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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
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www.potomacvalleyskiers.org

info@pvskiers.org

This time, just a few brief comments. It's the first tennis tournament of the new year down under but it's skiing time here, and happily, so many of our members are doing just that, being out there, enjoying this great sport, having a wonderful time with friends and family, and counting their many blessings, I'm sure.

Even though this is the season for intensive participation in our favored pastime, the work of the club doesn't stop. Most recently ExCom, and the Ski Trip Committee under the most effective and insightful leadership of its chair, Bob Marx, have dealt with a number of issues of significant importance. Concern was expressed mainly by trip leaders when ExCom approved an unprecedented six trips for the then upcoming season. It was feared that such a big number for such a small skiing population would result in an unwanted proliferation which could render some or even all trips not doable, uneconomic or with such sparse participation as to defeat the fundamentals of a group trip. ExCom requested the Ski Trip Committee to reexamine our trip guidelines, and bring back any proposed revisions they believed to be appropriate, given the several changed circumstance which, undoubtedly, have occurred.

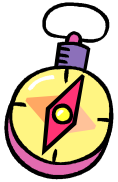
At our last meeting we looked at and debated a number of proposed guideline changes. The goal is to complete our work on this topic at the February meeting, and we'll then disseminate the approved changes so that these might be applied to the club's trip for the 07/08 season.

Another matter of substantial concern is dues structure, the specific dues for each membership category, and our budget, where some of the costs keep rising beyond our control. Happily our increased provision of Toot in electronic rather than hardcopy version has helped us to contain increasing publishing and distribution costs. We're hoping that this trend will continue as additional members opt for an electronic version of our principal communications tool. With that in mind, we've concluded that no changes in our dues should be needed as we approach our biannual renewal period next spring. That's good news, and we can be happy to have at least one item in our household budgets that is not subject to inflationary tribulation.

With my good wishes for a trouble-free skiing season, and what's left of it, may the spirit of friendship and mutual assistance prevail throughout the year and for ever after.

David

Monthly Meeting
At Mary Beale's
Tuesday, February 20
7:30 PM
Spring Valley, DC



Directions to Mary Beale's
4040 51st St. NW
Washington, DC 20016

202-363-3521

Coming from Maryland - Take beltway 495 to exit 39, River Road (190). Signs will say Washington and Potomac. Follow arrows to Washington.

→ Merge onto River Road. Travel 3.5 miles to **right** on Little Falls. Go **left** at the end of Little Falls onto Massachusetts Avenue. Remain on Mass Ave (going half way around Westmoreland Circle) for one mile to **right** on 49th street. Go three blocks to **right** on Upton Street. Go two blocks to **left** on 51st street. House is second from the corner (4040 51st street).

Coming from Virginia - Take beltway 495 to exit 39, River Road (190). Signs will say Washington (east) and Potomac. Follow arrows to Washington. See above →

Coming from Virginia over Chain Bridge - Take **right** on Canal Road. At first stoplight, turn **left** onto Arizona Avenue. Go **left** at the end of Arizona onto Loughboro Road. Go 0.5 miles to **right** on Dalecarlia Parkway. Take first **right** onto Rockwood Parkway. Take first **left** onto Tilden Street. Take second **left** onto 51st street. House is 4040 51st street.



Remember

February ExCom is on **Wednesday, Feb. 28** (rather than on Tuesday) at the Schwartzbard's.

Changes

Comerford's new e-mails: betty.comerford@verizon.net
dick.comerford@verizon.net

Dave DeVilbiss' new e-mail: Devilbid@Verizon.net.

Susan Lyon
8961 Fascination Ct.
Lorton, VA 22079
703-690-3851
E-mail remains the same.

For Sale



Salomon Xscreams - Hot Chili skis. With bindings.
165 cm Orange, yellow, black
Used only one week
\$350 or best offer.

Call Sally Finan - 703-716-9023





Call for Preliminary 2007-2008 Winter Ski Trip Proposals

In accordance with the **Guidelines for a PVS-Endorsed Ski Trip** (the **Guidelines**), the Ski Trip Committee (STC) is issuing this "Call for Preliminary 2007-2008 **Winter** Ski Trip Proposals." (The STC also will accept preliminary proposals for **summer** 2008 ski trips at the same time, but will continue to accept such proposals through the end of October 2007.) Preliminary ski trip proposals should include, at a minimum, the proposed destination, dates, and hotel location (ski-out/ski-in or not) for the ski trip. If even "guess"-timated costs are available, that information will be considered favorably by the STC.

