial bumps (mogules): Eloise Strand left her carry-on bag on the airport parking shuttle bus, Dina Taylor lost her passport just before check-in, and (in Zurich) PVS candidate Ivan Bekey left his camera at airport security. But all items were retrieved after a few nervous moments. And in Zurich we crossed paths with other PVSers in transit home from Chamonix. Virginia's warm 75°F yielded to Switzerland's 5°C:

Quick Approximate Conversion  
(°C x 2) + 30 = °F

Our *Les Trois Vallées Hôtel* is perched above the busy resort town of Courchevel 1850. It offered old world atmosphere (wine, food and song) with new world amenities (elevator, CNN, and ski out-ski in). Instead of numbers on our rooms we had French names. After a brief water stoppage, Bill Anderson's room was renamed "La Toilette."

Ask Dina Taylor how she mistakenly skied with Eloise Strand's boots for a day.  
And ask Eloise how she started a ski day with two different length poles.

Negotiations with a nearby ski rental shop resulted in a new PVS alias: The Atomic Ski Club...which is either a shortened version of "Patomic" (sic) or reference to George W's newly announced nuclear policy? Courchevel was glorious but the weather

Quote of the week: Mike Strand's wife out "yard sale" yielded assistance from two ladies who helped retrieve his gear: "Do your glasses usually have only one lens?"

was warm which made lower altitude skiing a bit "mashed potatoes." Nevertheless, seven of our group hired a day-guide for a ski-trek across the three valleys. These skier stalwarts were Shirley Rettig, Judy Macaluso, Eloise Strand, Barbara Wilson with son Jonathan, Nestor Delevaux and Marilyn Olen.

To set the record straight: it was NOT Sylvia and Wally Lukens who visited a local disco for evening entertainment only to discover it was Gay Night; it was Chamonix "night-lifer" Marilyn Olen. Our live entertainment at Hotel 3 Valleys had the finesse of a jazz combo with the impact of a full band...boy was he good! But Nancy McKinley will not be giving up her day job to be a lounge singer. Nancy's voice seemed to be improving with her consumption of spirits...or was it "spiritual" consumption by the listeners (ask "feelin' no pain" Marlene Bekey).

Interesting Food #1: Meat fondue cooked table top on a hot stone & served with 4 sauces.

The McKinley's après ski parties were supplemented with three additional drinks and hors d'oeuvres parties at the Hotel lounge graciously sponsored by Bill Anderson, Dina Taylor and Judy Macaluso, and Ivan & Marlene Bekey.

How did Judy Macaluso monitor the Terp's success in March madness?

In the transition from Courchevel to Greece we lost a few skiers but gained PVSers Myron Marquardt and June Kelsay (now of Gunther, TX). Once in Athens, most of us headed to the old part of the city: Plaka. (Plaka translated from Greek = "lots of shops and restaurants"). On our first full day in Athens we traveled to Delphi. On the way, high in the Grecian hills, we encountered SNOW at the charming town of Aráhova.

Interesting Food #2: Grilled octopus.  
Fantastic!...a repeated favorite.

Soon it was "all aboard" our cruise ship Aegean I (translated from Greek = "lots of food inside"). OPAH! We quickly fell into the ship and shore routine: eat, see the sights, eat, shop, eat, sleep, eat, see more sights, eat, shop, eat...etc. etc. etc. OPAH! OPAH!

In all we visited the Turkish mainland (Kusadasi) and numerous Greek islands: Mykonos, Patmos, Rhodes, Crete, Santorini and Santa Catalina (that last one thrown in just to see if you are paying attention). Each island docking entailed a tour with a specific routine: 1. Meet the Guide: "Hello, my name is ПАФМИТЬ, but you can call me Myrtle." 2. See the Old Stuff: "Look to your left, look to your right, climb the steps, see the old stuff, be careful walking down." 3. Opportunity to spend Euro Dollars: Myrtle said, "This is a good shop with great quality and value. I know because my sister-in-law runs the place."

How did Barbara Wilson satisfy Jonathan's Chess appetite?

By the way, most of these ancient Grecian cities had an Acropolis: which means either City High Point or Central Bar and Grill. One of the group's favorite places included the ancient latrines of Ephesus. Cold marble in the morning!...that must have been a wake up experience.

Ask Bill Anderson why when he ordered a Whiskey Snowball he was charged for a Black Russian and received a green lime drink.

Our cruise ship provided a safe haven, eating and entertainment center. Full meals and buffets throughout the day. Olives with breakfast, lunch and dinner. Movies, gambling and floor shows at night. Greek night, formal night, and talent night. OPAH! OPAH! OPAH! (Translated from Greek = "I've drunk a lot of wine.")

Nine of us continued to Istanbul: crossroads to the Orient, land of intrigue, where a one million Turkish Lira note will buy you a cup of coffee. The old stuff in Istanbul (being less than 2 millennium old) was in much better shape than in Greece. The buildings even had roofs on them. But some

Quote of the Week: at Istanbul's Grand Bazaar: "Can I help you spend your money?"

