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*Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.*  
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

DECEMBER 2013

[www.pvskiers.org](http://www.pvskiers.org)

[info@pvskiers.org](mailto:info@pvskiers.org)

### President's Message

Dear PVS Friends:

Yes - the perfect greeting to use for our club - "PVS Friends!"

Dave Warthen, Membership Chair, reports that as our membership re-enrollment season closed, PVS has edged closer to our 200-member cap with almost 50 new members joining us from Capital Golden Skiers. Our new folks add another dimension to PVS, giving us the opportunity to explore new friendships and new ideas. We wish them and all new members a hearty welcome!



*Nancy McKinley*

Unlike the mega-clubs, PVS is just the right size for us to get to know each other. Of course, the easiest way to get acquainted is at one of our monthly meetings in members' homes or on a club excursion. Another excellent opportunity to form new friendships is on a ski trip, while bonding on the slope or over a glass at the end of the day.

Our upcoming, annual, winter meeting (some call them parties!) on December 17 is different from most others. Plan to bring an appetizer or dessert to share with your friends. Many thanks to Jan Marx for offering to host this event! It's members like Jan, who open up their homes to us, who make PVS what it is today!

See you on December 17! -- *Nancy*

## **Holiday Party**

**Tuesday, December 17, 7:30 PM**

**At the home of Jan Marx**

**8312 Oakford Drive**

**Springfield, VA 22152-1612**

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

**Bring an appetizer or dessert,  
or a holiday specialty.**

**Guidelines: surname A-J dessert, K-Z appetizer. Drinks will be provided.**

**The usual fee will be collected at the door.**

**Holiday spirit and good cheer will abound.**



*--Directions on page 2*

**DIRECTIONS TO HOLIDAY PARTY:**

**FROM THE BELTWAY:**

Take Exit 54A West onto Braddock Rd. (Rt. 620). Go to the fifth stoplight and angle left onto Burke Lake Rd. Turn left at next stoplight onto Rolling Rd. Go to fourth stoplight and turn left onto Forrester Blvd. (called Hillside on the right side of Rolling). Go two short blocks and turn right onto Oakford Dr. (opposite the school on your left). Go about two blocks, and 8312 is on your left past the Dead End sign.

**FROM SHIRLEY HWY (I-395) & I-95 South:**

Exit I-95 SOUTH at Exit 169A West onto Old Keene Mill Rd. (Rt. 644). (Franconia Rd. and the Mall go to the East.) Go to the seventh stoplight and turn right onto Rolling Rd. Go through one light, past McDonald's and turn right onto Roxbury Ave. (opposite the post office). Turn at the second right (road curves around to the left) onto Fenwood Dr. Go one block and dead end into Oakford Dr. Turn right and the house is the fourth on the left = 8312.

**FROM FAIRFAX COUNTY PARKWAY & Braddock Rd. East (Rt. 620). :**

Go to Rolling Rd. at Kings Park. Turn right. Go to fifth stop light and turn left onto Forrester Blvd. (called Hillside on the right side of Rolling Rd.). Go two short blocks and turn right onto Oakford Dr. (opposite the school on your left). Go about two blocks, past the Dead End sign to 8312 on your left.

**FROM FAIRFAX COUNTY PARKWAY & Old Keene Mill Rd. (Rt. 644):**

Go to Rolling Rd and turn left. Go through one light, past McDonald's and turn right onto Roxbury Ave. (opposite the post office). Turn at the second right (road curves around to the left) onto Fenwood Dr. Go one block and dead end into Oakford Dr. Turn right and the house is the fourth on the left = 8312.

**----SNOW FEST AT WINTERGREEN----**

**SnowFest 2014!** On January 11 and 12, 2014, join Wintergreen Adaptive Sports for the Wintergreen Resort SnowFest weekend. On Saturday, the eleventh, Wintergreen Adaptive Sports will host adaptive skiing demonstrations, races, live music, and a screening of the inspiring Kurt Miller film, *The Movement*, featuring the experiences of several remarkable adaptive skiers. On both days, Wintergreen Resort will donate a portion of all lift ticket sales to Wintergreen Adaptive Sports.

