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*Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.*  
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

DECEMBER 2015

[www.pvskiers.org](http://www.pvskiers.org)

[info@pvskiers.org](mailto:info@pvskiers.org)

*President's Message:*

Happy Holidays to All!

Here we are, after an absolutely amazing Jubilee gala at the "Top of the Town." It was a celebration worthy of the many members who have grown this club for the past 50 years, and our friendships. My thanks to Rosemary Schwartzbard and the Jubilee Committee for "the best" reunion event we have had, as well as to all the members, past and present, who came to share the memories.

We continue with two other "traditions": in November we made our annual visit to Ski Center to learn about the new developments in ski equipment, with Brian Eardley's lively demonstrations, and in December we will return to the Hotalings' beautiful home for our annual holiday party. And ski season is beginning, with snow out West.

On a sadder note, we grieve the loss of our ExCom member Celia Chen, who left us most unexpectedly this month (Obit, page 13). Celia and her husband George Birnbaum joined PVS with other Capital Golden Skiers in 2013. Celia quickly brought her energy and many talents to benefit the club. She hosted two club meetings at her Leisure World condo, one in the midst of a snowstorm and another time on short notice to help out in an emergency circumstance. Celia was famous for her Wonton Cooking class event, and co-led the Chesapeake Bay Excursion to Hart-Miller Island. We have heard many tales about her various creative skills, including the hand-sewn lightweight slacks that she crafted during the Cortina Eurofest trip last year, to the amazement of everyone.

See special reminiscences about Celia by PVS Members at the bottom of page 2.

Celia was a current member of ExCom, and leaves a vacancy that the Club must now fill. We will miss her very much, and send our condolences to her husband, George Birnbaum, as well as to her family.

*--Carolyn*

*December General Meeting – Holiday Party*

*December 15, 2015, 7:30 PM*

*At the home of John & Blanca Hotaling*

*2807 North Beechwood Circle*

*Arlington, VA 22207-5225*

*703-525-4092, jhotaling@me.com*

Bring a dessert or appetizer:

A-K surname, dessert; L-Z surname, appetizer

\$3.00/PVS Member

Directions, page 2

*Directions to the **Holiday Party** at the Hotelings --*

**2807 N. Beechwood Circle** is in north Arlington off of Military Road. To drive to Military Road from the beltway (from either direction), take the George Washington Parkway toward Washington. Take the Chain Bridge exit (Rt. 123N) and merge onto Chain Bridge Road. The road will dead end with Chain Bridge on the left and Glebe Road to the right. Turn right on Glebe Road and, near the top of the first hill, follow signs to Military Road, a right exit (you will be on N. Richmond Street), take a left on North Old Glebe Road and then another left onto Military Road. Proceed about 1.2 miles and turn left onto N. Beechwood Circle. Follow the same directions from Glebe Road if crossing Chain Bridge.

If coming **from the south**, you may reach Military Road from the George Washington Parkway going north, Glebe Road going north, or Lee Highway going west. From the GW Parkway, take the Spout Run exit; take a right at the light onto Lorcom Lane, take a right at the 2nd light onto Military Road. Proceed about 1.2 miles and turn right onto N. Beechwood Circle. From Lee Highway, turn right onto Military Road, proceed about 1.3 miles, and turn right onto N. Beechwood Circle. From Glebe Road, go north almost to Chain Bridge. Exit right onto Military Road and proceed about 1.1 miles and turn left onto N. Beechwood Circle.

The house is the **second driveway on the left** (do not go into the circle). John and Blanca ask that the **driveway be reserved for handicapped and walking impaired guests. Others should park on Military Road or Beechwood Circle and walk up the driveway.** John cell: 703-867-4900 and Blanca cell: 703-585-4047

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Reminiscence by Marianne Sponis

When Celia broke her leg on a ski trip to Andorra, she was amazingly positive despite the pain. She participated in her recovery process at the hospital, telling doctors what medication she could safely take and following directions of the competent staff. Insurance eventually took care of all her expenses, but the experience caused Andorra to be her last ski trip. Undaunted, she delved more deeply into jewelry-making, sponsoring activities and hosting meetings for our club. Her energetic spirit will be long remembered.

