

VOLUME XLV

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc. APRIL, 1982

NUMBER 4

WASHINGTON

MARYLAND

VIRGINIA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

One of the best things about spring skiing is the tremendous transition that it provides. Having just returned from the annual trek to Sutton, this sensation was again reinforced. We left on a grey, dreary Saturday, drove through rain and fog, then emerged in Sutton to snow piles, icy driveways and a true winter scene. We spent all week getting reacclimated to the snowscape. On driving back to Washington, we watched the miles tick off, the snow cover disappear and we emerged in D.C. to green grass, flowers and the beginning of spring. One doesn't get that great shift in seasons with mid-winter skiing; you leave cold, ski cold and return to cold.



While it is sad to see the season of our favorite sport draw to a close, spring is a welcome time and the beauty emerging around us in the Washington area is truly fantastic. And spring does not mean that PVS disappears. On the contrary, we are working on an active spring and summer program for you with old familiar events and, we hope, a few new treats. I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting on the 20th to swap stories, see slides and vote.

Bob Marx, President

APRIL ANNUAL MEETING Business and Celebration

When: April 20th. at 8 p.m.

Where: Home of Jean and Reg Heitchue in Reston, Va. (860-9190)

What: Voting for club officers and applicant members who have qualified for full membership. (See list elsewhere in this issue.) Also slides and movies (with a special film promised by Bob Grasley).

Also, naturally, food and grog aplenty.

Directions to 2050 Eakins Ct., Reston:

Take Beltway to Tysons Corner. FROM THE SOUTH, take exit 10 West onto Rte. 7 toward Reston. FROM THE NORTH, use exit 11 onto Rte. 123; at Rte. 7 (Leesburg Pike) follow signs to Wolftrap and Reston West. Turn left at Rte 606 intersection (Baron Cameron) after the large Reston sign on the right side of the road. Go left at first light (Wiehle Ave.). Go about 2 miles to end passing through 3 lights and over a bridge. Right onto Sunrise Valley Dr. Go left at traffic light onto Soapstone Dr. Second left onto Purple Beech. First right into Eakins Ct. and 2050 is grey house on right corner.



Beale

COMING EVENTS

SATURDAY STROLL BILLY GOAT TRAIL

When: Saturday, April 17th. 10:30 a.m. (Rain date: April 18th)

Place: Meet in the parking lot opposite Old Anglers' Inn, 10801 MacArthur Plvd, Potomac, Md. (Near Maryland's Great Falls Park.) Wear sturdy shoes and bring your lunch. It's a 4½ mile hike with 2½ miles of rocky trail above the Potomac.

Suggestion: You might want to drop in Old Anglers' Inn after the hike for a bit of refreshment.

Directions: Take the Beltway Exit for Carderock-Great Falls (away from D.C.). Go all the way to the end, turn left on MacArthur Blvd. and proceed a couple of miles to Anglers' Inn. Park on the left.

Leader: Lu Beale (Em 3-3521) No Reservations necessary. Just come prepared to enjoy.



L.B.

HIKE IN SHENADOAH NATIONAL PARK - OLD RAG MOUNTAIN

When: Saturday, May 15th.
See details in May issue of TOOT.

INTERNATIONAL DINNER

When: Saturday, May 22nd.
Place: Pat and Don Cope's home in Alexandria, Va.
Coordinator: Marilyn Clark. Call 978-9435 after 4 p.m.

This event is now oversubscribed and has a waiting list of several eager, hungry members. If you have reserved a place and find you cannot attend, let Marilyn know at once. Give someone else a break.

PAST EVENT

A REPORT ON THE SECOND ANNUAL PVS&E ST. PATRICK'S DAY GARGANTUAN BEER, CAR PARKING, AND STUFF YOURSELF FEAST AS HOSTED BY THE GRACIOUS BOB AND VIVACIOUS VIVIAN BARRY IN THEIR SPLENDID HOUSE STUFFED WITH FASCINATING ANTIQUES, GROANING BOARDS AND CURIOS, ATTENDED BY ASSORTED PVS & E STUFFERS AND GUESTS WHO, BETWEEN COURSES, ALSO DEVOURED A MOVIE CONCERTO PRESENTED BY HOME MOVIE MOGUL KEITH (THE LAMP) LYON:

Burp.
Thank you, Vivian & Bob!

