

VOLUME XXII *Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.* FEBRUARY, 1987
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

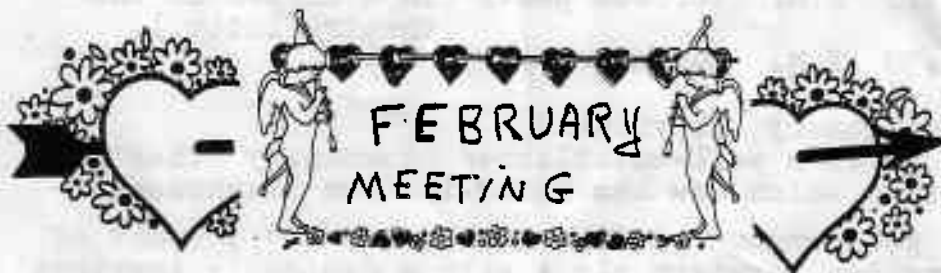
The nominating committee met in January and selected the following slate of officers for the 1987-88 year:

President: Janet Marx
Executive
Committee: Huey Roberts
Rosemary Soler
Phil Uholz

Thanks to Chairperson Lu Beale and the members of the committee for these excellent nominations.

The coordinating meeting for 1988 ski trip leaders is planned for Tuesday, March 10, 1987 in the cardroom at my place, 1101 South Arlington Ridge Rd. at 7:30 P.M. All those with plans to run a trip in 1988 should attend.

Sheldon Drews, President

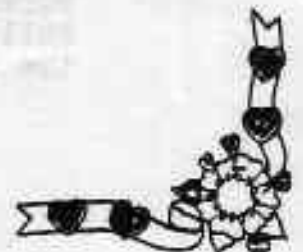


WHAT: Annual Mid- Season Get-Together for Skiers Between Trips Who are Anxious to Talk Ski Stuff

WHEN: Tuesday, February 17th. 8:00 P.M.

WHERE: Silver Spring home of first-time PVS host Paul Yessler, 9107 Woodland Drive Silver Spring, Maryland.

DIRECTIONS: See next page.



DIRECTIONS TO THE YESSLER HOME FOR FEBRUARY MEETING:

From beltway, take Exit 31-B (south) - Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring. Go past three traffic lights (the first two are VERY close together) and turn left on Grace Church Rd. (0.6 mile from beltway exit). Go one block on Grace Church Rd. to Woodland Drive and turn right. The house - 9107 Woodland Drive - is the 2nd house on the left side - white brick with blue fram trim.

From D.C., get to 16th street N.W. going north into Md. Go on 16th street extended 1.0 mile from the District line where 16th Street "dead ends" into Georgia Avenue (Silver Spring). Turn right (south) on Georgia and get immediately in the far left lane and turn left at the first left possible - Grace Church Road (only 0.1 mile from where 16th street ends on Georgia). Go one block on Grace Church Rd. and turn right on Woodland Drive. The house - 9107 Woodland Drive - is the second house on the left side.

Home phone - if lost - 585-0942.

Special

COMING EVENT

WINE, CHEESE AND THEATRE

Date: Sunday, April 5, 1987

Time: 6:15 P.M. for our party (in a corner of the theatre lobby).
7:30 P.M. curtain

Where: Montgomery Playhouse
This is a well-established community theatre group which now has built its own playhouse.

What: A performance of "The Butler Did It", a spoof of English mystery plays with a decidedly American flavor. Wild humor and a seat-grabbing climax. PVS's own Sara Huggins is the producer.

Reservations: Call Vince Macaluso (265-4903). Pay at the party. The cost will be five or six dollars, depending on the size of our group.

Directions to the Playhouse: Drive north on Rte. 270 to the Bureau of Standards exit, Rte 124 West (Quince Orchard Rd.). Follow to Quince Orchard Blvd. Turn right. The Playhouse is the first left turn.

Other Special COMING EVENTS

SPRING SKI AUCTION - Saturday, April 25, 1987

For the past four years, some ski clubs in the Washington area have sponsored a Spring Fling Auction to help raise funds to continue the work of the 52 Association for the Handicapped, Inc. which for 40 years has worked with the handicapped to help them gain confidence through sports. The 1987 Spring Fling Auction is a fine example of the concept of "skiers helping skiers."

The auction will be held again at the Univ. of Maryland in College Park. The affair will include a buffet dinner (featuring steamship round) and the chance to bid on some fantastic ski bargains such as 25 major trips to the ski capitals of the world, equipment, apparel, passes, condos - over 400 items in all.