Reminiscence by Ellie Thayer

Celia Chen was amazing. She dove right into the deep end of PVS culture and started doing laps. She organized and led outings, including hosting a dumpling class in her home. It was so much fun and ended with us lucky students enjoying her homemade limoncello. I was greatly amused (in an awestruck way) when she wrote in her profile that she chose physics as her undergraduate major “to collect an easy BA.” I will miss Celia because of her enthusiasm, easy laugh, zest for life, and joining spirit.





The Blue Ridge Ski Council (BRSC) met at Liberty Mountain Resort and Conference Center in October. It was the weekend of Liberty Mountain's Fall Festival; there was a lot of activity, including a ski swap, ski clothing sale, live entertainment and lift rides.

Being at a ski resort even without snow is fun! The Council meets two times a year and representatives of each club attend. Inge Lesjak, Dick

Schwartzbard and I attended. BRSC usually plans two trips each year: a



Western Carnival in the western US or Canada and Eurofest in one of the major European ski areas. This year they have added an Eastern Winterfest, which will be at Lake Placid.

The 2016 Western Carnival in Snowbird, Utah, has nine clubs participating. Over 235 people have signed up. Seven clubs are participating in Eurofest at Madonna di Campiglio, Italy.

During the meetings, the representatives vote on future ski destinations and select the tour operators who arrange the trips. The following trips were selected: 2017 Eurofest, Grindelwald, Switzerland with tour operator Group Trips Unlimited and 2017 Western Carnival, Breckenridge, Colorado (February 4-11) with tour operator Sports America Tours.

### **Spring 2016 Ski Show**

The Paul Weber Spring Ski Show <<http://www.prwtravelshows.com/DC.htm>> will be on Friday evening, April 29, 2016 at the Marriott Tysons Corner. Mark your calendars.

### **Ship Your Skis**

We all know what a hassle it is to carry skis with us. BRSC has made arrangement for easy ski shipping. Check out: <<http://skicouncil.shipskis.com>> for information. Click on "How it works". The cost is \$59 one way for a single ski bag and \$79 for a double. Be sure to use the code: **BlueRidge2016** for a \$5 discount. You can sign up online and your skis will be picked up at your home and sent to the resort either by FedEx or UPS.



### **Ski Opportunities**

If you have not yet signed up for a PVS club ski trip, please read the fliers and sign up as soon as possible. There may still be spaces available!!! Also, plan on going to Whitetail Resort for the Ski Center Ski Demo Day on Friday, January 8, 2016 <[www.skicenter.com/DemoDay.aspx](http://www.skicenter.com/DemoDay.aspx)>.

*--Rosemary Schwartzbard, [rosemaryschw@gmail.com](mailto:rosemaryschw@gmail.com)*

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## **VAIL (DECEMBER 2015)**

**THE BEST OF TIMES SKI CLUB** is going back to the VAIL MARRIOTT MOUNTAIN RESORT – December 8-16, 2015. Lodge room per person, double: \$805.00. Does not include air or lift ticket but does include three happy hours and farewell dinner at the Left Bank plus ski valet!

In March 2016, BOT is going to Aspen.

**Questions and reservations:** Eileen Fishkin, [732-617-2438](tel:732-617-2438)

**See link for more detailed information:** <[www.bestoftimeskiclub.org](http://www.bestoftimeskiclub.org)>skitrips

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# Potomac Valley Skiers

## 2016 Snowmass, Colorado Ski Trip

Wednesday, January 13–Wednesday, January 20

### Trip Details

**There still may be space available. Please check with the trip leader. See the bottom of this flyer for pre-trip information.** We will again be staying [slope-side](#) at the Snowmass Mountain Chalet (SMC), just below the Snowmass Mall and from where you can ski directly to the lifts. Check the web site at [mountainchalet.com](#). Airfare is no longer available with the package. Included is: a 5-day lift ticket ([good for all four ski areas in the Aspen complex, free shuttle bus](#)) with option for extra days; 7 nights lodging (double occupancy); daily breakfasts; daily soup lunch; a welcome wine & cheese party, an “all guest” hotel sponsored party, a “pizza” party and a farewell group dinner to celebrate our trip. Trip insurance is available through [Encompasse.com](#) and is [highly suggested](#). Additional nights at Snowmass are an option. For trail information check [aspensnowmass.com](#).

