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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

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Fellow PVSers

Here we are in the middle of the ski season – and many of us are on or in between ski trips. Did you know that it's been reported that skiers who are 68 and older ski 9.5 days a year while skiers who are ages 49 – 67 only ski on average 5 days a year? Who says we slow down as we get older?

Besides skiing during the cold months, PVS enjoys other activities in warmer weather, too. (A hike across Woodrow Wilson Bridge, chamber music, and wine tasting to name a few.) I propose a chance for you to facilitate other fun activities for PVS. I'd like to see each of you make a plan to host/run/coordinate one event over the coming 12 months. Choose an easy one – for example, find a play or concert where you can buy tickets at the door, pick a date, get the ok from ExCom through an ExCom member or Ray McKinley, put a notice in TOOT, show up at the event and say hello to your PVS friends. See? Easy. And, your friends will appreciate the chance to get out with compatible other folks in the club.

Many thanks to Bob Knopes and his Nominating Committee (John Brunelli, Don Vierimaa, Jan Marx, Ray McKinley, and Inge Lesjak) for reaching out and identifying active members who are ready to devote a bit of their time to serving as officers and on the Executive Committee. Great job!

See you at the PVS monthly meeting/party at the home of Maryann Rozzell on Sunday, February 15 at 2 pm!

--Nancy

Monthly Meeting

Sunday, February 15, 2015

2:00 PM

At Maryann Rozzell's home
3422 Barkley Dr
Fairfax, VA 22031

ptmaryann@cox.net

703-280-1171



Directions

From the beltway, take Route 50 W towards Fairfax.
Proceed about 2.1 miles and turn left on Barkley Drive.
Proceed 0.9 of a mile; 3422 Barkley Drive is on the right.

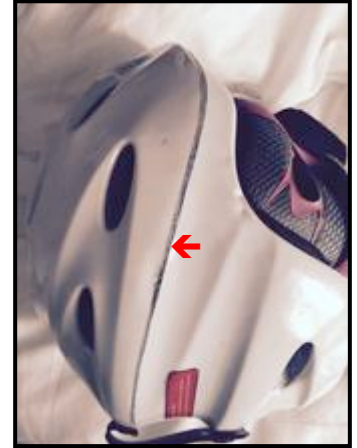
SKI TALK - February 2015

We had a very successful trip to SNOWMASS as you can see from the trip report on page 8 in the TOOT. A couple of things happened on that trip that made me think about ski safety and the use of helmets. Helmet use among skiers has risen exponentially in the past ten years. They are no longer ‘uncool’ – a recent study showed that more experts wear them than beginners. Head injuries typically occur as a result of a collision or impact with the snow. While some people still choose not to wear a helmet, research shows that wearing one makes general head injuries 35% less likely.

One of our members on the Snowmass trip was saved from serious injury by her **helmet**. She had what might otherwise have been a serious fall, when her head impacted the snow. You can see from the picture that the fall was hard enough that it cracked her helmet. Had she not been wearing a **helmet**, that crack could have been in her head.

Another member of the trip wore a **helmet** this year for the first time in his long history of skiing. He also fell and his head had impact with the snow. He got up and skied for the rest of the day and says his helmet saved him from serious injury.

We all recognize the need for wearing **helmets** and the wisdom for doing so. Yet surprisingly, not all skiers (even in PVS) are wearing helmets. Some clubs will not allow anyone to participate in skiing events unless they are wearing a **helmet**. In fact, I read somewhere that they are mandatory in Canada and New Jersey! PVS certainly agrees that everyone should wear a **helmet** when skiing, but takes a slightly different approach. PVS trusts the common sense and good judgment of its members and believes they all recognize the wisdom of never skiing without a **helmet**. The club leadership does not want to set up any new rules to enforce this, so let's make sure we are all on board with regard to this very important safety procedure.

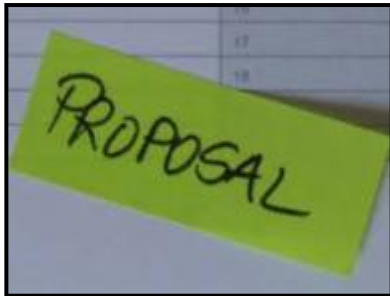


← **Helmet Crack**

Remember **HELMETS ARE COOL**.

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Call for Ski trip proposals for 2016. First, let me introduce the Ski Trip Committee (STC): Rosemary Schwartzbard, Chair; Eloise Strand; Polli Brunelli; Inge Lesjak; and Reg Heitchue. Unlike other ski clubs, the STC of PVS does not run the ski trips. The STC is responsible for recommending and coordinating the ski trip schedule. However, members of the club lead the ski trips. The trips have a primary leader, typically someone who has experience running ski trips. There is usually a co-leader, who may also be experienced or may just be learning how to run trips. The leaders put the trip together, most often by working with a ski trip vendor.