The STC consists of five (5) PVS members -- Bob Marx (Chair), Polli Brunelli, Mike Hatanaka, Shirley Rettig, and Eloise Strand. The STC would like to receive preliminary proposals for 2007-2008 **winter** ski trips (those planned during the period December 2007 through March 2008) by close-of-business **Friday, March 16, 2007**. Preliminary proposals should be sent, via e-mail, to all five members of the STC. Based on comments made to STC members about "destinations of interest," the STC is especially interested in receiving proposals for a ski trip to Utah in 2008.

For planning purposes, potential Ski Trip Leaders (STLs) should be aware of two planned Blue Ridge Ski Council (BRSC)-sponsored ski trips in 2008 -- the annual BRSC Western Carnival at Steamboat, Colorado during the first week in February 2008 (Feb. 2-9), and the annual EuroFest at Interlaken, Switzerland during the first week in March 2008 (Mar. 1-8); the latter trip is likely to offer both pre- and post-skiing extensions. (For very long range planning, the 2009 Western Carnival will be held in Keystone, CO and the 2009 EuroFest will be held in Davos, Switzerland.) Any STL interested in leading a PVS contingent as part of the Steamboat or Interlaken BRSC-sponsored ski trips should submit her/his preliminary proposal accordingly, for full consideration with all other preliminary ski trip proposals received. (Please note: If no PVS STL submits a proposal to lead the PVS contingent on one or both of these BRSC-sponsored ski trips, the **non-PVS** led BRSC-sponsored ski trip(s) will **not** be considered among the array of other ski trip proposals received.)

Also in accordance with the **Guidelines**, the STC is announcing its intent to meet to discuss the preliminary proposals it receives by the March 16, 2007 deadline stated above.

This meeting will be held on **Sunday afternoon, March 18, 2007**; the exact time and location of the meeting will be announced in the March 2007 issue of the **Toot** and specific details will be sent, via e-mail, to all members of the STC and to each potential STL who submits a preliminary ski trip proposal.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Marx
Chair, PVS STC



Have You Seen?

The Washington Post Sunday Magazine, January 28, 2007 has an article, entitled "Making It," about the Vagonis' and Jim's unique home upkeep and repair business, "Hassle Free."

As many of you have just learned, the Snowmass Mountain Chalet is being sold and big renovations are going to take place in the entire Snowmass Mall area with which we have become familiar, starting in a couple of years. Read more about it at following web site:
http://www.aspendailynews.com/archive_17841

April Election

Thank you, Nominating Committee for the April 2007 Candidates

An appreciative thanks to, **Sharon Mulholland**, our Chairperson and her committee: John Brunelli, Kirk Burns, Marvin Hass, Betty Lawrence, and Rosemary Schwartzbard for the following slate of officers.

President = Mike Strand

Vice President = Dick Comerford

ExCom members = Carolyn Maurer, Ruth Powers, and David Warthen

(A biographical sketch of each candidate follows.)

PVS BOARD MEMBERS, OFFICERS, and CHAIRPERSONS - 2006-2007

President - *David Abraham*

Webmaster - *David Lerner*

First Term:

Vice President - *Mike Strand*

Ski Trip Cmte Chair - *Bob Marx*

Bob Knopes

Secretary - *Mary Beale*

TOOT Editor - *Jan Marx*

Dick Laeser

Treasurer - *Dick Laeser*

TOOT Proofer - *Bob Marx*

David Lerner

Membership - *Pat Vagonis*

TOOT Mailer -

Second Term

Events - *Ray McKinley*

Meeting Records - *Sara Huggins*

Charlotte Eddy

Mid-week Events - *Mike Strand*

Historian - *Jan Marx*

Burr Schuler

Dick Schwartzbard

Biographical Sketches of our Candidates for Club Officers

Dick Comerford = Vice President

was born in Ridgefield Park, NJ at a very young age. At age 6 he, being an adventuresome sort, decided to move to Germany, mainly to be supportive of his parents who moved there thanks to the US Army. In the winter of 1951, Dick had his first on-snow experience in Berchtesgaden. There he became proficient at riding the rope-tow and straight fast skiing. When asked, he commented "why turn, it only slows you down"; learning to stop is something for another day... thirty years later. (Cont'd below)



Dick Comerford, cont'

After a 3-year stay, the Germans and the US Army thought he should leave, so the family packed up and moved to Fort Myer, VA. Life went on then, once again the pattern emerged, after 3 years Virginia tired of him and sent him back to Germany; this time under the guise of further improving his German vocabulary. Then, just as you would expect, 3 years later its back to Ol' Virginia, Fort Belvoir was the new home site. While there he graduated from Mount Vernon High School, worked a while, then went on to Frederick College in Portsmouth, VA. Then life got boring, work, got married, had a kid, work, had a kid, work, etc. He later broke out of the routine by joining PVS in the 1980s, and life has never been the same. Furthermore, it was on a Wyckoff ski trip to Austria that Dick finally experienced the true feeling of turning, and skiing under control. When this happened, all on the trip rejoiced, they were now free to ski without fear of unexpected meetings on the slopes.