### Costs:

		<u>Price</u>
Full Snowmass Package; no air		\$1520
Single Supplement	add	\$ 935
Non-skiers	subtract	\$ 287
Add extra ski days	add	\$ 79 per day

**NOTE:** The Silver Escape Pass has been discontinued. The Premier pass is available for skiers 70 and older for \$449 and becomes reasonably priced if you plan to ski 8 or more days.

### Payment Schedule:

**Final payment is due now.**

**To sign up, please send these forms, available on the PVS web site:**

- (1) the [Application form](#) <<http://pvskiers.org/Trips/Snowmass2016.pdf>>-- one per person or one per couple residing at the same address
- (2) your [payment due](#), and
- (3) the [signed Waiver of Liability Agreement](#) <<http://pvskiers.org/Trips/Snowmass2016.pdf>> by each party taking the trip to Marianne Sponis at 3513 Quebec St NW, Washington, DC 20016 (put [PVS Snowmass 2016](#) on the check memo line).

**For more information, please call Marianne Sponis at 202-363-5250 or 301-332-3039 cell; or, via email at [Marianne.sponis@gmail.com](mailto:Marianne.sponis@gmail.com). The co-leader is Nancy Pigman at 202-363-5252**

**Thank you skiers!**

### **Pre-Snowmass Get Together....**

For skiers in the local area, there will be a pre-trip “get-together” to meet other trip participants, pick up ski tickets and review plans for the trip.

**Tuesday, January 5, 2016  
2:00-4:00 p.m.**

**3513 Quebec Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016**

For those unable to attend, tickets will be available in Snowmass on Wednesday, January 13, at the lodge.  
For skiers arriving early in Snowmass, tickets can be mailed to you. [Please let Marianne know!](#)



**SNOWBIRD, UTAH  
BRSC WESTERN CARNIVAL  
January 30 - February 6, 2016**



Join us for the BRSC Western Carnival and stay at the beautiful CLIFF LODGE in Snowbird, Utah. This is a hotel with all amenities: swimming pools, multiple hot tubs, many restaurants, the renowned Cliff Spa and, most important, ski-in, ski-out. It has 2,500 skiable acres, 3,240' vertical drop, and usually 500" of annual snowfall.

The trip will include:

- Round trip airfare (or just land package); transportation to and from hotel;
- 7 nights lodging double occupancy at Cliff Lodge; ski-in/ski-out;
- 4 dinner events (hotel, BRSC, PVS, and pre-trip party);
- Après ski events; option to go to Salt Lake City to see Mormon Tabernacle Choir;
- Snowbird lift tickets, with optional Alta ticket upgrade (no snow boarders at Alta);
- Non-skiers: Cliff Spa \$270 credit; Daily transportation available to Salt Lake City.

Costs:

Full Snowbird Package: \$1,970 Double Occupancy; Land Only: \$1,420 Per-Person  
Single Supplement: \$750; Alta Ski Upgrade; \$117; Non-ski Spa Credit: \$270

Payments Per-Person	Deposit	Aug 1	Sep 1	Oct 1	Nov 15	Total
Land Only	\$250	\$200	\$300	\$300	\$370	\$1,420
Land & Air	\$250	\$200	\$450	\$500	\$570	\$1,970

Send to: Michael Strand, 5225 Pooks Hill Road, #1412N, Bethesda, MD 20814  
For more information contact Mike and Eloise Strand: 240-800-4194 or [hrdyna@aol.com](mailto:hrdyna@aol.com)

**APPLICATION FORM**

Potomac Valley Skiers Trip to Snowbird, Utah, January 30 to February 6, 2016

Name (Print both names, if a couple, as on your Official ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact & Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check All That Apply:

- Land & Air;  Land Only;  Alta Ski Upgrade;  Single Supplement;  Non-Ski Spa Credit

*come and travel with us* to Madonna di Campiglio, Italia

Blue Ridge Ski Council Eurofest 2016

Visit Madonna via webcam: <http://www.funiviecampiglio.it/en/webcam>

...there's still time to sign up!