Here is the timeline for proposals. **Preliminary proposals are due by March.** This can be a half page description indicating the destination, dates and any other information that the leaders deem important. **Enhanced proposals with full detailed information are due by May.** The proposals are submitted for approval at the late May ExCom meeting. Trips taking place in December or January may be submitted earlier as reservations at the hotels often have to be made early. Half page descriptions of approved trips are included in the June TOOT. Detailed fliers are in the July TOOT.



The **Blue Ridge Ski Council** trips for **2016** are: Snowbird, Utah, in early February and Madonna de Campiglio, Italy, in early March.

Rosemary Schwartzbard
rosemaryschw@gmail.com

BRSC Eurofest in Hintertux/Zillertal, Austria

7 days, March 6 – 14, 2015 \$2,460 pp*

**Including pre-trip to Bled, Slovenia
11 days, March 2 – 14, 2015 \$2,935 pp***

Including post-trip to Vienna, Austria

10 days, March 6 – 17, 2015 \$2,900 pp*

**Including Bled and Vienna
14 days, March 2 – 17, 2015 \$3,375 pp***

Trip Leader:
Inge Lesjak
8123 Kingsview Ct.
Springfield, VA
703-869-7248 c
Lesjak.Inge@gmail.com

**Price Includes: airfare/shuttles & lodging at 4-star hotels
with daily breakfast buffet and 4-course dinner
thermal pool, sauna, spa
Internet access
ski guide/free shuttle bus to lifts
and BRSC parties & some sightseeing**

Zillertal: A paradise for winter hikers & cross-country skiers. Badhotel Kirchler: Family run hotel with daily breakfast buffet, afternoon snack and dinner; charming rooms, thermal pool, sauna, local cuisine, friendly service. Welcome party & two après ski parties Tyrolean style, plus fee-based sightseeing tours.

UPDATE! As of Feb 1, 32 PVSers and friends are participating and there is room for more... **especially for the ski week with optional sightseeing trips.** 21 PVSers plus 16 members from other BRSC ski clubs are joining the pre-trip to Bled, Slovenia and 14 PVSers and friends are ending the Eurofest in Vienna.

These are the day trips offered during the ski week in Zillertal:

Sunday 8 March, Munich

Tuesday 10 March, Bavarian Castles

Thursday 12 March, Salzburg

If you don't plan to ski much, these bus trips are a convenient way to experience new sites. Contact Inge at new email address:

Lesjak.Inge@gmail.com

Payment Schedule

1 July	\$200
10 Sep	\$500
10 Oct	\$800
10 Nov	\$500
10 Dec	Final

You must be a current member of any club belonging to the Blue Ridge Ski Council or become one to participate.

*Price subject to change due to airline surcharges, exchange rates, fuel charges or other unforeseen factors. Airline baggage fees are not included and are the responsibility of the trip participants at check-in to and from Munich or Vienna. CHECK IT OUT! <http://www.zillertal.at/en/winter/home/>

Members' Corner



J. David Warthen, Jr.
dwarthen@verizon.net

Valentine's Day is one of our most important holidays for lovers, friends, family, and children.

Saint Valentine's Day, also known as **Valentine's Day** or the **Feast of Saint Valentine**, is a holiday observed on **February 14** each year. It is celebrated in many countries around the world, although it is not a holiday in most of them.

St. Valentine's Day began as a liturgical celebration for one or more early **Christian** saints named **Valentinus**. Several martyrdom stories were invented for the various Valentines that belonged to February 14, and added to



later **martyrologies**.

A popular hagiographical account of Saint Valentine of Rome states that he was imprisoned for performing **weddings** for soldiers who were forbidden to marry and for ministering to Christians, who were **persecuted under the Roman Empire**. According to **legend**, during his imprisonment, he healed the daughter of his jailer, Asterius. An embellishment to this story states that before his execution, he wrote her a letter signed "Your Valentine" as a farewell.

Today, Saint Valentine's Day is an official **feast day** in the **Anglican Communion**, as well as in the **Lutheran Church**. The **Eastern Orthodox Church** also celebrates Saint Valentine's Day, albeit on **July 6** and **July 30**, the former date in honor of the Roman **presbyter** Saint Valentine, and the latter date in honor of **Hieromartyr Valentine**, the Bishop of Interamna (modern **Terni**). In Brazil, the **Dia de São Valentim** is recognized on June 12.

