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*Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.*

DECEMBER 2003

WASHINGTON

MARYLAND

VIRGINIA

***Hello, Fellow PVSers:***

I'm happy to report that our Pres Reg has returned from his incredible adventure, having accomplished his most ambitious goal of scaling an 18,000-foot summit in Nepal. Asides a nagging cold, he's well and beginning to replace the oxygen of which he was deprived at this most demanding altitude (higher mountains are only climbed with oxygen bottles at hand). So I'll spell him from this writing task one more time, and hope you all don't mind. I promise, you'll have his very own opus in the New Year's issue of our always-interesting newsletter. Moreover, he's already getting fully back into the swing of things, and looks forward to seeing us all (all? What would the Klines do?) at our upcoming monthly meeting.

Thanksgiving has already come and gone, and surely we're all working off the remnants of those extra calories consumed. Allow me to remind you that it's now or never, for the first of our ski trips are virtually knocking on our doors. Extraordinary early snowfalls, principally out west, but also in our region and up north promise to make this season long and sumptuously rewarding. I can't remember a Snowmass report of seven, yes seven feet of champaign powder at this time of year.

Inside this issue you'll find a synopsis of our survey results. Members have expressed quite a variety of interests, suggestions for new activities, and some are volunteering for sponsorships and hosting. It's really quite a bunch of stuff, some real grist for the Planning Committee's mill. You can be sure that over the next few months, in between those typically legendary PVS ski trips, we'll be working hard to fulfill our promise for a more diverse and expanded activities program. It's also clear that we'll need a lot of generous helpers to make it really happen.

And speaking of trips and skiing, it's good to remember the new insights we gained at our November meeting from always up-to-date ski equipment guru Brian Eardley. Though there's nothing truly revolutionary in this year's crop of new equipment, it is clear that taking advantage of what the industry has to offer can make that conquering the steeps and deeps a lot easier, and importantly, safer. The fats, the shaped, and those new flexible boots can make a real difference.

So let's think snow, enjoy this beautiful time of year, and have a wonderful holiday season.

***David.***



**HOLIDAY PARTY MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, December 16 at 7:30 P.M.**

***Jim and Charlotte Kline's***



**Bring ----- an appetizer or dessert to share.**

## Directions to the Kline home:

**From the Beltway**, take the **route 123** West exit / Tysons Corner exit, toward Tysons Corner Mall. On route 123, at the 5th traffic signal, turn left onto **Horseshoe Drive**. This is **immediately** after you pass a McDonalds on the left.

Follow Horseshoe Drive to the **third** street on the **RIGHT**; this is **Gables Lane**. Follow Gables past the third house on the left; at the pipestem (a common drive for three houses) park and proceed to the house on the **left** on the pipestem, 1912.

**PLEASE: DO NOT PARK ON THE PIPESTEM AS YOU ARE LIABLE TO BE CITED BY THE POLICE. THE COUNTY PROHIBITS PIPESTEM PARKING FOR SAFETY REASONS.**

**1912 Gables Lane, Vienna, VA**

**703 - 821 - 9288**

### **Cultural event -- Ramona Matthews** -- Brings Us Even More Beautiful Music.

**Friday Morning Music Club**, Friday, December 19, 12 noon at the **Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives**, 1700 M St. NW (across the street from the National Geographic Building).

Ramona's trio (piano, violin, cello) will repeat a performance they recently did at Strathmore Hall: "Vitebsk: Study on a Jewish theme" by Aaron Copland, and two delicious tangos by Astor Piazzolla. They are sandwiched in between a couple of good pianists. Scott Deard is playing Liszt's *Aprè une lecture du Dante: Sonata quasi una fantasia*, and Raymond Jackson is playing selection(s) not yet specified.

All Friday Club performances are **free and open to the public**.