Options:	A. February 26 - March 6, 2016	Madonna only + last night in Venice	\$2,550
	B. February 23 - March 5, 2016	<b>3 days Florence</b> + 7 days Madonna	\$3,550
	C. February 26 - March 8, 2016	Madonna + 3 days in Venice-Mestre	\$2,800

Features to be Included for Skiing and/or Sightseeing:

- Round trip airfare /Round trip luxury charter coach from the airport to the hotel.
- At Madonna: 7 nights lodging, double occupancy at the 4-star Hotel Carlo Magno, ski-in ski-out party headquarters with breakfast buffet, and full dinner daily.
- Service charge, local tax and VAT are included.
- Trip Insurance with TravelSafe. Color-coded baggage tags, neck valets.
- Welcome Party: Refreshments, familiarization of ski areas, town and logistics.
- Mid week Après Ski Party and DJ for dancing on Thursday night after dinner.
- Optional day trips and trip extension are available at your choice.

Optional pre-ski-trip to Florence - Feb 23-27: includes three nights at the 4-Star-Plus Hotel Plaza-Lucchesi with daily full buffet breakfast. Located on the right bank of the Arno River, between Santa Croce Place and Piazzale Michelangelo.

Optional post-ski-trip to Venice 1 night at HOTEL PLAZA at **Venice-Mestre \*\*\*\*** w/breakfast. This hotel is located across from bus- and train station with 10 min. rides to Venice Island.

*Please note: Vaporetto tickets in Venice ARE NOT included in price. There are different multi day vaporetto tickets to consider. Vaporetto tickets can be purchased at the kiosks at the airport on arrival by credit card.*

**Planned Flight Itinerary with Air France from Washington Dulles via Paris to Venice. Connections from and to other US cities are available.**

**SKI RENTAL, SKI SCHOOL and GUIDES** – booking available in the hotel.

The cost of a 3-day Superskirama SKI-PASS with access to 380 km of slopes is approx. Euro 125 for 3 days.

[Contact Inge Lesjak, Lesjak.inge@gmail.com](mailto:Lesjak.inge@gmail.com), or call 703-869-7248 c, for more detailed information.

# Members' Corner



J. David Warthen, Jr.  
[dwarthen@verizon.net](mailto:dwarthen@verizon.net)

## Merry Christmas & Happy Hanukkah!!!

As 2015 is drawing to a close, we thank God for the Love, Joy, and Peace that we are blessed with in our beloved USA. All around the world, we are seeing the hand of evil taking innocent lives and shudder to think about what is next. Even within our own borders, there is a small percentage of the misguided who wish to destroy. However, in the midst of all the turmoil in the world and changing administrations, we have our families, we have our safety, we have the blessing of worshipping as so led, and we have the privilege of congregating as we so wish.



The gathering together of PVS Members, on November 1 at The Top of the Town in Arlington, to celebrate 50 years of existence demonstrates a half-century of freedom to socialize unhindered with friends. And, celebrate we did. Kudos to all who planned, organized, and carried out such a lovely event.

It has been a good year, and I have enjoyed serving PVS for yet another year as a member of the TOOT Staff and as Membership Records Chair.

Happy New Year to all!

--D. Warthen

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## Thanks to:

- TOOT Coordinator - E. Thayer
- TOOT USPS (3) – C. Eddy, B. Leonhardt, & J. Read
- TOOT Layout Editor/December & Electronic TOOT

–D. Warthen

## Roster Changes (notify-[dwarthen@verizon.net](mailto:dwarthen@verizon.net))

- Trudy Santoro - [trusan31@gmail.com](mailto:trusan31@gmail.com) (new e-mail)

## Ski Season Is About to Begin:

Are stirrings within beginning to call you to the slopes? Are you dreaming of the rush down corduroy-groomed intermediates? Are you looking at ski magazines after having attended the November PVS meeting at the Ski Center of Washington to hear Brian Eardley's report on the latest ski equipment? Now is the time to get one's ski equipment and clothing in tip-top shape for the 2016 season.

It's not too late to sign up for one or more domestic or international ski trips. As advertised, PVS is offering our favorite domestic trip to Snowmass, CO. We are also offering in conjunction with BRSC, a trip to Snowbird, UT and the international trip to Madonna di Campiglio in Italy. All are varied and inviting. So, make a choice and jump in for fun and fellowship to brighten your winter months. If you are not able to ski anymore, go on the trips anyway just to take in the beautiful scenery and get moving. There are many side outings on these trips besides skiing for all to enjoy.

As we mature (I don't use the 'a' word or the 'o' word), we can still meet the challenges of a wonderful sport if we prepare ahead of time for that kind of exercise. Regular exercise at a gym to strengthen muscles, bones, and the cardiovascular system is excellent preparation. Other forms of exercise such as swimming or running/walking are also great to maintain flexibility, along with bicycle riding and canoeing or kayaking. The saying "use it or lose it" has much validity when it comes to maturing gracefully.