<http://www.nelsoncounty-va.gov/event/snowfest-at-wintergreen-resort/2014-01-11/>  
<http://www.virginia.org/Listings/EventsAndExhibits/SnowFestatWintergreenResort/>

Please contact Eloise if you plan on attending or want more information,  
240-800-4194 or [hrdyna@aol.com](mailto:hrdyna@aol.com)



**--Eloise Strand**

**ExCom Officers, Board Members, & Chairpersons**

President – <i>Nancy McKinley</i>	EXCOM:
Vice President – <i>John Holt</i>	First Term:
Secretary – <i>Ellie Thayer</i>	<i>Jane Dealy</i>
Treasurer – <i>Dick Laeser</i>	<i>Bob Knopes</i>
Ex-Officio – <i>Cara Jablon</i>	<i>Maryann Rozzell</i>
Ski Trip Committee – <i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i>	Second Term:
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TOOT Content/Proof Editor – <i>Ellie Thayer</i>	Webmaster – <i>Dave Lerner,</i>
TOOT Layout Editors – <i>Jan Marx, Marvin Hass, &amp; Dave Warthen</i>	<i>Mary Ward (Backup)</i>
TOOT (E-Distribution) – <i>Dave Warthen</i>	Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</i>
TOOT (USPS Distribution) – <i>Volunteers</i>	Historian – <i>Jan Marx</i>

## SKI TALK

December 2013

Going to the Ski Center to listen to Brian Eardley's annual discussion of the latest ski equipment is something I look forward to each year. Brian, the Ski Center manager, never disappoints, but I always walk away thinking I need new skis! One way to test how much skis have improved over the skis you are using now, is to go to **SKI CENTER DEMO DAY** and demo the newest skis on the market. This season, the event is on **Friday, January 3, 2014, at Whitetail**. After you get to Whitetail, put on your boots and locate the Ski Center table. They will measure your boots and put pertinent information on your demo



sheet. There is no charge to demo, but you will need to leave some ID, such as a driver's license, with them.

After signing up, take a few runs on your own skis to remember how it feels. It is especially important to get your ski legs, if it's the first time on skis for the season. You can then go to the demo booths and ask for the ski you want to try. You might do some research beforehand to figure out what you are interested in. While they don't have all brands, they usually have some of the most popular models. Brian said for an "all mountain" ski, look for a waist measuring 80-90 ml. I usually take no more than three runs on each pair of skis that I demo; the number of each type of ski is limited and people may be waiting for the skis you are using. Last year, when I was demoing a popular ski, a woman followed me the whole time so she could get them as soon as I was finished!

With a voucher from Ski Center, you can get a lift ticket for \$35, and demo as many skis as you like. However, if you are 65+, you can get a ticket at the Whitetail window for \$29; there is no need for a voucher.



**John Smith will be coordinating our local ski trips.** The local skiing is usually planned for Monday, Wednesday, or Friday. John normally decides on the weekend if the snow conditions will be favorable the following week. If there will be reasonable snow, he will plan a day at Liberty or Whitetail. For those who wish to carpool, there will be a designated meeting place in Gaithersburg. Contact John for further

information. You can email him at [johnhsmith@juno.com](mailto:johnhsmith@juno.com). His home phone number is 301-299-8376 and his cell is 301-461-2143. If you want to be included on the local ski list and you were not on it last year, send an email to John Smith with a copy to David Warthen. You will then be notified, whenever there is a local ski trip planned.



**See BOT ski trips listing on last page.**

**News Flash:** Ski Liberty, WISP, and Snowshoe opened November 29.

--Rosemary Schwartzbard  
[rosemaryschw@gmail.com](mailto:rosemaryschw@gmail.com)

**Ski Trip:**

# **Snowmass 2014**

**Wednesday to Wednesday, January 15-22, 2014**

We're going back to Snowmass!! Join us for a return trip to this "Old Faithful" ski resort. Once again, we will be staying at our beloved Snowmass Mountain Chalet. Reserve your space now for this PVS favorite!

- Snowmass offers direct access to 3,100 acres of slope-side skiing just outside the door.
- The skiing terrain totals more than 5,000 acres with interchangeable lift tickets and free bus service to Aspen Highlands, Ajax Mountain, and Buttermilk ski areas.
- Slope-side lodging at Snowmass Mountain Chalet includes a daily family-style breakfast and daily soup lunch, greatly appreciated by trip participants and other guests, many of whom return year after year. This small hotel, with its welcoming staff, is unique for its convenience and friendly ambiance.
- The trip will include airfare (or land only), van to and from airport, hotel gratuities, ski passes (at a great rate), pre-trip party, hotel apres ski parties, and group dinner to celebrate our trip!