Auction/Buffer tickets are \$20 and must be purchased in advance. Call Fred Zedeck at 892-1985. Or write Spring Fling Auction Committee, 1813 24th St., South Arlington, Va. 22202. Make checks payable to the 52 Association. **!!RAFFLE...RAFFLE...RAFFLE...RAFFLE!!**

For the benefit of those unable to attend the Auction in person, the Committee is going to raffle a COMPLETE SKI OUTFIT, donated by the Ski Chalet, including skis, boots, bindings, poles, hat, sweater, goggles, etc.

Raffle tickets are \$5 each and although the drawing will take place at the auction on April 25th, THE WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.

Interested PVSers call Jack Peoples (301)840-2213 for tickets.

BOLSHOI BALLET - Saturday, August 1, 1987

Matinee performance of Romanda by the Bolshoi Ballet at the Kennedy Center. Cost: Approximately \$40.

Coordinator Steve Grenleski has negotiated extra tickets and some are still available. If interested, call Steve (384-9013).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb. 17 ... February Meeting at Paul Yessler's. 8:00 P.M.
- Feb. 24 ... ExCom at the Wyckoffs'. 7:30 P.M.
- Mar. 10 ... Trip Leaders Meeting. See President's message on page 1.
- Mar. 11 ... Trip Policy Meeting at the Heitchues'. 7:30 P.M.
- Mar. 17 ... March Meeting at the Leonhardts'. 8:00 P.M.
- Mar. 24 ... ExCom Meeting at the Marx home. 7:30 P.M.
- Apr. 5 ... Theatre Party. See page 2.
- Apr. 18 ... Hike on the Billy Goat Trail. Lu Beale leading.
- Apr. 21 ... Annual Meeting at the Engelmans'. 8:00 P.M.
- Apr. 25 ... Spring Ski Auction. See above.
- Apr. 28 ... ExCom Meeting.
- May 2 ... Fun Run with the Clarks.
- May 16 ... Hike in White Oak Canyon. Lu Beale leading.
- May 30 ... International Dinner.

ROSTER CORRECTION: Dina Taylor's new office telephone number in Gaithersburg is (301) 427-3228



THE KNEE

by
Ray Mckinley

Well, we are now into a new ski season so it's time for a knew Knee. I hope you like my new logo and title type style. The title type is off a home computer.

The knew Knee drawing is by veep Jan Marx and is based on the ski patrol manual's "How to Tie One On the Knee." In the far east it's "How to Taiwan on ...". The particular tie is called the bunch braid E.

So much for the knew Knee (not to be confused with the knew Knee na na no no ...).

Jack People's Canadian trip was one of the most successful ever run by PVS. Wonderful people, wonderful snow, and especially good meal service on the train.

Hank and Aina Thomas and Kirk and Peggy Burns missed the great train trip, going up independently to stay in the Burns' chalet.

Kirk is noted for the unusual loud yapping sound he makes to find other skiers. Often skiers, hearing him, ask if that is a dog. Coming back to the hotel one evening, Nancy Garrett saw a very big dog and asked "Is that Kirk Burns?"

While Kirk was being mistaken for a dog (I really mean that nicer than it sounds) Peggy Burns was impressing everyone with her perfect skis - together, knees-together style.

So the group could keep together, each was given a special colored armband. I was really impressed by Chris Waln. He wore his around his knee.

Reg Heitchue managed to make a rather unique landing on his right thumb. Unfortunately it will require

surgery - a process Reg is familiar with. Less than a year ago, in a similar fall (two falls in two years

isn't bad, Reg) at Keystone, he did in his left thumb. That's really thumbthing.

The PVS January meeting was like a post trip party for Jack Peoples' Canadian trippers. They had been back only three days before most of them reassembled at Sally Finan's house. Sally, who was also on the trip, had clearly spent the entire three intervening days cooking. There were oodles of great food.

Aside from the gourmet feast, the January meeting was notable for the movie. Apocalypse Snow was the best ski movie I've ever seen. We actually showed it twice.

Too much snow for skiers? Yep. The double whammy snowstorm that hit the PVS area at the end of January resulted in the ExCom meeting being postponed from Tuesday to our first ever Wednesday ExCom meeting. Only five persons showed then.

Knee trivia: this was only the second PVS event changed by snow. After the 22 inches on Washington's Birthday, Feb. 20, 1979, we cancelled our regular February meeting. But not this year.

The Knee received a nice letter from Bob Grasley who has been skiing near Rochester, N.Y. Bob likes a small ski area there called Swain Ski Center. It's not big and has only 4 lifts but two of them are quads. And there are no lift lines.

Grasley is now off to Florida for a couple of months while planning a 1988 group trip to Spain.

The trip-policy committee has now met twice in an effort to come up with some guidelines for trip leaders. They have also decided to put out some guide lines for trip takers, including: Never borrow your trip leader's left ski and pole .. it's okay to use the others, they are all right; and never eat your trip leader's airline ticket, it would be in bad taste.