- by Jim Slack

The last of the PVS T-shirts - 6 of 'em (all small size) - are now on sale at \$3.00 each. Contact Ray McKinley 790-9313.

EXCOM NOTES by Irene Farrell

Margaret and Bob Wyckoff hosted 15 PVSers at the March ExCom meeting. While wining and cheesing, the group deliberated the following:

The unanimous granting of PVS sanction to a proposed 1983 ski trip to Jackson Hole, Wyo. and Grand Targhee, Idaho, led by Bob Grasley, with the possibility of a charter flight shared with the Richmond Ski Club.

A report from Treasurer Margaret Wyckoff regarding the condition of the club exchequer. (In a word, we are solvent.)

An investigation into the possibility of a fall cruise on the Chesapeake on the good ship Mystic is continuing but the outlook is bleak on account of the high cost.

Gail Pease reported that the possibility of a spring raft trip on the New River is nil since all spaces are long since filled for weekend trips. Investigation for 1983 will continue.

Plans for two spring hikes, Billy Goat Trail on April 17th and Old Rag Mountain on May 15th, both to be led by Lu Beale.

Formalizing plans for June picnic at Jacques Hadler's Chesapeake cottage and July steak out at the Elrods.

The setting up of cross country ability criteria for those PVS applicants who are not downhillers.

Ordering name tags for member identification at meetings.

Space limitations for trip and event reports in TOOT. Suggested guidelines: 2 week trip - maximum 2 pages; 1 week trip - maximum 1 page; weekend trips and club events - one half page.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

At the March EXCom meeting Membership Chairman Gail Gell Peese read a list of PVS applicants who have met the requirements for full membership. Those qualifying will be accepted at the April meeting. They are:

Dick Comerford, Charles Farwell, Knox and Karin Felker, David and Barbara Gaillard, Bruce and Penny Hanshaw, Norb Kulpa, Peter and Marlene Lang, and John Pulos.

ACTIVITIES

April 17 ... Hike the Billy Goat Trail. 10:30 a.m. Lu Beale leading.

April 20 ... Annual Meeting at the Heitchues. 8:00 p.m.

April 27 ... ExCom Meeting at Adele Waggaman's. 7:30 p.m.

May 15 ... Climb Old Rag. Lu Beale leading.

May 18 ... Monthly Meeting at the Kuffs. 8:00 p.m.

May 22 ... International Dinner at the Copes.

May 25 ... ExCom Meeting.

June 19 ... Jacques Hadler's Chesapeake Picnic. (See next TOOT)

January 15 - January 30, 1983 - La Plagne & Paris with the Wyckoffs.

The Blue Ridge Ski Council Spring Meeting April 18 will be hosted by the Little Heiskell Ski Club in Hagerstown, Md. PVS representatives Bob Grasley, Geoff Wadey and Bob Marx will attend plus any other interested skiers from our club.

THE UTAH SKI CAPER - 1982

by Rosemary Soler

March 6 found 30 eager PVSers, shepherded by the capable hands of Norm and Mary Engelman, winging their way west to the valley City of Salt Lake, where the snow-capped peaks of the Wasatch Range ring the City in a dazzling display and provide skiers with some of the best skiing in the world. If this sounds like a Chamber of Commerce plug for Utah it is, because we were not disappointed. We had snow, snow, snow - to the point that those among us who were not as well versed in deep powder techniques were hard pressed to get down the slopes. Max Bunnell, a real convert to deep powder on this trip, was sending up such a spray behind that following him down too closely could become doubly hazardous!

Snow isn't the only thing Utah has going for it. There's sun! If you are an aficionado of the "deep-tanned ski buff look" here's where you get it. We were so fried that instead of being "Norm's Nomads" we became the "Zinc Oxide Kids" with Geoff Wadey and Charlie Gordon particularly outstanding.

Traveling in our rented cars our first week consisted of Snowbird, Park City, Deer Valley, Alta, Solitude and Snow Basin, in that order, with a repeat of the same the following week.

