

VOLUME 50
NUMBER 1

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

JANUARY 2015

www.pvskiers.org

info@pvskiers.org

President's Message

Happy New Year All!

The ski season is underway and there's plenty of snow to go around. If you have an extra week or so without a ski plan, check with one of our trip leaders to see if there's still an opening on one of their trips – it may not be too late.

The Survey - You'll recall that PVS made a concerted effort to give everyone an opportunity to be heard on the subject of weekend daytime or traditional evening monthly meetings/parties. We asked everyone through email to complete a survey and we tabulated the results.

We heard from over 1/3 of the members in the local area which is a great response for a survey. Those in favor of more weekend daytime meetings slightly outnumbered those who preferred the status quo. (Currently 3 out of 10 meetings per year are held on weekend afternoons and the other 7 are on Tuesday evenings.)

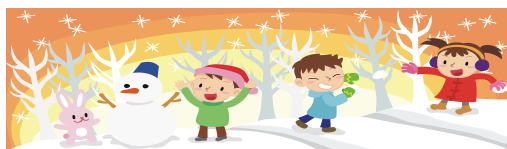
The Executive Committee discussed the results and, although survey results were not overwhelmingly in favor of weekend daytime meetings, the Committee made the decision to change the October meeting to a Sunday afternoon to add to the existing January, February and March meetings.

Thank you to all who participated – every response was counted and we feel we have made a change that acknowledges the wishes of as many of our members as possible.

Finally, we have a date for the PVS 50th Anniversary Gala – Sunday, November 1, 2015 at 6 pm – so put it in your calendar now – there will be more to come about this spectacular event!

See you on Sunday, January 11 at 2 pm at Jan Gibson's home for the regular monthly meeting/party!

Nancy



Monthly Meeting

Sunday, January 11, 2015, 2:00PM

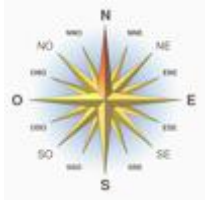
At the home of

Jannes Gibson

9412 Garden Court

Potomac, MD 20854





Jannes Gibson

9412 Garden Court
Potomac, Maryland 20854-3964
301-299-1157
ttaylor_g@hotmail.com

From Washington, DC: Take River Road (MD-190) to Falls Road in Potomac. Turn left onto Falls Road (MD-189), proceed ¾ of mile, and turn left onto Garden Way. Take the 2nd left onto Garden Court; house is the 4th on the left

From Gaithersburg: Take I-270 toward Washington and merge onto Falls Road (MD-189 S) via exit 5. Stay on Falls Road for about 5.6 miles. (You will go past River Road at Potomac Village.) Turn left onto Garden Way. Take the 2nd left onto Garden Court; house is the 4th on the left.

From Virginia: After crossing the American Legion Bridge into MD on the beltway, take exit 41 towards Carderock. Stay to the left and merge onto the Clara Barton Parkway. After 1.7 miles, turn left on MacArthur Blvd. After 2.2 miles, turn right on Falls Road (MD-189). Proceed 1.3 miles and turn right onto Garden Way. Take the 2nd left onto Garden Court; house is 4th on the left.



Free Tickets

Rosemary Schwartzbard has **two, one-day ski passes for Okemo, Vermont.** They are good 7 days a week except holidays. She won them at the Ski Expo and will give them to anyone who can use them.

Home phone = 703-812-5234

E-mail = rosemaryschw@gmail.com



PVS Holiday Party at the Home of John and Blanca Hotaling



Note elevator

Sparkling lights framed the driveway all the way up to the home of John and Blanca Hotaling, our hosts for the Potomac Valley Skiers holiday party in Virginia on Tuesday, December 16, 2014. Perhaps it was the lure of seeing a newly rebuilt home, complete with a tube-shaped, air-pressured elevator; fantastic kitchen with a granite center counter; fireplace with ample, comfortable seating in front and a giant-sized television screen above (showing ski pictures to get us in the mood!); or the beautifully decorated Christmas tree, because fifty members and guests attended. It took some meandering to find the house, but once there, frivolity abounded!