**Jan and Bob Marx** are coordinating this event. Those concert goers who wish will have lunch together nearby at about 1:15. Call **Marxes** if you plan to go. **703-451-9158**

### PVS BOARD - 2003-2004

President - *Reg Heitchue*  
 Vice President - *David Abraham*  
 Secretary- *Dottie Villers*  
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#### EXCOM:

First Term:

*John Brunelli*  
*Dottie Villers*  
*Ray McKinley*

Second Term:

*Mike Strand*  
*Barbara Leonhardt*  
*John Smith*

PVS website --  
[www.potomacvalleyskiers.org](http://www.potomacvalleyskiers.org)

email contributions for website-  
[info@potomacvalleyskiers.org](mailto:info@potomacvalleyskiers.org)

PVS email hotline --  
[jebbmrx@aol.com](mailto:jebbmrx@aol.com)

**POTOMAC VALLEY SKIERS, Inc.**  
**Survey of Membership**  
 by  
**Program Planning Committee**

**SURVEY RESULTS**

**Responses were received representing 68 members, about one third the club's total current membership. Here's a summary of what these respondents told us.**

**Non-Skiing Trips:** 40 respondents, almost two thirds, expressed interest while 24 said no.

**U. S. places of interest** for such trips included: Western Rockies, Aspen, Vail, National Parks, NY City (several requests), the Southwest and the Tetons, Sedona and Seattle, the Oregon Coast, Grand Canyon, Maine, Vermont, New Orleans, San Diego and San Francisco, beaches and Williamsburg, Colorado River cruises, Alaska, Key West, Hudson Valley, New England, the Spoletto Festival (SC), Upper Mississippi steamer tours, Moab, UT, Zion National Park, Longwood Gardens and the DuPont Estate, river rafting, cruises from Baltimore.

**Foreign places of interest** include Eastern Europe, Italy, Holland, Iceland, Newfoundland, Norway's Fjords, and Lapland. Switzerland, Russia, Cancun, the Caribbean, England Scotland, European River Cruises, Iceland, Prague, France, Provence and its wine country, Canada's Rockies, New Zealand and Australia, Savolinia, Black Forest to Alsace, a walking tour, Central America, Spoletto and other music festivals, Trans-Canada Rail, Copper Canyon, Mexico, Panama Canal.

**Trip length** of 7 days was most preferred with 10 and 14 days equally split.

For trips foci the following were preferred: cultural 40%, outdoors 58%, historical/archeological 42%. A couple respondents opted for golf.

Would members prefer to have a **sightseeing component** along with ski trips? A whopping 58% said yes while only 26% said no. Should this be part of the basic trip? 44% were in favor, while 28% were not.

A possible revival of **mid-week and weekend trips** was not greeted with great fervor. 42% of respondents said no while 28% showed interest. Among the places of interest mentioned for such trips were all of the regional ski venues plus Hidden Valley, the Poconos, Luray Caverns, Monticello, the Frederick Douglas Home, Appomattox, Potomac River cruises, even Vermont.

**Midweek and weekend activities** suggested include a large number of such as garden and museum tours, visits to historic sites, industrial and government facilities, attendance of theater and concerts, dinners and luncheons, golf outings, and hiking.

**Weekend activities** paralleled the former and included also biking, visits to the David Taylor Model Basin, and tours of Richmond, Williamsburg, horse events, and Bucks County.

**Speakers** for our monthly meetings were preferred by only 10% of respondents.

**What we're not doing enough of**, one respondent noted, are 2 to 3-day trips and hikes. Another comment suggested we should meet on Sunday afternoons, and yet another wants us to meet in the same places bi-monthly, one in Virginia and one in Maryland.

Twenty generous members indicated their willingness to **host meetings** of varying sizes, and some with conditions such as having a teammate to help. Six respondents indicated their access to meeting rooms of varying sizes and use fees.

A significant number of respondents indicated their willingness to **sponsor a variety of the named activities**. One such is willing to put on a summer picnic, another to lead a trip to Longwood Gardens or a pony ride outing. One couple wants to lead a trip to Yosemite, another to historic sites and several spoke of doing hikes.

**Well, there's quite a mouthful here and a lot to digest, mull over, and start to devise an implementation plan which alone will let us know which of these many ideas can, in fact, be implemented for our members' benefit. Altogether though, it seems for most of our members we're doing quite well with no significant changes or additions demanded. Let's each of us do our share to keep up the good work, and make it still a lot better.**

**WISP DEMO DAY=JANUARY 15, also ski on the 14<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**MID-WEEK  
SKI**

Call WISP now to reserve your room.....Ask for the Ski Chalet Demo Day Rate

Room per night (single or double, W, Th) \$59 plus-tax  
 Voucher for Thursday lift ticket \$2 (free over 70 years)  
 Apres Ski supplies per person \$5 (approximate)

**\*\*Let John Smith or Pat Tengel (301-299-8376) know if you are going so we can plan Apres Ski on Wednesday and Thursday nights.**

**\*\* Rooms paid individually.** For each room call Wisp Hotel (1-800-462-9477) to reserve a room and pay a deposit for one night with credit card or mail a check. With a roommate, individual cost drops to about \$30 per night. We will try to match you with a roommate if you need one.

