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*Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.*  
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

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

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

### President's Message

Spring greetings to all the PVS members. It's hard to think of skiing when there is a canopy of green all over the Washington area, the azaleas are in bloom, the annuals are growing, and the weeds are already demanding attention. At our house, there is a constant battle to contain the bamboo, which, absent a local supply of pandas, tries to take over every square inch, except where I want it to grow. My philosophy of gardening, which has come back to haunt me, is to fill every bare space with a plant. Of course, I failed to take into account that plants grow and expand, and my yard, not dissimilar to the art collection in my house, has become rather overwhelming and overgrown.

I do look forward to enjoying the warm (please, not too warm) weather, and being able to put the coats away for a while. But, the summer is short, and the next ski season is not that far off. I am very excited about going to Andorra, as I have never skied in Europe. Perhaps I have deferred a European ski trip because of my concern about being swallowed up by one of the infamous European crevasses. I am counting on Ray and Nancy to protect me from such a disappearance.

As we think about the next ski season, I strongly recommend considering ski lessons. Every season, I try to take at least a few days of lessons. Hope springs eternal, and I keep on trying to improve. I know that my days of attempting the double black diamond slopes are probably over; however, ski instruction has not only helped me to hold on to the skills that I have, but also has improved some of my bad habits and taught me some very useful new techniques. As many of you know, I can't get enough mogul skiing – the bumps just keep on calling me. Over the past few years, I have also developed the technique and courage to ski in the woods (look at the space between the trees, not the trees), and have been enjoying skiing on ungroomed terrain and in deep powder. All of this would not have been possible had I not followed ski instructors through perilous terrain that I would have never attempted myself.

Even if you have no desire to ski bumps with me, follow Liz Warren-Boulton through the woods or ski cliffs with Dave Lerner, lessons can clear up some bad habits, improve your self-confidence, and teach you how to achieve maximum effect with minimal effort on parabolic skis. You may even have the incredible experience that I had this year one day at Steamboat – an all-day “group” lesson where I was a group of one with my own instructor, an amazing 80 year old man named Don Gore, who taught me a wealth of techniques. After a day of skiing mostly mogul runs (at my request), he confessed to me that he normally taught the lower level classes, and had not skied bumps heretofore during this ski season.

For those of you who would like to improve your mogul technique, I recommend a little book titled “Everything The Instructors Never Told You About Mogul Skiing,” written by Dan DiPiro. The book is available on amazon.com. DiPiro provides a different approach to mogul technique than that taught by most ski instructors – I found his approach very helpful, and was able to improve my technique as a result. In future messages, I will provide some details about his methodology.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the June and July PVS meetings.

With best wishes for enjoying the remainder of the spring season,

*Cara Jablon*



*PVS June Meeting at the Home of Liz Warren-Boulton*

***Tuesday 21 June 2011, 7:30 PM***

***Washington, DC***

***(see next page for directions)***



June meeting at the home of Liz Warren-Boulton

Tuesday, June 21

7:30 PM

3049 Porter Street, NW

Washington, DC 20008

H/202-244-4717

C/202-905-8400

**Street parking is available** on Porter Street and behind the house on Quebec Street (go around the block and look for a small 3049# at lower part of the trellis gate and a white cloth on gate).

**From the beltway from Virginia** - Cross into Maryland and take exit 39 (River Road/MD 190 E) towards exit 39B (toward Washington) and go about 5.6 miles;

Bear right on Wisconsin Avenue NW and go about 0.4 mile;

Turn left on Van Ness Street NW and go about 0.4 mile;

Turn right on Reno Road NW and go about 0.4 mile;

Continue on 34<sup>th</sup> Street NW for less than 0.1 mile;

Turn left on Porter Street NW and go 0.2 mile;

3049 Porter Street NW is on the left.

**From I-270 and the Maryland beltway towards I-495E** - Take exit 33 (Connecticut Avenue/MD 185 S) toward Chevy Chase and go about 2.7 miles;

At Chevy Chase Circle, take 4<sup>th</sup> exit and continue on Connecticut Avenue NW and go about 2.4 miles;

Turn right on Porter Street NW and go 0.2 mile;