The day was first associated with **romantic love** in the circle of **Geoffrey Chaucer** in the **High Middle Ages**, when the tradition of **courtly love** flourished. In 18th-century England, it evolved into an occasion in which **lovers** expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering **confectionery**, and sending **greeting cards** (known as "**valentines**"). In Europe, **Saint Valentine's Keys** are given to lovers "as a romantic symbol and an invitation to unlock the giver's heart," as well as to children, in order to ward off **Saint Valentine's Malady**. Valentine's Day symbols that are used today include the **heart-shaped** outline, doves, and the figure of the winged **Cupid**. Since the 19th century, handwritten valentines have given way to mass-produced **greeting cards**.

Wikipedia

So what does Valentine's Day have to do with skiing? Get creative and plan to give flowers, cards, a dinner out, a skiing weekend for your special someone or family. Single without family? Have a "Be good-to-me day" and treat yourself to something special. In any case, enjoy LOVE, which is defined as "right attitudes and actions."

Snowmass 2015

The first PVS ski trip of the season has occurred, and we all made it home safely. Yes, some have bruises, aches pains, etc., but none the worse for wear.

What a great time we all had. Marianne Sponis did a yeoman's job in leading the group. I can't believe the track record we set in the Denver Airport running from Gate 11 to Gate 55 to make our tight connection to Aspen. Leave it to United to provide 'convenience' in addition to greedy baggage fees. I am a Southwest fan myself. ;-)

Highlights were many, including fantastic weather, great fellowship, fantastic breakfasts and lunches, and a final group dinner at the Snowmass Country Club. Many of us also enjoyed a special dinner at Il Poggio. And, who could forget a quick lunch at the Stew Pot. Nice trip!

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Thanks to:

-TOOT Coordinator – E. Thayer

-TOOT USPS – **Volunteers**

--D. Warthen – *Layout Editor, Electronic TOOT*

Roster Changes: (notify – dwarthen@verizon.net)

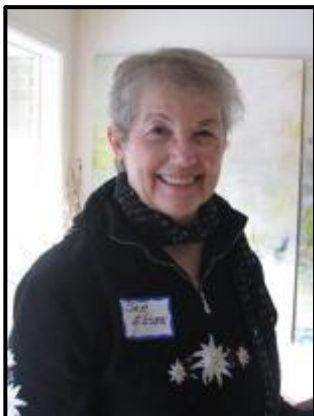
-Sharon Mulholland, spmulhol@gmail.com (**new**)



Past Event:

Monthly PVS Meeting - 11 January 2015

Jannes Gibson graciously hosted our first PVS meeting of 2015 on 11 January at her beautiful home in Potomac, MD. Her home is on a forested slope with many large windows that made you feel as though you were comfortably outdoors in a winter wonderland of snow, trees, birds, and animals. As



we arrived, Jan cordially greeted us with hellos and name tags, and gave us directions to the kitchen for various drinks and fantastic hot mulligatawny soup with chicken

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mulligatawny> and to the dining room for a selection of cheeses, meat balls, cold cuts, crackers, dipping sauces, fruits, vegetables, and other tasty foods.



Bali Art

Attendees included 27 PVS members, one guest, Donald MacLean, and some unexpected guests.

After we socialized and consumed many calories, Nancy McKinley called our meeting to order. Nancy announced that <http://www.J2Ski.com> has easy links on snow conditions for many of the world's ski areas and has arrangements for receiving by email notifications of ski conditions at one's favorite areas.



At the risk of providing evidence that many of Santa's activities during December violate the laws of classical physics, some attendees made guesses as to who was impersonating Santa at the December meeting. We hope that she or he voluntarily steps forward at the next PVS meeting so that those who do not believe in Santa may offer thanks for an impersonation done well.

The nominating process for the election of officers in April is proceeding in accordance with the PVS by-laws. According to PVS by-laws, nominations supported by at least five names may be placed on the ballot in addition to the slate of candidates. The names of the candidates are published on page 6 of this TOOT.

We discussed the results of the PVS survey to determine the optimum times for having our monthly meetings. Even though the survey results were not overwhelmingly in favor of weekend daytime meetings, the Executive Committee members decided to have the October meeting on Sunday afternoon in addition to the already-scheduled January, February, and March afternoon meetings. The next meeting will be Sunday 15 February at 2 PM at Maryann Rozzell's home in Fairfax, VA.

Because Rosemary Schwartzbard was not present due to her skiing schedule, (does she have her priorities correct?), the remaining 2015 ski trips to Snowmass (January), Mt. Bachelor/Bend (January-February), and Austria (March) were quickly summarized.

