

VOLUME XXXII

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.

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VIRGINIA



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I can't believe that my two years as president of PVS have gone by this fast, as this is my last message as your president. I want to start out by thanking Mary Jane McCarthy for selecting me as vice president four years ago and for the membership electing me two years ago. I also want to thank the EXCOM members, the officers, and all the chairpersons for their excellent support during the past two years. I have enjoyed my term as president a great deal and as I have said many times I have the easiest job in the club. The reason the club runs along so smoothly is because everyone pitches in and works hard on all the tasks that have to be done. So I want to thank all the membership for the fine support, and I hope you will continue to work for PVS. My greatest pleasure the past two years has been getting to meet and know a lot of the membership and I have to say PVS is comprised of a variety of talented and very caring friendly people.

Don't forget the Spring Fling on Saturday, April 26, 1997; PVS is one of the sponsors for this very worthy event to benefit Disabled Sports USA. The information flyer is included with this TOOT and contains the application form, so just send it in and we will make sure we have a big PVS group assembled for this important and fun event.

See you on the slopes.

Serge
Serge Triau, President



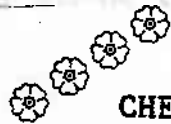
APRIL 15, 1997 - 8 p.m.

Home of Barbara and Fred Leonhardt
606 Firehouse Lane
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Tel: 301-963-8111

Important matters to vote on include representatives for the Executive Committee, new members, and by-law changes.

See directions to the Leonhardts' on the next page.

Directions to the Leonhardt home: Take the Beltway to Rte. 270 to Exit 6B, Rte 28, Darnestown Road. Go west. Follow Darnestown Road for 4.6 miles to signal at Kentlands entrance, Tschiffley Square Road. Turn right. At 3rd stop sign, turn right at Leeks Lot Way. Almost immediately, turn right at Firehouse Lane to #606. Carpooling is encouraged, since parking at the house is limited.



CHERRY BLOSSOM MID-WEEK WALK - THURSDAY APRIL 3rd.



We Will meet at the top of the Smithsonian Metro Stop at 10:30 a.m. for a leisurely stroll around the Tidal Basin. If weather permits, we will picnic on the mall. Bring lunch or buy from the sidewalk vendors.

Interested PVSers should call Betty Byrne (202) 483-4048 or Marvin Hass (703) 751-4737.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 1997 - The Billy Goat Trail is open! So PVS will trek it again, Frank Shelburne leading. Meet at 10 a.m. in the parking lot across from Old Anglers' Inn. If the weather is iffy, give Frank a call at 202-331-9492.



RETURN OF THE DINING OUT GROUP
April 8, 1997

Join us for dinner on Tuesday, April 8, 1997. Meeting and greeting at 6:30, dinner at 7 p.m. This month dinner is planned at ATHENIAN PLAKA, 7833 Woodmont Ave., Bethesda. The ATHENIAN PLAKA is a very nice Greek restaurant.

Directions: From the Capitol Beltway (Rt. 495) in Maryland, take the Wisconsin Ave. exit (Rt. 355) South for approx. 2 miles and turn right on Fairmont Ave. and then immediately right on Woodmont Ave. The Athenian Plaka is on the right just past the corner of Fairmont and Woodmont. Free parking is available immediately adjacent to the restaurant in the garage (Next to the Banning Glass sign).

So that we may know how many to expect, please call Pat Tengel at (301) 299-8376 by Sunday April 6.



FIFTH ANNUAL MT. VERNON MID-WEEK BIKE RIDE.
Thursday, April 17

The fifth annual bike ride down the Mt. Vernon bike trail has been planned for Thursday, April 17. We leave at 10 a.m. from the Belle Haven picnic area just south of Alexandria, ride to Mt. Vernon and return for a total distance of about 14 miles. The trail is flat to rolling. For those without a bicycle, rentals are available nearby.

For further information or just to let us know you're coming, call Shirley Rettig (703-836-0147).

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1997 - Annual Spring Dinner at the Colonnade. This event is full, but call Marilyn Clark (703-978-9435) to be put on the waiting list.

