

VOLUME 45 *Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.* FEBRUARY 2010
NUMBER 2 WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

www.potomacvalleyskiers.org

info@pvskiers.org

Greetings PVSers,

Well here we are in prime time ski season, and by all accounts PVSers are enjoying it to the max. Everyone returned safe and happy from our perennial favorite, the trip to Snowmass, CO. Carolyn and Dave DeVilbiss did their usual outstanding job as trip leaders and somehow got Mother Nature to cooperate and provide some fresh snow and pleasant temperatures to go along with the great accommodations at the Snowmass Mountain Chalet. We're hoping that this terrific combination can be repeated again next year.

Meanwhile Marty Rine and I are busy (I could think of other words to use, but they couldn't be printed in this publication) preparing for the Jackson Hole trip this month. This promises to be a really great trip, and again Mother Nature is helping out by dumping 20 inches of snow out there last week. I never imagined that we would have 39 people signed up to go, but we're delighted with the response we've gotten. We have a really great group going, and I am still getting calls from people who are interested in the trip. (HINT: it's too late.) I think we have some terrific activities, dinners, and après-ski parties planned, so I can't wait until the 18th.

Other PVSers have been skiing at Vail and other slopes both local and farther away. Dick Comerford is also getting ready for the BRSC trip to Bormio in March, and that promises to be a lot of fun, especially the side trip to the lake district of Italy. Kinda makes me want to go along. Looking farther down the road to next season, Rosemary Schwartzbard is still looking for proposals for PVS ski trips for next year. Please contact her if you would like to lead a trip.

Meanwhile back on the home front we have some other social activities coming up to help us get through the winter. Keep the home fires burning!

Best Wishes,
Dottie



**Join us for another winter afternoon meeting on
28 February at 2:00 pm
at John and Barbara Holt's house.**

**1424 Highwood Drive
McLean, VA 22101
(703) 907-5805**

Directions:

From the Beltway (I-495) take the Georgetown Pike exit (exit 44) east.
Turn left onto Route 123, Chain Bridge Road.
Turn right onto N. Glebe Road/Chain Bridge Road.
Turn right onto N. River St.
Turn left onto Highwood Dr.
1424 Highwood Dr. is on the left.

From Washington, DC via Chain Bridge

From Canal Rd. go left at Chain Bridge onto N. Glebe Rd., crossing into Virginia
Turn right onto N. River St.
Turn left onto Highwood Dr.
1424 Highwood Dr. is on the left.

From Virginia via the Dulles Toll Road

Merge onto Route 123 N via exit 19B toward McLean.
Turn right onto N. Glebe Road/Chain Bridge Road.
Turn right onto N. River St.
Turn left onto Highwood Dr.
1424 Highwood Dr. is on the left.



#####

SKI TALK

We have had two excellent ski trips (Steamboat and Snowmass) so far this season and two more to go (Jackson Hole and Bormio). In addition, many members have been taking advantage of the local skiing at Liberty and Whitetail.



Our Ski Trip Committee (STC) is ready to accept proposals for the 2011 ski season. Members of the STC are: Rosemary Schwartzbard, Chair; Polli Brunelli, Sharon Mulholland, David Lerner and Eloise Strand. Shirley Rettig resigned from the STC and we thank her for many years of service.

We look forward to hearing from you and receiving proposals for 2011. The BRSC trips for 2011 are Park City, February 5 and Aosta Valley, Italy, in March. The timeline for proposals is as follows: preliminary proposals are due by early March; full proposals are due by late April to be presented to ExCom at the May meeting. This does not mean that all details have to be worked out by that time. The approved trips will be published in the June TOOT. Please send questions, ideas and/or proposals to me: rosemaryphd@verizon.net

Members Corner



By J. David Warthen, Jr.
dwarthen@verizon.net
301-774-2653

Villers in Key West:

Dottie Villers enjoyed a vacation in Key West in January visiting her sister and brother-in-law, who spend their winters there. The timing was not the best because all of Florida was experiencing record cold weather, and the high temperature in Key West was in the fifties for



several days. However, warmer weather followed and she had a couple of days at the beach and a chance to enjoy a drink at Louie's Backyard, a favorite watering hole overlooking the ocean (see picture). While in Key West she was visited by Melissa FitzGerald, who spent several days in Key West with some friends from Miami.