We hope that you can join us on the slopes this coming season. It is a great way to spend the dark winter months and brighten your horizons with other like-minded individuals.

## Celia Chen:

The Members' Corner will sorely miss Celia's presence as a member of PVS. She had been a member for only 2 years and a former member of CGS, but her absence will be profound. She was not only an ExCom Board Member, but also a skier who began the latter endeavor at age 60. She also opened her home to PVS Members for meetings, where she displayed her culinary abilities. (Obit, page 13)

At her funeral, I also met a long-time colleague who was acquainted with her lapidary skills, etc. Celia's undergraduate degree was in Physics, and she had earned a Ph.D. in Biochemistry.

## SHANGRI-LA AT THE *TOP OF THE TOWN* PVS Celebrates 50 Years on November 1, 2015

Imagine this! Take the elevator to the 12th floor and enter a beautiful room with white linen tables set for 100 people with a view that extends the entire length of the dining room and takes your breath away. There was a view of Washington at its finest – the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, the Kennedy Center, the parade of planes on their way to National Airport, and an array of beautiful city lights. And, to further enhance the experience of the 50th Jubilee, we ventured out on the balcony to enjoy our cocktails (the sky was the limit at the open bar) and appetizers (seared tuna on crisp potato wafers, creamy blue cheese with thinly sliced pears and clover honey on brioche, and Argentinean beef spoons with chimichurri sauce) with the stars twinkling above us, all the while enjoying great conversation with the other guests. On November 1, the Top of the Town was the place to be seen and heard.

Beautiful candle centerpieces gave a nostalgic hue to each table. Each of the ten tables was identified by a ski destination where the club had gone over the past 50 years. My table was “Lake Louise” and “Sun Valley” was nearby. Each place setting included a memento Jubilee wine glass.

The buffet dinner was elegant in its presentation and tastiness. We enjoyed a wonderful baby spinach salad, rolls, Tuscan chicken breast with a sauce of capers, tomatoes, olives and rosemary, Caribbean salmon marinated in orange juice and tropical spices, grilled and roasted Tuscan vegetables, and herbed orzo with red and yellow pepper confetti. A virtual and real feast!

Carolyn **DeVilbiss**, our President, welcomed us to this marvelous celebration marking 50 years of Potomac Valley Skiers - a club that has stood the test of time. Marianne **Soponis** offered us insight into the Capital Golden Skiers history and welcome assimilation into the PVS family. Ray **McKinley**, as expected, entertained us with his apt ability to encompass all that is PVS: great trips, good times, and remarkable stories. Ray explained how we actually got the name PVS . . . you will have to ask him if you weren't there.

It was a VERY special evening with everyone in his or her finest attire. Special mention was made of those PVSers who made the trip from far-away places: Susan and David **Payne** from Florida, Dottie **Villers** from North Carolina, Bob **McNeill** from New Hampshire, Kathy **Quinden** and Bill **Hager** from Nevada, and Jon **Wechsler** and Jacques **Hadler** from New York. Four charter members were in attendance: Larry **Pease**, Pat **Cope**, Nancy **Monacelli**, and Susan **Brown**. There were 12 past and present presidents (PVS and CGS) gracing the occasion. Mary Ellena **Ward** provided a continuing slide show presentation, complete with captions identifying persons, places, and dates, of more than 400 photos covering decades and decades of PVS events. Aaron **Schwartzbard** performed double duty. He attended the Jubilee as a member of PVS and also served as an unofficial photographer with an official-looking camera.

Dancing followed the elegant dinner and many of us embraced the opportunity to get out on the dance floor and “let it be.” Margaret **Wyckoff** still has “it” as she showed off her moves, as did a crowded dance floor of enthusiastic and happy boppers. We saw everything from the bump to the twist and much more!!!

Dessert and coffee were served with artfully decorated cakes: white cake filled with chocolate mousse or chocolate cake filled with cream cheese mousse to celebrate the end of this fantastic evening.