Plans are underway for a 1 November 2015 celebration party to mark the 50th Anniversary of the founding of PVS. It will be held at the Top of the Town in Prospect House, Arlington, VA <http://www.topofthetown.net>. It may be a black tie optional with ski accessories celebration.



John Smith discussed the informal local skiing scene. He wears a yellow jacket so that he is easy to see.

Ski Trip Report:

The Chronicles of Potomac Valley Skiers at **Snowmass** – 2015

This was a glorious, glorious week of skiing. Snowmass never disappoints. Marianne Sponis, ably assisted by Nancy Pigman, was a super group leader. She kept everyone informed of all we needed to know before leaving home and did her best to keep this group on track, informed, entertained and FED. (It certainly wasn't her fault that the Sweeneys BOTH missed the bus to the Award's Dinner. At least they communicate with each other, even if it is erroneous). Speaking of FOOD, Marianne went well above and beyond the call of duty in arranging a feast (that started off as a pizza party) to occupy our appetites while we watched the Patriots beat the tar out of the Colts ☹ on Sunday night. Amazing what one can do when pizza is enhanced with: garden salad, calzone, pulled chicken, chocolate dipped macaroons, beer and wine. The leftovers even provided dinner the following night!! Thanks Marianne and Nancy and all who helped for a wonderful job.



Bonnie & Bill Sweeney (write up authors) and Marianne Sponis, Trip Leader



Rockies, here we come!

- * The Snowmass Mountain: Again, the best location for snow, diversity of easy, intermediate and challenging slopes, grooming and views
- * The Mountain Chalet: Continues to be the lodging of choice: slope side location; amenities met everyone's preferences – special needs, rooms with dorm fridges, daily meals (hot breakfasts and soup lunches included), private welcome pizza party, local transportation provided, hot tub/pool, sauna and fitness room, and welcoming/relaxing main lounge.

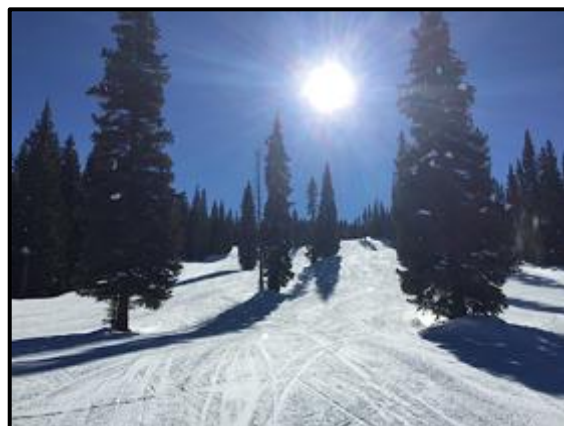
Lessons:

An excellent instructor, who is as well “seasoned” as PVS skiers, is Rex Smith (970-306-1216 c).

The Sweeneys, Nancy Pigman and Kal Nossuli benefitted from his instructions on techniques to improve skills, endurance and ease of skiing. Highly recommend this Aspen/Snowmass Ski School instructor.

Personal PVS Vignettes: PVSers are some of the most diverse and “friendliest and generous of their time and skills one could hope to ski and play with.”

- Who can top 95 years young Suzanne Boisclair and Peter Russell who continue to hit those slopes with enthusiasm and skill? Suzanne's challenge with the altitude was met with determination to return with newly learned accommodations to the thin air. And not to be overlooked as the kid in the nonagenarian ski group is Gerda Picco! Oh, and ask Peter how one purchases new skis for \$50!!
- A planeload of PVSers killing time on the tarmac; amazing how low tire pressure can mess things up and provide a conditioning run to the next flight!.
- Following unexpected ski lessons, Nancy Pigman, aka the Energizer Bunny, left her “teammates” in the dust, especially on Naked Lady (sorry guys, NL is an alpine flower and not what you were thinking!).
- NASTAR Racers Rosemary Schwartzbard won a Bronze and Kal Nossuli missed a Bronze by 1 second (he's already back in training).



- Jon Wechsler expertly led a group to Aspen Highlands. He located 77 y/o Dr. Jack for our Mountain Tour (Mondays/Thursdays for Seniors) and Jane for our History Tour. He's already committed to lead a day at Aspen in 2016, which will include its slope history tour.

