



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The latest issue of SKIER carries a full page notice of two proposed ESA by-law changes of considerable interest to us. The proposals would require all 100% Clubs to send all member dues directly to Eastern (which would then send back the Club's share) and would permit only two classes of membership in a club: individual and family. The notice says the proposal will be presented to the ESA Convention in Hartford in April. After discussing the matter with other PVS members and members of the Executive Committee, I have sent a strong letter to Harry Brown, Executive Director of ESA, with copies to all ESA Directors.

As most of you know, PVS has been a 100% Club with formerly USEASA, now ESA since its founding and we strongly emphasize skiing. Our membership categories reflect this emphasis and are necessary for its continuation. We have had unfortunate experiences with the ESA computer and prefer to control our own finances.

If the proposed changes are adopted we will have to choose between becoming merely a subdivision of ESA and losing our distinct identity, or being forced out of ESA and USSA.

As a computer professional, I have told Harry Brown that the ESA computer is not properly programmed to serve ESA and member clubs efficiently, but it certainly could be. Perhaps they just need a new programmer. The proposed scheme is thus not necessary to make ESA's business office efficient and will do great harm to us, to other 100% clubs, to ESA, to USSA, and to the cause of organized skiing. I have recommended that it be dropped and NOT presented to the convention.

If you wish to make your opinion felt, contact Harry Brown and the ESA Directors (listed in SKIER), preferably before their pre-convention meeting at the end of March 77.

*Geoff Wadey*  
Geoff Wadey  
President

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MARCH MEETING

Place: Jim and Barbara Wingrove's home  
9211 Overlea Drive  
Potomac, Maryland 20850  
Tel. 762-4887

Time: March 15th, 8:00 P.M.

How To Get There: North on Route 270 to Rockville exit, Route # 28. Exit on Rte. 28 west toward Darnestown. Go 1.4 miles to left on Glen Mill

Road. Go .8 mile to left on Viers Drive at the end of the fence surrounding Lakewood CC. (Sign points left to Robert Frost JHS).

Go .5 mile on Viers to Scott; bear right on Scott .3 miles to Overlea, right turn to first driveway on left, the WINGROVES. You are there!

Entertainment - There will be a ski movie:  
SKIING AT MAD RIVER GLEN, VERMONT

Come and enjoy the fellowship, the movie, and the TALL TALL ski stories.

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CONGRATULATIONS to our Aspen ski trip leader. He sure knew enuff to wait 'til the snow arrived in Colorado!

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EXCOM MEETING

The EXCOM, following two sudden changes of meeting site, finally gathered at the Gerry and Sandy Deighton home on the 22nd of February for the monthly meeting. Attending were: President Geoff' Wadey, Vice President Ray McKinley and wife Malle, EXCOM members Deighton and McKinley, Treasurer Margaret Wychoff with trip leader husband Bob, Membership Chairlady Gail Cell, TOOT editors Dick and Julie King, and members at large Larry Pease and Art Topping. Although a voting quorum was not present, a lively discussion did ensue concerning an issue raised by the Eastern Ski Association. Items discussed were:

1. ESA is facing a proposed change in the ESA By-Laws which will require all 100% ESA clubs (PVS is one) submit their Club AND ESA annual membership billing to their members via the ESA computer Unistatement process. That means ESA would collect your PVS membership fee which includes the fee for ESA membership and then return to the Club your Club membership fee. Although there are advantages to ESA in the Unistatement process, there are multiple problem areas in the proposal to the individual Clubs. PLEASE read about this proposal in your February 1977 issue of SKIER, page 3. The unanimous consensus of those attending the EXCOM meeting was against the proposed By-Law change. Your opinion on this matter, either verbal or written, is solicited. There will be more on this matter in subsequent reporting.

2. Future meetings were discussed. Several are firm. The May meeting will be the Annual International Dinner at the Copes. Set for Saturday, May 21st, this event is almost always oversubscribed. It is also a strictly limited number event; that is, when the maximum is reached, there is no way to exceed that figure. So, reserve early!