Ask Mike Strand and Ray McKinley how they slyly outsmarted the Istanbul taxi drivers...NOT!

building warning signs cautioned against "loud speaking or other disruptive behavior" which meant Ray McKinley couldn't tell a pun for the following 30 minutes. The covered Grand Bazar offered something for everyone in it's 4,000 shops...at a negotiated price.

Our travel schedule allowed one more day of sight seeing in Athens: the Parthenon and reorganization of baggage for the trip back to Dulles. Coincidentally our travel date home (April 1<sup>st</sup>) was a Greek national holiday: American-Greek Day. Accordingly, our group was singled out for a police escorted ride to the Athens airport, whisked through customs and security, and even upgraded to Business Class on the flights home. What a finale to a great trip. [A.F.!]

Why did June Kelsay make the return flights with one more bag than she took?

Note to Mike Hatanaka who sadly had to cancel 2 days before the trip: we missed you and were sorry you were unable to join us. And finally, many thanks to Ray and Nancy McKinley for organizing and shepherding us through a marvelous travel extravaganza.



### THAT SPECIAL APRIL MEETING....

Once again the generous Klines hosted the annual business meeting. To keep everyone's strength up for the coming voting, Charlotte and Jim had prepared their usual feast—chicken salad, seafood salad, potato salad, meatballs, and much, much more. Imagine feeding all that to 71 attendees!

The election of new officers, new ExCom members and new PVS members, proceeded very swiftly since all were delighted with those being voted on. (See elsewhere in TOOT for the results.)

Another joyful highlight came when Nat Seeman stood with a cupcake in hand, containing one candle which he lighted and all joined in singing a lusty "Happy Birthday" to Marianne Cook celebrating her 89<sup>th</sup>. Someone revealed Nat was having one too, so again PVS pealed out another "Happy Birthday." Nat didn't reveal his age.

Delicious desserts topped off the evening, complete with a large cake displaying the American Flag.



**GIVE A HEARTY WELCOME TO THESE NEW PVSers....**

Francesca Adams  
Demetri Chacones  
Sharon Mulholland  
Robert Shafer

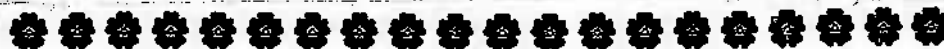
Rosemary Schwartzbard  
Richard Schwartzbard  
Marsha Warthen  
David Warthen

**Bio of new excom member**

Barbara Leonhardt, and husband Fred, have been PVS members since the mid-80's after a trip to Austria with the Wyckoff's (but Barbara almost failed the ski test when she couldn't do a kick turn to Larry Pease's satisfaction!). Barbara learned to ski in 1957 on the hills south of Buffalo, NY and on trips to VT, NH, and Eastern Canada. Upon moving to MD in 1966, she skied with SCWDC and became a certified "Amateur Ski Instructor" in Bob Grasley's program. As PVS members, Barbara and Fred have participated in many ski trips and other activities and regularly host meetings and events. For the last 3 years, she and Fred have led PVS ski trips to Colorado. On the professional side, Barbara earned a 2-yr Associates degree in industrial chemistry, a BS in chemistry from the State Univ. of NY at Buffalo and a PhD in chemistry from The American University in DC. She worked as a chemist for Union Carbide Corp. in Tonawanda, NY for 10 years and as a Research Chemist/ Administrator for the Agricultural Research Service of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture in Beltsville, MD for 34 years. She retired in Jan. 2000 as Director of the ARS Plant Sciences Institute and, since then, has devoted more time to skiing, golf, and other activities. Barbara is pleased to be joining Excom.



**The Knee was called away on an emergency trip to discover the true pronunciation of Chamonknee. His ukneeque column will resume next month.**



**REMINDER: A funeral service for Jack Lilley will be held at Arlington National Cemetery on Monday, May 13, 2002, at 1 P.M.**

## What's in a Name?

Prior to the PVS/BRSC trip to Chamonix, one of our trippers reported that on an earlier visit he had been assured that the pronunciation of the name was "Cha-mo-NIQUE" in defiance of French convention, which is to pronounce it "Cha-mo-KNEE." Investigation of this assertion provided an amusing sideline during our stay in this lovely town.

There were no locals who admitted to such a pronunciation although some said that Parisians, who are widely held to "talk funny," might make such a *faux pas*. The guide Philippe that some of us skied with offered that the original spelling of the town's name was not "Chamonix" at all, but "Chamouny." This started some of us off on another snipe hunt.

Herewith the findings from the Musee Alpin....

- 1650 map: "Chamonis"
- 1705 map: "Chamoni"
- 1720 map: "Chamounis"
- 1792 map: "Chamonix"
- 1825 lithograph: "Chamouni"
- 1825 map: "Chamonix"
- 1850 engraving: "Chamouny"

There is an undated storefront below our hotel: "Le Vieux Chamouny" (old Chamonix)

Chamonix was also a literary topic under its various spellings during the Romantic period:

Samuel Coleridge, who never visited the place, wrote a poem, c. 1802, *Hymn Before Sunrise, in the Vale of Chamouni*.