Rosemary **Schwartzbard**, Marianne **Soponis**, Carolyn **DeVilbiss**, Nancy **McKinley**, Jan **Marx**, Eloise **Strand**, Inge **Lesjak**, and Ray **McKinley** deserve the finest kudos for their tireless pursuits in making this 50th Potomac Valley Skiers Jubilee (founded on November 7, 1965) a night to remember. From the venue to the delectable dinner, the music and dancing, the opportunity to visit and be with so many wonderful people, and the smiles and laughter that permeated the evening, this committee made the celebration a night we will never forget!



*Submitted by: Louann Eadie*

Many thanks to Aaron **Schwartzbard** for the various pictures, which he took to commemorate the 50-year celebration:

*Jubilee celebration of PVS at  
The Top of The Town >>*



*<< Ten elegant tables set for PVS members &  
guests overlooking Washington DC*



*Carolyn DeVilbiss, President of PVS, officiates at  
the Jubilee celebration >>*



*<< Linda Sloan, Louann Eadie, Rosemary  
Schwartzbard, Ellie Thayer, & Margaret  
Wyckoff*



*Rosemary Schwartzbard, Polli & John  
Brunellii, & Jim Slack >>*



(The rest of Aaron's numerous, high-resolution pictures may be viewed at [http://aaronpics.com/Jubilee/.](http://aaronpics.com/Jubilee/))

General Meeting at the Ski Center, November 17, 2015



A lively group of about 22 PVS members (including one guest, Terry Michel, a friend of Rosemary Schwartzbard) attended the annual November Ski Center meeting to find out what new equipment and gear we need to put on our wish lists this year. Brian Eardley has been telling us about the new and exciting happenings in ski equipment for many, many years, and we are very appreciative of the willingness of Brian and the Ski Center to host this event.

Carolyn DeVilbiss conducted a short business meeting, noting that about 20 PVS members attended the memorial service for Celia Chen. We are all very saddened by the untimely loss of Celia. Carolyn also recognized and thanked the members of the Jubilee committee who worked so hard to put on a fabulous anniversary event. Rosemary Schwartzbard noted that it is snowing in the west, and that there are still openings for the Snowmass trip.

Brian first showed us a number of new innovations in ski gear. In particular, the Ski Center is selling a very lightweight (seven pounds) rolling double ski bag, which rolls up to the size of a tiny sleeping bag. This item sells for about \$220. There is

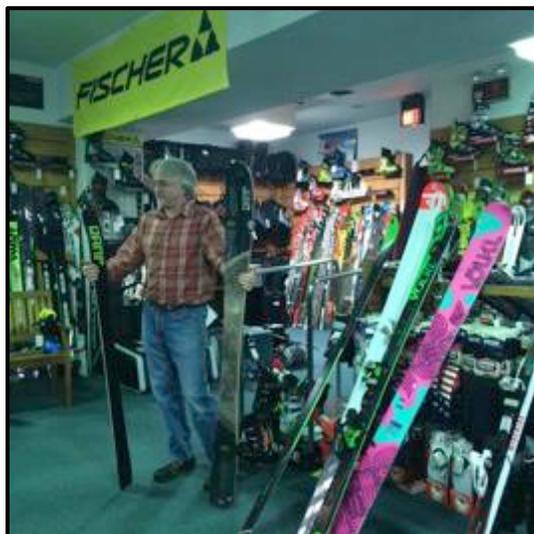


also a new Leki pole that collapses into three pieces and fits into a little bag (price about \$150). In the area of goggles, there is a new goggle that can change lenses and has a magnetic release accessed by a button on the top of the goggle.

One can also purchase a goggle with an almost flush built-in camera. Brian also noted that there was a new goggle (not yet available in the store) with a USB battery that regulates the temperature inside the goggle and prevents fogging. Helmets are also undergoing some technological changes, for example, there are now helmets with attached goggles, and new multi-directional helmets.



Brian strongly recommended boot heaters to deal with the colder feet that often come with aging. He says there is no reason today for skiers to have cold feet. The Ski Center is selling a new boot heater with a smaller battery (about half the size of previous batteries), which is much lighter and less obtrusive. These heaters apparently provide about the same level of heat as the older models. The heaters will run for about 8 hours on the low setting. One option for a skier with very cold feet is to purchase a second set of batteries and replace the batteries midday.



Skiers with cold feet also have the option of buying electric socks with a lithium ion battery. These socks are made of merino wool and have the battery underneath the foot. Advantages of these socks are that the skier does not feel the wire and that the socks do not change the fit of the boot. The only downside (apart from the price of about \$300) is that they have to be washed carefully (after removing the battery) in a special washing bag. There are also a number of boots (at this point just intermediate level boots) that have built in batteries.