THE CAPITAL CRESCENT TRAIL HIKE THURSDAY APRIL 24th

Norman Engelman will lead a 10:30 A.M. hike on the Capital Crescent Trail from Bethesda to Harbour Place in Georgetown covering a distance of about 7 miles. The trail is paved and follows a little known abandoned railroad track. We will have lunch at Harbour Cafe in Harbour Place, or you can bring your own lunch as we will probably eat on the outside tables if the weather is warm. Interested people should contact Norman Engelman (301) 424-5725 or C. Huggins (301) 424-5725 to let them know your coming. We will have somebody bring a car to Harbour Place for transportation or take METRO back to Bethesda.

Directions: Exit River Road from the beltway and proceed toward the District 3.7 miles. Turn left on Little Falls Parkway and proceed .8 mile and turn right after just passing thru the 2nd traffic light into the Montgomery County Park/Bethesda Pool and park.

SKI GROUP 97

Members interested in running a ski trip or looking for information on a ski area to ski in 97-98 should attend the free show at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Crystal City, Monday April 28th, 5-8 P.M. Exhibitors from U.S., Canada, Europe, and S. America representing major ski areas, domestic and foreign governments tourist offices, air and ground transportation suppliers, tour wholesalers, and resort/lodging associates are there to assist you in planning your ski trip.

SPRING FLING 1997 AUCTION & BANQUET

TO BENEFIT DISABLED SPORTS USA
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND
SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 1997

5:30 P.M. SILENT AUCTION * 7:30 P.M. DINNER * 8:30 P.M. LIVE AUCTION
\$30/PERSON (INCLUDES DINNER & AUCTION -- ADVANCE RESERVATION REQUIRED)

AUCTION WILL INCLUDE:

- *INCREDIBLE VACATION PACKAGES TO EUROPE AND THE CONTINENTAL U.S.
- *VARIETY OF ROMANTIC WEEKEND GET-AWAYS
- *TOP-OF-THE-LINE SKI AND SPORTS APPAREL AND EQUIPMENT
- *LIFT PASSES FOR POPULAR SKI RESORTS
- *ADORABLE LAB PUPPIES
- *CRUISES TO POPULAR HOTSPOTS
- *RENOWNED ARTWORK, &
- *DINNER PACKAGES AT SEVERAL TOP RESTAURANTS IN WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA



THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

For More Information Call (301) 217-0963

NAME _____ PHONE () _____
 ADDRESS _____
 Additional Bidders: (If more than four, please use the reverse side of this form)
 NAME _____ NAME _____
 NAME _____ NAME _____
 # OF TICKETS _____ (@ \$30/ticket) AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____
 CLUB AFFILIATION _____
 PAYMENT TYPE _____ Check -- Make checks payable to DISABLED SPORTS USA
 _____ MasterCard _____ Visa _____ American Express _____ Diners Club
 Account Number _____ Expiration Date _____
 Authorized Signature _____
 I'm unable to attend, but enclosed is my donation to Disabled Sports USA
 Mail form and check to: Spring Fling Auction Committee c/o DS/USA
 451 Hungerford Drive, Suite 100
 Rockville, MD 20850

Thank You For Supporting Disabled Sports USA

ANNUAL FUN WALK WITH THE CLARKS, May 17, 1997

A 5-mile walk in Wakefield Park and around Lake Accotink, followed by brunch at the Clark home. Limited, so call Marilyn or Dick now (703-978-9435) for a reservation.

WHITEWATER RAFTING, JULY 9 & 10, 1997

These dates have been reserved for our annual Whitewater rafting trip in the beautiful Ohiopyle, PA area. Plans for biking and hiking (and perhaps an additional day) will be developed if there is enough interest for such activities. Watch the TOOT for more details, but save the dates now. Coordinator: Dina Taylor, 301-663-6089.

The following statement was moved and passed by the Executive Committee at its March meeting.

