



VOLUME XXXIII  
NUMBER 6

# Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.

JUNE 1998

WASHINGTON

MARYLAND

VIRGINIA

## **PRESIDENT'S SITZMARK**

There are some among us who suggest that PVS is mainly a "Clean Plate Club," a great group to belong to if you are a gourmet or gourmand, as the case may be. However, as much as we enjoy feasting (and we surely do!), we are and forever will be a group passionately devoted to skiing. Whatever the level of our skill we are--intoxicated is not too strong a word--by the sport.

An example of this fervor and the rewards of daring and conquering the impossible (be it a beginner's slope or the highest mountain) is to be found in this issue of TOOT where Reg Heitchue describes a memorable day in 1996 on Utah's Interconnect.

Reg, 62 years old and a long-time PVSer, emphasizes that physical fitness and determination are perhaps more important than skiing technique. It's clearly not for everyone but for those who have the heart it's a kick and a half.

Next March, Reg and fellow PVSer David Abraham, age 74, plan to throw down the gauntlet to helicopter skiing in the Canadian Rockies Bugaboos.

Good luck, guys! We look forward to your report. Your plates (full) will be in the warming oven awaiting your return.

*Lu*  
Lu Beale, President



JUNE 16, 1998 - 7:30 p.m.

Home of Betty Lawrence, 525 Haven Lane, Great Falls, VA.  
Telephone: 703-759-0471.

Directions: Take Beltway Exit 13 onto Route 193 (Georgetown Pike) toward Great Falls. Drive 6.3 miles to Great Falls where you turn right on Walker Road. Go 1.1 miles to left on Squires Trail. At the end of the road, turn left onto Haven Lane and proceed to 525 on the left.

# COMING EVENTS

## **BIKE RIDE MIDWEEK THURSDAY JUNE 11 W&OD Trail**



Meet at VIENNA COMMUNITY CENTER at 10:30 am for a 17 mile round trip bike ride mostly on the W&OD Trail. Terrain is largely flat. Lunch at Lake Anne Center in Reston at IL CIGNO restaurant outdoors on the plaza at the lake front. PVSers not wishing to bike are welcome to join the cyclists for lunch around 12:30. Interested PVSers should call Marvin Hass (703) 751-4737 or Betty Byrne (202) 483-4048.

Directions: Vienna Community Center: Go to center of Vienna on Maple Ave (Rte 123). Then east on Park Street 0.2 mile to Community Center on right. Water and restrooms available.



## COCKTAILS AND DINNER WITH THE BROCKMEYERS

### ANNAPOLIS - SATURDAY, JULY 25

Joan Flake is taking reservations for this event, limited to 25. Call her at 301-762-6890.



## PARTY AT THE FLAKES IN ANNAPOLIS - August 8

Limited to 30. Sue Walsh is taking reservations, 301-589-7159. Everyone will bring his/her own entree plus a dish to share.



## **Oktoberfest**



This year PVS will celebrate Oktoberfest at Blob's Park on October 3. Polkas and more beginning at 9 p.m. Those wanting to eat there can arrange to meet earlier.

Suzanne Boisclair has reserved 20 places. Call her at 703-532-0511 (or sboiscl@crosslink net). Send a check for the admission price of \$6.00. Food and drink are extra.

SCHEDULED TRIPS FOR THE 1999-2000 SEASONS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>LOCATIONS</u>	<u>TRIP LEADERS</u>
Dec. 9 to 16, 1998	Steamboat, CO.	Ned & Jaclyn Flaherty
Jan. 9 to 16, 1999	Telluride, CO.	Don & Kathy Dillon
Jan. 30 to Feb. 6, 1999	Sun Valley, ID.	Dina Taylor & Nat Seeman
Feb. 19 to Mar. 2, 1999	Cortina, Italy	John Smith & Pat Tengal
Feb. 27 to Mar. 6, 1999 BRSC Trip	Mt. Tremblant, Canada	No Trip Leader design- ated at present time
Mar. 27 to Apr. 3, 1999	Vail, CO	Ray & Nancy McKinley
Dec. 26, 99 to Jan. 2, 2000 BRSC Trip	Steamboat, CO.	Trip Leader not design- ated at present time
Jan. 29, to Feb. 5, 2000 BRSC Trip	Park City, UT.	Trip Leader not design- ated at present time
Feb. 26, to Mar. 4, 2000 BRSC Trip	Loon, NH or Killington, VT	Exact location not decided by BRSC

