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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.

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WASHINGTON

MARYLAND

VIRGINIA

www.potomacvalleyskiers.org

info@pvsikers.org

Greetings, PVSers,

With the change in temperature and weather conditions it is about time to think about skiing!
It is about time we got Mike to talk about skiing in his Pres message!



After all we have only another 7 months to go before the season begins.
Mike, what are you talking about? The ski season HAS begun!

Oh, yes we all know that. I'm talking about the southern hemisphere skiing happening during our summer up here.
I see, you mean New Zealand and South America skiing.

Yes, plus one more continent: Africa...specifically, South Africa. Actually, Lesotho, a landlocked nation inside the middle of South Africa, boasts its ski area (Afri-Ski) located 10,600 feet up the in Maloti Mountains. The natural snow received on its half-mile-long run from June to August is bolstered by snowmaking equipment. And in the restaurant you can enjoy one of the Lesotho favorites like *bab nen wors*, a corn porridge served with sausage.

So Mike, what else is there to do in southern Africa?

You can see the "big five."

You mean T-bars, long runs, powder, moguls, and après ski?



No, the game parks' big five: elephants, lions, leopards, rhinos, and cape buffalo.
How'd we get to wildlife from talking about skiing?

Well, there is not much more to talk about Afri-Ski. It has only one run...plus Maluti Beer. So the game parks are a convenient stop...being in the same part of the continent and all. And nearby (by southern Africa standards...a 4½ hour drive) is Johannesburg which boasts one of the largest airports in the world.

So Johannesburg is where the big five are?

No, they are in the game parks; an hour or so away (by air).



OK, what's to do in Johannesburg?

Did I mention the airport? It has lots of gift shops.

So is that IT for you're President's skiing message...a one run ski area on the other side of the world with corn porridge?

For this year, anyway.

Best Wishes, Mike

Join us for Holiday Spirit and taste of baked wonders prepared by your fellow skiers.





Sherri and Tom McKenna
 1431 Fallsmead Way - Potomac, MD 20854
301-424-2328



Directions:

From the Beltway (495)

Take I-270 North to Exit 5. Go **left** on Falls Road toward Potomac. Make the first **right** onto Fallsmead Way. Go four blocks. The house is on the right hand side of street: white brick with blue-gray shutters. We will have a wreath with red flowers on the front door.

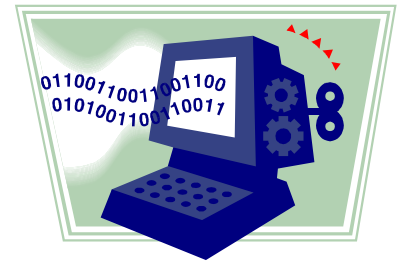
Bring:

One of your favorite **appetizers, dessert, or holiday goodie** to share. Beverages will be provided, and the usual small fee will be collected when you sign in.



Passwords for PVS web site

this info by Dave Lerner



Members can access on-line copies of TOOT and other club documents at our web site: <http://www.potomacvalleyski.org>.

You will be asked for a user name and password to view the TOOT directory. User names and passwords are derived from the PVS roster. The password list will be updated on December 15 to match the roster that was distributed with the November TOOT. Please send e-mail to webmaster@pvski.org if you have trouble logging in or if you would like to have your user name or password changed.

User names are taken directly from the PVS roster. Omit spaces and punctuation. For example, my user name is DavidLerner. **Capitalization is important.** The web hosting company does not support user names that are more than 12 characters in length. Enter **only the first 12 letters** of your name, as it appears in the roster, to fit this limit.

