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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are a ski club! According to our By-laws our purpose is "Fellowship and the shared enjoyment of good skiing." Well, get with it! It's April, and it may be approaching summer temperatures outside, but it's certainly not too late for some great skiing, and I don't even mean Spring skiing. I mean skiing.

We got back from Big Sky in mid-March after their snowiest week, and more of the white stuff was expected. Last week, Denver received some 25 inches of snow. The ski areas outside of Salt Lake City all added 10 or more inches to their base. In a typical year, Killington, Vermont closes in late May and Arapahoe Basin, Colorado is open until July Fourth. In California, the *Sierra Nevadas* (which means snow mountains) have had record snows and still have their largest bases in history. Many of the areas surrounding Lake Tahoe currently have over 200 inch bases!

It's not too late. Forget your income taxes. Pack your skis and get out for some late, great skiing. And don't forget to tell the Kneecap so you can be recorded as one of PVS's late season skiers!

See you on the slopes.

Nancy



!!! IMPORTANT !!!



annual April 18, 2000 - 7:30 P.M.

business Home of Charlotte & Jim Kline
1912 Gables Lane, Vienna, VA

meeting 703-821-9288

Directions to the Kline home: From Beltway take Rte. 123 toward Tyson's Corner. Turn left on Horseshoe Drive which is after the 4th traffic light on 123. (The turn is just after MacDonald's on your left.) Go 1/2 around Horseshoe and turn right on Gables Lane. The house is located on the pipestem, but please park on Gables.

ONE LAST CHANCE.....to place an object in the PVS time capsule.

You may bring one to the April meeting--there's plenty of room. We want it full of interesting items which will amaze, amuse, uplift, whatever those who open it 20 years from now. Remember--LAST CHANCE--the capsule will then be closed.



ICE SKATING AT CABIN JOHN ICE RINK TUES. APRIL 11th

Join Helen Price and others at the new Cabin John Ice Rink for Tuesday morning ice skating 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch at Montgomery Mall. Those not wishing to skate are welcome to tour the new facility and join the group for lunch. Seniors 60+ skate for \$4.50. Anybody needing skates, add 50cents. \$5 includes rental skates and ice skating. Skaters as well as those just touring the new facility should contact Helen Price (202) 333-0154 so she can get a head count for lunch.

Directions: Virginia and D.C. PVSers should take the 270 Frederick branch north from the beltway, and take Democracy Blvd. exit 1B west. About two blocks, turn right at Exxon Station on Westlake Drive. After passing Jim Coleman Auto Group on right, take the next left street into Cabin John Park, 10610 Westlake Drive marked on sign.

Maryand PVSers take 270 Virginia toward beltway and exit west on Democracy Blvd. Proceed as mentioned above turning at the Exxon Station on Westlake Drive.



BICYCLING GOURMET

Alexandria and South (and return)

Thursday, April 20, 2000 10:30 AM



Starting Point: Sailing Marina [Just south of National Airport via GW Parkway and north of Alexandria. Exit

sign: Daingerfield Island/Sailing Marina/Potomack Landing. On entering this exit, veer to the right toward the overflow parking area. Signs are posted limiting parking to 3 hours on weekdays. However, leader will distribute permits allowing parking from 10-3]. Ride will proceed south via bike path from Sailing Marina through Old Towne Alexandria and continue south on the Mt. Vernon Bike Path. At a suitable time, reverse direction so you can arrive for lunch at 1:15 PM in Old Towne Alexandria at the Torpedo Factory Food Pavilion (bring or buy). The Sailing Marina complex contains good rest rooms, snack bar (opens at 10 AM), and bike rental. The lunch stop at the Torpedo Factory food pavilion contains various snack bars including Italian, Chinese, and Middle Eastern. This ride is structured to accommodate all levels.

Leader: Shirley Rettig (703)-836-0147

Brookside Gardens



TOUR BROOKSIDE GARDENS MAY 8, 10:30 A.M.

Our tour of the 50-acre garden will show tropical plants such as bananas and orchids in the Conservatories. Outside gardens include Rose, Formal, Fragrance, Japanese, and Trial. We can also tour the new Visitors Center where annual flower shows are held.

We will meet in front of the Conservatories, and tour the Gardens. Participants should bring their lunch for eating with the group at the Nature Center Picnic area adjacent to Brookside Gardens. Food or drink is not permitted in the gardens. Interested PVSers should contact Rachel Abraham (301) 530-7612 or E-mail rhabraham@aol.com to let her know your coming. Admission is free, however, Rachel will get us a guide to explain the plants, and she would like us to drop a small donation in the contribution box at the end of the tour.