If a member is interested in a particular trip, please indicate to the Trip Leader at this time to put your name on the list and make the deposit requested by the Trip Leader. Remember the trips fill-up quickly and there is a limit to the number of people on each trip.



## **STEAMBOAT SPRINGS**

DECEMBER 9 - 16, 1998

Final details of this eagerly anticipated first club outing to the slopes awaits announcements from the airlines, due June 1, 1998. Lodging at the Sheraton Steamboat Resort has been confirmed.

Thirty-nine PVS members have indicated interest in the trip to date, and 17 have submitted good-faith deposits of \$100, refundable if the final package details and cost are not satisfactory. Others who want to ensure being included should send deposits to Jaclyn and Ned Flaherty. If the trip fills up, a wait list will be established.

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# SKI TELLURIDE

January 9 to 16, 1999  
Saturday to Saturday



PVS

## \$1195!!

### TRIP PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip All-Jet Air, Reagan National to Montrose, CO. Change Planes Houston or Cleveland.
- 15- Passenger-Van Transfers to Telluride, 65 Miles, 75-90 Minutes.
- Deluxe Lodge/Hotel Accommodation in Blue Mesa Lodge at Mountain Village Plaza  
Double Occupancy. Elevator, Heated Ski locker Room, Ski-in/Ski-out, Kitchenettes, Deck, Common Outdoor Hot Tub, The Tavern Restaurant (Lunch and Dinner), The Tavern Bar with Fireplace, (Breakfasts Available at Nearby Plaza Specialty Food Establishments or Full Breakfasts at The Peaks or Take the Free Gondola Downtown.) Daily Maid Service Non-smoking.
- One Only, 3 BR/5 BA Condo at Mountain Village Plaza, KAYENTA CONDOS. (Double Occupancy, 1st Fl, 3 levels, Private Hot Tub, Living Room for Apres-Skis, Trip Leaders' Quarters Plus 4 Others).
- Welcome Wine /Cheese Party.
- Lift Ticket, 5 of 6-day.
- One Dinner.
- Several Apres-Skis.
- Pre- and Post-Trip Parties.
- Mountain Tour
- Free High-Speed Gondola Transportation, 15 Hours a Day, 12 Min. to Town.



**TRIP COST: \$1195 (Full Package, Per Person Double Occupancy Applies To All)**

- 1070 (70 or Older, Full Package)
- 815 (Land Only, No Air or Transfers)
- 690 (Land Only, No Air or Transfers, 70 or older)
- 515 (Single Supplement, Added to Any Above)

**19 ALREADY  
"COUNT US IN!"**

<b>PAYMENT SCHEDULE:</b>	With Application:	\$100 (All Per Person)(Nonrefundable after October 1, 1998)
	By August 1	\$500
	By November 1	Final Balance

**TO REGISTER DETACH AND COMPLETE THIS FORM AND SEND YOUR \$100 PER PERSON DEPOSIT CHECK TO "GOSHEN TRAVEL"; AND MAIL FORM AND CHECK TO: GOSHEN TRAVEL, 8302 GOSHEN VIEW DR., GAITHERSBURG, MD 20882. PH 301 330 5371. OTHER PAYMENTS ARE DUE AS ABOVE. MAKE NOTE OF THIS SCHEDULE. FINAL PAYMENT AMOUNTS WILL DIFFER DEPENDING ON YOUR PACKAGE PRICE. TRIP INSURANCE IS RECOMMENDED AND IS AVAILABLE; CALL GOSHEN TRAVEL, DON DILLON AT (301) 990 3792. CERTAIN PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS MAY BE COVERED IF PLAN PURCHASED WITHIN 7 DAYS OF INITIAL DEPOSIT. (DETERMINED BY INSUROR) DEPOSIT IS NON-REFUNDABLE AFTER OCTOBER 1. PACKAGE PRICE IS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND SPACE IS LIMITED. ACT NOW!**