Dick has maintained his interest in skiing, every winter he skis more and more, leading to the point where he had to retire from the Department of the Interior because they wouldn't let him take all winters off. When snow is absent, Dick bides his time biking, scuba diving, hiking, and traveling. I guess all the moving he did as a kid (13 schools in 12 years) makes him interested in seeing new places. Having a wife, Betty, who retired from US Airways and a daughter, Debbie, who is a flight attendant with United, keep him active and allow him to "find the good snow" and visit neat places. If you want to get hold of him, it's best to try his cell phone.



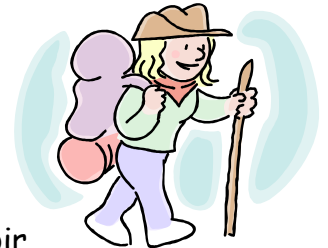
Ruth Powers = for ExCom



is a native Virginian with a BA in Mathematics from the University of Richmond and an MSE in Computer and Information Science from the University of Pennsylvania. She retired from TRW (now part of Northrop Grumman), where she was involved in computer system development contracts for various government agencies.

She has been a member of Potomac Valley Skiers for more than 10 years. Prior to that, she was a member of SCWDC. She learned to ski in 1960, at Big Boulder in the Poconos. Her other favorite outdoor activity is hiking, where she is active in the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club's *Easy Hikers*.

Ruth is active in the McLean AAUW, where she currently serves as treasurer, and in AARP's TaxAide program, where she volunteers during the tax season. Other activities include travel, bridge, book group, Great Decisions discussion group, investment club, and church choir and hand bells.



Carolyn Maurer = for ExCom



was born in St. Petersburg, FLA, I was fortunate to be relocated with my parents and brothers to New England after WWII, to grow up in the snowy/messy weather of New England, just outside of Boston. I learned to ski on the local golf course hill at age 10 with the super-long skis (no edges) of the time. "Real" skiing followed in my teens at Cannon Mountain in New Hampshire (we had edges) and later in our college Snow Bowl (Middlebury, VT).

Travels and studies during college and after afforded skiing opportunities in Austria and Japan. When my children were old enough, I taught them and various friends to ski in the hills of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Vermont and New Hampshire.

Recently I retired from a long career as Clinical Social Worker for the mental health system in Fairfax County. During those years, my ski vacations with friends and with area clubs have allowed me to continue this love for the mountains. My membership to PVS has added many friendships and contacts. David DeVilbiss and I will be leading the Snowmass trip for the second year, and we look forward to many future events with the PVS.



Dave Warthen = for ExCom

first skied at Round Top, PA, in 1997 at the age of 58, with the help of family members.



He discovered that skiing was excellent, grief-recovery therapy after the death of his first wife. He became addicted to skiing, after his wife Marsha, whom he married in 2000, treated him to his first ski trip to Steamboat, CO, in 2000. Dave and Marsha joined PVS in 2000. Marsha



is a non-skier, but encourages Dave's trips to the Rockies. Dave was a Research Chemist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for almost 33 years.

He retired in 1998. His career path was such that he has known Barb Leonhardt and Dave DeVilbiss for almost 40 years. Prior to USDA, Dave

worked as a Pharmacist, and a college instructor of Inorganic Chemistry. Presently, Dave enjoys assisting Marsha, who is President of the Board of Ex-Partners of Service members for Equality www.ex-pose.org, by managing the organization's database and website. Dave also manages a number of other non-profit websites. He enjoys fitness training, swimming, gardening, and bicycling.