Directions:

From I-495, the capital beltway, take exit 31A (north on Georgia Ave./Rt. 97) toward Wheaton. Drive three miles north on Georgia Ave. to Randolph Road and turn right. At the second traffic light, turn right onto Glenallan Ave. and continue past the Visitors Center 3/8 mile on your right, and turn right 1/2 mile on your right at 1500 Glenallan Ave. into the Conservatories.



A FABULOUS CONCERT, A GREAT DINNER TO FOLLOW

An exceptional opportunity for the PVS membership

Join fellow PVSers for an unusual, yet surely memorable Sunday afternoon outing. On May 14, at 3pm, the renowned Eclipse Chamber Orchestra will play its last concert of this season. This takes place at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, 6601 Bradley Boulevard, in Bethesda at 3pm. This exceptional group of National Symphony Orchestra musicians, "outright extraordinary" according to the Washington Post, will play a concert of varied fare. Included are: Rossini's Overture to La Scala di Seta, Faure's Pavane, Symphony No. 2 by Weber, and to top it all, the highly acclaimed Elisabeth Adkins, NSO's Associate Concert Master, will play Beethoven's Violin Concerto in D major. What could one ask for more? All that in specially reserved seats at the bargain price of \$10 for seniors and \$16 for the young crowd. Upon the concert's conclusion we're all invited to join Maestra Sylvia Alumena and members of the orchestra at a reception right there at the church.

To make this a truly memorable afternoon, we've arranged for dinner at the not-too-far-away Eastern Empire Buffet-Restaurant. An eatery featuring over 150 items, all-you-can-eat, of course, and including a Continental Salad Bar, Soups de Jour, Eastern and Continental Entrees, and a Sweet Conclusion, all for the incredible price of \$15.50 per person, tax and tip included, provided we have at least 20 participants, and only a bit more if we're fewer than that.

Please send a check for concert tickets to the order of and mailed to David G. Abraham, 6201 Hollins Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817-2348; also please indicate whether you plan to attend the dinner. Concert tickets will be held at the door, directions to the restaurant will be provided.

It's bound to be a great way to celebrate the end of a great skiing season and the beginning of spring.

SPRING DINNER

With the flowers blooms this annual PVS special event. It will be held at the Colonnade, 2801 New Mexico Ave., N.W. on Saturday, May 27. Call Mariilyn Clark now to make a reservation. 703-978-9435.

HIKING AND HISTORY

Save the date of Tuesday, May 30 for a hike a Leesylvania State Park in Woodbridge, Virginia. The trail overlooks the Potomac River and Occoquan Bay. This land once served as home to Revolutionary War hero "Lighthorse Harry" Lee, father of Robert E. Lee. (and there are ruins of the old homestead where George

Washington visited). There was also a Civil War battery here as part of a blockade of the Potomac.

We will meet at 11 a.m., hike and then have a picnic lunch. Directions next month but save the date. Jessma Blockwick will take names (703-356 0717) so we can carpool.

August 12 - 26, 2000, join Nancy & Ray McKinley

Ski and See in Argentina

Participants-2nd Payment of \$1,250 Due April 1

The trip is now full with a small waiting list. Call us at 703-527-7126 for more information or to get on the waiting list.

On April 18, 22 PVSers and friends gathered at Dulles Airport for what turned out to be a great trip to Kitzbühel and Salzburg. We got off to an inauspicious start as our departure was delayed by three hours, and on arriving in Frankfurt it seemed that entropy was setting in at an alarming rate as we missed our connecting flight to Munich, couldn't be booked on either of the next two flights, and in the meantime waited in vain about two hours for the arrival of our skis. But finally the airline provided us with a bus which conveyed us all the way to Kitzbühel, arriving at the Tiefenbrunner Hotel after 10:00 PM, sans skis. (They finally arrived the following afternoon.)

The next day it snowed all day and no one from our group skied. (Perhaps the fact that our skis hadn't arrived yet was also a contributing factor!) This snowfall provided cover for excellent skiing for the next five days, and the weather cooperated very nicely as well. Kitzbühel is a very attractive town with a number of superb ski areas on the outskirts of town or right nearby.

After 6 days in Kitzbühel we went by bus to Salzburg for 3 days of sight-seeing. We stayed at the Altstadt Radisson, a five-star hotel which you could tell was a classy place just from the fact that they provided champagne each morning for breakfast and a "Mozart Kugel" on our pillows each night!