Your password is the first 8 characters of the e-mail address listed for you in the PVS roster. (Your phone number is used if you do not have a listed e-mail address.) Retain capitalization and punctuation as it appears in the roster. Example: Dave@aol. Here, the web hosting company restricts us to 8 characters, so it is necessary to stop at the 8th character, **and you must have 8.**

Coming Event



LAST CHANCE FOR **Blob's Park**

((It is rumored to be closing in January))

Join a PVS group evening

Saturday, December 15 at 7:30 PM



Blob's Park is an authentic Bavarian Biergarten located between Baltimore, MD and Washington, DC featuring home cooked German style foods and more than 70 brands of beer, including German beers on draught. Live music by Charm City Sound and a mix of polka, ballroom, and Latin dancing on a 2,000 square foot wooden dance floor.

\$6.00 per person - pay at the door.

8024 Blob's Park Road Jessup, MD 20794
MD Rt. 175 @ Baltimore-Washington Parkway

410-799-0155 Directions at: <http://www.blobspark.com/Map.html>



RSVP -- Even though it is "pay at the door," without Liz reserving tables, PVSers would be scattered all over, soooo...make your reservations with Liz Warren-Boulton at elizawb@starpower.net or 202-244-5717

For more information Call Liz or go to the Blob's Park web site.



Changes

Mahallati ZIP Code correction to roster -- the correct ZIP Code is 20170

New Applicant Member:

Walter Flowers

2236 Mulberry Hill Road
Annapolis, MD 21409

Home Phone: (410) 757-8062

Cell Phone: (703) 969-2045

E-mail: wflowers@gmu.edu



FOUND at Ski Center after the meeting: a dark blue men's handkerchief with bamboo pattern and a circled tree logo in corner. Call Jan Marx - 703-451-9158.

Local Ski Trips



SKI LIBERTY MOUNTAIN –

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

Anybody interested in a day of skiing before the holidays, should contact Charles Huggins (at 301-424-5725) so we can form car pools. If you wish to drive your own car, contact Charles so the group can look for you at Liberty Mountain Resort. Lift tickets for 4 hours are \$38.00; for 8 hours \$43.00. Those 65+ ski for half price. If anybody has free lift tickets from the National Ski and Snowboard Expo (Nov. 9-11), this is a good time to use them before they expire.



WISP Demo Day

Beginning Thursday, January 24th



Join PVS for just a day or make a long weekend of it!

Ski inexpensively and with friends! For Demo Thursday you even get to try the latest skis, free of charge! Come to experience WISP's new backside slopes. WISP has installed energy-efficient snowmaking covering 90% of all skiable terrain.



Vertical drop of 700 ft.; 2,415 ft. at base; 3,115 ft. at summit. **Snowfall**=Garrett Co. averages 100" annually.

Slope Difficulty - 41% beginner, 28% intermediate, 31% advanced.

Trails - 32 slopes and trails totaling 10.5 miles on 132 acres of skiable terrain.

Lifts - Two quad chairs, five triple chairs, three ski carpets, four surface tows.

Join us on **Thursday** for the actual Ski Chalet sponsored Demo Day where lift tickets are only **\$10 with voucher** (must purchase special vouchers at the Ski Chalet near you - starting Nov. 1st).

(All lift tickets need to be obtained individually at the ski area with your voucher or senior ID.)

	<u>Adult</u>	<u>Seniors (60-69)</u>	<u>Sr. Seniors (70+)</u>
M-F All Day	\$39	\$28	Free!
S-S All Day	\$57	\$35	Free!

Wisp also has rates for Morning only, Twilight, Night & 2 day & 3 day tickets

See www.wispresort.com for details.

Hotel Prices	Wednesday & Thursday night Demo Days deal	\$79 per room.
	Friday (no deal unless we have > 8 rooms)	\$239 per room.
	Saturday (no deal unless we have > 8 rooms)	\$249 per room.

Rooms will be paid individually. For each room, call WISP (1-800-462-9477) to reserve your room. Ask for the Ski Chalet Demo Day rate. The room rate includes 1-4 people. We can try to match individuals with roommates if you wish. Rooms go fast so **Call Now** if you think you want to go. Cancellation is 14 days prior to the first night's stay.