NAME(S) _____	MALE _____	FEMALE _____
ADDRESS _____	ALL ACCOMMODATIONS ARE NON-SMOKING.	
CITY _____	STATE _____	ZIP _____
PHONE: HOME: _____	OFFICE _____	CHECK IF 70 YRS, OR OLDER _____
INDICATE NUMBER: FULL PACKAGE _____ LAND ONLY _____		ROOMMATE PREF, IF SGL. _____
		OTHER _____

I/WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE TRIP LEADERS ARE ACTING AS AGENTS IN MAKING THESE ARRANGEMENTS AND ASSUME NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY INJURIES NOR ADDITIONAL EXPENSES CAUSED BY WEATHER OR ADVENTS BEYOND THEIR CONTROL. CERTAIN FEES ARE REQUIRED IN ADVANCE BY AIRLINES AND ACCOMMODATIONS WHICH THE AGENTS HAVE PAID AND MAKE \$100 OF YOUR INITIAL PAYMENT(S) NONREFUNDABLE AFTER OCTOBER 1. AGENTS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO PROVIDE EQUAL ACCOMMODATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION SHOULD CIRCUMSTANCES DEMAND. AS NOTED ABOVE, TRIP INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE AND RECOMMENDED. A LATE FEE OF \$10.00 WILL BE CHARGED FOR LATE PAYMENTS AFTER DEPOSIT IS MADE. PARTIAL OR FULL PAYMENT INDICATES CONSENT TO THESE PROVISIONS.

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE(If couple, both sign) \_\_\_\_\_

# SKI SUN VALLEY, IDAHO

January 30 - February 6, 1999

Coordinators: Dina Taylor (301-663-6089) and Nat Seeman (703-461-0859)



Join us in this outstanding SKI ADVENTURE for 8 fabulous days in Sun Valley, well known for terrific skiing and luxury accommodations in the famous Sun Valley Lodge. This BRSC and PVS joint venture combines many wonderful features into a value loaded ski package for all level skiers and non-skiers. Its as good as it gets.

Included are airfare, ground travel, lodging & breakfast, pre- & post trip parties, welcome & apres ski parties, 5/6 day LT +addit.LT \$25, ski race, dinner dance, etc. Reserve a space now & send a \$100 check to Dina Taylor (payable to Dina Taylor) 8403 Stonehouse Road, Frederick, MD 21702; state your choice of bed(s), King, Queen, room w. 2 beds (2 singles sharing room), or single room. Any deposits will be fully refundable until 2 weeks after the flyer has been published in the TOOT. For more information please call Dina -- 301-663-6089.



## PVS - ITALY 1999

### PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE PVS 1999 EUROPEAN TRIP

### SKIING IN CORTINA D'AMPREZZO AND TOURING IN VENICE, ITALY

Friday February 19, 1999 to Tuesday March 2, 1999

FRI., FEB. 19 - FLY FROM DULLES AIRPORT TO VENICE, ITALY

SAT., FEB. 20 - TRANSFER BY MOTOR COACH TO OUR HOTEL IN CORTINA

IN CORTINA - 7 NIGHTS AT A FOUR STAR HOTEL WITH BREAKFAST AND DINNER INCLUDED. (NOTE: THE HOTEL HAS NOT BEEN CHOSEN AT THIS TIME BUT WILL PROBABLY BE EITHER THE HOTEL CORTINA, THE ANCORA, OR THE GRAND SAVOIE)

SAT., FEB. 27 - ON SATURDAY MORNING WE WILL TRANSFER BY MOTOR COACH AND WATER TAXI TO OUR HOTEL IN VENICE

IN VENICE - WE WILL STAY 3 NIGHTS (SATURDAY, SUNDAY, AND MONDAY) AT A FOUR STAR HOTEL ON THE ISLAND. NOTE: IN VENICE, BREAKFAST WILL BE INCLUDED BUT DINNER WILL NOT BE