A multitude of appetizers preceded a main offering of venison stew (hunting runs in the family), rice and beans, green bean salad with pomegranate, and other accompaniments. Wine and tasty sangria added to the warmth of the occasion, and helped people forget the calories attached to delicious and mouth-watering desserts. The cacophony of loud voices and laughter bespoke the enjoyment and camaraderie of old and new friends celebrating this special evening.



Nancy McKinley, our president, welcomed members and guests and thanked our hosts for their hospitality. The ski trips of the season were quickly reviewed; the January and February meetings mentioned; and the upcoming 50th anniversary celebration in November of our club's founding was highlighted. Santa Claus (aka Ray McKinley) managed to greet and hug many and kiss some favored female guests – what a Christmas present!

At evening's end, it was difficult to let go and find our way to our cars, parked somewhere out there in the dark. But the laughter and good feeling followed us down the path, the lights sparkling as before, reminding us of the lovely evening we'd all enjoyed!



Happy New Year!

Marianne Sophonis



More pictures from December's Meeting:



SKI TALK

January 2015

A Happy New Year to all. It has been snowing in the Rockies, so we expect great snow for our first ski trip of the season. Over 30 people are joining the Snowmass trip mid January. Most are going for the week, but some are adding extra days either before or after the trip. Then, on January 30, the Mt. Bachelor trip takes off. Over 250 people from the Metropolitan area are joining this trip as part of the Blue Ridge Ski Council (BRSC). March 2, we take off for Austria to go glacier skiing. And, don't overlook the local ski areas. John Smith will be coordinating local skiing. See the article elsewhere in the TOOT.



You might want to test your ski legs at Whitetail on Friday, January 9, for the Ski Demo Day sponsored by Ski Center. People may be getting there at different times, so plan to meet in the cafeteria around 12:30 for lunch. Let John Smith know if you are planning on going. Be sure to take an ID with you, if you plan to demo skis.

You may have been reading about Vail and their Epic Pass, which covers over 20 ski resorts in the US and Europe. Now there is another mega-pass – **The Mountain Collective**. This is an alliance of seven premier independent ski destinations in North America – Alta/Snowbird, Aspen/Snowmass, Jackson Hole, Mammoth Mountain, Ski Banff-Lake Louise-Sunshine, Squaw Valley/Alpine Meadows and Whistler Blackcomb. The Mountain Collective Pass costs \$399 and gives you two days of skiing at each of the resorts, plus a 50 percent discount on all additional days with no blackout dates. With the high cost of lift tickets (\$100+ per day), this could be a great deal if you are going to these resorts. You could break even in only four to six days. However, if you belong to a ski club and go on group trips, you may do even better, since we get discounted lift tickets. That is a huge benefit of group ski trips. At any rate, there is a lot of competition going on in the ski industry and we just may benefit!

The other big news in the industry is that Vail is investing \$50 million to connect Park City Ski Resort and The Canyons. They are planning on building a gondola this summer to connect the resorts! It may be in operation for the 2016 ski season.



CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR SKI TRIPS FOR THE 2016 SEASON. Anyone interested in leading a ski trip, let me know. The BRSC trips for 2016 are: **Snowbird, Utah** (early February) and **Madonna de Campiglio, Italy** (early March). Even if you are not interested in leading a trip, let me know where you want to go. This will help us plan future destinations.

Rosemary Schwartzbard
rosemaryschw@gmail.com



PVS LOCAL SKIING for 2015

For this year's local skiing, we will try to get out as often as possible when the skiing is good. We normally ski at Liberty Mountain or Whitetail during the week.

The arrangements need to be quite informal, because we can't be sure of the conditions until a few days ahead of time. We normally check the latest conditions on Saturday or Sunday to decide which days are suitable, which day people prefer and where is the best place to go.



For those who want to car pool (recommended), we meet each morning in Gaithersburg. The directions and meeting time are posted in each week's announcement.

I have the **CURRENT** e-mail and mailing list of people who are interested in local skiing, thanks to our Membership Records Chairperson. If you wish to be added to this local skiing list, please contact dwarthen@verizon.net, who will inform me.

I will coordinate the people who wish to join us. Let me know if you have a preference for what day you would like to go and where you would prefer. At this time, I am not sure how often I will personally be able to join you this year.

Both Liberty Mountain and Whitetail were able to open for Thanksgiving weekend and have been open on weekends since then. Both were open every day during the week of December 22, 2014. At that time, about 1/3 of the trails were open. I will report frequently via e-mail about slope conditions.