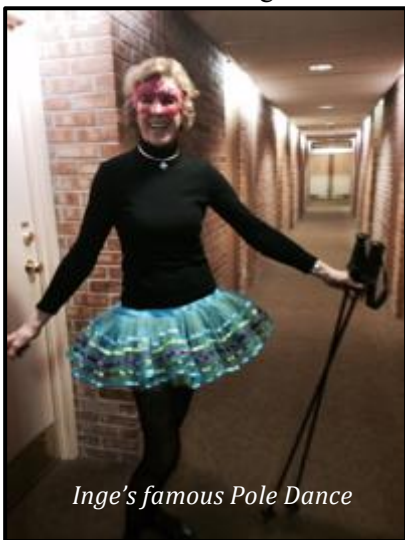
- Bonnie Sweeney, striving for 1st place in the race to the top of the Six Pack lift simply ignored the Red Line and got so far out in front of the chair that she required rescue.

- * Marianne Jacob's Smart Phone had a bit of a "fling" after a gay pornographic picture "popped up" on her Smart Phone. After appropriately examining the photo, she offered the phone to Annette Hargreaves for a second opinion. As Annette scrutinized the picture, she noticed that both of the fig leaves were out of position. Horrified, she recoiled in shock, causing her to "fling" the phone in the direction of Marianne.

- * Following a lengthy downhill run, Annette Hargreaves and her companions pulled off to the side of a demanding run, seeking a place to rest a bit. They chose a spot immediately next to a large orange SLOW sign. Instantly, a Ski Patrolman raced to confront the group. Fearing they were guilty of something, Annette asked, "what was wrong"? He replied, "Why nothing. No, of course not" replied the patrolman; "I came over to congratulate you all on choosing the perfect spot to rest; out of the way and safe." They were then each rewarded with a coupon for a cup of hot chocolate. Needless to say, they were relieved as well as pleased and proud.

- Aspen's new Art Museum: Unanimous architecture reviews: "unique, imaginative building." Exhibit reviews, "what?" "Is this all?" "Are you kidding me?" "Ok, lets go; glad it's free," "wow, what an imagination!?"

- Farkle: new dice game that attracted quite a crowd. But Louann Eadie showed everyone that concussion or not, her competitive spirit and skill brought her from FAR BEHIND to trounce Dave Warthen who seemed to have the game cinched! Don't fret Dave; fortunately, a side effect of concussion is memory loss so she may not remember.



Inge's famous Pole Dance

- Who knew PVS has its own Pole Dancer. Inge Lesjak, in tulle, no less, entertained everyone at the Après Ski Party with her unique pole dance and received a standing ovation.

- Frank Adamwaithe is afforded the honor of being PVS official Geriatric Ski Bum. Driving out in January and back in early March, he skis not only Snowmass with PVS but "follows the snow" around Colorado! Frank is also known as the guy who voided his own lift ticket when he punched a hole in it to put it on a line and not lose it

- Reg Heitchue and Susan Sinclair happily announced their engagement at the Awards Dinner!

- The "Bumper Club," Cara Jablon and Rosemary Schwartzbard, have a new member, Dick Lau, who also enjoys the trees.

- Former PVSer, Dottie Villiers (here with her 200 member ski club from NC) skied some runs on Elk Camp with Dave Warthen, Jannes Gibson and Annette Hargreaves. She did share that she still prefers to ski with PVS and is enjoying retirement in Leland, NC.

- And last but not least: Remembering only the really nice, uncrowded Green Cabin run from the top, Bonnie Sweeney took Kathy and Barry Lake up High Alpine chair, an experience in itself. Hmmm, she must have repressed the memory of the *flat catwalk* for @ a mile to the run. ☹️ But good sports Kathy and Barry are, they trudged on *ahead* of her, waited for her and did continue to ski with her for the rest of the week----the run was as great as remembered!

- This was a glorious week of skiing.



The Maroon Bells at Aspen Highlands



Martha, Aaron, Dick, & Rosemary

Ski Trip Report:

Our Truly Eastern Ski Week by Tom and Mary Tycz

After Rosemary Schwartzbard offered two free **Okemo** lift tickets in the January TOOT, we called her to express interest because we had already planned a trip there. Why Okemo? It's drivable from DC. It's a great mountain for intermediate skiers or advanced skiers (like Mary who has lost most of the "advanced"). It is eastern-large (skiable terrain: 655 acres, 5 mountains, 120 trails and glades), has great lift-line management (19 lifts), great snow-making (96%), rated consistently #1 for grooming, and doesn't attract many maniacs. (They're up the road at Killington.) During off-peak weekdays, we often found ourselves on slopes on which we were luxuriously alone. And, it's in **Vermont!**

Okemo opened in 1956. The Mueller family has operated it for the last 30 years and their "focus on service and snow is apparent from their long ski season and loyal following." This year, Okemo christened it's 6-seat Bubble Chair with heated seats, rated the top ski lift in the east. (Check out YouTube for [How the seats are heated on Okemo's Sunburst Six orange ...](#) It was a great ride when it was really cold.