TUES., MARCH 2 - BREAKFAST AT THE HOTEL IN VENICE AND THEN TRANSFER BY WATER TAXI AND BUS TO THE VENICE AIRPORT FOR THE RETURN TO WASHINGTON. ARRIVE HOME LATE TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

**TOTAL PACKAGE PRICE - EST. \$1800 (DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)**

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING US: PLEASE CALL JOHN SMITH AT 301-299-8376

SEND A DEPOSIT OF \$100 TO: JOHN H. SMITH, AT 8174 INVERNESS RIDGE ROAD, POTOMAC, MD. 20854.

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March 27 to April 3, 1999

♡♡ SKI VAIL ♡♡

♡♡ Join Ray and Nancy McKinley and ski Vail, the largest ski area in the United States and the highest rated US ski area in all ski magazines for the last four years! There's 4,644 acres of great skiing for all of us, from beginners to double diamond slopes for experts. At our unreal price, Vail is truly unbeatable!!! You will ♡ VAIL!

♡♡ We'll stay slopeside at the 4★ ski-in/ski-out Lift House. All units have fireplace, balconies, two queen sized beds, and cable TV. And best of all our units are a measured "39 feet 3 and 7/8 inches" from the new, Eagle Bahn high-speed Lionshead Gondola. No hiking or buses to each spectacular day of skiing. The 12 passenger cabins are heated and fly twice as fast as the older gondola while they soothe you with classical music.

♡♡ 5 of 6 day lift passes good at Vail, Beaver Creek, Keystone & Breckenridge--almost 11,000 acres!! March and April are Vail's two most snow filled months. So we are guaranteed great powder skiing! And we fly from close-in Reagan National to Eagle Vail on Continental all jet service.

♡♡ Price includes all the goodies you expect on a McKinley-run trip: airfare, transfers, 3 superb group dinners, *apres ski* every night, pre and post trip parties, all baggage handling, and gratuities.

♡♡ **True VAIL Value: 8 Days, 7 Nights Only-\$1,348\*, \$1,188\* for 70+** ♡♡

\*These prices may change slightly when we finalize the details; see our complete flyer in the July TOOT.

♡♡ **This will be an extremely popular trip. You can reserve your space today by sending your check for \$200 (payable to Ray McKinley and refundable through July) to the McKinleys, 2326 North Upton Street, Arlington, VA 22207-4045. Please call us for more information at (703) 527-7126. You'll absolutely ♡ VAIL.** ♡♡

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REMINDER REGARDING ATTENDANCE AT LIMITED EVENTS

The Club has a long-standing policy that if you cancel your reservation after the posted deadline and there is no one wait-listed to take your place, or if you are a "no-show" at any event for which you have made a reservation, you are responsible for paying your share of the expenses except, of course, in the event of emergencies.

Those hosting limited events should make sure a deadline is noted in TOOT, but if it is inadvertantly omitted, those making reservations should ask about the cut-off date.

Also, members of the PVS Board are asked to notify the host/hostess of ExCom meetings if they are not coming. ExCom meetings are open to all members of PVS but those not members of the Board are asked to notify if they are coming to ExCom.

PAST EVENTS

DINING AT THE COLONNADE

On May 2, at half-past six in the evening, 32 PVS's started arriving at Bette Walker's Condo Party Room toting their various assignments for the Annual Spring Dinner. Yes, it took all 32 people to unload and carry three cases of red and white wine, a case of champagne, 15 pounds of veal, 12 pounds of asparagus, tons of salad, rolls and butter, floral arrangements, candles and etc., etc., etc. The committee, chaired by Liz Triau and assisted by Pat Tengal, Bette Walker, Dot Mills and Marty McNeill, made certain that this event was carried out in great PVS tradition. It was a real treat seeing infrequent attendees Sue and Bill Brown, Ellen and John Burgess, Ron Fett, Nancy Monacelli and Kirk and Peggy Burns. Topping off the evening with chocolate hazel nut tort pie and coffee, Madame President requested that Kirk Burns lead us in song by rendering Auld Lang Syne. Again, thanks to Bette for making it possible to use the Colonnade Party Room.