3049 Porter Street is on the right.

## **Coming Event**

***All Trips Party***  
***4:00 PM Sunday July 17***

**Save the date! We'll meet at Betty Lawrence's Vienna abode.**

**There will be food and drink and, of course, lots of information about all of the PVS 2012 trips.**

**More information will be in the July TOOT.**

## Past Events

### SKI TRAVEL SHOW

**BETHESDA, MARYLAND, APRIL 29, 2011**

On Friday evening April 29, the annual Ski Travel Show came to Bethesda. Eight PVSers attended: Jan Marx, David Lerner, Carolyn and Dave DeVilbiss, Charlie and Sara Huggins, and Rosemary and Dick Schwartzbard. At this show, representatives of various ski areas come to showcase their resorts and generate interest among ski clubs in sending their groups to those resorts. They come with maps, brochures, pins, pens and other goodies to entice you. We talked to people from Colorado, Utah, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and as far away as China. Yes, they are now skiing in China! Not sure any groups signed up, though. Vendors, as well as resorts, also have booths. We talked to Doug Hortstman, who is organizing our Snowmass trip and Dan Ellis who has done trips for us in the past. We also talked to Judy Miller who is running the Andorra trip. She is very pleased with the PVS interest in Andorra.



The Show began at 6:00 and a cash bar was available. At 9:00 a buffet was set out. Shortly thereafter, Paul Webber, who runs the show, started drawing names for prizes. Prizes ranged from a week of free skiing and lodging to a tee shirt. Well, I was the lucky one to win the tee shirt size XL. Jan won two days at Snowshoe and said she will take her son.

What was noticeable this year was the reduced number of attendees. We were told the shows in New Jersey, New York and Philadelphia pulled in many more people. I believe the show is held the wrong time of year. By spring most clubs have their trips planned for the following year. It would be more productive to talk to these people in the fall when we begin to plan two seasons out.



I was most impressed with the information from the Canyons, Utah, representative about the expansion of that mountain. They have put \$50 million into a huge expansion, including a new base area. It has nearly tripled the skiable area since PVS went there in 2001 with the McKinleys as leaders. Canyons is now the largest ski area in Utah and the third largest in the U.S. behind Vail and Heavenly. It may be a place worth visiting. Just outside the Grand Summit Hotel is a high speed lift with heated seats and a bubble cover. That bubble lift sounds enticing.



We also talked to the Crested Butte people. We wanted to get information on Telluride, but this is the first year they did not have a representative. WISP was also absent.

It was an informative evening. Hopefully next year we will have more attendees from PVS.

**--Rosemary Schwartzbard**



*PVS Monthly Meeting, May 17, at Bob & Karen Knopes, Fairfax Station, VA*



*Karen, Bob, & Dillon*

I report on the most recent PVS monthly meeting -- our meeting at the Knopes. Please note that I did not characterize this as our last meeting, just our most recent.

The meeting began with our new President, Cara Jablon, asking me to pay the monthly meeting charge for both of us. It then followed with the serious business, getting someone to write these notes. After asking everyone else, Cara assigned me to the task. In order to attempt success, I stole a pen from the Knopes. I shall return it at the last meeting at their house.

The meeting then proceeded to hors d'oeuvres and Cabernet Sauvignon - at least for me. The food was great. Bob and Karen know the importance of the right wine.

Cara reported on Rosemary and her trip to the Blue Ridge Ski Council. Rosemary was on route to China. The Blue Ridge Council meeting was almost as far. It began at 8:45 A.M. The council does not know that morning has a "u" in it.



Council members reported on favorable Blue Ridge Ski Council trips this year and planned trips for next, including the Andorra trip on which PVS will have the most members. Ray McKinley suggested that by groups of us going on Blue Ridge trips, which we are allowed to do, we can have more trips together than PVS alone can (or will) support with our being able to ski with those we know.



Carolyn DeVilbiss reported on the Snowmass trip. It will only be about \$100 more than last year. Considering fuel surcharges, this is good value. Fifteen have signed up and others have expressed strong interest. There is space. Carolyn and Sharon always have very satisfied customers on this trip.

Nancy McKinley reported on the Andorra trip. She termed Andorra -- the 13th smallest country in the world -- a neat place. She and Ray have just returned from a recent exploratory visit. Andorra has an interesting history of smuggling and the like. Now tax free shopping and good restaurants give the advantage of the past with less risk. The approximately \$2,400 price includes air, lodging, a Barcelona pre-trip, breakfast, a good hotel and a great buffet breakfast. PVSers will probably stay together at the Crowne Plaza, which is centrally located. Some of us hope to make a side trip to Carcassonne, France (about two hours away) for the world's best cassoulet.

Ellie and Jan discussed local hiking opportunities.