The trend in skis and boots is to go lighter. This is particularly the case with backcountry skiing, where there is also more versatility in bindings. The newer technologies in backcountry skiing are filtering in to Alpine skiing, such as bindings that fit both alpine and “walk to ride.” Brian says that, although it is not happening yet, there will eventually be boots that have both alpine and “walk to ride” settings.

Quite a number of boot manufacturers, such as Fischer, Salomon, and Atomic, are offering boots with a custom moldable shell. A company called “Full Tilt” has a new moldable boot with a very warm liner. Head also has a new boot available. There are still no rear entry boots available on the market. Boots are also becoming more upright. Brian commented that the upright boots are easier to ski and less fatiguing. Skis are less responsive, according to Brian, if the boots are tilted too far forward. He also noted that the ability to flex the ankles disintegrates with age – I am afraid I am seeing a trend here. However, overall, the newer equipment has the benefit of allowing the older skiers to ski with less effort and fatigue.

Another trend in skis is the use of carbon fiber layers. Volkl has a new carbon fiber ski that is thinner and much lighter than last year’s model. This ski also has a device known as UVO (ultimate vibration object), located a little below the tip of the ski, with the purpose of dampening vibrations. Brian noted that Volkl skis have always been a little chatter. He commented that the smoothness of a ski is an important part of the ski design.

According to Brian, a carving ski should be short, with a waist right in the middle of the 80-90 mm range. Powder skis, on the other hand, should be longer to allow the skier to maintain balance; these skis have a wider waist. Most carving skis have a rockered tip and a flatter tail; powder skis are often double rockered.

Brian strongly recommends Stockli skis, which are well designed and built, with a resulting smoothness and lack of chatter. They come in a variety of widths and sidecuts. Overall, Brian says there are many good skis on the market. He noted that a domestic ski company called “RAMP,” located in Park City, makes an easy turning intermediate ski. There are very few independent ski companies in the US making high quality skis.



For hikers, Fischer has developed a new skin to put on the bottom of skis. These skins, unlike previous versions, do not absorb water when they get wet.

Finally, another good bit of news for older skiers – the snowboard business is disintegrating. Brian claims that the sport has lost its sheen for a number of reasons: (1) manipulating a snowboard is inherently difficult; (2) the sport is virtually impossible for anyone who is not young; and (3) it is difficult for snowboarders and skiers to ski together in a group. He stated that Burton, which has half of the snowboard market, has laid off half of its employees because of the lack of sales.

If you would like to demo any of the new skis, the Ski Center is having a demo day at Whitetail on Friday, January 8, 2016.



*Dave & his brother Dave*

*--Cara Jablon*



# THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley  
[RaysKnee@gmail.com](mailto:RaysKnee@gmail.com)

Overwhelmed isn't something that the **Knee** usually feels. Indeed, I'm rarely even overwhelmed. However, I was overwhelmed by our 50-year golden Jubilee celebration in early November. The location, atop the most spectacular building in Rosslyn, with views of all of DC was superb and the food and drinks were superb. The presentations were superb. And with 100 attendees, it was the largest PVS event ever. A tip of the ol' **Knee** cap to Rosemary Schwartzbard and her committee who made it all happen seamlessly. The Jubilee Committee will soon start the planning on our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary party scheduled for November 2065. Right on!

Aside from it being PVS' fiftieth anniversary, another PVS couple is celebrating 50 years. Ruth and Fred Healey first met 50 years ago on the ski slopes in Austria. Right on!

Overheard from Herb Bennett, "You can only do 3-4 parallel turns on a muddy ski track and live to tell about it."

I get three different ski magazines (all right, they aren't really that different). I have a pet peeve. In the center of the magazine, if an article is continued on page 196, I get to p 195 then suddenly it's p 1E, 2E etc. up to perhaps p 46E. Then back to the rest of the magazine and story. These "E" pages, mostly ads extolling Eastern Skiing (an oxymoron), tell of the wonders of "skiing" at Bromley and Great Gorge. Who cares? Don't editors understand the fundamental concept of numbering? Letters went out as numbers with the Romans. And even the Romans didn't use "E." Nor did the Romans ski in the East!