The Hotel offers smoke free ski-in/ski-out convenience, secure WiFi access, fitness center, heated indoor pool and Jacuzzi, and more. Remember your swim suit.

Meals will be paid individually. All rooms have a refrigerator. There are 2-3 places to eat in the hotel and several good restaurants in the area for dinner.

Contact: Pat Vagonis (301-838-5545 or Pvagonis@comcast.net) if you have any questions and/or are going so she can plan some group après-ski events! Join us on our 'A la Carte' trip!

Past Events



Marianne

Oktoberfest



by Betty Comerford

On Sunday, October 28th, 29 PVSers gathered on the newly built deck of Sally Finan's and George Welti's home in Reston for the club's annual Oktoberfest. Sally and Dottie Villers graciously offered to co-host the event this year, and they did a fantastic

job. Two kinds of wurst with sauerkraut accompanied the potato salads and other side dishes brought by attendees. Sodas, beer and wine were in plentiful supply, along with coffee. Of course we enjoyed pflaumenkuchen and other delectable deserts afterwards.

The weather was sunny but crisp, becoming chilly in the shade. It was a pleasure to see Marianne Cook, who looks wonderful for 39. The Marxes brought their friend, Al Herman, who also was in their university ski club.



Carolyn, Ellen, Dick,



Bob, Betty, Joanna, Joe,

Sally took a few energetic hikers for a short stroll through the woods near her house so they could work off some beer calories before dinner. They certainly didn't need to work up an appetite. PVSers are known for their love of good food!

Many thanks to Sally and Dottie for all their hard work in making this year's Oktoberfest possible!



Chili Hike Review

Saturday, November 10, 2007
by *Sally Finan & Marvin Hass*

The annual Chili Hike in Great Falls Park on the Virginia side of the Potomac remains an outstanding PVS event of long standing. Participants have the opportunity to hike in one



Betty, Mike, Suzanne

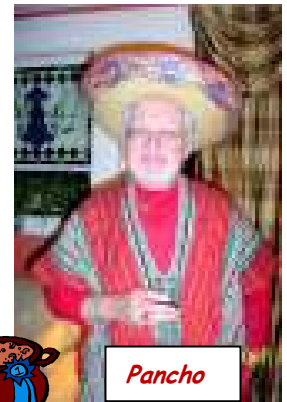
of the most historic and scenic locations in

the National Capital area followed by a chili bowl dinner supplied (and carefully prepared over a period of several days) by the leaders, Ray and Nancy McKinley, with appetizers, salads, and desserts supplied by the hungry hikers. This winning combination of outdoor activity followed by tasty cuisine at the McKinley residence is hard to beat, especially on a brisk fall day. This 21st anniversary occasion of the chili hike event still retains its appeal both for newcomers and for those who have attended many times.



Ray, Reg, Nancy, Marvin, Sue, Bob, Jean, Bob, Mike

This year the hikers had two options. Ten chose the usual hike proceeding from the Great Falls Visitor Center downstream along the Potomac to Difficult Run. This route involved some climbing over rocks and a distance of around 7 miles round trip. Five hikers did the shorter (3 ¾ mile roundtrip) stroll along an easier riverside trail going upstream from the Great Falls Visitor Center to the River Bend Visitor Center (very civilized – has real plumbing midway through the hike). Amazingly we all wound up back at the parking lot at about the same time. The leaves on the trees were in vivid prime time colors and provided great scenery in addition to the usual spectacular views of the falls and the river.



Pancho



Nancy, Bob, Jan, Betty

After the hike we were all ready for some good south of the border (the McLean border that is) chili at the McKinleys. We were greeted by “Pancho” McKinley in Mexican garb, who served up two versions of his famous chili – tangy and very hot. With all the other food goodies brought by the hikers, it provided a great meal and a lot of fun. Thanks to Ray and Nancy for doing another outstanding job with this always popular PVS outing.