Coming Events

	<h3 style="text-align: center;">ZOO WALK 'N LUNCH</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, Feb 7, 2007 10:30 AM</p> <p>Starting Point: National Zoo, Education Building, which is the first building on entering from Connecticut Ave. NW.</p>	
<p>Route: Join us on this popular annual February Zoo Walk followed by lunch. This year, the feature will be the new Asia Trail exhibit area. Asia Trail is home to seven species: giant pandas, a Japanese giant salamander, red pandas, Asian small-clawed otters, clouded leopards, fishing cats, and sloth bears. Generally there are few visitors at this time so that both the animals and docents will be glad to see you.</p> <p>Lunch: After the Zoo Walk, participants can stroll over to nearby Yanni's Greek Taverna in Cleveland Park, a popular neighborhood establishment much favored by PVSers in previous years (adjacent to the Metro Red Line station). Lunch will be at about 1:00 PM</p> <p>Information: No reservations required. Easy access by Metro. Parking available at Zoo (Cost about \$9 for 4 hours.) Leader: Betty Byrne (202) 483-4048 or zoo@potomacvalleyski.org</p>		



Blue Knob Mid-Week Ski

Feb 13 - 15

Tuesday - Thursday

BLUE KNOB SKI RESORT Pennsylvania's Highest
Skiable Mountain

34 Trails Vertical Drop 1,072 ft.



Betty's Alpen glow Ski House has 7 Bedrooms & 5 ½ Baths -

Ski In - Ski Out

Friends are entitled to use the Indoor Pool, Steam Room and Sauna in Alpine Village, located in another part of the community.

Lodging: All rates are based on double occupancy, Minimum 2 nights.

Most rooms = \$15/night. - The Guest Bedroom w/Private Bath = \$25/night

There also is a Jacuzzi in the Ski House



Lift tickets per day, Midweek Adult = \$35. Ages 65-70 = \$28. Age 70 and over = \$14

Come & enjoy PVS camaraderie in a fun setting on a cold mountain. Betty promises to keep you warm.



Each person is asked to bring a salad or dessert for 2 meals & 2 or 3 persons bring a casserole for 2 meals. Details to be worked out later. Lunch is on your own.

Betty will furnish wine & necessities for breakfast. \$6.00 per person.

You can click on her website www.alpenglowskihouse.com for more pictures and information about her house.

Betty Lawrence (703) 319-1860

lizl@verizon.net

10000 Woodrow St. Vienna, VA 22181



Williamsburg Weekend

April 13 - 15, 2007

The second annual PVS Williamsburg Weekend will be held April 13-15. The weekend will include a buffet supper in one of our homes and Sunday brunch at The Williamsburg Inn.



Call Marilyn Clark at 757-565-1942 or E-mail at ramjclark@verizon.net to reserve a place.



Complete details will be in the March "Toot"

Ski Trips

SKIING IN SCHLADMING, AUSTRIA **TOURING IN ATHENS, GREECE AND IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

ATHENS, GREECE – Monday, February 26, 2007 to Saturday March 3, 2007
SCHLADMING, Austria - Saturday, March 3, 2007 to Saturday March 10, 2007
VIENNA, Austria – Saturday, March 10, 2007 to Tuesday, March 13, 2007

ATHENS, GREECE: Four nights at the Divani Palace Acropolis a five star deluxe hotel near the Acropolis

SCHLADMING, AUSTRIA: Seven nights at the Sporthotel Royer a four star hotel

VIENNA, AUSTRIA: Three days at Hotel Regina a four star historic hotel, located in the center of the city.

THE SKIING: The region of Schladming-Dachstein-Taussern is one of the largest ski areas in Austria with a four inter connected mountains. Snowmaking on 100% of the ski slopes. There are 90 ski lifts and, 167 kilometers of downhill runs. Glacier skiing on the Dachstein Glacier. Ski runs as long as 5 miles.

Maximum elevation 6,600 feet **Vertical drop** 3,700 feet;

Ski Terrain: Beginner: 30% Intermediate 60% Expert: 10%

Cross country skiing=60 Km of cross country trails. **Lift tickets** The 5 day regular lift ticket in 2006 was \$168 and \$150 for seniors.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS:

Fly from Washington Dulles Airport to Munich on United Airlines and then to Athens, Greece.

Fly from Athens to Munich on Lufthansa airlines. Motor coach to our hotel in Schladming, Austria.

Transfer by motor coach from Schladming, Austria to our hotel in Vienna.

Fly from Vienna on Lufthansa airlines to Munich and then to Washington Dulles airport on United Airlines.

INCLUDED IN PRICE: Total Price \$2,900 (double occupancy) includes all of the above plus transfers, buses, and trip insurance. (Price based on Euro price of 1.24 to a dollar). Pre Trip Party, Portage of All Baggage, Post Trip Party.

Includes Medical Insurance and Trip Cancellation / Interruption Insurance.

NOT INCLUDED: Lunches, Lift Tickets, Dinners in Athens and Vienna.