**\*\*Lift tickets** are obtained individually at the area with your voucher.

**NOTE: YOU MUST OBTAIN YOUR OWN VOUCHER AHEAD OF TIME AT A SKI CHALET STORE.**

Friday tickets are \$36 and \$26 for half day from Noon to 5.

**\*\*Additional plans:** Some people may want to drive up and ski Wednesday and/or stay more night than Wednesday and Thursday. The individual needs to work with the hotel for any additional nights.

**SKI  
the  
BIG  
STUFF**

*Trip leaders are always happy to hear from interested persons, and they maintain waiting lists.  
 Call the trip leaders for information.*

**SNOWMASS**

January 15-22, 2004

Call Wilma Sharer at 301 - 975 - 9411 = [wilma@sharerassociates.com](mailto:wilma@sharerassociates.com).

**STEAMBOAT**

January 22-29, 2004

Call Dave Learner at 703 - 281-6923 = [dslerner@ieee.org](mailto:dslerner@ieee.org) or Sally Finan at 703 - 716 - 9023.

**SPAIN and MOROCCO**

February 13-29, 2004

Call Ray or Nancy McKinley at 703 - 527 - 7126 = [nmckinley@convera.com](mailto:nmckinley@convera.com)

**CORTINA d'Ampezzo (Venice & Vienna options)**

February 28 - March 10

Call Glade Flake at 301 - 762 - 6890 = [joanflake@aol.com](mailto:joanflake@aol.com)

**SPAIN and MOROCCO** --- February 13-29, 2004 **TWO spaces left.**

Skiing at Sierra Nevada in Spain and Oukaimeden in Morocco. 16 days, 2 continents, 4 and 5 star luxury accommodations. Touring through Andalusia, Spain and Morocco. 6 nights in Granada, 2 nights in Marrakesh. Includes all breakfasts, 14 dinners, tours or skiing, airfare, après ski, pre- and post-trip parties, baggage handling, transfers, gratuities. Full trip, Land only, and 10-day Land only prices available.

Call Ray or Nancy McKinley at 703 - 527 - 7126 or email [nmckinley@convera.com](mailto:nmckinley@convera.com)



# ANNUAL CHILI HIKE 2003

by Sue Lyon

The day might have started out dreary but it was certainly brightened by 17 cheerful and enthusiastic PVS hikers.

Multiple group photos were taken near the rushing falls by Marvin Hass, Bob Harmon, and Bob Marx---At one point Knox suggested we didn't really have to hike at all but could just use the pictures for documentation. We opted to continue hiking and took the beautiful scenic River Road path. Mid way into the hike a unique event happened.--We all stopped and sang happy birthday to Dottie Villers as it was her 39<sup>th</sup> plus birthday.

We saw many felled trees from the previous hurricane and strong winds. We dared to cross (one at a time) a small wooden bridge marked "unsafe". This was over a rushing stream near a new small water falls.

All but two of the group walked down to Sandy Landing also known as the beach area. The once shallow stream next to the path had turned into a wide river and the beach area was totally under water.

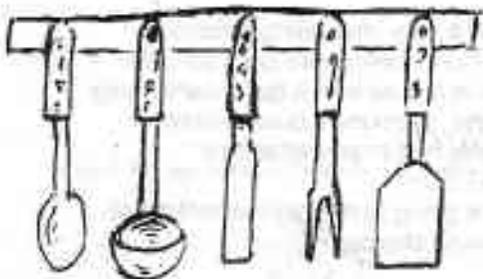
We then trekked a new path to cross the main road to Carriage Road to get back to our cars. Luckily the light afternoon rain started just as we were approaching the visitor center so we didn't get too wet.

Three "Chili" PVS'ers Marilyn Clark, Karen Felker, and Judy Jones met the "Hiker" PVS'ers at the 'Hard Times Cafe', where we devoured multiple bowls of various types of chili. However none could compare, or even come close, to the wonderful chili usually prepared for us by our famous chili chef, 'Ray McKinley'.

A small mishap occurred at one of the tables as Nancy McKinley was drenched by an overturned beer. At first we thought they were going to have to cut off her drinking but then realized the culprit was the one '?' sitting across from her.

Once again it was a memorable day spent hiking in the great outdoors and conversing and dining with fellow PVS'ers.