The formal meeting was followed by discussion, bon vivantism and, oh yes, desserts that were enjoyed by all. The Knopes were excellent hosts. We are thankful (especially for the stolen pen, which I hope to return someday).



--*Bob Jablon*

## Great Falls/Gold Mine Trail Hike - May 21

Eight hearty PVSers (Jan Marx, Sue Lyon, Nancy and Ray McKinley, Shirley Rettig, Melissa Fitzgerald, Marianne Gustafson, and Ruth Powers) enjoyed a lovely spring hike in Great Falls Park, Maryland on Saturday, May 21. (The hike was rescheduled from Thursday because of the stormy weather forecast.) We started from Rockwood Manor Park on MacArthur Blvd and hiked through the woods to the tavern and canal. Along the way we passed through the site of one of the earliest Maryland gold mines. We didn't find any gold, but we did find evidence of the gold mining operations, including trenches, rail-beds, and pieces of quartz that had been extracted, as well as ruins of some of the old buildings.



*Shirley Marianne, Ruth, Melissa, Sue, Ray & Nancy*

Jan, the hike leader, had planned for us to go out to the overlook on Olmstead Island, but had learned that the bridges were closed because of high water on the Potomac. Fortunately, the bridges were reopened a half hour before we got there, so we were able to view the high water rushing under the bridges and over the falls.



*Shirley & Sue*

After our picnic lunch, we returned to our cars via the Overlook trail and the other side of the Gold Mine Loop. Many thanks to Jan for organizing this enjoyable event and for arranging perfect weather (on the second try).

*--Ruth Powers*



*Marianne, Ray & Nancy, Sue, & Jan*



# Members Corner



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

## **Trip to Budapest & Cruise up the Danube to Prague**

– Louann & Bob Eadie

There is too much to say about a trip like this, but I will keep it short! FABULOUS!

Budapest is one of those magical cities that as a child you dream about. We stayed at the Sofitel right on the Danube with the Chain Bridge dividing Buda and Pest right outside our



*Budapest – Danube River, Parliament left*

front door! Upon arrival, we checked out our river-view suite and departed for the streets of this beautiful city. We walked about 5 miles the first afternoon (and each day forward) just digesting the architectural display looking across the river.....Buda Castle, Gellert Baths, Fisherman's Bastion, and many other historic sites. The splendor of the river walk just put you right into the heart of this deep-rooted historic place and made you hungry to open all the doors quickly to understand their homeland.

Day 2, we decided to do the "hop on-hop off" bus system. It's a 2-day pass, and we sure got our \$20 worth! We rode the entire red and yellow line first to get a feel for all there was to see. By afternoon we were tired, and had dined at a fabulous local restaurant behind St. Stephen's Basilica, called Lucas (Lukash). We rested and then took in a 7-piece orchestra with soprano at St. Stephen's that was truly life changing! To sit in this magnificent church and experience the music and ambiance with people from all over the world was superb.

Day 3, we took the tram down to Central Market, which is a truly wonderful, HUGE market, selling everything from meat



*St. Stephens Basilica, Budapest*

to paprika and local crafts with eateries up on the second floor! Bob and I LOVED the bakeries! The building itself is stunning, and Vaci Utca (a famous shopping street) is directly across from the Market; so, we were able to enjoy all the people and stores along the way. We took the bus to visit some of the must-see sites: Buda Castle, which has a very famous and extensive art collection of Hungarian artists. We happened on a full-blown European Union closing ceremony meeting (Budapest is the seat of the European Union at this time) with all the pomp and circumstance of the military ceremony with the troops in uniforms of 40 years ago. Plus, the troops on horseback were in full regalia. It was quite a sight to see: music, showmanship, and lots of dignitaries!

Day 4, we took the bus again and stopped at all the sites we wanted to visit: Heroes Square, the Castle, Szecheni Baths, and the Art Museums. Again, lots of history and culture to thrive on!