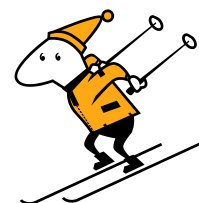
John H. Smith

SPECIAL ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR LOCAL SKIING:

On Friday, January 9, 2015, The SKI CENTER is sponsoring a ski demo day at Whitetail Mountain, PA. During this event, it will be possible to get good advice about new skis and try them on the slopes. A reduced price lift ticket for \$35.00 will be available from the SKI CENTER. However, the window price for a lift ticket for seniors (65+) is only \$30.00. Please remember to take an ID, as proof of age.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR LOCAL SKIING:

- Contact John Smith at:
1. Home phone: 301-299-8376
 2. Cell phone: 301-461-2143
 3. johnsmith@juno.com





Our trip to Snowmass (January 14-21, 2015) is fast approaching!

SNOWMASS PRE-TRIP BRUNCH

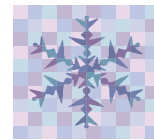
For participants living locally, there will be a brunch and information session

on **Saturday, January 10, 2015,**

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the home of Marianne and Clare Soponis
3513 Quebec Street N.W., Washington, D. C. 20016.

There is street parking in the neighborhood; the Red Line Metro stop is several blocks away (Cleveland Park) and a 10-minute walk up the hill on Porter Street and right on 35th to Quebec; **OR**, the 38 Metro bus line stops on Wisconsin Avenue at Porter Street. It is several blocks downhill to 35th (left) and left again on Quebec Street.

Please RSVP to Marianne if you plan on coming: 202-363-5250 or cell: 301-332-3039 or via email: Marianne.soponis@gmail.com



[If you are unable to come, information can be sent to you separately.](#)

Definitions:

Knee: Other than the ego and wallet, the most sensitive and vulnerable part of a skier. See, ORTHOTIC and SHIN.

Orthotic: Custom-made ski boot arch support that can be obtained from any reliable podiatrist, chiropodist, extortionist, or sadist.

Shin: The bruised area on the front of the leg that runs from the point where the ache from the wrenched knee ends to the place where the soreness from the strained ankle begins.
**

**sking, by Henry Beard & Roy McKie.

PVS/BRSC SKIING AND SIGHTSEEING ADVENTURE
MT. BACHELOR AND BEND, OREGON
JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 7, 2015

Mt. Bachelor is the largest ski area in central Oregon, with terrain for all levels. The mountain is an extinct volcano, and you can ski with full lift service 360 degrees off the top for 3,365 vertical feet to the base, often through light, dry powder! It has the highest skiable elevation of any resort in Oregon or Washington and is far enough inland for drier snow conditions. The resort gets an average of 462 inches of snow a year on 88 runs, served by 10 lifts. (Mt. Bachelor is adding over 400 acres of ski terrain that is scheduled for opening in 2015). In addition, the resort has more than a dozen cross-country trails, 35 miles of which are groomed. The mountain grooms 40 of the 88 runs. Volunteer Mountain Hosts will ski with you all or part of the day, at your request.



The mountain is a 30-minute bus ride from Bend, where you will be staying in the newly upgraded Double Tree Hotel. There is an indoor pool and hot tub. You can walk to the historic downtown district of Bend, which has lots of shops and restaurants. Buses will pick you up at the hotel and take you directly to the mountain, where you will store your skis. No long walks are involved. Non-skiers will have options to go to Crater Lake, the town of Three Sisters, wine tasting, dog sledding, snowshoeing and more.

Included in this package are:

- 7 Nights Lodging at Double Tree Hotel
- Round Trip Air into Redmond (20 minutes from hotel)
- Transfers to and from Hotel
- 5 of 6 Day Lift Ticket (discounted rates for seniors)
- Personalized tours of the mountain by Mt. Bachelor Ski Ambassadors
- Daily Hot Breakfast
- BRSC Super Bowl Welcome Party with Dinner
- BRSC Night at the High Desert Museum with Dinner
- BRSC Hawaiian-themed entertainment and Dinner
- Two PVS Apres Ski parties
- Bus Trips Directly to/from the Mountain



The cost will be approximately \$1825.00 per person. We have limited seats on the flight to Redmond. The first 16 people will get those flights. **To reserve a space, send a deposit of \$300 to: Cara Jablon, 4573 Indian Rock Terrace, Washington, D. C. 20007.**

Cara can be contacted at 202-333-5332 or rcjablon@aol.com. Additional information will be provided shortly on the dates for the remaining payments, trip insurance, and the cancellation policy.