Annual Ski Equipment Info Meeting With Brian

By Ellie Thayer



Brian & Charlotte

For a change of pace, thirty-five PVS members and one late-arriving applicant member (welcome) met on November 20, 2007 at the Ski Center in Washington, DC, rather than in a home.

The Capital Golden Skiers were invited to join us, but none ventured forth. Liquid refreshments and the usual table of snacks were available. Eloise Strand's cherry tomatoes stuffed with smoked oysters were a special treat.



Ellie, Eloise, Nancy, Rosemary



Mike, Ray, Dave, Bob Heilen

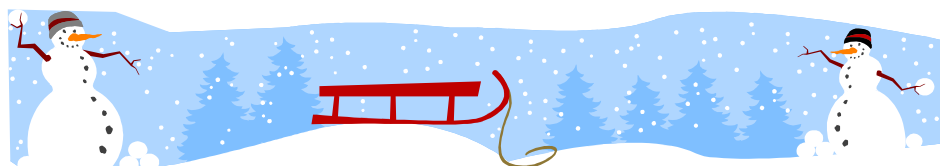
Our president, Mike Strand, conducted the meeting with dispatch and then turned it over to Brian Eardley who talked about the latest in ski equipment. For those who wish, they can now ski backward on bright psychedelic Ganesh-patterned twin tip skies wearing boots heated with infrared technology

and bindings that weigh next to nothing. Brian's comments were informative and his perspective on trends insightful.

The meeting ended over dessert of fabulous pumpkin tarts and coffee.



Dick, "How about these?"



Ski Trips

SNOWMASS

SNOWMASS 2008

January 17 through 24

Needed = one male
to share a room.

Hurry! This may be a last chance to stay at our much loved Snowmass Mountain Chalet. Recent purchase by a large developer will make major changes with new construction and concept within the next two years.

- Join us for this perennial favorite-- slopeside skiing at Snowmass with interchangeable lift tickets and free bus service to Aspen Highlands, Ajax Mountain, and Buttermilk ski areas, more than 5,000 acres of skiing. Direct access to 3,100 acres of Snowmass slopes is just outside the door.
- We will stay once again at the charming and friendly Snowmass Mountain Chalet to enjoy the convenience of slopeside lodging served by the welcoming Mountain Chalet staff. Lodging includes a daily family-style breakfast and daily soup lunch, greatly appreciated by trip participants and other guests, many of whom return year after year.
- The trip will include group dinners, après-ski parties, and other activities available in the Aspen environs.
- Full trip cost is \$1960

For more information or to be put on the wait list:

Contact trip leaders Carolyn Maurer and David DeVilbiss at 703-370-4865
or by e-mail at Carolyn.maurer@verizon.net.

Call to be placed on the Wait list.

* * * * *

WOW! Feb 9-16, 2008, join Nancy and Ray McKinley to Ski World-Renowned



If Sun Valley were a person, it would be a Renaissance man – worldly but capable of being down to earth, equally accomplished in sports and culture, broad in interests, sophisticated in tastes. But, Sun Valley is America's original destination ski resort, an enduringly beloved Idaho enclave that's "as classy as any mountain out there, and without the Bogner bling." Known for its long steady-pitched groomers (perfect for raising World Cupper Picabo Street), its lack of crowds ("forgot what a lift line was!"), its opulent on-mountain lodges and its celebrity-studded history, Sun Valley has won over skiing's well-traveled visitors for decades. It has sunshine and a top-flight lift network, an authentic Old West town with metro-quality cuisine, sagebrush vistas, and a friendly and easygoing vibe. The resort's facilities are appropriate for couples, aspiring starlets and global financiers.