WHAT IS A SANCTIONED SKI TRIP

A SANCTIONED SKI TRIP IS ONE THAT HAS BEEN AGREED TO BY THE TRIP COMMITTEE AND APPROVED BY THE EX-COM. THUS A SANCTIONED SKI TRIP IS CONTROLLED AND MONITORED BY THE TRIP COMMITTEE. ~~IT~~ REQUIRES THE TRIP LEADER TO COORDINATE ACTIVITIES OF THE SKI TRIP WITH THE TRIP COMMITTEE. THE TRIP LEADER MUST SUBMIT A DETAILED FINANCIAL REPORT AND THE TRIP COMMITTEE WILL REVIEW, ANALYZE AND SUBMIT TO THE EX-COM A TRIP EVALUATION REPORT. ALL OTHER SKI TRIPS ARE NOT SANCTIONED BUT MUST BE REVIEWED BY THE TRIP COMMITTEE AND APPROVED BY THE EX-COM BEFORE BEING MENTIONED AT PVS MEETINGS OR PUBLICIZED IN THE TOOT. ONE OR TWO DAY SKI TRIPS ARE CONSIDERED AS EVENTS SUCH AS HIKING, BIKING AND RAFTING TRIPS ^{are} ARE NOT CONSIDERED AS SKI TRIPS AS DEFINED ABOVE.

PAST EVENTS

A WEEK OF SKIING AND SLOT MACHINES AT LAKE TAHOE

Ten PVSers joined 290 other BRSC skiers at the Horizon Casino Hotel in Stateline NV: a small group but a convivial one. We awoke the first morning to snow and high winds, but managed to get in a few good runs at Heavenly.

The next day Charlie Huggins made reservations for us to bus up to Squaw Valley at the north end of the lake. Again high winds forced closing of the upper mountain, but nevertheless we had an enjoyable day with a scenic bus ride all around the lake, and even Squaw's lower mountain is impressive by eastern standards.

Tuesday was Race Day at Alpine Meadows, a ski area with some beautiful bowl skiing. Four PVSers raced: Charlie Huggins, Sally Finan, George Welti, and Shirley Rettig. Sally and Charlie won NASTAR bronze medals.

Wednesday evening some of the group went to a show at Harrah's which they pronounced to be excellent, a circus type show of jugglers, acrobats, etc.

Thursday was a chartered bus ride in heavy snow to Kirkwood. Some loved the fresh powder, while others found it somewhat intimidating. That evening was the Hawaiian banquet and awards dinner. Our sole award winner was Sally Finan who won a second place medal in her age group.

Friday was a beautiful ski day, and a fitting end to the week before we all went our separate ways on Saturday.

Shirley Rettig

MARCH MEETING

Although a cold rain was falling on March meeting night, spring was in the hearts of the 38 PVSers who attended. The spacious home of Ruth Powers, overlooking the Potomac, allowed plenty of room for people to flow from the wine/soda center to the dining room table for delicious goodies.

It was a mystery as to how Ray McKinley was able to talk Ruth into being a hostess before she is even a member, but all were delighted that he had done so.

There were reports from the BRSC Lake Tahoe trip, and on further adventures of some in Vail--and Glade Flake, in just hours before from France, was able to share glowing words about that trip. One burning question was whether the August trip to Chile is part of the 1996-97 ski season or part of the 1997-98 year. Whatever, as presented in words by Nancy and by video it sounded great.

Chocolate-y desserts topped off a most enjoyable evening, not a bit dampened by the rain. Many, many thanks to Ruth Powers for her generous hospitality.

...Jessma Blockwick

SPRING IN THE FRENCH ALPS

Dot Mills

Val d'Isere, Lyon, Paris

What a super trip! Spring greeted us in full force in Val d'Isere - blue skies, sunshine, and warm weather every day. Good snow - packed powder - up high, and we bypassed the heavy wet at the bottom with cable car the last run down. Miles and miles of trails above timber line - we couldn't cover them all, and spectacular views in every direction. Superb.

We arrived in Paris Saturday, then to Lyon where we were met by bus (after a rather picturesque procession of loaded luggage carts through the airport looking for it!) for a beautiful three hour ride to Val d'Isere. Traffic was quite heavy but the driver knew all sorts of bypasses - fortunately, because we had two delays. Arlette De Long was sick and we were held up by an accident, but arrived in good shape and ready for a delicious dinner.

Our hotel was half a block from slopeside and close to the center of town and shops. And wonderful dining - 4-course meals -- duck, lamb, chicken, veal, fondue - even crepes Grand Marnier for dessert. And great French bread. One night we celebrated the birthdays of Sue Walsh and David Abraham. Sue had decorations her sister had sent, The dining room was darkened for the presentation of two cakes with lighted candles, and Sue got two kisses from the French waiter. What a birthday! Another special event was a tour and apres ski party at the Club Med - most interesting.