...Bill Anderson

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TOUR OF BROOKSIDE GARDENS

On a beautiful May morning some dozen PVSers gathered to tour Brookside Gardens. After Charlie Huggins gathered in two lost souls waiting at the wrong place (Charlotte Kline and Jessma Blockwick), the group set off with an expert guide to the plants and sections of the garden. It was soon clear that many of the PVSers were equally expert (such as Dot Mills and Bill Anderson and the above mentioned Charlotte Kline who knew a Buckeye tree when she saw one), and progress was often slow as learned discussions took place.

After the outside, tourees went through the Conservatories and then adjourned to the picnic area where many goodies had been brought to share. Thanks to Rachel Abraham for arranging this delightful morning--and for the delicious cookies she brought!

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THIS IS WHO WE ARE:

194 members. 16 applicants. 1 junior. 12 absentee. 2 honorary.

- Under 40 ..... 2
- 40-50 ..... 10
- 50-60 ..... 39
- 60-65 ..... 28
- 65-70 ..... 33
- 70-75 ..... 20
- 75-80 ..... 21
- 80 & over ..... 8



108 women, 86 men

## THE MAY 98 PVS MEETING

The Leonhardts graciously opened their home for the May monthly meeting. Fifty-one people filled the various rooms and the lower deck of their spacious house. Barbara's preparation and selection of food were exquisite, as always, and there was something to tempt every palate. If you didn't try the cold salmon, you missed a most delectable dish.

The conversation groups were in high gear when Serge Triau sounded: "THE MEETING IS STARTING" with his magic Kazoo. Lu Beale, kept the meeting in order as she always does, and led us through the official paces with true Presidential authority. Glade Flake and Ray McKinley were eloquent (as usual) about the future trips and activities, and Ray (as usual) participated in the meeting from his favorite spot - sitting cross legged in the middle of the floor. And (as usual) Charlie enthusiastically promoted the mid week activities.

Many thanks to Fred and Barbara for their warm and most generous hospitality,

Jack Ragen

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## SOME ENCHANTED EVENING.....by Liz Triau



Aloha! With the strains of Hawaiian music playing in the background, Janet and Chris Waln welcomed 36 PVSers to their tropical paradise on the balmy evening of May 16. As we entered, Janet draped a beautiful silk lei around each person's neck and Chris was ready with his camera to capture a picture of the colorfully attired guests.

The cocktail hour was held downstairs in the recently remodeled party room (the bar was built by Chris!) resplendent with tropical decor of flowers, palm trees, flamingos and opening onto a two level deck outlined with flaming torches. We feasted on delectable Hawaiian Pu- Pus including skewered fresh fruits, Meatballs Bali Bali, Tahitian Tidbits, Hukilau Cheese Ball, etc. along with Volcano Punch, Virgin Punch and other assorted beverages as we enjoyed lively conversations with good friends.

Following this abundance, we gallant PVS&Eers proceeded to the main course, a fantastic Hawaiian dinner of Chicken Waikiki, Kalua Pork, rice, Sumi salad, and spinach salad. Then, on to coffee and desserts of Apricot coconut balls, South Pacific Skillet Cookies and Rum Nut Cake. WOW! While eating this marvelous dinner, those seated at the dining room table amused themselves between bites by sorting and organizing by category, the whimsical tropical confetti (tiny palm trees, pineapples, flamingos, etc.) decorating the table and this was a very serious endeavor, indeed.

In addition to preparing all the delicious food, Janet, with her boundless energy and enthusiasm, entertained us with a superb Hula Hoop demonstration and later, gave some of us a Hula dance lesson. Another wow!