TOTAL PACKAGE PRICE -- ATHENS+SCHLADMING+VIENNA \$ 2900 (DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)

Single supplement and Skiing in Schladming (only) – Available on request – price to be determined

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING US OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS:

Contact: Glade Flake (gladeflake@aol.com) 301-762-6890 OR

John Smith (johnsmith@juno.com) 301-299-8376





March 3-11, 2007, join Nancy and Ray McKinley to Ski



The Potomac Valley Skiers are returning to a true gem of a resort, Sun Peaks. We went in 2005, and EVERYONE wanted to go back, so we're doing it! Sun Peaks is Canada's newest, brightest destination resort. It's a skier's paradise. And, unlike the Coastal British Columbia resorts, Sun Peaks Resort is known for its sun. Yes, the sun shines at Sun Peaks. And shines. And shines. And shines--more sunny hours than any other resort in North America! The BC ski resort logs an average of 2,000 hours of sunshine per year. That sun, combined with 220 inches of snowfall and mid-winter temperatures of 20 to 25 °F, helps make Sun Peaks a favorite for fair weather ski holidays.

Pre Trip Party Feb 18, 4:30 at McKinley's (703) 527-7126



NEXT SUMMER--August 9-25, 2007, join Nancy and Ray McKinley to

See and Ski in Argentina, Brazil



The grandeur of Argentina's Andes, the Old World beauty and tango passion of Buenos Aires, and to top it all off – a 3 day add-on to magical Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. 8 days and 7 nights in Argentina's world-class 40,000 acre, 4,100 ft vertical ski resort, Las Leñas, and 5 days, 4 nights in America's most cosmopolitan city, the Paris of the W. Hemisphere, Buenos Aires. And there's a 3 day add on to the home of Bossa Nova—Rio de Janeiro. Join us and enjoy.

While North America suffers summer, enter Argentina's Las Leñas, the largest lift-serviced skiing area in the entire Western Hemisphere. Las Leñas isn't merely a good summer ski area; it's one of the world's GREAT ski areas. This resort is served by 13 lifts, 40 miles of trails, and 4,100-foot vertical drop from its 11,253-foot summit. Las Leñas is 7 times the size of Vail. There's oodles of skiing for every level of skier. The lower section's nine lifts connect a variety of groomed trails, ideal for all levels. Experts seeking the off-piste perfection that has made Las Leñas world-famous continue to huge bowls, steep chutes, and fresh powder. The European village at the mountain's base has shops, restaurants, bars, discos and a 24 hour a day casino. With copious snow, and superb skiing for all levels, Las Leñas is a truly great place to ski in August, or any time!

We'll include all lodging in 4 or 5 Star hotels, daily breakfasts, and all Dinners at Las Leñas 2 dinners in Buenos Aires, all transfers, happy hours, airfare from Washington DC, pre and post trip parties, and eye-opening tours in Buenos Aires including a river trip and multi-course lunch outside of town. This will include a parillada featuring all the finest of cuisine and entertainment. Our stay in Buenos Aires also offers a not-to-be missed, first-class tango show and dinner.

We have a spectacular 3-day add-on. This will include round trip air to Rio, 4 or 5 star lodging at Ipanema Beach and near the Copacabana. We'll tour the city; visit Rio's signature Sugarloaf Mountain, the statue of the Christ, and the Rio is the only city in the world with a tropical rainforest within the city limits. We highly recommend this unique city and the add-on.

Schedule: We leave from DC Thurs eve, Aug 9, 2007, spend Fri in Buenos Aires, and leave Sat for a week at Las Leñas. Then to Buenos Aires for 4 days. On Aug 21 we fly to Rio, Brazil's wonderland. On Aug 24 We fly back to DC overnight.

Cost: Since we are now skiing during high season, and the ski resort has raised its overall prices, the cost for Argentina portion will be over our \$2,900 estimate. The Brazil/Rio portion of the trip should remain about \$900. Final prices next month.

Our See and Ski trip is for everyone. Space is limited for this trip of a lifetime. To hold a space, send a check for \$100 per person, to Ray McKinley. Mail it to 2326 North Upton Street, Arlington, VA 22207-4045. This deposit is refundable through February. Call us at 703-527-7126 for more information. Or e-mail us ArgentinaBrazil2007@potomacvalleyskiers.org