As we all know, Alta and Snowbird in Little Cottonwood Canyon, are big favorites. Alta, Queen of the mountain mommas, has been eulogized endlessly. What can you say about her that hasn't all been said before? She's got class and her own little snow cloud that dumps a few inches of fresh snow on her whenever she needs it. Snowbird, a mile down canyon has the same conditions and boasts a new chair, "Little Cloud" that services a bowl off Hidden Peak. Her gentler slopes Big Emma and Bassackwards were particularly good for practicing powder techniques.

Park City and Deer Valley, in the same locale, are great ego massagers with their many intermediate runs. Deer Valley, an elegant, new resort, is tailored to the affluent "ballroom skier" but they both get solidly into the expert class with Park City's Jupiter Bowl and Deer Valley's Bald Mt. Some of our more adventurous types like Tom Aquilar, Reg Heitchue, Kitty, Pat and Jane, our three lady bombers, will attest to that. Jean Heitchue came down one of the toughest, "Hawk Eye" off Bald Mt. and hubby Reg was heard to remark in amazement "Jean's made a real breakthrough on this trip." Other breakthroughs were Irene Farrell, who was seen bombing "Bird's Eye" in a raging snow storm when others were picking their way down. Could it have something to do with not being able to see all the way down the slope Irene? And Malda Elrod looking like a pro in anything she tackled.

One of the greatest day's skiing was at Snow Basin, in Ogden Canyon Chachee Recreation Area. Its unspoiled, pristine beauty at the top of the "Porcupine Lift" rivals the scenery of the Muggengrat Chair area at Zurs. There was just enough powder to make the runs unbelievably, cloud-light and lovely as we floated free-form to the bottom. Alice Swalm and Jacques Hadler were ecstatic, as were the Wingroves. Another plus was being joined by fellow PVSer, Dick Clark, who was visiting in the area that day.

As for apres ski activities, Mary and Norm knocked themselves out to make this part of the trip memorable. Starting with a wine and cheese party at our digs in the Salt Palace Travelodge we had trip-kitty dinner

UTAH CAPER (Continued)

at the Hawaiian, a restaurant serving exotic, polynesian food, plus a show featuring a simulated hurricane with thunder, lightning, rain and a four-man combo strumming island music and hula girls. Kirk Burns distinguished himself by being invited to participate in the floor show with one of the hula girls and shook his papaya with the best of them.

Another dinner took place at Fontana's, Italian style, housed in an old church with gorgeous stained glass windows and antique candelabras and at least five courses. While in the Park City area we were treated to a wine and cheese party at the Summit House on the mountain and dined as a group in the Georgetown-like atmosphere of the City at the P. C. Coal and Lumber Company noted for its Mexican cuisine where the cheese enchiladas are grande, and the Claimjumper with its flavor of the old West.

Saturday March 20 came abruptly after a near blizzard at Solitude on Friday, where we skied in the heaviest snow yet, and we reluctantly headed home. "Utah is for Skiers" and Norm and Mary are for skiers too. They proved it in the planning and execution of the trip for the maximum benefit of us all. Thanks for a great trip, Norm and Mary!

Trip

EXPLORE LA PLAGNE AND PARIS WITH PVS: Special Early Trip Announcement

by Bob and Margaret Wyckoff

Although plans are still tentative and the date a long way off, we have already received some deposit checks and, as space will be limited to 40 persons, we thought we should announce this trip to all.

Present plans are to fly from Washington via JFK to Geneva on Saturday, January 15, returning to Washington Sunday, January 30. The last two nights will be spent in Paris.

Why La Plagne? We've been there twice for one week stays and found that even our best skiers could not cover this huge complex in that time. There is plenty of skiing for all levels of ability. In response to requests from many of those who went with us, we're arranging this 2-week trip solely to La Plagne - 12 nights and 11 full ski days there! Here are the statistics - Vertical drop: over 6,000 feet. Longest trail: over 7 miles. 80 ski lifts (1 cable car, 5 gondolas, 17 chairs, 57 pomas). 185 km marked trails (7 black, 30 red, 48 blue, 15 green). 2 glaciers for 120 acres of year-round skiing. 35 km of Xcountry trails.