Our survival of the drive from Falls Church, VA to Ludlow, VT on January 3 is testament to the value of snow tires. Without them we would not have gotten there. After all, skiing is all about snow, so why not the trip, too? We hit blizzard conditions on the Garden State Parkway up through New York to VT. The medians and shoulders were littered with cars going every which way. The 8-hour trip took only 10½ hours.

After a night of rising temperatures, which turned the blizzard to sleet and rain, on Sunday we hit the slopes where there was a ¼" of ice coating the snow. Lifts didn't open on time because grooming hadn't finished, delayed by the various forms of fickle precipitation. Temps soared to the low 40s, which blessed the valley and mountains with heavy fog. Visibility was about 50 feet. Tom told Mary to "ski to the noise" to find a lift because we could not see them and it worked. And so it went all day: Mary, "this is really dangerous;" Tom, "just ski to the noise." One major positive aspect of the day was that there were very few other crazy skiers on the mountain with whom to collide in the fog. The groomed icy snow was really good.

Tuesday and Wednesday were great days on the slopes, if a little chilly with high temps of 15 and 11 above. Thursday brought a high of 15 below, you know, zero. (By the way, wind chills not included.) Tom skied; Mary did not. Friday, it was snowing and skiing was great, though it brought more beginning weekend skiers on the main slopes. Still, the South Face was gloriously unpopulated.

We stayed in downtown Ludlow, only a mile and a half from the mountain, where we could walk to restaurants. Though, the nights were cold enough that we also ventured out of town to some really good restaurants before we fell asleep.

Mary maintained her record of no breaks. (Tom did, too, but he's not afraid.) All in all, it was a great week. Give Okemo a try sometime, all you east coast dedicated Western Skiers.





THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley

RaysKnee@gmail.com

Here in the D.C. area, it has already been a “bell-weather” winter. We’ve had snow and freezing rain, and we were on the cusp of the blizzard that brought extreme cold and three feet of snow to New England. The Knee’s knees are turning blue!

And now ‘tis February, and we know PVS will carry on. Our nominating committee, ably chaired by Bob Knopes, has selected a slate of next year’s officers and Executive Committee. The Committee accomplished this herculean (I love that word) task without ever having a meeting. It was done by e-mail and teleconference. The day after submitting his list, Bob and spouse Karen took off for Peru to do some birding along the Amazon. Apparently it was a “cheep” trip.

As you hopefully know by now, PVS’ 50th anniversary is coming up. According to Dick Comerford, our closest ski area is the same age.

As he ages, the Knee now believes that the proper place for snow is on the slopes—not on my driveway. I’ve written my Congressman, but received no response. He’s been out skiing!

Live happy in 2015! Consider this: today is the oldest you’ve ever been, yet it’s the youngest you’ll ever be again. The same will be true tomorrow—so enjoy.

Here is the Knee’s safety item—for skiboarders. L. L. Bean (which is Spanish for The The *frijoles*) now offers boarders foam padded briefs! Good for a cush tush.

There is an old Buddhist saying: Wherever you go, there you are. But your luggage and skis are another story.

One of PVS’ oldest skiers, 95-year-old Peter Russell, finished our Aspen trip and then headed off to France to ski with the Over 70 club.

50 years ago, Liberty (then called Charnita) opened its slopes for the first time ever! Wally Shank started at Charnita as a “do everything” kind of guy and later worked his way to become the GM of the resort. 50 years ago – January 1965, was Liberty’s (then Charnita) first day of skiing and Wally’s first day at the ski area.

It had been a mild winter and opening had been plagued with getting the snowmaking

system up and running. (So what else is new?) Snowmaking was powered by 6 very loud compressors with no cooling - located where the rental shop is today. The water pump for the snowmaking was at the Golf Course pond. The water pump had a bypass valve and a pressure gauge, which tended to fail. So a person had to sit by the pump, as long as the pump was running, to adjust the water pressure by opening or closing the bypass valve.

Ski Patrol was then the newly reconstituted Oregon Ridge Ski Patrol and they were given a small room at the end of the compressor building closest to the ski lodge. Oregon Ridge was a small ski area with a 150-foot vertical, just north of Baltimore. The area closed when Charnita opened.