Day 5, we met up with our AMA Waterway cruise on the Amalyra for a 7-day cruise up the Danube. There were 120 of



us onboard, a much smaller crowd than we are used to. We sailed from Budapest to Bratislava, Vienna, Durnstein, Melk, Passau, Regensburg, and Nuremberg. Vienna was marvelous, and we saw a Mozart and Strauss concert in the city palace that made you close your eyes and imagine being back in that time, after a great banquet hall dinner!!! All of the

villages and cities were beautiful and historic, and each held its special place in our hearts. Bratislava: St. Martin's Gothic Cathedral; Vienna: St. Stephen's Cathedral, Schonbrunn Palace and Carriage House, and of course Kartnerstrasse, the main shopping street where Bob and I had lavish pastries from the bakery; Durnstein, where we entered the beautiful Wachau Valley and its beautiful 16<sup>th</sup>-century townhouses and cobblestone streets. At this point, we began a bike trip of 22 miles with 18 others and a guide along the Danube to Melk through pristine villages and forest, even crossing the river by ferry to the other side. At this juncture, Louann got a flat tire! Bob and I waited 1 1/2 hours for a new bike, and then high-tailed it to Melk the other 11 miles only 1/2 hour behind the



others! We had not been on bikes in many years and Bob was a trooper!! We were determined to see the famous Melk Abbey, one of the largest Baroque monasteries. The art alone was worth the trip! Passau, a 2,000-year old city was truly like a fairy tale. Regensburg, one of Germany's best-preserved medieval cities held great allure with one of the oldest bridges and Porta Praetoria, a gateway to an old Roman fort built in 179 AD. Along this part of the cruise, the scenery of vineyards and breathtaking colorful homes along the Danube in the Altmuhl Valley was truly an experience while sitting up on the top deck with new friends having a "Happy Hour." Our last stop was Nuremberg, where so much history speaks for itself: from the 900-year-old ramparts that surround the city to Justice Palace.

The next morning we boarded a bus, leaving behind our wonderful crew and friends we had met on our cruise to make our way to Prague, a 5-hour drive. We stopped at Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad), a Disneyworld-like town resort that is famous for its spa. We had lunch at the Hotel Pupp (pronounced Poop)! BUT, we still had 14 of us who had found each other during that week from all over: Texas, Ottawa, Edmonton, California, Maine, and North Carolina. We took Prague by storm walking through the Powder gates, only a 5-minute walk from our Hilton Hotel to see Old Town Square dressed in tents and about 100 vendors for the Easter month celebration they have every year! Sausages and ham sandwiches to die for

and wonderful homemade crafts to ponder over, we walked the Charles Bridge filled with folks speaking several languages. We LOVED the Prague Castle (definitely a WOW factor when you entered this magnificent 1,000-year-old cathedral) and climbed the 282 steps in cramped quarters to the top. It was definitely worth the view of all of Prague! Our time in this great



*Prague*

city was full of sights and good food! We stayed an extra day after everyone left and decided to take the City Municipal Hall tour (right by the Powder gates). It has a huge concert hall and a fabulous restaurant in the basement (Pushtanka). But what a hidden treasure this was! It was built in 1904 in Art Nouveau and Empire style. They even brought over Thomas Edison to supervise the electric lighting! The rooms were beyond words.....a must see!

We cannot say enough about Eastern Europe and its many treasures where things could almost be seen as they were back many years ago. These countries have preserved the culture and traditions, but have moved on in many ways enabling people to live better lives.



*Louann & Bob in Tower of Prague Castle*

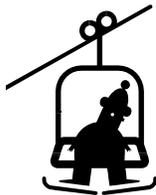


# Snowmass 2012

## Wednesday to Wednesday, January 18-25, 2012



Ski four mountains for the price of one, with locked-in air pricing for the first 30 persons to sign up! Beat the galloping air fares due to rising fuel costs. The staff at our "Old Faithful" Snowmass Mountain Chalet is waiting with open arms to welcome us once again.



Snowmass offers the crème de la crème of ski-in, ski-out experience with direct access to 3,100 acres of slope-side skiing just outside the door.

The skiing terrain totals more than 5,000 acres with interchangeable lift tickets and free bus service to Aspen Highlands, Ajax Mountain, and Buttermilk ski areas.



**Slope-side lodging at Snowmass Mountain Chalet includes a daily family-style hot breakfast and daily soup lunch, greatly appreciated by trip participants and other guests, many of whom return year after year. The reunions in the Hot Tub quickly refresh the memories. The spacious, welcoming lobby with oversized stone fireplace, flat screen TV and card tables for "Dave's" games offers a comfortable gathering place. The hootenanny sing-alongs will again be a popular event.**

The trip will include group dinners, après-ski parties, and other activities available in the Aspen area.