**Trip costs:**

<b>Full Snowmass trip package</b>	<b>\$1,965</b>	
<b>"Land only"</b>	<b>\$1,432</b>	
<b>Single Supplement</b>	<b>+\$711</b>	<b>(greatly reduced this year)</b>



PVS has reserved 21 rooms. Those interested can now register by sending **\$300 to Carolyn DeVilbiss** at 4508 Peacock Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304 (note "PVS-Snowmass 2014" on the memo line)



***Contact trip leaders (e-mail or phone) ASAP to inquire about space available.***

For more information contact trip leaders:  
Carolyn DeVilbiss at 703-370-4865 h, 703-509-0189 c  
[carolyn.maurer@verizon.net](mailto:carolyn.maurer@verizon.net) OR  
Louann Eadie at 703-860-0936 c, [louann50@mac.com](mailto:louann50@mac.com).

## Ski Trip:

*Come ski with us... there is still time to join the...*

## **PVS/BLUE RIDGE SKI COUNCIL TRIP TO VAIL, COLORADO - FEB 1 – 8, 2014**

### **Booking deadline is 10 November!**

We will be staying at the ski-in/ski-out luxurious Cascade Resort and Spa, a AAA Four-Diamond ski resort in Vail, CO. In addition to an award-winning spa and health club, fine dining, ski-in/ski-out accommodations, outdoor pool, three outdoor hot tubs, and in-house ski rental and storage, shuttle service to Lionshead and Vail Village is available.



### **PACKAGE PRICE PER PERSON:**

\$ 1,943.00 [from Reagan National Airport or from Dulles] per person

Add \$ 788.00 for single supplement

Deduct \$ 445.00 for package without airline ticket

### **PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

- Roundtrip airfare Washington, DC to Denver on United Airlines including applicable tax as of 4/3/13
- Roundtrip group transfers with complimentary bottled water, Denver Airport to the Vail Cascade Resort & Spa with 45 minute grocery/liquor stop en route
- Seven nights lodging at the Vail Cascade Resort & Spa in rooms with one king or two queen beds
- Complimentary access to the top-rated Vail Cascade Resort Spa
- Five of Seven Day Adult Group Lift Tickets valid at Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone and Arapahoe Basin (Transportation to alternate resorts is available at an additional fee)
- Complimentary Mountain Tour on Sunday
- Wine & Cheese Welcome Reception at Charter Sports on arrival day
- Ten percent discount on ski/snowboard lessons

### **BLUE RIDGE SKI COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

- Sunday Night Welcome Reception, Sunday, February 2nd 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- Mid-Week Après-Ski Party, Tuesday, February 4th 4:00pm – 6:00pm
- Farewell Dinner Dance, Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm – 11:00pm
- BRSC RACE, Tuesday, February 4th, 10am-1pm. Black Forest Race Arena



### **LIFT TICKETS: Five of Seven Day Adult Lift Tickets Included**

Add \$ 35.00 with final payment to upgrade to six of eight day lift ticket

**Deduct \$ 325.00 for the package without lift tickets**

Deduct \$ 20.00 for the five of seven day senior ticket (seniors 65+)

Deduct \$ 10.00 for the six of eight day senior ticket (seniors 65+)

**ALSO: Season EPIC ski pass available at \$529! [ask for it]**

<http://www.snow.com/epic-pass/passes.aspx>

Please make check out to **Inge Lesjak** and mail to: Inge Lesjak, 8123 Kingsview Court, Springfield, VA 22152

### **TRAVEL INSURANCE LINK:**

<http://www.travelsafe.com/travelinsurance/?ref=SPONJ01>

### **CANCELLATION POLICY:**

December 1, 2013 – Full forfeiture. All cancellations must be submitted in writing.

### **FOR INFORMATION/RESERVATION**

contact Inge Lesjak, Trip Leader, [ingelesjak@aol.com](mailto:ingelesjak@aol.com)

**Ski Trip:**

***Alyeska, Alaska with PVS  
February 25 to March 4, 2014***

**Alyeska, Alaska** <<http://www.alyeskaresort.com/>> is Alaska's premier ski area, located just 40 miles from Anchorage International Airport. Mt. Alyeska's base elevation is 250 feet and the total vertical rise is 3,200 feet. The summit is accessed by the Aerial Tram and provides a panorama of the Chugach Mountains, with water views in one direction and glaciers in the other. Alyeska offers a mountain experience for all levels of skiers and riders, with 1,500 skiable acres, 113 acres of snowmaking, and average annual snowfall of 650 inches. Ski terrain composition is 11% Beginner, 52% Intermediate, and 37% Expert/Advanced.