Sun Valley's expansive slopes work for virtually everyone. "All the skiing you can handle in a vacation," says one fan. In fact, Sun Valley and adjacent Ketchum draw people back again and again. They return to sit in the sun over lunch at the Round House, to dance down funnel-shaped bowls and ride the mountain as surfers ride big waves. Some come back to glide through their turns and take it easy. Others return to bend in to the mountain and feel the burn. They come back for free cookies after breakfast at the Kneadery and for après at divey Apples. They come back to eat fresh trout amid the rosy chintz and fine china of Gretchen's at the Sun Valley Lodge or to float in natural hot springs. "There is an incredible amount to do other than ski."

The Sun Valley Lodge, where we'll stay, was built with every amenity a skier could imagine. Complete with an outdoor pool and Sun Valley's famous outdoor ice rink and Terrace. Guests enjoy Gretchen's Restaurant, the elegant Lodge Dining Room, the Eddie Duchin Lounge, Spa, Exercise Room, bowling alley and game room. Re-live the luxurious accommodations enjoyed by Clark Gable, Erol Flynn and Lucile Ball, with the unmatched service of a bygone era.

Our complete trip cost is \$2,147. This includes pre and post trip parties, 3 dinners, lodging, air fare and lift tickets. Land only cost is \$1,681, the single supplement is \$856. Non-skiers cost \$1,896. We have only limited space. To reserve a spot on this memorable trip, send your check for \$1,630 per person to Ray McKinley at 2326 N Upton Street, Arlington, VA 22207. Please call us for more information at 703-527-7126.



Bulgaria

Ski and See the Balkans with PVS



Slovenia

Sunday, March 2 through Thursday, March 13, 2008

Sign-up for this unique trip, which visits the European region where eastern cultures merge. The trip goes first to Sofia, Bulgaria, where we the Bulgarian capital. Bus to Bansko at the gondola station. Four nights and three days skiing (elective day tours available). Return to Sofia and fly to Ljubljana, Slovenia. Tour the Slovenian capital city. Bus to Kranjska Gora to the slopeside 4-star Hotel Miklic. Four nights/three days skiing (elective tours available.)

Airline seats still available.

and bus as indicated on exchange package price *does not include* lunches, lift tickets, ski equipment rental, elective tours, or Medical Insurance and Trip Cancellation/Interruption Insurance.

Total Price \$2,900 (double occupancy) *includes* all air transportation, city tours of Sofia and Ljubljana, 4/5-star hotels with meals above, plus pre-trip party, portage of baggage, and post-trip party. (Price based on exchange rate of \$1.33 US to Euro). Single supplement of \$313 based on single room availability. The package price *does not include* lunches, lift tickets, ski equipment rental, elective tours, or Medical Insurance and Trip Cancellation/Interruption Insurance.

Contact Marianne or Kerry Hines at 540-364-4810 or by e-mail at mchines@erols.com or klhines@erols.com.



FOR RENT, Feb. 16-23, 2008.

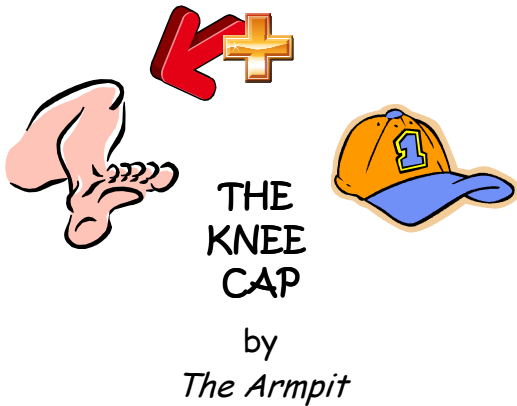
Lodge room in **The Pokolodi Lodge**, Snowmass, CO (2 doors down from lodge where PVS stays). 100-yds to slopes, 2 queen beds. \$700 for wk. Free pick up at Aspen airport and free continental breakfasts. For info, www.Pokolodi.com or call Leonhardts at 301-963-8111.



PVS-Shirts ???

There has been an interest in having PVS shirts, whatever style we want. The ExCom requests someone to take on this venture. Call Mike Strand if you can "don" this quest. 301-468-1535.