PVS hikers were-Suzanne Boisclair, Dick Clark, Knox Felker, Sally Finan, Bob Harmon, Marvin Hass, Ray Jones, Sue Lyon, Bob Marx, Nancy and Ray Mckinley, Dick and Rosemary Schwartzbard, Liz and Serge Triau, Dottie Villers and George Welti.





# THE KNEE

by  
Ray McKinley

Within the last couple of months the first fat ski magazines have arrived.

Suddenly, looking at the pictures, and especially the ads, (clearly, at least in the ski advertising industry, the recession is over) it's easy to slip into reverie and start thinking about skiing in earnest. (Earnest is a small area not far from Killington.)

As the Knee scans the magazines, he always finds time to keep his loyal readers informed. (I love it when I use the third person; it makes me feel so far above myself.) November's *Skiing* features a ski improvement article "Fire up the core for ultimate ski fitness." (Fire up the core?) These poor guys or gypersons who write on improving your skiing month after month need to use new body parts. The Knee can help. Herewith some great new titles:

"Follow your nose down the hill for a running start." (Think about it. You know, nose, running. OK, it needs work.)

"How pierced ears can improve your skiing."

"Eat beans to propel your trip down the slope."

"You can ski better by more effective use of your pancreatic fluids."

If these give you any more ideas, let the Knee know. I'll print the best.

Let me update you on some of PVS' wounded. Myron Marquardt just completed cataract surgery. Eye see. Penny Hanshaw is improving daily and is up and walking. George Hicho and Jackie Flaherty are both recovering from knee replacement. (Thank goodness it's not Knee replacement!) Jackie isn't even limping! And Bob McNeill had hip repair, is undergoing therapy, and hopes to ski "next year." A most speedy recovery to all of you.

Attention ski trip leaders! Bob Harmon is just back from an Elderhostel tip to Bulgaria. He loved it and noted that they have several good-sized ski areas. Earlier Kerry and Marianne Hines were extolling skiing in Bulgaria. We could do a Ski and Sea trip and use the Bulgar Boatmen.

A little catch-up news (not ketchup news - one has to Hunt for that). The day after hosting our September meeting, host John Waddick left for Amsterdam then to the mid-east. The Knee hopes you noticed that the Waddicks served PVS with Kendall Jackson wines. Right on.

High-Speed Quads have been around for years. "Six packs" (which should be called High-Speed Sex) are all the rage. Only one US ski area still runs a single chair lift. Can you name it? I'll provide a hint. It's in Vermont. The answer is at the end of the next paragraph.

As reported, Jim Slack and Mary Ward's Oktoberfest was a ball - as usual. Or perhaps it was our wurst event. Some PVSers had to practice for the beer drinking - in Munich. Dick and Betty Comerford and former PVSer Huey Roberts spent a week at Bavaria's prototypical event. They arrived without hotel reservations but everything worked out fine. You knew they were there, because at Slack/Ward's, Dick wore a tacky heavy felt Oktoberfest dunce cap. Answer: Mad River Glen has the US' only single chairlift. Ride on.

Weight not. Judy Macaluso spent three weeks at the Duke University food behavior modification program this summer. Judy says it changed her life. You better believe it - she's now shed 30 pounds. Right off!

Last month I reported on Betty Lawrence trying to sell her Lansdowne condo to fund the development of her new Vienna home. Well, Betty has sold the Lansdowne place. But instead of fixing up a new abode in Vienna, that home is now on the market. More on the exciting story of "Betty Lawrence: the Lady with Shrewd Moves," next month - or when it occurs.

And finalknee some real gossip: Sharon Mulholland and applicant Dave Leonard are what gossip columnists call "a number." The Knee prefers the term "parallel skiers." What few know is that this was not a match made in heaven. It was set up by June Read. Right on and on and on.



**CALENDAR:**

- December 9...ExCom Meeting at Bette Walker's
- December 16...Monthly Meeting at the Kline's
- December 19...Friday Morning Music Concert with Ramona
- January 15...WISP Demo Day (including 14, 15, 16)
- January 15 - 22...Snowmass Ski Trip
- January 22 - 29...Steamboat Ski Trip
- January 27...Monthly Meeting at Mike Hatanaka's
- February 13 - 29...Spain and Morocco Ski Trip
- February 28 - March 10...Cortina Ski Trip

Marilyn Clark  
8953 Falling Creek Court  
An