To lock in your reservation for this early season trip, send your deposit for \$300 to Carolyn DeVilbiss at 4508 Peacock Avenue, Alexandria VA 22304

(note "PVS-Snowmass 2012" on the memo line)

For more information contact trip leaders:

Carolyn DeVilbiss at 703-370-4865 ([carolyn.maurer@verizon.net](mailto:carolyn.maurer@verizon.net))

Sharon Mulholland at 301-330-2953 ([shank@mrisc.com](mailto:shank@mrisc.com))



March 1-12 or 16, 2012, join Nancy and Ray McKinley to See and Ski in Andorra!

**See and Ski  
Andorra 2012**

**Only 2 Spaces  
Left—Act Now!!**

Potomac Valley Skiers is joining BRSC for a true gem of a ski trip—to one of the smallest and most mountainous countries in the world—Andorra, a skier's and tourist's paradise. And we'll visit spectacular Barcelona. There are optional trips: to Madrid and the Prado Museum, the medieval, walled city of Carcassonne, France with its winding cobbled streets, and turrets—a World Heritage Site. We'll have the opportunity to visit the fortress city, Toledo, with its Christian, Jewish and Islamic heritage, and Segovia and Avila to see the 2,000 year old Roman aqueduct, the fairyland castle of Alcazar and more. Skiing in Andorra is World Class, with 7,600 acres, a vertical of 3,575 feet, 111 lifts with a capacity of 156,390 skiers/hr, and 187 mi of runs.



Upper Lift Restaurant

Our 11-day 10-night Trip Includes: 3 nights in historic, vibrant Barcelona; 7 nights at the 5-star Crowne Plaza Hotel in Andorra's capital, with two people per 2-room junior suite. We include full breakfast and a daily 5-course themed buffet dinner! Trip includes your Emergency Medical and repatriation insurance, a pre-trip party, a welcome party, a mid-week Apres Ski party, a Grand Finale Dance in the ballroom and a post-trip party. We will also offer a 4-night post-trip extension to historic scenic Madrid including three



Crowne Plaza Lobby

superb tours. Prices are not yet finalized; we expect the 11-day 10-night package to be \$2,400-\$2,600pp and the 4-day Madrid add-on at about \$800-\$900. We have limited space. To reserve a spot on this memorable PVS See & Ski in Andorra trip, send your check for \$100 per person payable to Ray McKinley, refundable 'til August and with "Andorra" in the memo line. Include your full name from your passport, and if you want the Spain add-on. Mail to 1805 Crystal Drive # 813, Arlington, VA 22202. More info since returning from Andorra in May, at (703) 527-7126 or at [raymckin@gmail.com](mailto:raymckin@gmail.com).



# THE KNEE

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

It's June, so we are now a mere six months away from what may be a monumental ski event. That's right! December 5 will mark the 220<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. And the Knee expects the Austrians to make a big deal of it—they do use any excuse for a celebration. From what I've read, WAM (as I'm wont to call him) wasn't much of a skier; but that shouldn't deter the Austrians. Expect to see a new line of Mozart skis ("A Symphony on Snow - The Perfect Marriage of Figaro and Powder"), perhaps with WAM's profile on the tip.

They must have a Liszt of other tie-ins. The beginner's version will be "Bach to Basics." It's dizzying. The concept gives me Verdi-go.

The Knee and Nancy are just back from three weeks in Europe. A few observations: Don't complain about gas prices. Regular was often over \$10/gallon. We paid over \$100 to fill up the tank! Twice. All hotel designers, whether 5 star or B&B, must take a course in locating the toilet paper holder in the most inconvenient, physically-impossible-to-reach location. Ellie Thayer saw this first and we confirmed it: All Frenchmen, short, tall, fat or skinny are wearing denim. It was developed in France. Right on!

**The Knee has been collecting PVS travel tidbits. (These are tiny portions of a tid.)**

A change in plans for Mary Ward and Jim Slack: They had been planning a 1-month cruise to the eastern Mediterranean. But, with stops in places like Tunisia, Syria, Jordan and Egypt, it somehow just didn't seem the right year for that itinerary! So Jim and Mary are going to the Grand Canyon—where no one has been overthrown (or thrown over!).

As you will read elsewhere, Jan Marx hosted a long, but wonderful hike on the Gold Mine Trail and down to see the roiling Potomac. It didn't end comfortably for Marianne Gustafson. She had a flat tire on Canal Drive and called Road Assist. After about an hour, a gentleman came by and helped change the tire. Marianne then drove to Goodyear but they were closed. So she didn't get home until 5:30 pm after a very long day. The following day

Marianne returned to find her 2-month-old tire had a gash and needed replacement. Bummer!