Sympathy is extended:

- to Dave **Warthen** on the death of his sister, Diane Mary Warthen (66) of Pensacola, FL, on 21 October;
- to Jan **Marx** on the death of her step-mother, Ardis Nier (88) of Roseville, MN, on 16 December, http://www.twincities.com/ci_14209134?nclick_check=1; and
- to Dave **DeVilbiss** on the death of his father, George DeVilbiss (94) of Kent, CT, on 19 January, <http://rep-am.com/Obituaries/462636.txt>

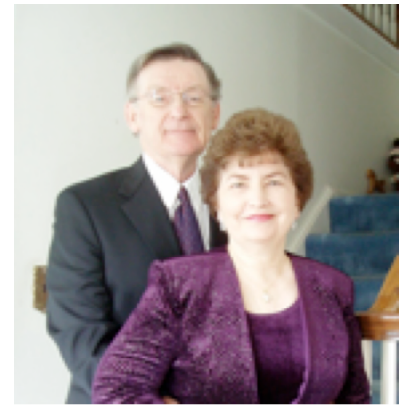
Warthens' Eastern Caribbean Cruise:

To celebrate our 10th wedding anniversary on 8 January, we took an Eastern Caribbean Cruise. Arriving a day early on 2 January, we experienced extremely cold weather in Fort Lauderdale, FL. After transferring to Port Everglades, the next day, we embarked upon the Emerald Princess along with 3,572 other "old salts" seeking warmth.

Our first stop was Princess Cays, a private island, which is part of British Eleuthera, Bahamas. Unfortunately, there was no trace of global warming, and it was much too cold to enjoy the beach.

Our next most southern port of call was St. Martin, a Dutch/French island, which was actually warm, followed northward, the next day, by St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. Our last port of call was Grand Turk, a British island, which was also warm.

Excursion tours of St. Martin and Grand Turk revealed the unsettling abject poverty of the majority of residents, which was in deep contrast to the opulence of cruise ships in their harbors and the wealth of some temporary, island residents.



Unfortunately, I became violently ill midweek on the cruise, which was a real downer. We were not able to see St. Thomas. However, we made the best of it, and I was with my bride for our 10th anniversary. We arrived at freezing Port Everglades on 10 January, having traveled 2,574 statute miles. After a long wait, wearing our winter coats, in the freezing Fort Lauderdale airport, we flew to BWI to be hit by another blast of non-global warming, not knowing that we would miss the devastating 7.0 Haitian earthquake by 2 days.

Immediate visits to my Internist, radiology tests, and lab work revealed no bad news. Unfortunately, I had to cancel my Snowmass trip to recover. I thank fellow PVS members for their support and encouragement during my recovery.

TOOT Distribution to 146 PVS Members:

pdf: 76; MS-Word: 21; USPS: 34;
Emb. Text: 1; and Text (Att.): 2

Roster Corrections:

Report changes of postal or e-mail address, telephone number, TOOT e-mail format, etc. to Dave Warthen.

(PVS thanks Mike Strand, Temporary Editor, for an excellent February '10 TOOT issue.)



PAST EVENTS

January Meeting

Once again PVS members enjoyed an innovative winter Sunday afternoon monthly meeting. Switching from Tuesday evening during the season of short daylight allowed 28 PVS'ers a more relaxed drive to and from the meeting that was hosted by Dottie Villers and Melissa Fitzgerald. Dottie also chaired the meeting in her capacity as club President. Rosemary Schwartzbard, Ski Trip Committee Chairperson, reported on two very successful recent trips to Steamboat Springs and to Snowmass. Dottie discussed the upcoming trip to Jackson Hole and Dick Comerford talked about the upcoming trip to Bormio, Italy. Rosemary described some bargain offerings from Wisp Resort and encouraged members to take advantage of them. Note was made of the fact that our 45th anniversary is coming up this fall and a special event will take place to celebrate the occasion.