New Feature



The knee has been reporting on activities of our membership for years but rarely does he tell us anything of his own activities. Your editor has asked The Armpit to provide an aperiodic recapitulation of the Knee's activities. Hence, The Knee Cap. This is the first of such reports. Don't expect these to be frequent because, frankly, most of what the Knee does is not very interesting.

We are pleased to report that the Knee does, in fact, shower. While the Knee watches what everyone else does, he doesn't pay much attention to his own shower. He did not notice all the water leaking through a crack in his shower pan. The water gathered in the ceiling of the main level of the Knee's house. When it reached a critical amount the ceiling made like the walls of Jericho and came tumbling down.

The Knee's house is like the Knee—a bit dated. It doesn't have modern plasterboard; it has old fashion plaster. The ceiling hit the floor and created a cloud of dust like the Lone Ranger used to ride off in, but it wasn't "Hi Ho, Silver" that the knee was shouting!

Those of you who have visited the Knee's museum, er, I mean home, may recall that the Knee has a few things around that might require dusting from time to time. This event made sure that all of them required dusting at the same time. The complication was that two days later the Knee and Mrs. Knee were hosting a gathering of a house full of guests. A furious dusting/cleaning obliterated all the evidence of the disaster, but the inner workings of the house were visible to anyone looking up at what used to be a ceiling..

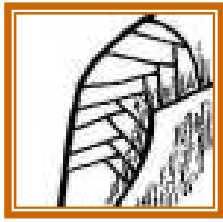
The Knee has fallen on hard times! He lost his job! He is engaging in the old face saving claim that he "chose to retire." But if that's true, why did he go back to work, and to such a weak company that it can afford only nine employees? And why is he scrounging in second hand

furniture and clothing shops? Only \$25 for a used jacket? Come on, Knee. Leave that consignment shop stuff to the professionals like Eloise Strand or Rosemary Schwartzbard.

He claims he buys used furniture only in Upscale Resale shops, but why does he have to search the country for bargains, going all the way to Idaho to find a table, and then claiming it's special because it belonged to Adlai Stevenson? We all know Stevenson also fell on hard times; he couldn't even afford shoes without holes in the soles. Barbra Streisend's "Funny Girl" gave us "Second Hand Rose." Will PVS's "Funny Guy" give us "Second Hand Ray's?"

Most suspicious of all is that the Knee purchased used furniture from The Watergate! He claims he was trying to fill in the "minimalist" appearance of his living room. But suddenly leaving "that place" where he was employed for so long and then grabbing Watergate furniture before anyone else could get it certainly raises questions.

Knee, do you have answers? Stay tuned, folks.



THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley

Wow! It's December and ski season is finally upon us. Most places outside the beltway have been in the 20s, albeit not until after Thanksgiving. We've had lots of snow in the NE and out west. Yippee! According to Marvin Hass, quoting the Aspen Times, Whistler Mt had a 39" base as of Thanksgiving. From Knee Hampshire, Jim Arnold reports that most resorts are open, but with little snow.

And PVS has our first skiers of the season. Bob McNeill and Charlie Huggins skied at Arapaho Basin or A Basin, as it's known, Nov 20. Charlie reports "good, not great conditions." The Knee understands that there are expansion plans. Soon there will be a B Basin, and later a series of smaller basinettes. Would the Knee ever report anything inkorectly?

Bob McNeill will return to Summit County to ski in early December. Also in early December, Veep Dick Comerford will be at Copper Mt. to ski with ex PVSer Huey Roberts. A great start to a *la niña* year.

With all of the furor over *la niña* and the upcoming either too snowy or warm winter weather, I called the Liberty Mountain (aka Charnita) folk. **If anyone knew the true poop, it would most certainly be Liberty.** I chatted at length with their prognosticators. Yes, they were aware of *la niña*. It's a Mexican restaurant near Harrisburg. And, no, it wasn't going to affect their planned February season opening. According to Dottie Villers, the epitome of an oxymoron is powder and Ski Liberty.