Past Events



Demo Days Wrap Up



The trip to Wisp turned out to be too EXTREME for more than half of the PVSers originally signed up. Not the 9 black diamond trails, but the EXTREMELY warm weather. The actual demo day (Thursday) turned out to be a superb day for skiing. Four heroic PVS die-hards: Charlie Huggins, Pat Vagonis, her three year old Lilly braved the slopes and were even joined by Pat's son Justin (9 years old) with a 102.0 fever. He was valiant and we have determined that almost nothing would stop him - even his grandmother Margaret Wyckoff who tried! Charlie headed on to Pittsburg on Friday, but the Vagonis' were hoping to make a ski weekend out of it. With 2 solid days of rain they ended up punting by Saturday and returned to the 70 degree, convertible top-down, weather in DC. They left there a little soggy, but Thursday was so wonderful that it provided a great ski trip memory! Pat and Justin were not going to give up that easily so they returned the following weekend and had plenty of blizzard and 11" of fresh snow with 22" of man made underneath. Amazing what one cold week can provide! Let's try again next year!

by Pat Vagonis



First monthly meeting of the New Year 2007

by Sue Lyon

Thirty-two PVS members ventured out on a blustery winter night to the lovely inviting home of Bob and Jan Marx. The two members traveling the furthest were Roland Brockmeyer from Baltimore, MD, and Kerry Hines from Delaplane, VA.

An array of beverages was set up in the Marx's newly remolded kitchen which even has a lighted sky light. The dinning table and buffet held a delicious spread of shrimp, ham, fresh veggies, juicy red strawberries, pineapple, dips, cheeses, crackers, bread and mini quiches.

After having plenty to eat and a chance to visit with other members, David Abraham opened the meeting close to 8pm. Reports were given on the up-coming ski trips and other special events.

Nancy McKinley valiantly stepped up and bought the last PVS headband modeled by Jan Marx. Charlie Huggins still has one helmet left to sell. (Maybe he also needs to model it.)

Following the meeting, scrumptious lo-hi-cal (?) dessert bars, coffee, and more visiting were enjoyed by all. What a great meeting to start the New Year!



*Bob with new kitchen;
Nancy with last headband.*

Many thanks to our hosts Bob and Jan.

SNOWMASS

by Jean van der Tak, with input and photos by Dave Warthen

Snowmass 2007 was another great success in PVS' long series of trips to what SKI magazine rates as "the third best resort in the U.S." Except, alas for Polli Brunelli's tibia-fracturing accident on the fifth of our otherwise six fine days there (see below). But as we go to press, Polli and spouse John are home and recovering.

Coming out of the snowless East, 31 of us met again at the comfortable, slopeside Snowmass Mountain Chalet, led a second time by our incomparable co-leaders Carolyn Maurer and Dave DeVilbiss. We were greeted by snow that had been accumulating since September and temperatures that had hovered at zero just days earlier, but warmed up to 40 during our stay. Two members had to drop out at the last moment: Nat Seeman and Sharon Mulholland (Sharon was felled by a virulent cold), but Bob Marx happily took Nat's place.

Our ski adventures were distinguished by two that included several generations: Betty Lawrence got to ski with grandson Justin Paul (J.P.) and great-granddaughter Isabella, age four, who visited from their Grand Junction home. And Alice Swalm and Jacques Hadler were joined on the slopes by Alice's nephew Steve, his wife Kathy and their three children from Denver. (See separate article and the Knee below.)

The new Elk Camp gondola, crisscrossing the terrain from not far below the Chalet, set the scene for many exploits, including the following described by Dave Warthen: "On a sunny afternoon, a rare opportunity came to PVS' "adventuresome" skiers Dave Bertagnoli, Bob Marx, and Dave Warthen. "Longshot," a very long intermediate run from the top of Burnt Mountain above Elk Camp to the base at Two Creeks, was just groomed (it only happens a few times a year). However, to access the run, one must hike a few hundred feet from the top of Elk Camp lift to the top of Burnt Mountain, carrying skis and poles. The youngest of the trio graciously came back down from the top and carried the skis of the eldest for the last 50 feet of the hike. From there it was downhill--in more ways than one! Now the trio understands why the trail is called "Longshot." It goes on for 5.3 miles, leading to burning thighs as one maneuvers around the snow-covered evergreens. However, the adventure is not to be missed. The experience was so great that the two younger members of the trio, Bob M. and Dave B., opted to repeat it the next day with Betty Lawrence's grandson J.P. and PVS newcomers John Seabold and Donna Hambric.



The 3 begin Longshot; Mt. Sopris (12,953 feet) in background.

The newly accessible Funnel under the Elk Camp gondola lured the less adventuresome, though valiant skiers. Longtime PVSers Kirk Burns and Sheldon Drews were spotted there, among others. One day Dave DeVilbiss and Carolyn shepherded a group to nearby Aspen Highlands for vigorous runs from top to bottom of those nearly as challenging--if far fewer--slopes. The views from the top, on the balcony behind the Ski Patrol cabin, were extraordinary, with the Maroon Bells, Pyramid Mountain, and the Highland Bowl in full splendor.