As usual at a PVS event, the dining room table was overloaded with delicious comestibles*. Particularly noteworthy were the chocolate chip cookies and the chocolate brownies that were served for dessert. Both of these items were home made, baked personally by Dottie! Who knew that our president was so multi-talented?

Submitted by: Dick Schwartzbard

*TOOT Editor, after 10 seconds of Google research, determined that this word is legit...KNEE take note!



Snowmass 2010

by Ruth Powers

A smaller group than normal enjoyed another wonderful PVS trip to Snowmass in January 2010. The group included 18 PVS'ers, two Capital Golden Skiers (CGS) and several others: Dr. Bill Greene from SC (who found our trip on the internet), Eileen Dillon (an old friend of the Triau's who happened upon our group) and Sheryl Chambers (niece of Louann Eadie, who joined us for a few days). The group came from 6 states and DC. The Mountain Chalet again provided a comfortable and welcoming home and Carolyn and Dave DeVilbiss provided their usual well organized and warm leadership.

Two of our group had to cancel out because of illness: Dave Warthen and Nancy Pigman (CGS). Dave fell ill while on a 10th anniversary cruise to the Eastern Caribbean with Marsha. Then Dave DeVilbiss' 94 year-old father passed away a couple of days before we returned home. Dave decided to leave a day early, but Carolyn was well prepared and carried on with no problems.



The group was disappointed by a smaller than normal snow base and no new powder until the day before most of us left. This was balanced

somewhat by the presence of fewer skiers and good grooming that kept the diehard skiers going. In spite of less crowded slopes, three of our group (Barbara Leonhardt, Liz Triau, and Sheldon Drews) were hit by

snowboarders and knocked down; several others fell after hitting bare spots. On the positive side, no one suffered a serious injury. The powder that arrived the last ski day provided a “glorious day of skiing” for all.



We enjoyed many fun social events during our stay. On the day most of us arrived, the Chalet hosted a welcome party that featured plentiful and delicious food. The newcomers were introduced and Cate told us about the few changes since our trip last year. The primary change was that all skiers (not just those with senior passes) had electronic lift cards that could be left in your pocket when going through gates to get on the lifts. Later that evening, some of us enjoyed the first of several competitive game nights.

The second night we enjoyed a group dinner at the Village Steakhouse. Those of us seated near newcomer Dr. Bill found out that he loves puzzles. He stumped us on some of them, but Barb successfully solved at least one.

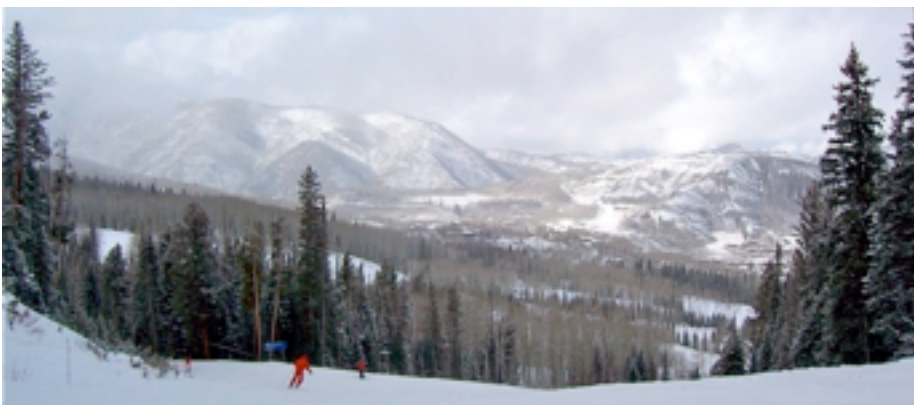
On Friday evening we had the first of our own PVS Happy Hours. Following our social period and announcements, Dr. Bill showed us slides of his visits to Haiti, including pictures of him as a surgeon on mission trips. He also showed pictures taken during the recent earthquake that had been sent by his contacts there.