Percy Shelley, who did visit and stayed at a hotel, no longer in existence, that was located only a few blocks from ours, wrote *Mont Blanc*; and his wife, Mary, described the "valley of Chamouny" as the place where Dr. Frankenstein meets his monstrous brainchild at the "Mer de Glace" in *Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus*, 1818:

'It was nearly noon when I arrived at the top of the ascent. For some time I sat upon the rock that overlooks the sea of ice. A mist covered both that and the surrounding mountains. Presently a breeze dissipated the cloud, and I descended upon the glacier. The surface is very uneven, rising like the waves of a troubled sea, descending low, and interspersed by rifts that sink deep. The field of ice is almost a league in width, but I spent nearly two hours in crossing it. The opposite mountain is a bare perpendicular rock. From the side where I now stood Montanvert was exactly opposite, at the distance of a league; and above it rose Mont Blanc, in awful majesty. I remained in a recess of the rock, gazing on this wonderful and stupendous scene. The sea, or rather the vast river of ice, wound among its dependent mountains, whose aerial summits hung over its recesses. Their icy and glittering peaks shone in the sunlight over the clouds. My heart, which was before sorrowful, now swelled with something like joy; I exclaimed -- "Wandering spirits, if indeed ye wander, and do not rest in your narrow beds, allow me this faint happiness, or take me, as your companion, away from the joys of life."

Wordsworth wrote a poem in 1820, *Suggested On A Sabbath Morning In The Vale Of Chamouny*:

And last, but not least, there is a noted Thoroughbred broodmare named "Chamonis," a daughter of the great Affirmed.

.....Mary Ward

**ALPINE GUIDE AT CHAMONIX**

...by David Lerner

Mountain Guides are almost unknown in the United States but they are common in the Alps and they can really transform a ski day into an exciting and memorable experience.

My introduction to guided skiing started when Reg Heitchue suggested that we hire a guide for a day during the PVS Chamonix trip. Reg quickly organized a group consisting of Reg, Mary Ward, Bob Marx, Jim Stahler (a guest) and myself. He volunteered to find a recommended guide that we could hire. This led me to Phillipe Henry, an all-around mountaineer who does technical climbing and summer and winter camping and touring in addition to skiing.

Phillipe picked us up at our hotel and drove the group to Argentiere where we took two cable cars to the top of Les Grands Montets. We enjoyed the view for a few moments before starting down an easy black run for a short distance before Phillipe led us under a rope to head down le Glacier d-Argentiere. Phillipe warned us to always stop above him as there might be danger below. Crevasses present the principal danger in glacier skiing. The bridges may collapse under a skier's weight. I found, to my dismay, that I almost skied into a crevasse when Phillipe yelled for me to stop. The rest of the trip down the glacier was easy and pleasant as we all carefully stayed behind Phillipe.

After lunch, Phillipe led us on a variety of slopes and asked what kind of skiing we were looking for. I asked for some steeps, and he was very happy to oblige by leading us back to the top of Les Grand Montets. He directed Bob and Jim to ski on the piste to a meeting point and then led Reg and myself to a steep, north-facing slope. Reg and I were both delighted with the choice, but Reg popped out of one of his skis and started sliding down the slope. Phillipe tried to stop his slide, but he got knocked down and the two of them slid together for a long way before he was able to stop. As you know, Reg hurt his shoulder but was still able to ski to the bottom of the mountain.

The next day we prepared for a tour of the Vallee Blanche (now down to three PVSers). There was a difficult walk from the summit to the point where skiing was possible, requiring us to put on crampons and slings for attaching ropes to tie us all together, so Phillipe could catch us in case of a fall. The descent of Glacier du Geant was interesting and moderately challenging. We stopped from time to time as Phillipe pointed out interesting facts and places while Bob took lots of pictures. At the bottom, there was a strenuous 20-minute climb out of the valley and about ¾ mile walk before we got to Les Planar where we could ski to the base. It was

CALENDAR

- May 4 ... PVS goes to "Mama Mia"
- May 5 ... Post-Trip Party at the McKinleys'
- May 11 ... Hillwood Tour
- May 15 ... thru 17, Atlantic Getaway, p. 2
- May 18 ... Annual Wine Tasting at the Copes', p. 4
- May 21 ... Monthly Meeting at the Leonhardts', pp. 1&2
- May 22 ... Gold Mine Hike and lunch with the Browns, p. 4
- May 23 ... Bicycling Gourmet, p. 3
- May 28 ... ExCom at the Heitchues'
- June 12 ... Tour of Botanical Gardens and lunch, p. 3
- June 15 ... Annual Spring Dinner, p. 3
- June 18 ... Monthly meeting at home of Judy and Ray Jones
- July 20 ... All-Ski-Trips Party at the Heitchues *Shaver*
- Aug. 23 ... Golfing at Leisure World *Aug 10*
- Aug. 25 ... PVS goes to the Olney Theatre
- Aug. ? ... Waterskiing at Deep Creek Lake (Jack Peoples)

Bette Walker  
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