The July meeting will be the Annual Steak and Swim at the Elrocs home - Sunday July 17th. Another popular event, it will be well attended.

The June meeting - at the Hadlers. A post-European gathering; there will be tall stories and excellent slides; along with refreshments, of course.

FEBRUARY MEETING REPORT

The February meeting was held at the O'Scorpio Restaurant in Arlington with some sixteen members in attendance. Some came early and enjoyed the unique Greek cuisine. At the meeting, some business affairs were completed. A vote on full membership was taken on Tom Aquilar and it is pleasing to report that Tom was voted in by unanimous vote. Next, a report from the Nominating Committee was presented by the spouse of the Chairman (Sandy for Gerry Deighton). Nominated for President is Ray McKinley. Nominated for EXCOM are Bill Hager, Julie King and Bob Marx. All nominees have agreed to serve. The vote on these nominees (and any floor nominations that may occur) will take place at the Annual Meeting in April. TOOT is pleased to note the presence at this meeting of member Betty Bayhille whom we have not met before. We hope to see more of her. The movie for the evening was presented by Jim Pinkham and had for its theme: "Inconvenienced Skiers". It told the story of skiers missing a limb, or blind, or with some other "inconvenience". The descriptive word in quotes is the preference of these skiers themselves. They do not consider themselves disabled; they are "inconvenienced". The word itself reflects their collective spirit and joie de vivre. It was an eye opener film, to say the least, and we thank Jim for bringing it to us. The low attendance figure is attributed to the fact that many regular attendees were off in Europe with the Wychoff trip doing what "it is all about": SKIING! That trip report follows.

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NOTICES

1. An addition to the Club membership list:  
Telephone: Gail Cell  
596-3695 8701 Hayshed Lane, # 11  
Columbia, Maryland 21045
2. The March EXCOM meeting will be held on Tuesday, the 22nd, 8:00 P.M. at Bob and Margaret Wychoff's home.
3. From the State of West Virginia:  
"A toll free telephone number is available for daily conditions reports for Canaan Valley, Snowshoe, Oglebay Park (Wheeling) and Alpine Lake (Terra Alta). For residents of Maryland, Virginia and D. C., call 1-800-624-8632." West Virginia ENCOURAGES the use of this free service.

TOOT TIDBITS

From the February calendar: February 5th: P V Sers seen skiing at Massanutten: "Jacques Claude" Lilley, Don and Pat Cope with daughter Karen and friend, Carol Parmenter. At Seven Springs on 6 to 10 inches of new snow February 22nd: Kirk Burns, and Bob Gell. In Europe: the following post card from Hank and Aina Thomas: "We lucked out with six inches of fresh powder to cut up as we pleased. It was fantastic! Everyone is having a splendid time. Max has new boots and has no troubles, thanks to a good fit by Othmar. We are all taking in too many calories, but what fun. The food is beyond belief and every plate is scraped clean. Desserts that boggle one's mind. Gail is skiing beautifully, Norm Engleman is doing great, and Hank is so delighted he has given up making turns so that he can make more runs! The Elrods have covered both sides of the valley, and most have the Lech circle even tho the Madloch needs snow. Don and Art are photographing EVERYTHING in sight! Best regards - Hank and Aina".

From the March calendar: Mike, Penny and Ted Linc Wiederhold depart March 6th for a three week trip to Italy! Mike is on business; and Penny and Ted Linc are tagging along for the pleasure of it all. TOOT wishes them Bon Voyage and looks forward to a "trip report" from this family adventure.

EUROPEAN TRIP REPORT - A VISIT TO ZURS AND VAL GARDENA

by Lucrece Beale; as delivered to TOOT by Bob Wyckoff.

While Washington's westward bound skiers gnashed their teeth and cried in their beer while waiting all winter for Colorado snow, Bob and Margaret Wyckoff led 53 hearty skiers on a trip in the opposite direction - to Europe. In the Austrian Alps and the Italian Dolomites, they found new snow, old snow, powder snow, packed snow and just plain SNOW, SNOW, SNOW! And, all under mostly sunny skies with nary a wind to produce a wind chill factor.