The Rental shop was where the retail shop is today and had 100 sets of wooden skis with Teisler bayonet-pin Safety Bindings. If you fell, the bayonet pin pulled out and the binding disintegrated. Before you could put the ski back on you needed to get a new bayonet pin because the first pin was lost in the snow.

The Ski School had about a dozen ski instructors (including one whose primary language was English). The cafeteria was where it is today but the entire porch-area facing the ski slopes was the bar - so the only people in the lodge who could look out and see the ski slopes were those sitting at the bar.

About half of the cafeteria floor was a polished maple dance floor. The cafeteria closed at 8pm and the live band started playing. Charnita, in its beginning, wasn't family oriented - nor was it intended to be. It was a nightclub with skiing. The slopes were groomed maybe twice a week. Lifts were a double chair with mid-station unloading and 2 rope tows. There were 2 trails from the top, "S Trail" (basically where White Lightning starts today) and "Expert" (which closed when the Alpine Slide was installed in 1977). There were 3 trails from mid-station and there were 2 trails at the rope tow beginner area. Wally is pleased to chat about history any time, if you see him on the slopes.

You should try my latest idea for those afraid to stand up on their skis. Kneeskis.

At the January ExCom meeting hostess Ellie Thayer greeted us with a beautiful, homemade Gingerbread house. She’s been making them for 20 years. Right on!

Ski helmets were discussed in depth. They are an essential safety item. The Knee always wears them writing this column.

In Memory of George Robert Welti, 1923-2015



George Robert Welti of Leesburg, Virginia, passed away on January 9, 2015 following complications from hip surgery. He was born in 1923 in Bern, Switzerland. George was named after St. George, the Patron Saint of Boy Scouts, and Sir Robert Baden Powell, the British founder of boy scouting. George came to the United States in 1935. He entered Principia Upper School in St. Louis, Missouri, where he played the trumpet in a swing band, sang in the chapel choir and captained the swim team, graduating in 1940. He attended M.I.T., earning a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering in 1943.

Following graduation, he joined the Army and trained in the antiaircraft artillery. His unit was sent to France, Belgium, and Germany during World War II. After the war, he returned to M.I.T., earning M.S. degrees in both Mechanical and Electrical Engineering.

George's first full-time job was at the Sperry Gyroscope Company in New York. At that time, part of the Sperry plant was being temporarily occupied by the newly created United Nations, while the U.N. headquarters were under construction in Manhattan. In the shared cafeteria, George met his future wife, Corry Marie Groenhart, a U.N. translator from Dordrecht, the Netherlands. They were happily married for 39 years until her death in 1988.

During the 1950s, George worked for the M.I.T. Division of Industrial Cooperation and then Raytheon. In 1966 he relocated from Newton, Massachusetts to Leesburg, Virginia with his family, now including six children, to work at the Developmental Engineering Corporation (DECO) headquarters. Later he worked for the engineering divisions of COMSAT and Stanford Telecommunications. As a consultant for NASA, George earned 10 patents in the field of space communications.

George enjoyed rowing on the Potomac River, but found it awkward having to look over his shoulder to see where he was headed, so he constructed a forward-rowing shell by replacing the oarlocks with a pair of rails that held the oar and stroked it backwards. After retiring at age 78, George joined the New Dominion Chorale, played tennis with the Fairfax Racquet Club, and became an active member of the Potomac Valley Ski Club in 1994. He and his companion, the late Sally Jane Finan, traveled extensively.

In 2010, George moved into the Ashby Ponds Retirement Community, where he swam seven days a week, and enjoyed solving math and logic problems; playing chess and scrabble with his family, friends, and caregivers; and watching sports, especially his beloved Red Sox.

In addition to his wife, George was preceded in death by his sister Grace Hedrick, his sister Milti Hoadley and her husband, Dave, who was George's good friend from Principia; and Sally Finan, his companion of 16 years. He leaves behind to cherish his memory six children -- Jennifer Welti, Jacqueline Carlton (Mel), Susan Goode (David), Theodore Welti (Kathleen), John Welti (Phyllis), and Alexander Welti; 14 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; his brother-in-law, Mike Hedrick; and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held at 1:00 pm on Saturday, January 24, 2014 at Colonial Funeral Home <www.colonialfuneralhome.com>, 201 Edwards Ferry Rd NE, Leesburg, Virginia 20176.

George will be laid to rest in Union Cemetery, Leesburg, Virginia.

In Memory of Patricia M. Tengel

The club notes with sadness the death of long-time PVS member, Patricia M. Tengel, who joined in 1988 under the sponsorship of Charles and Sara Huggins. Pat died on January 14, 2015 from Frontal Temporal Dementia (FTD). She had FTD for about 10 years and was under hospice care at home since middle of November. Our condolences go out to her husband, John H. Smith.