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 Dec 1, 30 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



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

Happy New Year to one and all! Another year has passed, and 2015 is upon us – the 50th PVS Anniversary Year. During this mere twinkling of the eye in time, 600 skiers were entered into the PVS Database. Obviously, 184 members still belong to the club, varying in age up to 101. If you make it to that centennial achievement, dues are free and you will become an Honorary Member. A long and happy life to all our members!

Recently, a contact list of 45 PVS members, interested in local skiing, was sent to John H. Smith (local skiing overseer) for the 2015 season. To my knowledge, that is the largest such list for local skiing interest since I have been keeping records. If you are interested in local skiing, and have not signed up, do let me know so that I can add you to that list.

TOOT Distribution to 184 Members:

-pdf: 157; Text (Att.): 1; USPS: 6

Thanks to:

- TOOT Coordinator – E. **Thayer**
- TOOT Layout Editor – J. **Marx**
- TOOT USPS – **Volunteers**

--D. **Warthen** – *Electronic TOOT*

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

- Inge Lesjak, lesjak.inge@gmail.com (**new**)
- Samo Lesjak, SkiBayern@gmail.com (**new**)
- Carolyn DeVilbiss, Carolyn.devilbiss@icloud.com (**new**)

Ski, Ski, Ski !!!

The PVS 2015 Ski Season is about to begin in mid-January with the time-honored **Aspen/Snowmass** trip. This is a mainstay trip, and 35 are signed up to go, with M. **Soponis** as leader. That will be quite a turnout upon the slopes, and promises to be a fantastic trip.

Two weeks later, the PVS/BRSC trip to **Mt. Bachelor** will be leaving for a fun time skiing upon a volcano in Oregon, under the leadership of Cara & Bob **Jablon**. Let's hope this will not be too much of a bang, and the volcano remains dormant.

And finally, the PVS/BRSC Eurofest to **Austria** leaves in March under the capable leadership of I. **Lesjak**. Including the pre- and post-excursion, this trip runs for 2 weeks and promises to be a wonderful experience for skier and non-skier alike.

Whether you are a skier or a non-skier, there is something for everyone on one of these trips. Be sure to sign up and enjoy the great outdoors, as well as the company of your fellow PVS Members.

Traveling in the winter, when the days are shorter, is really a healthy thing to do. Many have difficulty with the gloominess of shorter days, and a decrease in the amount of sunshine. Getting outdoors is very therapeutic for the soul and a good way to increase your vitamin D.

Plenty of opportunities! Enjoy the ski season, whether far away or local!



The TOOT Staff



THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley
RaysKnee@gmail.com

Once again, as I have done for more than 30 years, let me be the first, and perhaps only one, to wish you a Happy **Knee** Year

I can now report on late-breaking, personal news. Although there hasn't been an official announcement, soon it will be released the **Knee** has tossed the ol' **Knee** cap into the 2016 Presidential campaign. (Lord knows everyone else has.) I tried to run in 1996 and in 2004, and I lost. But the time, I believe, is now ripe. I intend to be a one-issue candidate.

I'm completely and totally against heat and humidity. (This will have more appeal in late summer.) The solution to the problem, which all of the politicians and major political parties have ignored, is quite simple: Eliminate July and August from the calendar. Scientists scoff—it would shorten the year. Herein is the beauty of the **Knee's** plan. I'll add two new winter skiing months--between March and April. After three earlier months of skiing and tired muscles, the tentative names for the months are Thor and Thorer. It's a truly brilliant idea—if I do say so myself. (And I do.)

The name for the **Knee's** party is equally brilliant. It will be called Party for the Veneration of Snow. Great abbreviation!

2015 is upon us. Full of bright promise and fluffy white powder. It will be difficult to top last year's brilliance, but I'll try. It's just so diff**kneecult** making puns both zank**nee** and with**nee** (in California. The tallest mountain in the United States, except for Mt McKin-**knee**!!)