We'll stay in a modern, roomy 3-star hotel right on the slopes. You can ski to three separate charming old villages for lunch, returning by lifts and ski. This is also the resort where many of our group went hang gliding on skis a year ago. This ski area boggles the skier's mind.

Although the exchange rate remains excellent, trans-Atlantic air fares are taking a steep climb. We estimate the package price based on 2 to a room with bath, breakfasts and dinners, and all transportation will be roughly \$1500, probably not including lift passes.

A \$25 deposit made out to "PVS France" will hold you a place. This will be fully refundable up until one month after a detailed flyer with price information is issued. Call us at 589-5532 with any questions.

#1380

The Knee

by

Ray McKinley



Each year the powers that be permit the Knee a chance to bitch and moan. Herewith this year's installment: You may notice that this month's column is somewhat shorter than usual. It's your fault. (In Californiknee they have a cult that blames things on those who have been canonized. For example, when they have an earthquake, cult members say it's Saint Andreas Fault.

Ankneeway, unfortunately the Knee cannot go on all ski trips or attend all club events. Thus, I depend on you to provide me with information and this year you haven't come through. Please help. If you see or hear something interesting, jot it down and call me (790-9313). I do accept anonkneemous information-except from Aina Thomas.

Gail Pease's sister visited Baltimore from Japan for six weeks last winter. Between Gail's ski trips and the weather they never got to see each other. If Gail's sister kneels a lot on those rice paper mats I wonder if she's developed Japanknees.

Here're the true Norm Engleman stories alluded to in the March TOOT: Yes, he was challenged to a tennis match. However, Norm - on arriving at the court in a distant village - did not have the balls to compete. That's right. He didn't bring balls and couldn't buy any at the court.

Yes, Jim Glen did give Norm an award of a pair of oversized lady's cotton panties embroidered with an appropriately located heart and yes, he did wear them to breakfast the next morning in the hotel's elegant dining room - but over his ski pants.

And yes it was Norm who danced on the table with a fraulein at the Hofbrauhaus in Munich. Alice Swalm and her cast of one (on her right arm) applauded him.

I understand that Norm was a bit more sedate on the trip he led to Utah. I'm sure the presence (and well used rolling pin) of charming wife, Mary, had nothing to do with it.

Knox Felker told me PVS ought to come up with knee shirts. I told him that was a ukneeque idea.

Only one interesting event to report on the Grasley trip: After crossing the Mediterranean, their guide a devout Moslem named Omar (yes, he wore a tent) faced Mecca, dropped to his knees and prayed fervently the requisite number of times a day. Well, the first time this happened was on a particularly treacherous piece of road. One trip member leaned over to Mary Lee Grasley and asked in alarm "Is the road that dangerous?"

Who will ski the latest this year? Glade and Joan Flake plan to ski Sugar Loaf in Maine over Easter - how sweet!

Soon-to-be PVS ExComer Dot Mills had her new Kastle skis stolen in St Anton this winter. I told her they would have been safer if she had put a moat around them.

Doris and Othmar Mair (you remember them - they used to come to PVS meetings) skied Park City and Deer Valley and Deer Valley and Deer Valley. They loved Deer Valley. Doris said it was a dear deer area.

From the Something-For-Nothing Department: While at Park City, the Elrods, Heitchues, Englemans, Jack Hadler, Alice Swalm and others tried to get (and got) a free meal by attending one of those time-share condo presentations. It was really hard sell and took 2½ hours. Considering the cost of the meal (at my favorite Park City Restaurant - the Utah Coal and Lumber Co.) they ended up earning less than the minimum wage for their time - and the Knee knows that at least one of them routinely earns a bit more than that.

Finally, some definkneeshuns!

Skneeze - What I do when I have a cold
Mexkneecan - Someone from south of Knee Mexico

Harmoknee - What people have threatened to do to me because of my hard hitting journalism.

PVS SPAIN/NORTH AFRICA SAFARI by Shirley Frucht and Barbara & Gene Geiger.
Edited by Mary Lee Grasley

"How hard it is for the daylight to take its leave of Granada! It entangles itself in the cypress and hides beneath the waters."