*Accommodations are double occupancy deluxe rooms in the Hotel Alyeska with ski-in/out access. The hotel offers complimentary guest use of the saltwater pool, whirlpool, traditional sauna, and fitness room. The Spa offers an extensive variety of specialty and custom treatments.*

Numerous activities are available through the Hotel concierge: Heli & Cat skiing; excursions to Portage Glacier (weekends only), Whittier & Prince William Sound, Anchorage, the Alaska Wildlife Conservation

Center, Turnagain Arm; and arranging dogsledding, flightseeing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing. Possible Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) viewing with cooperative sun flares.

*A day excursion to Anchorage for the opening ceremony of Alaska's premier sporting event, the Iditarod Musher (Dog Sled) Race, is included. Highlights of the day are: the ceremonial start of the Iditarod, Dutch-treat lunch at the Glacier Brew House, tour of the Alaska Native Heritage Center, and the crazy "Running of the Reindeer."*

Cost is \$1,550 per person for deluxe accommodations, round-trip air from Washington, bus transfers to and from Alyeska, Anchorage excursion, and pre-trip party. Flights to and from Anchorage are with United from BWI. Single supplement is \$645.



Options are available for daily breakfast buffet, room upgrades, and trip insurance. Lift tickets are not included; costs for 70+ = \$10.00/day; 60-69 = \$45/day or \$180 for 5-of-6 day; adult = \$60/day or \$240 for 5-of-6 day.

**We currently have 19 participants. Signup for the trip closed on 30 November, but anyone interested can contact us and be placed on a waiting list in case there is a cancellation.**

Trip Leaders: Kerry and Marianne Hines, [mchines@erols.com](mailto:mchines@erols.com), [klhines@erols.com](mailto:klhines@erols.com) or 540-364-4810.

## **Ski Trip:**

### **CORTINA D'AMPEZZO - 2014**

**PVS & BRSC (Blue Ridge Ski Council), March 7- March 15 +++++**

**PRICE - Approximately \$2,590 (Single Supplement - Approximately \$3,172)**



Cortina is located in the Dolomites, the range that is included on the UNESCO World Heritage List for its extraordinary beauty and unique landscape. This World Heritage Site is widely regarded as being among the most attractive mountain landscapes in the world, one that you should not miss.

Cortina d'Ampezzo is a paradise for snow enthusiasts ranging from its early Olympic participation to its annual World Cup ski events. A location unrivalled by any other in the Alps; it offers a wide variety of slopes of every level of difficulty, with something to please everyone. Cortina is part of the Dolomiti Superski area, the world's largest skiing carousel that links 12 top ski resorts: one pass gives you access to 450 lifts and 1,220 kilometers of trails.

In addition to the beauty of the area and the vastness of its snow sports paradise, Cortina offers a taste of the good life with good food, great wine and the luxury of slowness and enjoyment. Soak up the international atmosphere on Corso Italia, the famous pedestrian street with classy shops, refined restaurants, art, culture, and tradition of Italy.

#### **Included:**

-Air between Washington (IAD or BWI) and Venice via Delta Airlines via JFK, and round-trip transfers between Venice and Cortina

-7 nights accommodations at a 4\*+ Ancora hotel in downtown Cortina

-Full breakfast buffet and six 3-course dinners (Ancora is known for its great food)

-3 BRSC Parties: Welcome at the Olympic Ice Stadium; Après Ski at Tofana Ski Area by Cable Car; and Farewell Dinner Dance at OUR Ancora hotel with 4-course dinner, drinks, and dancing

-Après Ski wine and cheese with the trip leaders on days between the BRSC parties

-Regular trip insurance - option for trip cancellation insurance

-Fee-Based Sightseeing and Shopping Tours: Conegliano (+wine tasting), Bolzano, Innsbruck, Salzburg - more details are being developed - I have the individual prices - email me

#### **Other Considerations:**

Optional post-trip extension to Tuscany staying 4 nights in Florence at the 4\* Hotel Athenaeum, daily breakfast, tour of Florence, Delta return flight from Florence - **\$550.00**

Optional 2 nights stay in a 4\* hotel in **Venice** - TBD - email me

***Want more information, send email with Cortina in the subject and I'll send you updated information, without obligation to signing-up: Dick Comerford, [dick.comerford@verizon.net](mailto:dick.comerford@verizon.net), 571-426-3098, 703-777-9374***

# Members' Corner

By J. David Warthen, Jr.  
(Membership Records)  
[dwarthen@verizon.net](mailto:dwarthen@verizon.net)



It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving has come and gone, and the remaining holidays are quickly approaching. **Merry Christmas** and **Happy Holidays** to



one and all. Ski season will begin before we know it.