Early skiers: Julie Perlman and Bob Kramer were in Vail for two weeks in early December. Bob describes it as Wonderful. And the best part was a fabulous, more than **Knee** deep, powder day in the Sun Down Bowl. Ah! While Bob skied, Julie Perlman snow-shoed at nearby Minturn, CO. They topped off Vail with a Christmas trip to Tampa, FL. Tampa had a sig**kneeficantly** higher temperature than Vail and the DC area.

At the same time, Joe Jevcak was in northern Montana to grab some first tracks at Big Mountain. Sounds like fun!

Caveats! The world is loaded with them. So let me start with one. My upcoming campaign

has taken a lot of my time. Thus, attention to PVS goings-on has been less than normal. So if this column isn't up/down (pick one) to its normal level, I'm sorr**knee**. (I should have written the preceding as a footnote, but it would have been interpreted as a **kneenote**, and I don't know where **kneenotes** are correctly placed, although it's likely above the fibula.)

I will reprise one campaign idea from 20 years ago. When he came into office, Pres Bush



created an Office of Faith-Based Initiatives to oversee religious organizations running social welfare. As chef Emeril Lagasse used to say, the **Knee** can "kick that up a notch." Herewith my new program for Faith-Based Learn to Ski. One starts on skis down the straight and narrow, leaning only slightly to the right or left. And you pray to God you don't fall!

In January, Bob and Karen Knopes will take a trip to Peru for a cruise on the upper Amazon. Karen will be bird watching while Bob will try to avoid the piranhas. A great idea, Bob!

81 years ago, on Jan. 14, 1934, the first ski lift in America went into operation at Woodstock, Vermont. It was a 150-foot long rope tow powered by the rear axle of a Ford Model A truck. Well, we've made progress. Locally, Liberty now uses a 1981 Datsun!!

Say it isn't so! June Read recently celebrated her 85th Birthday. One gift she received was a hardbound book titled "Sex after 85." When it was unwrapped and opened, all of the pages were blank!

Last ski season, PVS had a total of 100 skier days on PVS trips. That's up from 44 the previous season. Super!

Final**knee** a tip of the ol' **Knee** cap to PVS' two nonagenarian-and-a-half skiers. Yup, both Suzanne Boisclair and Peter Russell are 95. Both skied last year and will ski this winter!

PVS Calendar 2015:

Jan	09	Fri	Ski Center Demo Day, Whitetail, 9:30 AM-3:30 PM, Mercersburg, PA http://www.skicenter.com/demoday.aspx
Jan	10	Sat	Snowmass Pre-trip Brunch, 11:00AM – 2:00PM. (see page 7)
Jan	11	Sun	Monthly Meeting, 2:00 PM, Jannes Gibson, Potomac, MD
Jan	27	Tue	ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM, Ellie Thayer, Arlington, VA
Feb	15	Sun	Monthly Meeting, 2:00 PM, Maryann Rozzell, Fairfax, VA
Nov	01	Sun	PVS's 50 th Anniversary



PVS Ski Trips 2015:



January 14-21, 2015: PVS Snowmass, CO (Marianne Sophonis)
 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..... potomacvalleyski.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> Vice President – <i>John Holt</i> Secretary – <i>Ellie Thayer</i> Treasurer – <i>Dick Laeser</i>	EXCOM: First Term: <i>Inge Lesjak</i> <i>Paul Levy (1-year only)</i> <i>Ellie Thayer</i>
Ski Trip Committee – <i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i> Events – <i>Ray McKinley</i> Membership Records – <i>Dave Warthen</i> Membership PR Rep – <i>Carolyn DeVilbiss</i> TOOT Coordinator – <i>Ellie Thayer</i> TOOT Layout Editors – <i>Jan Marx, Marvin Hass, & Dave Warthen</i> TOOT (E-Distribution) – <i>Dave Warthen</i> TOOT (USPS Distribution) – <i>Volunteers</i>	Second Term: <i>Bob Knopes</i> <i>Maryann Rozzell</i> <i>Marianne Sophonis</i> Webmaster – <i>Dave Lerner,</i> <i>Mary Ward (Backup)</i> Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</i> Historian – <i>Jan Marx</i>