Parachute skiing was very popular. There were always some in the air - soaring beautifully through the blue skies over the mountains and landing gracefully on skis on a ski trail. Only Christy Comerford had the courage to try it. She says it was exciting and wonderful, and has great pictures to remember it by. Christy and Reg Heitchue were out one day doing some super skiing with Dick Comerford and David Abraham and got separated from them. Searching for the way down they spotted a man in a Redskins cap. 'Aha! Help is at hand.' Reg asked if he was a Redskins fan. Shrug! Total Blah! He asked about different languages, Shrug. Then Christy asked what country he was. He answered "Czech". No English! No Redskins fan! Did he know what he was wearing?? Jean Heitchue followed Reg for some off piste skiing one day - accidentally! - had a bad fall in a precarious location and had trouble getting up. No serious injury, just aggravation of an old one. Marianne Cook also had a fall aggravating a previous injury but kept on skiing. There was one black eye (me) which John Smith attributed to trying to get into a French toilet for one franc. All the toilets on the mountain were two francs admission except one which was two for women and one for men! Talk about discrimination!

All this fun and skiing was great.

Saturday we left early by bus for Lyon, a beautiful ride through the countryside with spring shrubbery, flowers, and trees coming to bloom, and many trees harboring clumps of mistletoe. We arrived about noon and took off immediately for sightseeing which was great fun but quite tiring. We walked for hours in the Old City with Roman ruins - a marvellous amphitheater and odeon (the Romans were everywhere you go in Europe), museums,

continued

(French trip continued)

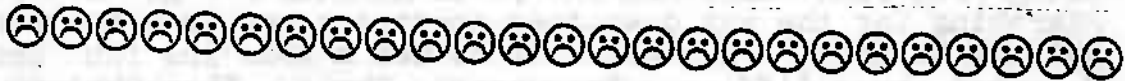
old buildings, and restaurants along old streets about 8 feet wide. It was really charming. Picked out eating places for the evening and returned to dine - in the gourmet capital of France!

Off to Paris Sunday morning by air, and another day and a half of sightseeing (except for the nine who stayed longer). Paris in the spring!! It was great. Bill Anderson, Sue Walsh, John Pulos, Pat Tengel, and John Smith attended evening mass at Notre Dame and took communion from the Archbishop of Paris. From our hotel on the Rue de Rivoli across the street from the Tuileries Gardens we scattered around town in small groups for dinner. Monday, with more spring weather, was all-day sightseeing - the Louvre with the new Pei triangle, the Latin Quarter, the Orangerie, a boat tour on the Seine (among other sights a French Statue of Liberty replica), walking and snacking and watching a white-robed mime on the Champs Elysees.

Then the grand finale - an elegant, dress-up dinner at the French Officers Club. A perfect evening! Kir royale served in a private reception room, a five course dinner in a private dining room at a banquet table with beautiful fresh flowers and silver candelabra. The gourmet dinner with wine included smoked salmon and lamb roast and ended with a flaming dessert served in a darkened room, followed by after dinner coffee. To close this lovely evening Marianne Cook's Paris friend Ernie played "God Bless America" on the piano in the room.

A superb finish to a great trip.

Many thanks to Karen and Knox.



John Newdorf and Audrey Conner were forced to cancel out of the French ski trip when John developed pneumonia. Now he is back in the hospital with additional problems. If you'd like to write them, send to 501 Kettlehouse Pond, Wayne, PA 19087.

HI AND LOIS WALKER & BROWNE





THE KNEE

by

Ray McKinley

Here is your own friendly Knee again, with lots of knews, knuances and, of course, a few kneepuns. Kneepuns are, most certainly, Japanknees. Think about it.

Some weeks back, I flew over some Colorado Ski Resorts. God but it's beautiful! From 6 miles up, the snow is pristine and all encompassing. It had just fallen, as the conifers were still glistening white—a winter wonderland. Our sport changes winter. It's not slush and snowplows. It's fluffy white wonderment.

Are there withdrawal symptoms from skiing? Despite decreasing in altitude, both John Smith and the Knee were pooped (a scatological term) for several days on returning from ski trips.