Good health news. After 6 weeks of recovery from esophageal cancer surgery and therapy, Bill Sweeney is now back home recovering. Bill's health is improving daily. And Betty Lawrence is recovering at home and finally gaining weight after abdominal surgery. At one point, Betty was down to a mere 80 lbs.

Heard on a freezing ski lift at one of the major luxury ski areas on the East Coast "You really have to be quite well off to make yourself

quite so miserable on an expensive Eastern vacation!"

Jacques Hadler, looking his usual dapper self, attended Jubilee by coming down from the Webb Institute for Naval Architecture in New York. At the Institute, they apparently are designing u**Knee**que belly buttons!

According to former president Dottie Villers, the epitome of an oxymoron is the words "fresh powder" and "Ski Liberty."

Joe Jevcak is preparing for a cruise that will take him most of the way around the world. It will include a stop at Sharm el Sheikh.

According to Brian Eardley, the snowboard business is in disarray. As today's considerably older snowboarders age, they do not convert to regular skis. They stop skiing altogether. And there just are not enough new potential boarders to fill the queue. Pity.



*The Base at Ski Liberty is rapidly growing - they plan to open soon.*

Setting the record straight – despite the fact that multiple PVSers are trying to make the **Knee** older and more disheveled than he is, I didn't begin in 1974 but in 1979. So the **Knee** will soon be entering its 38<sup>th</sup> year and remains as feisty as ever.

Though diminishing in numbers, snowboarders continue to put up a fight. The lawsuit against Alta by snowboarders goes on and on....

Big news – die-hard Washington Nationals fans can now get skis with their beloved Nats logos emblazoned on them. Maybe that will help get them into the playoffs.....

For those of you planning on retiring from your regular careers in order to enter the ski-making business, there's an adage that you may want to consider: it's said that, in ski-making, if you want to make a small fortune, you must start with a large one!

## *In Memory of Celia Chen*

May 5, 1939 – October 30, 2015

“**CELIA CHEN** - A retired scientist and a resident of Silver Spring, MD, died unexpectedly at home at the age of 76 on October 30, 2015. Dr. Chen is survived by her husband, George Birnbaum; and her children, Tien-Seng Chiu and Tien-Yee Chiu. She was predeceased by her parents, Alexander Chun Yung Chen and Elsie Li Cheng Chen. Dr. Chen was born in Shanghai, China, on May 5, 1939. She graduated from Barnard College with a B.A. in physics in 1958, and from Columbia University with a Ph.D. in biochemistry in 1967, based on her research in X-ray crystallography. Dr. Chen had a varied career. She worked at Brookhaven National Laboratories as an Assistant Professor / Research Collaborator; was a Research Associate at the St. Luke's Hospital Center; received an instructor permit from the American Montessori Society, was a home maker, taught physics at Wilde Lake High



School in Columbia, Maryland, and finished her career as an Assistant Research Scientist at the University of Maryland's Center for Advanced Research in Biotechnology in Rockville, Maryland. She carried out crystallographic research in protein structures. Eventually, Dr. Chen gave up her Research Assistant title and continued to work as a laboratory technician so she could "just have fun in the lab without needing to publish papers". After retirement, Dr. Chen blossomed. She developed an interest in skiing and skied in many resorts in the United States as well as Italy and Spain. When she gave up skiing after an accident in the Spanish Alps left her housebound for a time, she refocused her efforts in crafting, attending many sessions of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies in Wildacres, N.C. She picked up beading and jewelry making which led her to join not only the Gem, Lapidary and Mineral Society of Washington, DC , but also the Leisure World Lapidary club. True to her nature, not only did she join the club, but also taught and was a member of the executive committee. She was a world traveler, having traveled in North and South America, Europe, and Asia. She was an inspirational force, leaving lasting impressions and fond memories in her wake. She has left a great void in all the lives that she touched. A funeral service is scheduled for 1 p.m. on November 7, 2015, at the Howell Funeral Home, 10220 Guilford Road, Jessup, Maryland (<http://www.howellfh.com>). In lieu of flowers, Dr. Chen requested that donations be made to the Zigen Fund, 213-37 39th Ave, Suite 355, Bayside, NY 11361 (<http://www.zigenfund.org>).”

< <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?n=celia-ch-chen&pid=176377426&fhid=17005>>