With door prizes of coconuts, pineapples, tropical sachets and fond memories we departed this perfectly lovely luau. Many thanks to Janet and Chris for this enchanted evening.



## Utah's Interconnect Adventure

by Reg Heitchue

Have you ever loved something so much you were willing to risk life and limb, some hard-earned savings, and more than a little self-esteem for it? If you feel that way about skiing, and you are willing to make a day of it, then the place to go is the Interconnect Adventure in Park City, Utah. I tried it, and here's the results.

To begin the day we met at a little restaurant on the Park City ski area plaza. Our guide greeted us, and then got straight down to business. Liability forms came first, and the guide's obvious attention to obtaining our signatures struck terror in the hearts of most of us. He spoke bluntly about conditions. The weather was warm, and thus the snow was bad. Very bad. The skiing would therefore be tricky, demanding the highest skills, with jump turns required almost every step of the way. If at this late date he was trying to discourage those of lesser skills and stamina, he was doing one helluva job.

Our group of eleven skiers, and two guides, headed for the top of Park City by the shortest route possible—a nose-bleed inducing ride up the ski team chair, to the Pioneer chair, and finally via the Jupiter chair to the top of the Jupiter Bowl at its 10,000 foot elevation. Almost immediately we set off, heading down towards Scott's Bowl and banging our way over the ice-covered moguls that marked our descent. Once there, we go off-trail and leave the ski area behind. After a strenuous climb with our skis on our backs, we're at a point where we can survey the top of a nearby ridge. Rod, the lead guide, goes ahead looking for the "good stuff." Soon, he radios back that he's found some accomodating snow.

And good it is. In fact, it's better than good, and our courage returns. We sweep down, cutting fresh tracks through the aspens on an exquisite creamy surface of loose granular snow. Though we don't know it then this is to be the best snow, and easiest skiing, we are to have all day.

Before continuing, the sense of adventure (impending doom?) returns, as Rod does a check of the Ortovox avalanche beacons each of us carries. We ski past him slowly, and he checks each of our signals to make sure we are transmitting properly.

We maintain our descent and arrive at what some would consider the most hazardous part of the tour—crossing the highway coming up Big Cottonwood Canyon. Fortunately, we miss the ski traffic and make it to the entrance of the Solitude ski area. Responding to our instructions we immediately bear left, rip down to the base again, and up another lift to the top. From the top of Solitude we blast down to the lift line and then up a traverse that leads past a sign reading, "Closed! Avalanche Danger!" Rod informs us that the Solitude mountain safety people know we are crossing. With that assurance we follow the traverse, experience some of the "bad snow" we were warned about, and allow our quadriceps to burn as we race to safety. On this day Brighton is a sleepy place. We take the lone operating chair to the top, and the Solbright Trail back to the appropriately-named Solitude. After lunch, and some much needed rest, we head for Alta.

The route to Alta moves along a very tricky long traverse known as "Highway to Heaven" though by the end of the day at least a few of our group would say "Highway to Hell" was more appropriate. The traverse runs across the slope of a huge bowl. It looks do-able at first glance, but at one point we sidestep a narrow vertical rise between rock outcroppings and my skis, each of them only 203 millimeters wide, can barely squeeze through. One of the group adamantly refuses to move forward until coached by Rod. Afterward we split into two groups. The "easier" way is with Rod, with Jeff, the other guide, leading the remaining eight along what promises to be a tougher route. My pulse quickens as I am asked to follow Jeff. We head down looking for good snow, though as we drop in altitude the snow becomes wetter, heavier, and more challenging to the point that it qualifies to be as ugly and bad as Rod had promised.

Jeff's suggested turning technique becomes "hop and hope," but it isn't working for him or several of the rest of us.