Have you signed up? We have a plethora of trips this year; join your friends and hit the slopes in Snowmass, Vail, Alaska, and Cortina. BOT trips are planned for Vail, Vermont, New York, and Aspen.

**REMEMBER: Safety First!!!**

**The downhill skier in front of you has the right of way!  
Don't run into him/her no matter what he/she does! You could both get hurt.**

## State of the Membership:

We are in the 12<sup>th</sup> month of 2013, and this year is slipping by quickly. Membership has fluctuated more this year than in the last 5 or 6 years. This is a good thing! We have welcomed 49 new members, who transferred their membership from Capital Golden Skiers to Potomac Valley Skiers. It is wonderful to have this influx of new members, with whom we shall ski in 2014 and future years. We have already enjoyed the company of these new members at several events.

Marianne Arden Cook, who celebrated her one hundredth birthday in April, was made an "Honorary" PVS member. Congratulations to Marianne!

This year, we sadly remember the passing of long-time members, Myron Marquardt, Jack Peoples, and founding/charter member, Dick King.

## Getting to Know You:

**Gerda Picco:** My skiing history began in 1955 with a trip to Mt. Tremblant with office friends from NACA (predecessor of NASA). I rented 6 1/2 ft. wooden skis & poles up to my armpits and borrowed ski pants and mittens. I froze the whole week long and had to have the seat of the borrowed ski pants rewoven (damaged sliding down the hill a few times on my rear), but I loved skiing and wanted to continue. For the next 10 or 12 years, I had only one or two ski weekends yearly. On a memorable weekend at Seven Springs, I met my husband-to-be, John, who was a beginning skier, but soon passed me in ability. After our marriage, we began skiing out West and were completely hooked; we enjoyed longer ski trips to UT, CA and CO each year, as well as one to Europe.

After John's death, I feared my skiing would be confined to skiing with grandchildren at nearby slopes, where I would ski and they would snowboard past me all the way down--but not so! Fortunately, I found that there were many "mature" folks who also enjoyed skiing as I did when I joined Over the Hill Gang International and the local Chesapeake Chapter (CGS). I have enjoyed wonderful ski trips with both groups and am happy with the special friendships, which have formed. A bonus in the last few years was that I was able to go on several great PVS trips to Snowmass, staying at the Mountain Chalet (my favorite resort and hotel). With CGS now inactive, I am happy that I and other ex-CGSers have been welcomed into PVS. I've enjoyed my time with PVS on past trips, and look forward to continued friendships and good times with the club.

Other history: I worked as a mathematician (in the area of flight propulsion) for NACA in OH and DC, Navy Department. My marriage included a bonus of a step-son. He and his wife gave me four wonderful grandchildren and 9 great-grands. I'm active in my church, volunteering in our food pantry, and several other projects. I also enjoy my local garden club, bridge, golf, theater, travel, friends and family.

**Frank Adamthwaite:** see next page.

## TOOT Distribution to 179 Members:

-pdf: 150; Text (Att.): 1; USPS: 7

## Roster Changes: ([dwarthen@verizon.net](mailto:dwarthen@verizon.net))

-See next page for a listing of new members.

## Thanks to:

-TOOT Content/Proof Editors –

E. Thayer, M. Warthen

-TOOT USPS – **Volunteers**

-TOOT Layout Editor, Electronic TOOT –

-D. Warthen



**Frank Adamthwaite** profile:

As a youngster, I lived with my family in a Bronx apartment house, which was a block from Bronx Park. We celebrated Christmas Eve at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. We had a Christmas tree, roast turkey, and presents on Christmas Day. One Christmas, when I was nine or ten years old, my Aunt Lucy gave me a pair of skis. I had no idea what they were. The skies were wooden, six feet long, and had one strap across the middle of the foot. Aunt Lucy said that you stand on the skis and go down hill, and she guaranteed that it would be a thrilling ride.