Alas, as PVSers already know from Jan Marx's email on the day it happened, Polli Brunelli fractured the back of her right tibia in a run-in with an icy spot on the lower Green Cabin trail. (In 2003 she'd injured an arm and shoulder on the upper Green Cabin.) Just hours later, she had arthroscopic surgery performed by the head of Aspen Hospital's orthopedic department, who happened to be an expert in Polli's rare type of "tibia plateau fracture." The very next day, husband John reported, she was up and doing therapy, equipped only with a brace and not a cast. Although Polli and John had to delay their flight home a day beyond the main group's return, the report as we go to press is that she's doing fine--all things considered.

Here's hoping for her speedy recovery!



Others of our intrepid skiers were luckier. John Burgess reports that on his first day out he was saved from possible injury by his just-acquired Charlie Huggins's \$17 ski helmet. Thus he was fit to function as photographer for the traditional group photo a few mornings later. Fred Leonhardt, it can be reported, has also acquired a helmet--and Barbara, it is rumored, has one on order.

in historic Aspen which was celebrating its 50th year of "Cavalcade," a feisty, topical dinner musical, along with good food. Mike Hatanaka led pals to a fine Japanese restaurant he'd discovered also in Aspen. Back at the Chalet, the Brunellis--before Polli's accident--introduced gamesters to an intriguing "Mexican Train" version of dominoes; Dave DeVilbiss made sure it was on offer the next evening. Then there were the daily hot tubs, and Carolyn's and Dave's two convivial Après Ski's as well as the Mountain Chalet's weekly après ski party. The welcome party at the Chalet was followed by a group dinner with juicy steaks at the Village Steakhouse. And then the grand finale: cocktails and a lavish dinner buffet at the nearby Stonebridge Inn, as last year: but in the new Columbine Room party quarters.



Playing Mexican Train

Carolyn and Dave are to be congratulated for organizing this second of their splendid Snowmass PVS trips. And congratulations to them for a happy follow-up. Having met through PVS, they are to be married in May! Luckily for us, they say they'd be willing to take on Snowmass a third time in 2008. So long as it happens at our beloved Mountain Chalet. As we left, it was reported that the 40-year-old Chalet was about to be acquired by a development group that's already taken over most of the next-door Snowmass Mall. But the Chalet's efficient general manager, Mary Harris, assured us and the Aspen Daily News that "we'll stay the same for at least the next two years."



Our pre-trip party took place January 6, again at Ruth Powers' grand Potomac-view home in McLean. The post-trip party is set for March 10, again at Jean Van der Tak's wood-side Sears bungalow in DC's Cleveland Park.



by Ellen Burgess

We have a fair maiden in our midst who took up skiing at the tender age of 40. She was a quick study, a credit to her western 'no nonsense' background which has held her in good stead some 50 years later. She has skied all over the Americas and Europe with many of us, and what a beautiful skier she still is today - - and ever so fast too!

Last weekend her nephew, Steve, who lives in Denver, drove up with his wife Kathy and their 3 children, Kate, David and Jenny to celebrate her birthday and ski with "Aunt Alice." They are all very accomplished skiers and Alice had no trouble keeping up with her younger relatives down the trails from the top of Snowmass.

Bob Marx informed the group at our last dinner that Alice was probably the oldest active PVS skier. To know and to ski with Alice Swalm is truly a delight! Our very best wishes on your 90th birthday - we wish you many more - maybe even to number 101!!?





THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley

Wow, after a warm December and an even warmer first half of January, we now, finally, have a real winter. And it's too damn cold! I am ready for spring.

This is the 28th year of the Knee. Initially my logo was a knee with a brace on it. But 20 years ago this month, then VEEP, now TOOT editor, Janet Marx designed this logo. It's based on the Ski Patrol Manual's instructions "How to Tie One on the Knee." In the far east it's "How to Taiwan on..." The particular tie is called the Bunch Braid E. Isn't that really more than you ever wanted to know about a logo? BTW (that's By The Way for those of you who don't text message), only since the start of the year has the logo been in **color**—for those getting TOOT electronically. I do like **color**.

I don't have a lot of gossip, so this column may be a little brief. Jockey also has a little brief. Well, here goes...

From the Knee's Not Keeping Their Cool Department: Sally Finan and George Welti spent the end of January on an Eco-Tour to Costa Rica. The rest of us are "green" with envy.

Melissa FitzGerald thought she was the only PVSer to have been skiing at Crystal Mountain, near Seattle. Melissa, you are wrong, Shirley Rettig skied there a decade ago.