Many falls later we get through this treacherous part of the journey. While some pray to avoid breaks or sprains, all I can think about is the wider skis I had used earlier in the season in Sun Valley. If I had brought them, they would have made child's play of this crud. And yet, my hope for the best available technology wouldn't have helped me keep up with the younger set who were part of this group. The three "kids" from Vermont who race train at Suicide Six had no problem using regular skis on this stuff. Neither did the other teen-agers from the Midwest, who also race and who handled these conditions with ease. I consoled myself by peering off into the distance at the back of Alta and, closer to hand, by observing some beautiful snow cornices sculpted by the high mountain wind. I strain to see High Rustler, the legendary steep Alta run, but it is over the ridge and not visible. An unwelcome metaphor, perhaps, as I watch my younger compatriots zip down the mountain.

We arrive at Alta and are transported across the base area by rope tow. From there it's up the wildcat lift to the summit. We descend again, down the bumps, through a control gate, and past a sign that announces we are entering Alta's expert terrain. We drop rapidly through varied terrain and soon we're at the edge of Snowbird. There we are greeted by a roped-off area and signs marked, "Cliff Area." Ignoring what in most cases would be a stop sign, our guide leads us through another control gate and then down a steep chute where skiing at breakneck pace makes the varied terrain a challenging obstacle course. The woods become dense as we descend, and the whoop-de-doo's in the traverse add to the excitement. Before long, we're cruising past Snowbird's beautiful Cliff Lodge. We maintain speed and glide all the way to Snowbird Plaza.

And now we are at the last phase of the day's journey, where tired bodies, rather than difficult snow, pose the greatest threat to our safety. As part of the Interconnect tour, we enjoy a special status and avoid the lift line by going straight to the tram. The tram takes us non-stop from the base to the 11,000 foot summit of Snowbird. The original group comes back together at this point, the van having brought the smaller group over from Alta. Pat, who is lead guide for the Interconnect tour, and van driver for the day, joins us. Together, the three guides put their heads together and decide to take the Primrose run top to bottom. Some of us follow, trying to keep up, but at a much slower speed than the guides. Visibility on the upper section is bad because of flat light, and gravity becomes more of a directional than what we see in front of us. We must have learned something over the course of the day, because a few minutes later we're all regrouped on the plaza, exhausted, but safe and sound.

As we ride back in the van, one of our group, outfitted with an altimeter during the day's travails, reports that the vertical drop we accomplished was 14,600 feet—approximately 2 3/4 miles! We arrive at Park City eventually, and bid goodbye to the guides, extending our sincere thanks for seeing us safely through this exhilarating adventure. At the conclusion of this Utah vacation, the group will head home to distant points, including Virginia, Vermont, Kansas, Maine, Connecticut, and Washington State.

The warm weather at the time of this tour made the going somewhat more difficult than on other days, but this is to be expected in these mostly off-trail locales. In fact, one has the sense that the degree of difficulty we faced is nothing compared to what it would be after a heavy snow. There are no grooming machines in the back country. Only thrills.

The Interconnect Adventure tour runs every Monday through Saturday on those days when snow conditions permit and the threat of avalanche is tolerable. Give it a try, or make it a goal, as the case may be. Whatever risks you run, you'll be proud to wear the pin that commemorates your effort.



## THE KNEE

by

Ray McKinley

Another day goes by, another week, another month. Now the entire ski season is gone, and many of us are contemplating next season's ski trips. Can it be possible? The world simply whizzes by. Albert Einstein understood it. Time is relative (not like your mother-in-law). The older you get the faster time moves (also not like your mother-in-law). Recently, rather than "May," I dated a check "April." But it was April, 1996!

Moving "rapidly" on, the longest day of the year is June 22. Then it's all down hill (to coin a phrase) to winter. But patience is essential. After all, nine women can't make a baby in one month.

At a church event, introvert Jackie Flaherty tackled Redskin Rich Owens. His response, "sign her up." She also knocked down Gus Ferrotte. Jackie thought he was making a pass.

After a Florida tour which included Sanibel Island and Jacksonville, John and Ellen Burgess went to Macon, Georgia. There they visited with Jack Lilly. Despite eye problems, Jack remains active, and as always, a true Southern Gentleman.