From the sunkissed ski slopes of Spain's Sierra Nevada to the High Atlas Mountains, the medinas and the souks of North Africa we travelled. It rapidly became obvious that the Grasley's trip was not your everyday two-weeks-on-the-slopes with no surprises.

The JFK-Casablanca-Malaga flights went off on schedule and we boarded our Spanish bus in Malaga. Following a lunch stop at Loja we saw the beautiful snow capped peaks of the Sierra Nevada and an hour later pulled into the luxurious Hotel Melia Sierra Nevada in time for a Sangria party. The glow from the Sangria was improved by the news that a 6-day ski pass could be obtained for \$32.50.

Everyone was up early for the skier's breakfast which included cheeses, cold meats, sausages, bacon, eggs in various forms and the famous Spanish cafe con leche, rolls and juice.

Skiing was in brilliant sunshine--six very full days of it due to the long hours of daylight.

The lure of Granada and the Alhambra proved strong and five separate groups made the 45-minute trip (some more than once) to sample the sights, sounds and food of that most historic city. The Feast Day of the Patron Saint of Granada was celebrated during our stay. Granadinos flocked to the slopes and there was plenty of interaction with the natives during this period.

The Chicago/Wayne Connection (the Sissons and the Griffins) besides showing some dazzling moves on the slopes, proved to be the life of many a party. We were very happy to have Dr. George Sisson, Dr. Bud Moore (of Syracuse, N.Y.) and Dr. Darlak aboard since Morocco is not noted as a center of medical expertise.

The Sierra Nevada area, incidentally, may make a bid for a future winter olympics.

The next leg of the Safari started very early in the morning. From Sierra Nevada we bussed to Malaga and Torremolinos and for lunch it was the Grasley's favorite spot on the Costa del Sol, namely, Puerto Jose Banus at Marbella. At this very toney and picturesque port we saw beautiful yachts and motor craft and scurried about trying to find lunch at an hour when most of the natives seemed to have just turned in from the night before. It was great when we were finally able to find it!

From the Puerto, it was a non-stop trip to Algeciras to catch the 3:30 ferry to Ceuta, a Spanish enclave on the North Africa Coast. The ferry ride was great, taking us very close to Gibraltar and we finally got to see the view of the "Rock" as it appears on TV.

At Ceuta we had our first confrontation with one aspect of the Arab way of life. Transfer of baggage from ship to our Volvo bus had been paid in advance. The baggage handler wanted more money. At this point Bob decided he had to put his foot down and after a protracted argument the problem was solved in our favor. Ceuta gave the appearance of a modern city but was circled by ancient battlements to protect the center city from invaders from the sea. In a matter of minutes we arrived at the Moroccan border. WOW! It was like stepping back into the Middle Ages! Men wore djellabas with pointed hoods. Arab women wore the shadorah which left nothing or only the eyes exposed. Berbers could often be identified by blue tatoo marks.

Immediately on entering Morocco we picked up our guide, Omar I. He was Berber, spoke English quite well and was from the desert area South of Marrakech.

Our first view of Morocco itself came as daylight was fading on the villages in the foothills of the Rif Mountains, one of the four major mountain ranges in Morocco.

(Continued)

SPAIN/NORTH AFRICA SAFARI (continued)

The undulating Rif reached right down to the Med and as we entered the mountains we saw sheep and goat herders with their flocks. We saw caves that were used to shelter animals and for human housing also. Along the way our group and the natives viewed each other with mutual curiosity.

It was now dinner time. An attempt was made to find a reasonable dinner/pit stop in the mountains but the facilities just were not there. The toilet was a piece of tile with a hole in it about large enough to admit a good sized rat - and in pitch darkness. We opted to make a roadside stop-shades of a camping trip - men to the right, ladies to the left. With a black velvet sky lit by a brilliant full moon and stars it was not all that bad. Full speed ahead for Fez.

Fez turned out to be as advertised. Old Morocco at its most exotic. Colors, sights and sounds to please the most jaded tourist. The old medina, with its hundreds of souks, was worth the trip alone and to guide us through the labyrinth we needed additional assistance. We hired Abdeselm who in turn hired Omar II. Both were residents of Fez and were much more informed about this city than Omar I.