News from today's headlines—or maybe yesterday's. Jack Chapman's sister and family who live in tornado-ravaged Joplin, Missouri, lost their house and their 3 cars in the recent tornado which devastated the town. Thankfully, the entire family is safe after running to their crawl space/storm shelter. Jack and wife, Ellie Thayer, are driving their extra car to Missouri to lend it to Jack's sister as they try to recover. After helping where they can, Jack and Ellie will fly home. I won't say that it will be a whirlwind trip.

Marilyn and Dick Clark have returned from an Alaskan cruise. Despite Dick slipping and injuring his nose, they had a super vacation. According to Marilyn, the weather was great with sunshine on 9 of 10 days, gorgeous scenery and really nice people at the dinner table. They had a final day in Victoria, sunny again, and enjoyed the plethora of blooms at Butchart Gardens.

Marilyn Clark also related several stories about flying Congress members. Lindsay Ross, an aide to Senator John Kerry, called to inquire about a trip to Hawaii. After going over the costs, she asked, "Would it be cheaper to fly to California and then take the train to Hawaii?"

Senator Mary Landrieu of Louisiana had questions about documents necessary to fly to China. On being reminded that she needed a visa, "Oh, no I don't. I've been to China many times and never had to have one of those." But her stay required a visa. When told, she said, "Look, I've been to China four times and every time they have accepted my American Express!"

Vermont Congressman Bernie Sanders was furious about a Florida package as he was expecting an ocean-view room. When told that's not possible, as Orlando is in the middle of the state, he replied, "Don't lie to me; I looked on the map and Florida is a very thin state!"

I'll close with some great news. PVS Treasurer Dick Laeser is a seven-time cancer survivor. Medical tests showed a possible additional occurrence. However, exploratory surgery at Johns Hopkins showed no cancer, but a problem that resulted in Dick's spleen being removed. After being released, he developed an infection. So back to the hospital. He's now home recuperating (having recuperated earlier), having dropped 15 lbs.—to 195. But Dick sure did dodge a big bullet. He wouldn't be here if not for some early catches as a result of regular physicals, and immediate pursuit of suspicious symptoms. Right on!

## Food for Daydreaming, Thought, and Ski Promotion - Bob Jablon



Rosemary Schwartzbard said I should write a restaurant column for the TOOT. Why? I do not know - perhaps, to divert me from the slopes.

A renowned chef was pushing exercise on Charlie Rose. How else could one eat as much as one wants, he asked? This principle can link skiing and eating. This is why, when going to Vermont, you must first stop at a good D.C. restaurant to get you on your way. I recommend La Chaumiere <<http://www.lachaumierecd.com/>>, Et Voila <<http://www.etvoiladc.com/>> or Bistro Lepic <<http://www.bistrotlepic.com/>>. Now, you are fortified to get to New York to find a delicatessen of quantity. I recommend Sarge's, the Second Avenue Deli or Katz's <<http://katzsdelicatessen.com/>>. Cara is opposed to Katz's because she imagines that the floor has roaches. But this is Houston Street.

You are now fortified to drive to Vermont. Some stop at Albany, at Jack's <<http://www.jacksoysterhouse.com/>>, perhaps, on State Street, but now you are close to Manchester, Vermont. Cross the New York-Vermont border past Troy and you enter magic land.

I discovered I did not know how to stop except by falling the second time that I went skiing. This was at Stratton. We went to the Reluctant Panther so that I could recuperate. The Reluctant Panther <<http://reluctantpanther.com/dining>> is a gourmet restaurant in a purple inn in the heart of Manchester – or Manchester Center to be technically precise. It is still there, although the young girl who answered the door when we first arrived is not. She answered my three questions, yes, the restaurant would take us as we were – a mess -- and yes, it would accept a check, but she had to check if it could take us now. It could. The restaurant was better than the skiing, less ice.

Gourmet cooking by the way has small portions, but has a unique taste. Gourmand is large portions with classic taste. See delicatessens above.

Manchester is home to Stratton, Bromley and the Chanticleer restaurant. The Chanticleer is the place to go. I recommend duck or rack of lamb. At the Chanticleer <<http://www.chanticleerrestaurant.com/www.chanticleerrestaurant.com/Restaurant.html>>, you are just beyond Manchester in quintessential Vermont.