New Excomer Bob Marx is serving his second term on ExCom. Bob is only the third person in PVS's 33-year history to serve a second ExCom term. The others are Aase Berling, now retired in Hilton Head, South Carolina, and Bill Hager now retired near Reno, Nevada. This obviously (?) suggests that the Bob Marx will soon retire to Manila in the Philippines.

It's true, at the May PVS meeting at Barbara and Fred Leonhardt's, Nat Seeman was quite, ahem, "nattily" attired. Also there was June Read and hubby. About to celebrate their first ankneeverary, June married 6 days too early to be a June bride. But she was one ankneeyway.

At the meeting Fred Leonhardt told me he enjoyed lots of our PVS events, our ski trips and especially the Knee, but rarely saw his name. Are we doing better this month, Fred Leonhardt?

Now it can be told. The selfsame general contractor, Fred Leonhardt, spent three days (as in three days) fixing Sue Walsh's toilet. Now Sue can flush and perhaps Fred Leonhardt is flushing.

The May meeting "formally" was called to order by ex-Pres Serge Triaou performing a kazoo solo. To paraphrase a line from last month's Knee, if you haven't heard a splendid kazoo solo before, you certainly didn't there. And that was after Serge assured the Knee that he had spent literally "minutes" in practicing his kazoo craft.

For your non-reading pleasure: both Bill Anderson and Lu Beale did not like the new book "Cold Mountain." The skiing parts were "paltry."

Congrats to John Matthews. He is now the Editor of the local "Over the Hill Gang" ski newsletter. Are they ripe for a gossip column?

An update on PVS's last skier of the season. It appears to be Bing Poon. He was in Val d'Isere on May 2. But Bing didn't ski; he snowboarded. The Knee isn't certain that counts, since most snowboarders can't count ankneeyway.

As ski season ends, Marianne Cook is off on a trip to Iceland. Arlette DeLong is headed for a tour of Tibet. Arlette assured me that if she did meet the Dali Lama, she would sing "Hello, Dali."

Bruce and Penny Hanshaw will be visiting family in Alaska. Thereafter, Bruce will head for Telluride. (Tellmyride?) This may be a bit early for Don and Kathy Dillon's ski trip there next season. With all these folk traveling, Rosalie Ciccotelli is staying here painting her home's new addition. Will there be a PVS meeting in Rosalie's future?

This July, George Hicho will be retiring. Let me assure you, George may be a lot of things, but retiring certainly isn't one of them.

Both Chris and Janet Waln and Glade and Joan Flake were out and about on the Chesapeake to watch the yachtsmen leave Annapolis on the round-the-world Whitbread. An auto maker will sponsor the next race in 2002. The Whitbred will be the Volvorye. (This is a great pun; I'll explain its nuances. You see, rye and whit are types of breads, and they are both words connoting funny. Now you can read it again. And laugh, dammit!)

**CALENDAR**

- June 11 ... Vienna to Reston bike ride, p. 2
- June 16 ... Monthly Meeting at Betty Lawrence's, p. 1
- June 23 ... ExCom atr Bette Walker's
- July 18 ... PVS at Ragtime
- July 25 ... Cocktails and dinner at the Brockmeyers', p.2
- July 28 ... ExCom at Annapolis with Pat Tengel and John Smith
- July 30 ... Great Falls, MD to Seneca bike ride
- Aug. 8 ... Party in Annapolis with the Flakes, p. 2
- Aug. 20 ... Candy Cane City to Garrett Park bike ride
- Aug. 21 ... Dancing at Bethesda Metro, Free.
- Aug. 25 ... ExCom with the Garretts at Occoquan
- Sept. 5 ... Crab Feast at Betty Lawrence's
- Sept. 15 ... Monthly meeting
- Sept. 22 ... ExCom at Dina Taylor's
- Oct. 3 ... Oktoberfest at Blob's Park, p. 2
- Oct. 17 ... Bike/Hike at the Leonhardt's. Limited to 25. Make your reservation with Barbara at 301-963-8111.
- Nov. 7 ... Arts Club Dinner
- Dec. 31 ... 1999, Millenium Party

Correction: mswrlw@juno.com (Margaret Wyckoff)