We left Fez much richer by the experience but poorer in traveller's checks and cash. Rugs, brass work, leather items, jewelry and incredibly delicate embroidered cloth were either shipped home or crammed into vacant spots in our luggage.

The ride to Marrakech again started early in the morning and took a full day. One stop was made at a Berber shepherd encampment with their black goatskin tents. Bob and some others were invited to have mint tea and bread in the chiefs tent. We observed the mint tea ceremony and gave a few coins to the group of Berbers which rapidly assembled.

The lunch stop this time was very civilized, at Beni Mellal - good lunch, good wine and beer, after which we stopped at a cascade coming down from the Atlas. A very peaceful spot.

Arrival at Marrakech was at sundown-a profusion of earth colors, focussed by the setting sun. We went directly to our hotel-the Toubkal- where a candlelight dinner was enjoyed by all. We were now in "orange" country and found the giant navel oranges and smaller "clementines" the most delicious we had tasted. Fresh orange juice was in good supply for breakfast and for screwdrivers. Mary Lee provided a huge fruit basket for the bus.

Here the group split up with the intrepid "PVS City Tour Group" deciding that another Kasbah/Medina/all-the-Souks-you-can-handle venture was in order.

Others headed straight for the ski area at Oukaimeden. The ride to the ski area was most exciting with red rock cliffs the size of the Empire State Building deep valleys and everywhere Berber settlements-each group with its own variety of colorful clothing.

The ski area itself was probably like Aspen in 1940. When did the lifts start? As soon as you got five skiers together! No slope grooming, some rocks, some crud but a very challenging 2300 vertical drop with some excellent corn snow in the center section. A chairlift and five poma lifts provided uphill transportation.

As our stay in Marrakech progressed, there were so many sights to see and places to go that Bob arranged for two vans as well as the Volvo bus to deliver group members to their specific destinations.

One highlight here was a visit to Hotel Mamounia, without doubt the best hotel in Morocco. Coffee around the pool was a delight. Another was dinner at La Maison Arabe. This required deft use of the fingers to eat an enormous pigeon pie (B'stilla), chicken and other items without benefit of knife and fork-strictly Arab style.

In the end, Morocco proved irresistible to Charlotte Reith, she stayed on for an extra week with a trip to the edge of the Sahara being the main drawing card. Her experience with an Arab beggar at a Medersa (university) probably produced the funniest happening of the entire trip (ask her!).

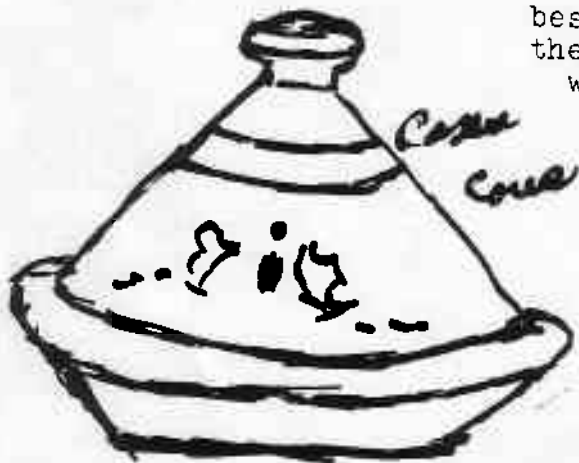
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SPAIN/NORTH AFRICA SAFARI (Continued)

As we headed back on Royal Air Maroc, we felt very satisfied that we had survived all the challenges of two very different continents. With the condition of our finances, we were also happy that the airlines supplied all the complimentary wine and beer we wanted.

We left many things behind besides good friends. Among these: one pair of K2 skis (left with Margarita at Sierra Nevada); one camera left at the humble home of a guide; and lipsticks, gum, cigarettes, lighters, and ball point pens without number.

Probably the most amazing feature of the entire trip was that, with all we had experienced, we were left with the feeling that we had only scratched the surface and that there was so much left still to be explored.



GRASLEY



GRASLEY

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