At the first snowfall, I tried them out on the small hill in the park; I had little success. After a while, another skier observed what I was doing wrong, and gave me instructions. I finally learned to go down the hill in an upright position.

I observed that people went skiing on the golf course in Van Cortland Park, which was on the other side of town. On the weekend, I went to that park to ski. Adults at the park offered skiing advice. The issue of ski bindings and ski boots seemed to be the only conversation among the adults. There was a Khandahar binding, which required special boots with a steel shank in the sole, and a cable that went into a groove around the heel of the boot. There was no lift, so you had to side step or herringboned up the hill. The ride down the hill was very short and very fast. Maneuvering on the hill was restricted to a snowplow or a stem christie turn. It was a thrilling experience.

My skiing was on hold for several years. In my twenties, I joined a ski club that was part of the American Youth Hostels. The AYH sponsored ski trips to New England at cost. The bus would leave Manhattan on Friday night after work, and travel all night to some ski hill in the mountains while we slept. We skied all day Saturday and Sunday, and returned home on Sunday night. The all inclusive cost of the weekend was about twenty dollars. The skiers were an eclectic group of twenty somethings, who were out for an adventure and camaraderie with their peers. There were several rules in the club: roommates were assigned by the ski trip leader (double rooms with twin beds were the norm) and hanky-panky between boys and girls was forbidden. The consumption of alcohol was also forbidden. All of these issues became problems when I became a trip leader and was responsible for the trip. Over the long term, we had a grand time with cookies and hot-spiced cider. Mel Rubin would regale us with his guitar and songs that had naughty lyrics; he was a great folk singer who loved to ski. These ski trips were a great place to meet people and establish friendships. Romantic involvements outside of the club activities were common, and there were several marriages that started on a ski trip, including mine.

One of my sons lives in Broomfield, CO, and for the past several years, I have been going to CO to visit and ski. I usually spend two months in the mountains to ski at Keystone, Breckenridge, and A Basin. After visiting with family, I stay at various hotels and enjoy the high altitude in Summit County, the ski capital of the world. I am a member of the Loosey Goosey Ski Club, which is the former OTHG Frisco Chapter.

***New PVS Members***

-Marvin & Sally **Reisman** [sponsor, **ExCom (CGS)**]  
60 Sutton Place South  
New York, NY 10022-4168  
212-759-7422 h, [cinelli10@yahoo.com](mailto:cinelli10@yahoo.com)

-Jon & Alexis **Armao**, [sponsor, **ExCom (CGS)**]  
2227 Cedar Cove Court  
Reston, VA 20191-4108  
703-758-0242 h, [jon.armao@psualum.com](mailto:jon.armao@psualum.com),  
[lexiearmao@comcast.net](mailto:lexiearmao@comcast.net)

-Manfred **Boehringer** [sponsor, **ExCom (CGS)**]  
11631 Deer Forest Road  
Reston, VA 20194-1104  
703-437-7146 h. [manfredb2003@yahoo.com](mailto:manfredb2003@yahoo.com)



# Fredericksburg: a Tour de Force

by  
Marilyn Clark



Take a beautiful, sunny, crisp fall November 2<sup>nd</sup> day; add a number of PVSers from the longest standing to the newest; mix in an informative Trolley Tour of beautiful, historic Fredericksburg, VA; and sprinkle with Melissa FitzGerald's special information about the town. That's a sure recipe for a very delightful day.

This event brought together a cross-section of PVS. There were eighteen of us, including former member Pat Cope from Lake of the Woods, and long-time member Marilyn Clark from Williamsburg, along with new members Marilyn Siegel and Mary Margaret McGrail.



*Melissa sharing history on the trolley*

Who knew that Fredericksburg played such roles in both the War of Independence and the Civil War? Well, some of us did. But, we all knew a lot more about the city after an enlightening 80-minute trolley ride with our garrulous driver/tour guide, John. We saw the steps where Abe Lincoln delivered a speech. And, we now know that Rappahannock, because it is a tidal river, is an Indian word for "rapid ups and downs."

After our tour, we split up and lunched at several downtown restaurants, all with considerably above-average café food. Some did a little shopping and visited the Apothecary Shop. We were convinced that modern day medicine is ~~highly recommended~~. We also saw, and opted not to touch, real, four-inch long, blood-sucking leeches. Ugh! Others visited the historically preserved Rising Sun Tavern built by George Washington's brother, Charles.