The thrill is gone. Time was that a highlight of our PVS biannual membership ritual was when our new, clean PVS membership cards arrived. I'd eagerly sign the new card, search through my wallet to find the old soldier, now wrinkled and limp from over four years of nearly constant use, and out with the old and in with the new. I haven't done that this year. **Is new, by definition, better than old? What's wrong with old? Perhaps I'm aging (No, not you!! Everyone else, not you), but that aging symbol of PVS still looks pretty damn good to me. Why replace old with new? If we did, few of us would still be in the club! I'm keeping my old card.**

The ExCom Meeting at Bob and Janet Marx' Springfield home got started a bit late. A mattress on the beltway caused some to be "laid up" for a few minutes. Technology didn't help. Dick Laeser asked his GPS unit to get him there the fastest way. But it apparently tried to take him to Springfield, MO. Dick, after a U-Turn in Illinois, arrived 3 days late. And to bring in some trivia, Dave Lerner told us there is a Springfield in each of the 50 states. But none is in DC.

The Knee called Veep Dick Comerford a few weeks ago. Wife Betty answered the phone, "No, Dick can't come to the phone; he's in China." He really enjoyed the trip, but it was expensive. He got to go with daughter Debbie, a flight attendant for United. I later asked Dick, "Now, what do you think of **Red China**." He retorted, having tortured earlier, "**Red China** goes just dandy with a **yellow tablecloth**."

PVS makes the TV news: You have likely read about members of the DC Tax Board "skimming" some \$35 million which was spent on lavishness—including \$1.4 million at Neiman Marcus. The remaining goods were auctioned off at Sloan's. Adele Waggaman attended the auction and was interviewed by Fox Channel 5. Adele didn't buy anything. "Nothing worthwhile."

PVS held our first-ever meeting at a ski shop. Long time new equipment guru, Brian Eardley, hosted us at Adam Kahane's DC Ski Center. Bob McNeill reminisced about skiing with Adam who, at 85, still skis. (On the lightest weight skis I can find, according to Brian.) Health conscious Mary Beale, who lives some three blocks away chose to "exercise" her rights and drove to the meeting. And a tip of the ol' Knee cap goes to our first lady, Eloise Strand. Eloise orchestrated all of the great food and drink. This was also our first-ever joint meeting with the Capitol Golden Skiers. Unfortunately, none of them came. One wag said, "They are so old that they don't go out in the dark!"

According to Marvin Hass, if PVS was going to buy former Saudi Arabia ambassador to the U.S, Prince Bandar's Aspen estate, Hala Ranch for \$135 million, we're out of luck. Hala Ranch was the most expensive residence listed in the US. "The ranch is off the market and is no longer for sale," said the Aspen attorney who represents Bandar. "Prince Bandar and his family realized that they enjoyed the ranch, and Aspen, too much to want to part with it." With some 56,000 square feet and 16 baths, the home would have been perfect for PVS. Pity.

Calendar

Dec 15 Sat Blob's Park
Dec 18 Tue Monthly Meeting at Sherri and Tom McKenna's in Rockville
Dec 20 Thur Day trip to Liberty Mt. - Charles Huggins, leader

2008

Jan 15 Tue Dec/Jan ExCom via teleconference
Jan 24 Thur WISP Demo Day (\$10 lift tickets)
Jan 27 **Sun** Monthly Meeting - 2:00 PM at Dorian Janney's in Gaithersburg
Feb 24 **Sun** Monthly Meeting - 2:00 PM



Ski Trips -- 2008

Snowmass - January 17-24 -- Carolyn Maurer

Sun Valley - February 9-16 - Nancy and Ray McKinley

Balkans - March 2-13 - Marianne and Kerry Hines



Jan and Bob Marx
8312 Oakford Dr.
Springfield, VA 22152