Several groups went to Aspen on Saturday to enjoy the many Winterskol activities, including the Canine Fashion Show, several musical groups, Aspen Ice Skating Club exhibition, snow sculptures, and in the evening the torchlight descent from Aspen Mountain and fireworks. For some, a trip to Aspen could not be complete without a trip to Pismo’s glass store and to the consignment shop.



One day Carolyn and Dave led a small group that included Jean Van der Tak and Gerda Picco (CGS) on their annual trip to Aspen Highlands. They all had a wonderful time even though much of the day was overcast.

Liz and Serge drove a group [Jean, Eileen, Sue Lyon, Ruth Powers, and Betsy Stephens (CGS)] to Glenwood Springs one day to enjoy the hot mineral springs. The therapeutic pool was said to be 104 degrees. We alternated between that and the larger swimming pool, which was cooler but still warm. After our visit to the pools, we had lunch at the historic Colorado Hotel, which was visited by Teddy Roosevelt during a bear hunting trip. The story is that the first “teddy bear” was made by the hotel staff to cheer him up when he didn’t down a bear during the hunt.



The final event of the week was the farewell dinner at the Stonebridge Inn. We enjoyed an excellent buffet and Rosemary voiced the thanks of the group to Carolyn and Dave (in absentia) for being wonderful hosts and helping us all to have another great Snowmass trip.



Jackson Hole, Wyoming

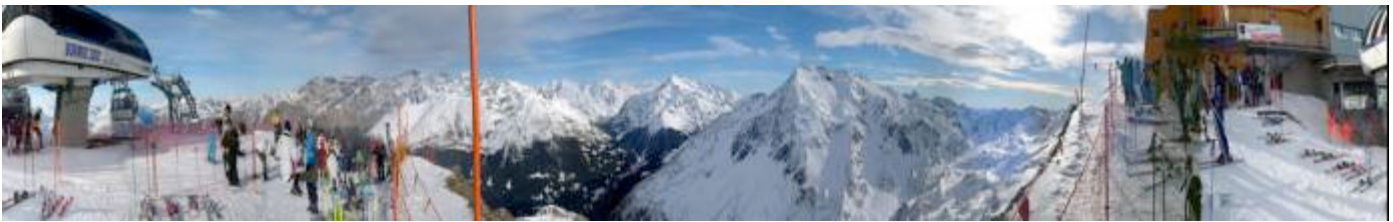
February 18 to 25, 2010

As of this point in time, we have 39 people going on the trip and are awaiting word from a possible 40th person.

Slope side accommodations are at the Alpenhof Lodge, a cozy Bavarian style inn with ski in ski out access. There are five of six days lift tickets included (seniors over 65 can deduct \$100). Go on an optional trip over the Teton Pass to Grand Targhee where “the snow comes from heaven not hoses”. Cross country skiers have trails outside the front door or options to ski in Grand Teton National Park and Grand Targhee. The trip begins at Dulles, then goes to Jackson, WY, then a short bus ride to the “Hole”. We have a welcome reception of gluwain and fondue.

Full buffet breakfasts are included every day at the hotel. Two group dinners are included, pre and post trip parties, and two après ski gatherings. A short bus trip into the town of Jackson reveals many opportunities for shopping, dining, touring, skiing, and reliving history in a true western town. Yellowstone N.P. is 60 miles north accessible by snowmobile or snowcoach, and a visit to the nearby National Elk Refuge will give you the opportunity to see a herd of 12,000-15,000 elk in winter.

Trip cost is \$1625. See complete trip flier for more details. Contact trip leaders Dottie Villers: 703-476-9259 or Marty Rine: 703-978-0179 to put your name on the waiting list.



Bormio Italy Update - 3 **March 6-14, 2010 - \$1895 double occupancy**

The Potomac Valley Skiers invites you to participate with the Blue Ridge Ski Council (BRSC) for the 2010 Bormio *Eurofest* with Dick & Betty Comerford as your host and hostess.