The day was a treat. Thanks go to Melissa Fitzgerald, and Nancy & Ray McKinley for making it happen.

**Past Event:**

## PVS Monthly Meeting at the Ski Center of Washington November 19, 2013

President, Nancy McKinley, called the meeting to order at 8:15 pm. There were 30 attendees. The meeting was preceded by the usual social gathering before getting to the meat of things. (But, there was actually some meat in the wraps served.)

A very brief “business” discussion was held. A goodbye was extended to Liz Warren-Boulton, who is moving back to Australia. And, a welcome was extended to guest Nancy Corsiglia. Ray McKinley announced the dates and locations of the next few monthly meetings. It was noted that the January and February meetings would be held on Sunday afternoons at 2:00 PM, which is customary during those months. However, the March meeting will also be held on Sunday afternoon for the first time. The rest of the year’s meetings will revert to the customary Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM. The schedule to date:

**December** 17, 2013 holiday party at Jan Marx’ house

**January** 12, 2014 monthly meeting at Melissa FitzGerald’s house

**February** 16, 2014 monthly meeting TBA

**March** 23, 2014 monthly meeting at Maryann Rozzell’s house

Rosemary Schwartzbard reported that the upcoming ski trips are on track.

The Ski Center’s manager, Brian Eardley, then presented and displayed various new ski accessories and equipment: goggles with a heads-up display, another with an integrated camera; bamboo ski poles, ski poles with adjustable length features, ski poles with pole grips (making a comeback); adjustable bindings more suited for “hiking” to less crowded, off piste, areas, “Knee” brand bindings with better ACL protection, made-in-USA skis (in CO and even in DC!); boots with base changes for easier walking but require new bindings, boots with customized liners for more warmth and better fit, full tilt boots for easier on/off, and a whole variety of lighter and wider skis. Brian told us that more skiers are using snowboard “parks.” Some skis are newly designed accordingly, and the trend is toward young folks going into skiing again. Brian mentioned that the Ski Center demo day will be at Whitetail ski area on January 3, 2014. Rosemary said that PVS would plan a group outing.



*--Bob Kramer*



*PVS Members listen intently to Brian’s update on ski equipment for the upcoming ski season.*



# THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley  
[RaysKnee@gmail.com](mailto:RaysKnee@gmail.com)

If you please, the Kneer just realized that it has been three or four years since I wished you a Merrknee Christmas and a Happy Hanknee-kah! Pretty soon, as you sit around the fully-garlanded Christmas Kneer, remember the gifts were brought to you on a reinkneedeer-pulled, shyknee sleigh. In the lead was Rudolph the red-kneeder reinkneedeer. Luckily, I don't have to do this too often.

A huge tip of the ol' Kneer Cap goes to Marianne Cook. She is our oldest member, as she turned 100 in April! Although her skiing is "limited," she still plays piano every day. She had just sent in her renewal. However, on the advent of Marianne's century feat, she has been made an honorary member and her check was returned. It's so great to have you, Marianne.

PLEASE send your Kneer tidbits to my email address above. I'm nothing without you!

Now that she is retired, Maryann Rozzell frequently drives to North Carolina to visit relatives. Maryann has a new goal. She wants to stop and read all of the historical markers along the side of the road. The Kneer has read several of those and offers this assessment: borrring! Where are the Burma Shave signs when you need them?

In Aspen and other ski areas, reports Marvin Hass, food choices are changing. Forget chicken salad and arugula. We now have the opportunity for less healthy, comfort food. You can now get chocolate maple bacon donuts. You can still get chili or a greasy hamburger. But, you can also have your burger topped with *foie gras* or guacamole. Yummy.

"Bolder Boulder" Betty Lawrence is back from participating in this Colorado 10k race with her son-in-law, and 12-year-old granddaughter. 86-year-old Betty won a medal for her age group. Kneet!

According to the Conde Nast Traveler, the best ski hotel in the nation is the Westin Riverfront Resort and Spa in Avon Colorado. Their favorite ski area is Beaver Creek, followed closely by Whistler/Blackcomb. Again not making the list this year is Liberty Mountain (sic).

The Kneer doesn't get much fan mail. So I was flattered to get a very complimentary note

from David Payne about the November Kneer. I've always known that David had great taste!