Driving north past Okemo, you reach Killington. Just past the gondola at the intersection of routes 100 and 7 turn right onto 7. In about a mile or two, you are at Hemmingway's <<http://www.hemingwaysrestaurant.com/>>. If you can get through the snow, and this often takes skill, you are probably at the best restaurant in Vermont. A price fixed, multi course *really* gourmet meal awaits you. It is worth the cold and the ice. But if you want more cold and more ice, keep going north up route 100 to the Sugarbush Inn. Stay for breakfast. And, on the way back stop at the Woodstock Inn <<http://www.woodstockinn.com/dining.html>>.

Ah, but Vermont is just too icy and cold. Fly to Steamboat (Hayden actually). Unlike elsewhere, the Steamboat slope restaurants are actually good. Close by, one of the best restaurants *anywhere* is Café Diva <<http://www.cafediva.com/>>. The owner once gave us lots of free wine (multiple bottles were opened by an Oregon wine salesman for the owner to taste). We were at the next table. The flavors at Café Diva -- to quote Ray's favorite expression -- are wonderful. They often do local game European style.

La Montana <<http://www.lamontanasteamboat.com/>> is interesting, good and not really a Mexican restaurant, at least not the way one thinks of Mexican restaurants. The food is great, the owners friendly. There are two Steamboat Bistros. The Bistro Epicurean <<http://www.theepicurean.us/>> - - real French food with a distinct style and friendly, and the Bistro CV <<http://www.bistrocv.com/>> - also great food, a find with distinct food – are both unique. Both are real French. There is one thing to do: try both.

I would avoid the Truffle Pig - great location, friendly owner and blah food. Riggio's is known, not bad, but not very good. And the Ore House steak house is, I am told, a great bargain where you get what you pay for. They may even add on a tip without telling you. But try the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Steak House <<http://www.8thstreetsteakhouse.com/>> - thick steaks that you can (must) cook yourself. Get the thick *prime* New York steak, onion rings, home fried potatoes, spinach and don't be misled into trying another steak as I was the last time I was there. You do not belong at the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Steak House, if you are turned off by the fact that the home fried potatoes are made from those that were not sold before - or if you want itsy bitsy portions. You skied and deserve the large, prime steak. (See eating and skiing principle above.)

There is a good pizza, pastry and chocolate something at a place on the walk just outside the Grand.

Park City is home of great restaurants. Chimayo <<http://www.chimayorestaurant.com/>> is the best there. Latin – International – gourmet – good. Go there first. Wahso <<http://www.wahso.com/07/>> is Asian, very interesting and good – not inexpensive. A review says that Zoom <<http://www.zoomparkcity.com/>> of Robert Redford fame is good, but overrated. The review is probably correct.

I do not know what to recommend in Taos, but the Coyote Café <<http://www.coyotecafe.com/>> is the place to go in Santa Fe, if only to see the figurines on display. It is near the Plaza. The Coyote Café is Southwestern in feel, but also has an international taste array. This was once Mark Miller's restaurant, but the restaurant has been long since sold. Mark Miller owned the Red Sage in Washington. On Taos Mountain, we have never had dinner at the Hotel St. Bernard. It is great for lunch, after dinner folk singing and, I suspect, also for dinner. It has the flavor of Taos. Martinis are served at the Martini Tree or on the mountain if you can find hidden pitchers.

The story goes that Ernie Blake, founder of Taos, insisted that stranded skiers drink martinis to get them down the mountain. It worked so well that martinis were hidden all over until the lawyers got into the act.

On the way to Solitude, Alta or Snowbird is La Caille <<http://www.lacaille.com/>> in Sandy, Utah. Cara says it is too expensive. But you are going back to the time of French royalty through tree lined gardens and stately peacocks. You are in another world. As I recall La Caille and hearty food - from two hundred years back.

If the above is not an inducement, only the best new skis, boots and instructions will help.

## **Heavy Snows Spoil Weekend Holiday Plans in West**

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



DENVER (AP) — Ski resorts are bustling with activity. A key highway into Yellowstone is closed because parts of the road have seen more than 25 feet of snow. And campgrounds are feverishly removing snow from campsites to clear the way for visitors.

Welcome to Memorial Day weekend in much of the West.

The traditional kickoff of the summer season will have a decidedly wintry feel in the Rocky Mountains, as well as California's Sierra Nevada, because of a lingering record snowfall.

Epic snowpack in parts of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Oregon and California is forcing many tourists to abandon the annual rites of launching their summer holidays with a camping trip. Others plan to take advantage of prolonged skiing and showshoeing this strange spring.



In Denver, Brooke Schmidgall had her sights set on high-country camping this weekend as she shopped for gear at a sporting goods store.