Warm weather hereabouts hasn't deterred some stout hearted PVSers (or that may be stout drinking PVSers) from late season journeys. Tony Drago is off to southern Colorado including Telluride. Also skiing Telluride is soon to be Excomer Suzanne Boisclair. And Bing Poon is headed for Salt Lake City for some late season runs. Charlie Huggins reports that Bing will be able to take advantage of Deer Valley's first ever half price lift ticket sale—starts April 1.

Could it be, however, that ski season is over? Whilst in Knee Mexico at the end of March the temperature in Albuquerque was 82 degrees. It was 65 at the top of soggy Taos. At the same time, John Burgess reported a comfy 59 at the peak of Vail. A lot of wet snow but to no a Vail. Here in D.C. the Cherry Blossoms were early and even Ski Liberty (their motto "Skiing 24 hours per Year") reports their glacier (also known as their ice machine) is melting. Right off. Or run off.

A Tip of the Ol' Knee Cap to SCWDC (which stands for Some Club in Wilmington Delaware C). They are now well into their 60th year of hiking. And some of them even ski!

Condolences to the family of long time SCWDCer Norman Cole who died with his boots

on after hitting a tree at Beaver Creek.

Congrats to Bob and Margaret Wyckoff. They have just become grandparents for the second time. Right on. Right on.

As many of you know Jacques Hadler is Dean of the Webb Institute—the pre-eminent U.S. naval architecture school. When things go wrong Jack has been known to say "What the hull."

Special thanks to applicant member Ruth Powers for hosting our March meeting in her spacious digs. Ruth is the treasurer of the American Association of University Woman. She missed their big meeting to host ours. Right on.

Our newest wounded is Marijane Harper. She broke her shoulder skiing at Sugarloaf, Maine. Full recovery is expected. Actually her shoulder didn't break skiing, Marijane broke it landing.

At the Ski Utah post trip party, Dot Mills and Jackie Wilson discovered that both graduated from D.C.'s McKinley (no relation) High School. Despite being 14 years apart, they had several teachers and an opinion of the mayor in common.

Many PVSers will soon be skiing in Chile. But Charlotte Eddy is off to Brazil. Her daughter is moving to Sao Paulo. Cha Cha Cha

The Knee's philosophy: Those who can, ski. Those who can't, snowboard!

For the first time in 33 years John and Ellen Burgess have time to ski. Both have retired and have jumped into skiing with all 4 feet.

After many setbacks, John and Ramona Mathews have a great, new home addition. It includes a music room for Ramona. So la ti do.

Ladies who Lunch: Marilyn Clark, Peggy Burns, Lu Beale, Dot Mills, and Bette Walker hosted Margaret Wyckoff to lunch recently. The major topic: you guessed it—skiing. They want to have two week European ski trips *a la Wyckoffs*.

Ladies who Drink: Whilst in *Val d' Isere*, a group met daily to sample wines. The samplers: Betty Comerford, Marianne Cook, Joan Flake, and Aina Thomas. Scant was found to whine about.

Men who Hide It: John Smith also sampled his share of the local reds. But he called it "taking my anti-cholesterol pills." Right in!

CALENDAR

- Apr. 3 ... Cherry Blossom Hike, p. 2
- Apr. 6 ... Billy Goat Trail Hike, p. 2
- Apr. 8 ... Dining Out Group, p. 2
- Apr. 12 ... Post-Snowmass Party at Dina Taylor's.
NOTE NEW TIME: 5:30 p.m.
- Apr. 15 ... Annual Meeting at the Leonhardts', p. 1
- Apr. 17 ... Fifth annual Mt. Vernon bike ride, p. 3
- Apr. 19 ... Annual Spring Dinner, p. 3
- Apr. 22 ... ExCom at the Triaus'
- Apr. 24 ... Crescent Trail Hike, p. 3
- Apr. 26 ... Hillwood Tour and Lunch. Full but call
Genee Boykin to check on cancellations.
703-790-8277
- Apr. 26 ... Spring Fling, p. 4
- Apr. 28 ... Spring Group, p. 3
- May 10 ... Post-French-trip party, 7:30 at the Felkers'
- May 17 ... Annual Fun Walk and brunch with the Clarks, p. 5
- May 20 ... Monthly meeting at June Kelsey's
- May 27 ... ExCom at Dottie Mills'
- June 17 ... Monthly meeting at Betty Lawrence's
- June 24 ... ExCom at the Flakes'
- July 9 ... and 10, Whitewater rafting



WASH., D.C.

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