We still have room on the trip to Bormio in the Italian Alps. Come and join us for the great food (big breakfasts and gourmet dinners included), beautiful sights, and good skiing. There will be a number of non-skiers on the trip, so touring will be a significant activity. Don't forget your bathing suit; everyone must experience the Roman Baths. The only whining on the trip will be spelled wining, and it will involve a bottle and cork.

Reservation are now being taken for the day trips to the lakeside towns of Bellagio and Varenna; and the historic town of Bergamo, which is surrounded by Venetian walls built in the 17th century. (Call for flyer.) Group airfare is being released soon; late sign-ups will be on a best effort basis.

**Contact me for details: Dick Comerford (H) 703 777-9374 (C) 571 426-3098
307 Lounsbury Ct, Leesburg, VA 20176 dick.comerford@verizon.net**

FUTURE EVENTS:

February Mardi Gras Party

Saturday, February 13, 7pm – Midnight

Join Liz Warren-Boulton and Joe Jevcak for a fun night at the February Mardi Gras Party. Costumes are not required but add to the fun. For reservations at the PVS table, **call Eva Brandt at 703-280-1772 by Feb 3** and ask for Table 24/Joe Jevcak. Credit cards are accepted. If you have any questions, please call Joe or Liz at 202-244-5717.

Kena Ballroom

9001 Arlington Blvd (Rt. 50 west of Beltway)

Fairfax, Virginia, 22031

Directions: Drive west on Rt 50 from Beltway toward Fairfax.

Turn left at Barclay and turn immediately right to Kena Ballroom.

Door Prizes for costumes: singles, couples, groups

Live Music - Dancing

German Food for purchase at moderate prices: Dinner, Deli, Desserts

Cash Bar - German beer, wine, champagne, soda

Free Parking

Admission **-\$25/person advance**; \$30/person at the door



PVS Finger Lakes Extravaganza 2010

Thursday, August 26, 2010 – Sunday, August 29, 2010

Enjoy the beautiful Finger Lakes Wine Country with your hosts and vintners David & Susan Payne. Act now as participation is **Limited to 20 participants!!**

The total package is \$300 per person. It includes:

- Visits to 8 wineries and distilleries
- A behind the scenes tour of a vineyard and winery
- Two (2) group dinners and two (2) group lunches
- Chartered bus transportation to wineries/distilleries and meals
- A boat excursion on Seneca Lake with refreshments
- Also, participants will have time on Saturday morning to do things on their own such as visit the Corning Museum of Glass, hike the Watkins Glen Gorge, shop, fish, etc., and to drive their cars on the Watkins Glen International Race Track (pay separately)

The two items below are not included in the package. Participants will make their own arrangements for:

- Transportation to and from Watkins Glen
- Lodging: After submitting a deposit, you will be provided with a list of inns/B&Bs located in the Watkins Glen area. Three (3) nights (August 26, 27, 28) lodging is estimated at \$210 - \$300 per person (based on double occupancy, including tax on the B&B or inn selected). B&B list will be provided after deposit is received.

For more info and to get an application, call Susan Payne at 607-727-1190 or e-mail her at vineyard100@frontiernet.net. You can also send your \$100 deposit payable to: Susan Payne (put PVS FLWC 2010 on the memo line) and mail to: Susan Payne at 5598 Dutch Street, Dundee, NY 14837.





THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley
RaysKnee@gmail.com

It's been cold as bejeebers (a technical term) here in the DC area. This poem, which didn't come from Jan Marx, sums up the weather we've been experiencing lately:

A Mikneesota Poem: by Anonkneemous

*It's winter in Minnesota
And the gentle breezes blow
Seventy miles an hour
At twenty-five below*

*Oh, how I love Minnesota
When the snow's up to your butt
You take a breath of winter
And your nose gets frozen shut*

*Yes, the weather here is wonderful
So I guess I'll hang around
I could never leave Minnesota
'Cause I'm frozen to the ground!*

Oodles of snow (The Knee loves the word oodles. Other words beginning with an "oo," such as oology, only come up once in a bird's age.) out and about—in the East, the West and in Europe. And lots of us are out skiing on it. It's super! In mid-December Shirley Rettig went to Park City, as part of the Elderhostel many of us attended last winter.