"I'll bring my snowshoes," she said. "We have a big family tent. It will be nice and warm."

Rocky Mountain National Park's popular Trail Ridge Road is closed because of 17-foot snow drifts.

Normally, holiday motorists can cruise at altitudes surpassing 11,000 feet but not this year.

Janelle Smith, spokeswoman for the U.S. Forest Service's Rocky Mountain region, recommended that campers consider heading to lower elevations — like Arizona or New Mexico. Campers in Idaho were being warned to check first before heading to camping areas — or risk being turned back by lingering drifts or muddy, impassable roads.

In Oregon, some resorts were still trying to dig out cabins — let alone campgrounds — from snowpack.

Yellowstone National Park has just one campground open. "We're telling people to be prepared for snow," said park spokesman Al Nash

In other parts of Wyoming, officials have extended winter closures of wildlife management areas to campers. The reason: To protect wildlife from humans because animals are still searching for food at lower elevations.

The Bridger-Teton National Forest Avalanche Center is fully staffed to warn outdoors enthusiasts.

"May snow depths are deeper than anything we have seen in the last 45 years," said [avalanche](#) center spokesman Bob Comey.



In California, a historic Sierra Nevada snowpack is making Yosemite National Park's springtime cascading waterfalls especially beautiful — and dangerous, with several accidental drownings already of people who failed to keep away from thundering waterfalls and swollen creeks and rivers.

But snow has kept rangers from installing a cable railing that helps hikers maintain their footing at Yosemite's iconic Half Dome. Anyone holding one of the allocated permits to climb will be out of luck this weekend.

"That was the caveat when people signed up — you may be out of luck depending on the snowmelt," park spokesman Scott Gediman said.

Park officials instituted the permit system last year to limit traffic to 400 people a day. Best guess is that the Half Dome route could be open by June 5, Gediman said.

Farther north, some popular campgrounds in Tahoe National Forest aren't expected to open for several weeks.

"We're still selling backpacks, because people are still geared up for the season," said Jeff Dostie, a clerk at Alpenglow Sports in Tahoe City, Calif. "But they're buying for the future, they're not buying for today."



While the snow is bad for some campers, it's great for skiers in Colorado and elsewhere. Aspen is reopening 136 acres of trails for skiing this weekend, and Arapahoe Basin has extended its closing dates beyond June 5.

"We're getting amazing ski traffic for this time of year because of this snowpack," Dostie said of the conditions in the Lake Tahoe region along the California-Nevada border.

But for Idaho's Lookout Ski and Recreation Area, the recent flurries must seem like a lost opportunity. The resort near the Montana line has been closed since April.

"Insane weather! Snowing like crazy here," Lookout's Twitter feed said Thursday afternoon.

Associated Press writers Kristen Wyatt in Denver, Traci Cone in Yosemite National Park, Calif., and John Miller in Boise, Idaho, contributed to this report.

—*Marvin Hass*

## 2011 Calendar

Jun	05	Sun	Dance at Elks Lodge, VA (See CGS May/June 2011 Newsletter via <a href="#">CGS Ski Link</a> below)
Jun	14	Tue	Bridge at Gerda Picco's, Arlington, VA (See May/June 2011 CGS Newsletter via <a href="#">CGS Ski Link</a> below)
Jun	16	Thu	Hike the Stone Man Trail in Shenandoah National Park, VA (See May/June CGS Newsletter via <a href="#">CGS Ski Link</a> below)
Jun	21	Tue	PVS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM (Warren-Boulton, DC)
Jun	28	Tue	ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM (Beale, DC)
Jul	17	Sun	All Trips Party, 4:00 PM (Lawrence, VA)



### Ski Trips

January 18-25, 2012 Snowmass (DeVilbiss & Mulholland)

March 1-12, 2012 Andorra (Ray & Nancy McKinley)

### Useful Ski "Links"

Potomac Valley Skiers	<a href="http://www.potomacvalleyskiers.org">http://www.potomacvalleyskiers.org</a>
Capital Golden Skiers	<a href="http://www.capitalgoldenskiers.com">http://www.capitalgoldenskiers.com</a>
BRSC Sanctioned Trips	<a href="http://www.skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm">http://www.skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm</a>
DC Ski Online News	<a href="http://www.dcski.com">http://www.dcski.com</a>

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

Dottie Villers (new address & phone)

2212 E. Oak Bridge Way

Leland, NC 28451-8884

910-399-3976 h

### Thanks To:

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