This was the eighth annual Wyckoff European expedition; and those familiar with the Wyckoff modus operandi were not surprised that the trip was well nigh flawless.

On Thursday, January 27th, we met at Dulles Airport in the Air France V / P lounge for drinks - on the house! Here, we surreptitiously looked each other over and tried to judge skiing ability by the way he or she "schussed" or failed to "schuss" a Bloody Mary! It was a fine mixed group. Many repeat "Wyckoff travellers". Many newcomers. A pair of young honeymooners. A doctor with two pre-school children. Other professionals and tradesmen, haus frauen, salesmen, teachers - and even a musician! Some with spouses. Some without. (Obviously, the stay-at-home spouses were the sane ones in the family!). But, married or single, the males and females just about evened out. It is always a mystery to me how this always seems to happen on any ski trip I take or have ever taken?!

Following a change of planes in New York and again in Paris, we arrived in Munich at noontime on the 28th and piled into a 54 seat bus mit an Austrian driver named Ozzie, who, in the course of our drive to the Platzl Hotel, gave us an abbreviated tour of Munich's main attractions. Once checked into the Hotel, we hit the sack in broad daylight. After that, it was a run to the bank for deutschmarks to finance the evening's entertainment -- opera for some, night clubbing for others, and dinner at the nearby famous Hausbrau Haus for most all. A 7 A.M. wake up call Saturday morning got everyone out of bed and onto the bus for Zurs -- except for one, Alice Swalm, whose phone failed to ring. Alice awoke at noon to find the group long gone! A headcount on the bus somehow failed to discover the missing Alice. Obviously, someone was wearing two heads, or sitting in two seats! No matter. Alice followed a red trail to Zurs and arrived shortly after her group arrived. And, with stories about how nice the Europeans had been to her on the trains and in the terminals. Meanwhile, we settled into our spacious rooms at the splendid Alpenrose Post Hotel and had a swim and a sauna before commencing the first of the five (that's right - 5!) course dinners for which the Arlberg region is famous.

With the next day, the moment of truth arrived when each, in his or her own way, met the problem of how to ski when you haven't been on skis for 11 months, when there is 10 inches of new powder, and when you have inexplicably grown 7 left legs since last winter; and then you look up and see all of your friends riding the chairlift directly over your head at the very moment your tips cross and you disappear into a 5 foot snowdrift! One skier solved his first day blues by going to sleep right after dinner and sleeping until 3 P.M. the following afternoon! The rest of the group staggered on; and, in a couple of days, we were getting into the groove. Flying like birds, you might say. Gooney birds, perhaps, but birds, nevertheless! We spread out in all directions: to Steuben, to St. Anton, to Lech. It was all right there, at our front door. The favorite run was the famous intermediate Zurs to Lech piste and the easy schuss bach. Some chose to add the black trailed Zug to their itinerary - for an extra thrill! Those who did not ski to Lech often went there by bus for lunch at the fine Hotels; a reciprocal arrangement set up with our Alpenrose Post Hotel. Although people constantly moaned and groaned about the quantities of good food, there is no documented case of anyone refusing food or missing a meal!

It was a week of fun in a magic winterland. Fresh snow seemed to fall at night and the sun shone by day. And, since this was the week before high season, the liftlines were reasonably short. There was dancing nightly at the Alpenrose and, on one occasion, a style show featuring \$12,000 (that's right - \$12,000.00!) fur coats. At this particular time, interest lagged among the husbands in our group! One casualty marred the week - a broken ankle suffered by Jack Hadler, who was hospitalized with the accident. Quoting Jack: he had the GREATEST day of skiing in his life - until that infamous "last run". Being a good sport, as skiers mostly are, he caught up with the group via cab and train in Italy where he was able to show off his cast and enjoy good company the last few days.