Betty Lawrence was really pleased to have found her missing-for-two-years Bogner parka. It had been used effectively to disguise Betty's Blue Knob mantle piece to look like an Alaskan moose head!

A 20-year PVS quest ended at PVS's January meeting. Nancy McKinley bought the last, highly sought-after (?) PVS headband. At our previous meeting 4 headbands were sold—all to guys named Dave. No one has ever been detected wearing one of the headbands!

It was a great Christmas season for Sue Lyon. She sold her home and moved into a nearby adult community. Sue is now an adult!

Ski area news. Do you know which ski area is the largest in the US? No, it's not Whistler—that's in Canada. Most would guess Vail with its 5,289 skiable acres. But, now Montana's Big Sky and the nation's newest

destination resort, four-year-old Moonlight Basin, (opposite side of Lone Mountain from Big Sky) have combined lift tickets and lift systems. Together they have 5,512 skiable acres, and a mere 350,000 skier days, vs. Vail's 1.5 million.

According to Bob McNeill, Arapahoe or A-Basin, is moving toward the biggest expansion in its 60-year history, with a sixth chairlift, a new restaurant and a near doubling in acreage, all approved by the Forest Service. A-Basin is now a "basic" area with a steep mountain, a way to get to the top, and beer and chili at the bottom in a lodge unchanged since the 1960s, when the owners bought it as military surplus. The A-frame building was unusual even then, having been used to test missile engines. It's an A-Basin symbol. Now, this will likely change.

A very special tip of the Ol' Kneecap to Alice Swalm. At a non-PVS surprise birthday party, Alice was asked about age. She quoted fashion doyenne, Helen Rubenstein. "A woman should never reveal her age unless she is 90." "So", said Alice, "I can now reveal my age." The next week our newest nonagenarian headed off with PVS to ski at Snowmass. Right on!

The Knee recalls skiing with Alice several years ago at Park City (alright, maybe it was several decades ago). She had new 190 cm K-2 5500 skis with their distinctive **red**, white and **blue** pattern. And on them Alice was faster than anybody else on the mountain. Kneat!

The Knee asked Alice Swalm for the secret of her longevity. She quickly replied "Aqua Fresh toothpaste - I brush with it at least once a week, always to the left on the uppers and to the right on the lowers." Alice also uses Aqua Fresh on her skis. "The distinctive **green** and **red** pattern is like racing stripes."

New members Bruno and Joanna Walker are just back from great skiing over Christmas week at Park City. That's much better than Bruno did when he visited his Austrian home over Thanksgiving. There was no skiing whatsoever due to lack of snow. Bummer.

Ubiquitous PVS pre-PVS: While chatting, Liz Triau and Reg Heitchue discovered that while Reg was in school at RPI, Liz visited his frat house. That's all there is, nothing juicier.

TOOT editor, Jan Marx, wonders why in 1986 12 ski shops held ski swaps. Today there are few. Two reasons for this, Jan, either Global Warming or the Republicans. Or there's only one reason if the Republicans are responsible for Global Warming. The Knee offers another possibility: too much Aqua Fresh toothpaste. 13

Calendar

Feb	7	Wed	Zoo Walk - Asia Trail with Betty Byrne
Feb	13-15		Mid-week Ski at Blue Knob
Feb	18	Sun	Sun Peaks pre-trip Party, 4:30 PM at McKinley's
Feb	20	Tue	Monthly Meeting at Beale's
Feb	28	WED	ExCom at Schwartzbard's
Mar	10	Sat	Snowmass Post Trip Party at Van der Tak's; 3-6:00 PM
Mar	18	Sun	STC meeting with potential ski trip leaders; location/time to be announced
Mar	20	Tue	Monthly Meeting at Warren-Boulton's/Jevcak's
Mar	27	Tue	ExCom at Abraham's
April	13-15		Williamsburg Weekend
May	13	Sun	Sun Peaks post-trip Party



Ski Trip Calendar 2007-----Western, Euro, South America)

Feb	3-10/07	<u>Big Sky</u> (PVS/BRSC M. Rine/J. Marx)
Mar	3-11/07	<u>Sun Peaks</u> (Ray/Nancy McKinley)
Mar	3-10/07	<u>Schladming</u> (PVS/BRSC G. Flake/J. Smith) <i>(Feb 26-Mar 3 Athens: Mar 10-13 Vienna)</i>
Aug	9-25/07	<u>Las Leñas</u> , Argentina (Ray/Nancy McKinley) <i>(Aug 18-21/07 Buenos Aires: Aug 21-25 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)</i>



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