What a great city Salzburg is! Mozart and his music are like a central theme of the city, but it also has much else to offer: a rich history, beautiful scenery, and baroque architecture and art all over the place. Its main point of interest, I would say, is the prince-archbishop's fortress/castle which dominates the city from a hilltop, and I believe we all visited it. In addition there is the cathedral, Mozart's birth house and his residence, the residence of the prince-archbishops after they abandoned the fortress, art galleries, and much else. The "Altstadt" (old town) of Salzburg is a delightful area for just walking, a large section of it being limited to pedestrians. Four of our group made an excursion to a nearby salt mine, as supposedly attested by a photograph showing them sliding down a chute in leather garments which were provided.

On our first evening many of us went to a Vivaldi - Mozart concert by a string orchestra, and the next evening nearly all went to what was certainly a highlight of the trip, a Mozart dinner concert in the elegant baroque setting of the St. Peter Stiftskeller, where a string orchestra and a baritone and a soprano singer, all in period costumes, performed excerpts from Mozart's works before and after the meal and between courses.

We became (re)acquainted with such Austrian or local gustatory delights as Salzburger Nockerl, a kind of very light soufflé-like thing which no less an authority than Joan Flake pronounced out of this world, or words to that effect, as well as Sacher Torte, a kind of chocolate cake which we are probably all familiar with (I heard a German couple ask the desk clerk where they could get good Sacher Torte, and he jokingly suggested they go to Vienna!), and the ubiquitous Mozart Kugeln, delicious small ball-shaped candy (chocolate with praline, nougat, and marzipan filling), each piece wrapped in foil with Mozart's portrait on it.

Joan conducted an interesting bit of research which revealed that the mean age of participants on the trip was 71.55 years (probably actually about 72 if calculations were based on actual birth dates). I don't know how she managed to pry such sensitive information from so many people, but I'm not about to question her methodology! Anyway, I thought it was quite an impressive statistic.

Many thanks to John Smith and Pat Tengel who, as usual, led an outstanding trip!

MIDWEEK BIKE RIDE

This biking/gourmet trip went from Glen Echo to the Tidal Basin. The fifteen attendees included six from PVS: Betty Byrne, Ruth Powers, Shirley Rettig, Jean Chybinski, Mike Hatanaka, and Marvin Hass.

The weather was good, the cherry blossoms out. Lunch was at the Inn at Glen Echo. The manager, Tom King (a mountain bicyclist), and servers, Louie and Phil, went all out for us. We had a private room and even a special menu printed up for us. There was excellent food and atmosphere. They can count on our repeat business. (We have a number of rides up for future consideration that start off from Glen Echo.).....Marvin Hass

PVS GOES TO BIG SKY, MONTANA

by Nick Chybinski

If you have not traveled with Nancy and Ray McKinley, you have not lived. They take care of EVERYTHING. Not only were all our logistics worked out to perfection and daily parties laid out with loving care, Nancy and Ray must have exercised their influence with pretty high authorities. There was no waiting at the airline check-in! All flights were on time. And, although the state of Montana had very little snow, Big Sky had plenty and skiing was, in a word, fantastic.

We stayed at the Huntley Lodge (named after newscaster Cheh), a short walk from the ski lifts. The check-in process was a model of efficiency. There was no waiting or standing around. We were all pre-registered and on arrival promptly received envelopes with our keys and helpful information. Our luggage was delivered to our rooms a few minutes later. The rooms at the Huntley Lodge were spacious and pleasant. The Lodge is so big that Lu Beale was looking for a taxi to take her from her room to our meetings and meals. Fortunately the accommodating Lodge was able to resettle her to a closer location.

The Huntley Lodge welcomed us with a wine party and information on the area, weather and ski conditions. Skiing started the next day with a Mountain Tour, but most of the hardy PVSers were up on the mountain on their own, as soon as the lifts opened. David Abraham arranged a special mountain tour for interested PVSers with Robert Kirschlager, the Director of Skiing at Big Sky. The highest point at the Big Sky ski area is the steep and narrow Lone Peak, over eleven thousand feet high. Bob Knopes and Burr Schuler were the only PVSers who skied down from it through deep powder, on double black diamond runs.

The country is beautiful. Lewis and Clark traveled through this land and named the nearby river the Gallatin. The movie "A River Runs Through It" was shot by the Gallatin River. Big Sky is a huge ski area, thirty-seven hundred acres of ski terrain spread over two mountains. The trails are long and varied. There was a good snow base and a few inches of fresh powder, with a little more each night. The snow was good, the trails were great, and all was right with the world.

Touring Yellowstone was a high point. Most of the park is closed for the winter. So we did not see all of the famous geological areas, we had a fascinating narrative from our guide and saw thousands of animals in their natural wild habitat. Christine Uholz and Jonathan Wilson, the youngest members of our group, were placed in charge of counting the animals. Their total count was: lots. We were especially surprised to see a herd of elk exploring the lawns and parking lots and casually mingling with the people and cars in the town of Gardiner, at the edge of Yellowstone.