Pat learned to ski in 1965 while she was teaching at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, NH. Appropriately, she learned to ski at “Pat’s Peak” in Henniker, NH. She moved to Pittsburgh, PA in 1968 and became active in the Pittsburgh Ski Club. While in Pittsburgh she skied locally at Seven Springs and went on ski club trips to Europe, western United States, and western Canada.



In 1975, Pat moved to this area to teach at the University of Maryland and became active in PVS in 1988. She went on many PVS ski trips and helped lead ski trips to Europe from the late 1990s to the mid 2000s.

In addition to skiing, Pat was an enthusiastic and active sailor. In 1972, Pat and John sailed in three of the Great Lakes for six weeks. In more recent years, they did extensive motorboat cruising on trawlers on the Chesapeake Bay, Florida, along the Atlantic coast, and up the Hudson River. Sara Huggins remembers John and Pat taking PVSers out for a sail before PVS gatherings.

Pat received a B.S. in Education degree from Bowling Green State University in 1961 and an M.S. degree in Household Economics and Management from Cornell University in 1964. She received a Ph.D in Family Economics from The Pennsylvania State University in 1976. She was an Assistant Professor at the University of New Hampshire from 1964 to 1968 and at the Carnegie-Mellon University from 1968 to 1972. She was an Assistant Professor and Family Resource Management Specialist with the Michigan Cooperative Extension Service at Michigan State University from 1972 to 1974. She was an Associate Professor and Family Resource Management Specialist with the Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Maryland from 1975 to 2000. She retired from the University of Maryland in 2000. After retiring, Pat worked as a Certified Financial Planner.

Pat has been president of the Maryland Home Economics Association, the Maryland Specialists Association, and the Maryland Society of the Institute of Certified Financial Planners and has been Vice President for Finance and properties for AAFCS and president of the Maryland Affiliate of AAFCS.

A service and burial was held in Cleveland, Pat’s hometown, on January 24, 2015.



PVS Calendar 2015:

- Feb 15 Sun Monthly Meeting, 2:00 PM, Maryann Rozzell, Fairfax, VA
Local Eurofest 2015 participants, please attend****
- Feb 24 Tue ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM, Jan Marx, Springfield, VA
- Mar 22 Sun Monthly Meeting, 2:00-4:00 PM, Melissa FitzGerald, Reston, VA
- Apr 21 Tue Annual Meeting, 7:30 PM, Reg Heitchue's Party Room, Reston, VA
- Nov 01 Sun PVS 50th Anniversary Gala at Top of the Town, Rosslyn, VA
****Inge will be delivering trip itineraries, luggage tags, insurance papers, etc.



PVS Ski Trips 2015:



- January 31-February 7, 2015: PVS/BRSC Mt. Bachelor and Bend, OR
(Cara & Bob Jablon)
- March 6-14, 2015: PVS/BRSC Eurofest to Hintertux/Zillertal, Austria
(Inge Lesjak)

Useful Ski "Links"

- Potomac Valley Skiers..... potomacvalleyskiers.org
PVS Website login: Username = Member, member, or MEMBER; Password = TOOT
- BRSC Sanctioned Trips..... skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm
- DC Ski Online News..... dcski.com
- Best of Times Ski Club..... bestoftimeskiclub.org
BOT Ski Trips:
http://bestoftimeskiclub.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=5186&module_id=32832

ExCom Officers, Board Members, & Chairpersons

President – <i>Nancy McKinley</i>	EXCOM: First Term:
Vice President – <i>John Holt</i>	
Secretary – <i>Ellie Thayer</i>	<i>Inge Lesjak</i>
Treasurer – <i>Dick Laeser</i>	<i>Paul Levy (1-year only)</i>
Ski Trip Committee – <i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i>	<i>Ellie Thayer</i>
Events – <i>Ray McKinley</i>	Second Term:
Membership Records – <i>Dave Warthen</i>	<i>Bob Knopes</i>
Membership PR Rep – <i>Carolyn DeVilbiss</i>	<i>Maryann Rozzell</i>
TOOT Coordinator – <i>Ellie Thayer</i>	<i>Marianne Soponis</i>
TOOT Layout Editors – <i>Jan Marx, Marvin Hass, & Dave Warthen</i>	Webmaster – <i>Dave Lerner,</i> <i>Mary Ward (Backup)</i>
TOOT (E-Distribution) – <i>Dave Warthen</i>	Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</i>
TOOT (USPS Distribution) – <i>Volunteers</i>	Historian – <i>Jan Marx</i>