You can read about our first two ski trips elsewhere in this issue. But a group of PVSers are part of another group, the Slope Dusters. Reg Heitchue, Dave Lerner, Cara Jablon, Liz Warren-Boulton and Joe Jevcak all spent the last week of January in Vail getting the first good snow of the year. Liz and Cara even called into the PVS January telephonic ExCom from Vail. Dave Lerner fractured his collar bone on an earlier ski trip, and didn't get medical approval to go until three days before the trip.

A bit of old news. Ski trip chair Rosemary Schwartzbard was on CNN with Wolf Blitzer talking about the Swine Flu possible pandemic. Rosemary didn't have her PVS hat on.

As an experiment, the Knee checked out the SCWDC website. (SCWDC stands for Some Club in Wilmington Delaware C!) They now have

only 2,000 members, down from 7,000 a decade ago. They are ahead of PVS in that they no longer have a Presidential Message. They have a Presidential Blog. They are behind us in that their January meeting is February 5, and their February meeting is March 5??? (I'm really not making this up.)

To get in some early skiing, Bob Knopes went to Wisp for the day. He had only one word for his experience, cold. Bob actually had three words, cold, cold, cold.

A recent article in *Physics Today* discusses mogul movement (true). Dave Lerner's colleagues responded by asking him to prepare a technical lecture on the analysis of snow movement in ski slopes. Dave believes they were just pulling his knee.

According to Ms Knee, Nancy, the winning Chef from the latest *Hell's Kitchen*, Dave Levey, is now in Whistler. He's the Chef at our favorite restaurant there, Araxi. Yummy!

The Knee isn't much of a movie fan. I could never watch "The Wizard of Oz" *in Toto*.

Great Information! The Ski Channel Network has a new web-based feature called the Resort Rater. You can answer such questions as: What North American ski resort ranks highest when it comes to night life, steep runs and hot guests? It's Aspen Mountain. The Rater, at <http://www.theskichannel.com/resort-rater>, lists 85 criteria for ranking nearly 500 resorts and lets users check off which matter most to them. Then the results are ranked. Currently, the top overall resorts are: Deer Valley, Whistler, Vail and Mammoth. Users also provide resort information constantly. Today, a skier described the Deer Valley powder as "Shoulder deep in the trees—bluebird." Marvin Hass sent the Knee this information at my Knee-mail. You can send me info on people, too.

Bob Eadie had a large (3+ inch) melanoma removed and is now starting chemotherapy. Hang in there, Bob.

Co-trip leader Dave DeVilbiss had to leave the Snowmass trip a day early. Dave's 95 year old father, who had been in worsening health, passed away. Dave's father had been in the Navy and requested burial in uniform. But the only uniform didn't have his retirement rank. After being frustrated by Navy bureaucracy, Dave chatted with Ret Adm. John Brunelli. John quickly resolved the problem. Right on.

My favorite Egyptian is Kneefertiti.



Calendar and Information:

| Local Events Calendar | | | | Trips Calendar | |
|-----------------------|----|-----|---|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Feb | 13 | Sat | Mardi Gras Ball | Feb 18-25 | Jackson Hole (<i>Villers/Rine</i>) |
| Feb | 23 | Tue | ExCom by Conference Call | | |
| Feb | 28 | Sun | 2:00 p.m. AFTERNOON General Meeting (Holts) | Mar 6-14 | Bormio, Italy (<i>D.Comerford</i>) |
| Mar | 16 | Tue | 7:30 p.m. GENERAL MEETING (Leonhardts) | Aug 26-28 | Finger Lakes Tour (Paynes) |
| Mar | 23 | Tue | ExCom (Jablons) | | |
| Nov | | | PVS 45TH Anniversary Gala | | |

PVS Roster information updates

Change of postal or e-mail address, telephone numbers, TOOT email format, etc.

Call David Warthen (301) 774-2653 or send e-mail message to dwarthen@verizon.net