Marty Rine and Tony Drago missed the Yellowstone trip for a rarer adventure. They visited a nearby ranch that breeds and races sled dogs, and drove some dogsled runs. Even for tough skiers, you would expect the first runs to be in a wide, sunny valley. Theirs were on an icy five mile mountain trail, sheer cliff on one side and sheer drop on the other. The dogs don't slip, but the sled certainly does, from side to side, adding to the excitement.

Our dinner on the Lone Mountain was truly unique. We traveled twenty minutes by horse-drawn sleds to a rustic, large log house on top of the mountain. There was no electricity; the house was lit solely by candles and kerosene lamps. The food was superb and was cooked on a hundred year old wood burning stove. We were entertained by "Walkin' Jim Stolz" playing guitar and singing the songs that he composed while walking the trails, deserts and mountains all over the country. His unwanted accompaniment by one of the non-PVS listeners was beyond description.

The trip was excellent, the skiing was great, the company was delightful, and our leaders were exceptional.



THE KNEE

by

Ray McKinley

It's April, time for cleaning up ski gear, and sadly doing income taxes. But priorities first demand that I update you on who is doing what and where. I'll try to include lots of knews, knuances and, hopefully, kneepuns-- which are, as long-time readers know, Japanknees.

Are we a ski club, or are we a ski club? Virtually all of our officers have been on at least two ski trips this season. A unikneeque idea. A ski club's officers missing meetings because they were skiing! Ski trip committee chair Serge Triau missed two meetings. I bet the Cosmos Club's officers never visited the cosmos.

Fred and Barbara Leonhardt returned home after being away skiing for a month. They returned to 44 lbs of mail! One pound was useful. The rest was catalogs and offers for credit cards!

Could it be that, at least locally, the ski season is over? Here in D.C., spurred by *la kneena*, the Cherry Blossoms were weeks early. 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.

Did you know that Bill Anderson and Jessma Blockwick went to the same high school-- Eastern High in DC? Jessma was there a bit before Bill. She opted to attend the PVS wine tasting rather than go to her 60th reunion. That decision was certainly nothing to wine about.

Or did you know that Bob Knopes and Adele Waggaman share grandchildren? Adele's daughter is married to Bob's son, and they have kids. I may have that backwards. Perhaps it's Adele's son who is married to Bob.

Recently, the Knee scooped the press by noting that the selfsame Adele went quietly to Germany to celebrate her 80th birthday. Please forget that. Adele's 80th is still a SECRET.

Membership Chair Marilyn Clark and hubby Dick are back from Florida. Marilyn was at Orlando meeting her Pen Pal who was on holiday

there from England. They have corresponded since the eighth grade (that's over 20 years for Marilyn.) They met briefly at Dulles two years ago, and now spent a week together. Jolly good.

Over the last five seasons, virtually all US ski areas have changed their rules and now allow snowboarders. Indeed, only Aspen Mountain, Deer Valley and two smaller areas still don't permit "boarders." Why? The number of Alpine skier days has decreased by eight percent. Apparently, snowboarders have picked up the slack. Their numbers are up by 22 percent. Ouch.

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

Condolences to George Hicho who recently lost his father.

On the surgery front things are looking good. John Matthews is now at home recovering from a heart procedure. Jean Chybinski figured out how to get e-mail in Big Sky, and found out about John's condition. He received a card with best wishes of the entire PVS troop at Big Sky.

Bob McNeill is recovering from having both knees replaced in a week (The Knee was a bit upset upon reading that.) He is in therapy, and expects to be skiing when Liberty opens for the summer glacier season. John Smith is recovering from sleep ap-knee-a surgery. Perhaps they too want to replace the knee part, leaving apa. Ahem.

"We're skiers, so why are we so scared of snow?" queried Jack Peoples at a snowy meeting. Replied Pres. Nancy. "We're skiers, not drivers."

From the Knee's "Tales of Our Founders" file: Whilst in Kitzbuhel, Glade Flake got a call from Bill Stecher a Founding Father-person (the Knee is never sexist, girls). Bill is now living in Germany, and gives regards to all PVS. Right on!

On moving to Arizona, ex PVS secretary, Irene Ragen bought a new car. It put her into a raffle where she won a trip for two to Maui. Irene and Jack are just back. Here today, gone to Maui. (Yes, I know that is old and bad!)

Here's more. Now that the political scene is heating up, let me tell you how to tell a politician is lying. His lips are moving. Kneenuf.