On the seventh day, it rained - to noone's real regret. We badly needed a day of rest for massaging sore muscles, for leisure packing, for shopping and for post card sending. These chores done, we set out early Sunday morning for the Italian Dolomites. The beautiful drive via "our" bus was highlighted by tidbits of local folklore and Austrian history lessons courtesy of our trusty driver, Ozzie who, Austrian patriot that he was, made it clear that, although we were about to go into Italy, the region we were to visit was in fact a true part of Austria and would always remain so in the hearts of its residents. To our delight, the snow was as bountiful and the sky as sunny in Italy as it was in Austria - and we did not much care who claimed ownership.

When we arrived at our hotel, the Hotel Posta in Ortisei, we found a snafu more reflective of Italian management than of Austrian management. There were not enough rooms at the Inn, and not nearly enough bathrooms. Certainly not the number that had been ordered, signed for, and PAID for. Our unflappable trip leader went to work and worked out the best solution he could. Some of the group moved to other Hotels on their own. Some doubled up. Some shared baths. And tempers cooled. Stomachs were filled. After a night's sleep, we were ready for a second week of incomparable skiing.

Val Gardena is an enormous ski playground made up of a number of villages linked together by a vast assortment of lifts covering 70 miles of piste and limitless miles of open slopes. The skiing is generally intermediate, but black trails were available to those who wanted them. By now, high season had arrived and there were long lift lines for the cable cars; but once such bottlenecks were overcome, there were only short liftlines for the chairlifts and drag lifts at the top. Favorite runs were above the villages of Selva and St. Christina. And there was also the broad, beautiful uncluttered Sella reached by a strenuous climb over the Passo Sella from the Plan de Gnolba. On the rare foggy/snowy day, the adventurous took sleigh rides on the spacious Alpe di Suisi, went cross country skiing, or took side trips to Venice and Cortina. The Venice trip (in Mercedes Benz limos, no less) proved to be a real "bonus extra" for those who went.

On our departure day, Saturday P.M., we left Italy for a night in Innsbruck, Austria where, on Sunday morning, we had the option of skiing the Axamer Lizum (site of the '64 Olympics), sightseeing, or just plain lolling in bed (a desirable alternative after 16 days of strenuous activity). Sunday night in Munich again; then Monday the long trip home - now with new friends with happy memories - all making plans for another perfect trip NEXT YEAR!

SKI TRIPS

- March 5 - 12 - Seven days at Aspen. And, now there is S N O W ! For those of great faith, and for optimistic trip leader, Ray McKinley (recently quoted as expressing his feelings: "Pheew!"), the current report of 2 to 4 feet of new snow falling the last weekend of February. And more coming! Unfortunately for readers of this article, this package trip has already departed. A Bon Voyage and Bonne Ski to these travellers of great faith!
- March 12-19 - A week in Banff, Canada. This Blue Ridge Ski Council sanctioned trip, Ski Club of Washington, D.C. sponsored, led by Rosemary Gwynn (363-4476) looks forward to good skiing on good snow. TOOT has no current report on the status of this trip, but, P V S members are eligible. So call Rosemary for the latest on this one.
- March 27-April 2 - A week at Mt. Sutton, Canada. Trip leader Gerry Deighton (424-5707). At last report, Gerry still had two spaces open on this trip. He will also maintain a wait list for the always possible fact that last minute changes may occur. Good snow conditions are assured by the excellent base already on the mountain. So give Gerry a call and join this fine spring skiing trip.

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COMING EVENTS

- March 5-12 : Aspen trip, Ray McKinley trip leader. See SKI TRIPS column.
- March 15 : P V S meeting. See notice on front page.
- March 22 : EXCOM meeting. See Notice # 2, page 2.
- March 27-April 2 : Mt. Sutton trip. See SKI TRIPS column.
- April 19 : P V S Annual meeting.

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Activities Answering Service -- 362-4724

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P V S OFFICERS

President: Geoff' Wadey  
 Vice President: Ray McKinley  
 Secretary: Vacant  
 Treasurer: Margaret Wychoff

Membership: Gail Gell  
 TOOT Editors: Dick and Julie King  
 Answering Service: Brooke and Mary Armat

EXCOM:  
 Second term:  
 Brook Armat  
 Aase Berling  
 Ray McKinley  
 First term:  
 Pat Cope  
 Gerry Deighton  
 Penny Richards