Mike and Eloise Strand have returned from Fort Monroe where they visited with Bonnie and Bill Sweeney. Eloise described the situation of helping with the Sweeney's twin granddaughters as a three-ring circus. Eloise was feeding one girl, Bonnie the other, mom upstairs pumping, and Bill reaching in to change a diaper. Mike's appointed job? Cooing at the babies. Yoiks!

Due to sequestration, Bill Hager will no longer be training overseas. However, Bill recalls that while in Kosovo this March, he visited the beautiful Rugova Valley. At its far end is a modest ski resort, with a half-mile rope tow. Considering the location, in a war zone, the ambiance is pleasant. Kosovo wines are excellent, and the local beers will measure up to any craft brew in the DC area. Perhaps Kosovo's Rugova Valley could fill the bill for an offbeat PVS ski trip. It could be a Charnita [aka Liberty Mountain (sic)] redux. Kneet.



*Kosovo's uncrowded Rugova Ski area*

PVSers are traveling: Barb and Fred Leonhardt have been golfing in Orlando and Hilton Head. Liz and Serge Triau have been touring around Charlestown and golfing at Myrtle Beach—which is really one large sand trap. And, Marna Blanchette is back from Scotland and England, where the golfing has problems that are much gorse than sand.

While some are returning, some are going. Charlotte Eddy will be moving to her Virginia Beach home. But, moving the farthest is Liz Warren-Boulton. Liz is moving to Australia, but plans to come back to ski with PVS. Both will be sorely missed.

We had a ball with Melissa FitzGerald in Fredericksburg. So many historic treasures! But, the day didn't start out so well for carpoolers Jan Marx and Charlotte Eddy. They parked in the one lot that was a no-no. The result: they got a \$25 parking ticket. Yucko!

## PVS Calendar

### **2013:**

Dec 12 Thu November/December ExCom, 7:30 PM, Conference Call.  
Dec 17 Tue PVS Monthly Meeting, Christmas/Holiday Party, 7:30 PM, Marx, Springfield, VA.

### **2014:**

Jan 03 Fri Ski Center Demo Day, Whitetail, PA.  
Jan 05 Sun Snowmass Pre-trip Party, 3:00-5:00 PM, Eadies, Reston, VA.  
Jan 11,12 Sat- Snowfest at Wintergreen Resort, Adaptive Sports, Strand, VA.  
Jan 12 Sun PVS Monthly Meeting, 2:00 PM, FitzGerald, Reston, VA.  
Feb 16 Sun PVS Monthly Meeting, 2:00 PM, TBA.  
Mar 23 Sun PVS Monthly Meeting, 2:00 PM, Rozzell, Fairfax, VA.  
Apr 18 Tue PVS Annual Meeting, 7:30 PM, Heitchue, Reston, VA.



### **Ski Trips:** PVS



January 15-22, 2014: PVS Snowmass, CO (Carolyn DeVilbiss & Louann Eadie)  
February 1-8, 2014: PVS/CGS/BRSC Vail, CO (Inge Lesjak)  
February 25-March 4, 2014: PVS Alyeska, AK (Marianne & Kerry Hines)  
March 7-15+\*\*\*\*, 2014: PVS/BRSC to Cortina, Italy (Dick Comerford)

**Best of Times Ski Club (BOT)** - Eileen Fishkin, [haptrvir@optimum.net](mailto:haptrvir@optimum.net)



December 10-18, 2014: BOT Vail, CO  
January 20-24, 2014: BOT Okemo, VT  
February 2-6, 2014: BOT Windham, NY  
March 1-8, 2014: BOT Aspen, CO

### **Useful Ski "Links"**

Potomac Valley Skiers.....	<a href="http://potomacvalleyskiers.org">potomacvalleyskiers.org</a>
BRSC Sanctioned Trips.....	<a href="http://skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm">skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm</a>
DC Ski Online News.....	<a href="http://dcski.com">dcski.com</a>
Best of Times Ski Club.....	<a href="http://bestoftimeskiclub.org">bestoftimeskiclub.org</a>

**FYI:** "On the Trail with the First Skiers." (An ancient culture in the Chinese Altay Mountains offers a glimpse of how skiing evolved.) *National Geographic Magazine*, December 2013, pp 85-101.

*Merry  
Christmas*



*Happy  
Holidays*