I'm not saying she's a bit pernicious but at the January meeting, Janet Waln was certainly wearing a sheep sweater. Did ewe get that? It was baaad.

Early in January, with little snow a Laurel Mt., Pat Crescenti learned to telemark. That's tough to do.

SKI

SWISS



THE WENGEN SKI SWISS EXPERIENCE

by Bob Grasley

A grand total of seven (7) skiers was recruited for this annual event which is known as the "Ski Swiss" program. Included in this select group were Virginia Larson, George Devorshak (a sometime PVS guest) who arrived in Wengen partway through the program, Dr. and Mrs Joseph Darlak of New Orleans (former PVS members), a gentleman from Kaiserlauten and a Maryland lady neither of whom are PVSers, and yours truly.

Last year, "Ski Swiss" was held at Silvaplana Corvatsch and Mike Rysavy and your writer attended. Next year it will be held at Saas-Fee. The program remains basically the same with instruction offered every day for a week (or two, if desired), relatively small classes, some great parties, a terrific opportunity to meet and ski with genuine Europeans (I was the only English speaking person in my class besides Otto Stoller, our Swiss leader). Incidentally, Otto runs a mountain climbing school at Kandersteg (a BEAUTIFUL spot) in case anyone is interested.

This is not your typical ski week in Switzerland where things tend to be quite reserved and dignified. A concentrated effort is made by those in charge to create a very relaxed and friendly atmosphere. The Spanish class got completely carried away (more on this later). They were wild and wooly but sang very well.

Admittedly, the program is early (December 5 - 13) and snow was lacking at the lower elevations. However, it was excellent on top. Ginnie Larson stayed an extra week (until the 21st) and by that time one could ski right down into Wengen. Ginnie's class won a prize.

SOME EVENTS OF NOTE:

** We tried curling. It's not easy but a few shots of glühwein and pear schnapps warded off the cold night air.

** Saw one gorgeous, very noisy avalanche.

** Swiss are teaching the jet turn (a la Killy) and the open christie which has returned to skiing after being in limbo for about 50 years.

** On "Demonstration Day" when each class did its special thing, the Spanish class fired off sky rockets and other explosives and then skied down after their leader who did 360's all the way down the hill carrying two

giant flags, one Spanish, one Swiss. Definitely not a "low profile" deal.

*** Darlaks mislaid their airplane tickets and passports.

*** The trip was a lot of fun with excellent hotel (Sunstar), excellent food and service.

Postscript: If anyone would like information on the Saas-Fee program for 1987, or would like to know what happens to people who lose passports and air tickets, see me.



It's Mont Sutton to the locals but, to 55 PVSers and friends, for the week of January 10-17, it was Mont Superb and a super-duper ski trip to start the season.

It began with an overnight ride on "The Montrealer" on which we had our own coach car. As we chugged our slow way northward through a blizzard, our effervescent leader, Jack Peoples, handed out free drink chits and the merry travellers repaired to the pub car where they soon became noticeably merrier - a condition they seemed to maintain all week.

Nineteen hours later, we arrived at La Paimpolaise - a modern hotel with old world ambience, slopeside. We occupied every room, including executive suite and conference room, and, for 6 days, the place was ours. The staff welcomed us and never faltered in its friendly service.

After a hearty brunch, some ventured onto the slopes, paying by the run and reveling in the still falling snow. It was the first real snow of the season and the place was crowded with Montreal skiers come for their share of the fun. We tried a few of the 34 trails. Fantastic!

Sally Finan found a disco where she won 2 free drinks in a twist contest and had to be wakened for dinner. The rest of us, to a man (and woman), worked that night and every meal thereafter to preserve our reputation as gourmands (not to be confused with gourmets). Added pleasure: individual carafes of wine every evening, courtesy of the house. Civilized dining, right?

The next morning Monsieur Peoples distributed ski passes and orange arm bands to help us identify each other on the slopes - wonderful idea! Then we hit the slopes for the first of 5 full days of skiing in grand conditions - sometimes in snow, fog or sleet - but always good underfoot with frequent new powder. And, best of all, reasonable temperature (until the last day when we had 7-layer, face-mask, 5° temperature and went out looking like stuffed sausages even our butchers wouldn't have recognized).

The Montreal crowd had gone back to their desks in the city and the slopes were uncluttered, the liftlines short. We explored the mountain, hitting all the runs from blue to black and back again. Big favorite: the intermediate Sous Bois II - wonderful glade skiing in which the idea is to slalom through the woods with both skis on one side of a tree and not one on each side. There were some close calls.

There were other moments, good and bad. Bette Walker dropped her pole from a chair not once but twice. Nancy Garrett dropped not only her pole but the ski off her foot from a chair. Charlie Gordon met a fence unexpectedly and found himself with skis left behind on one side and himself flying head over heels over the top. Kay Kulpa twisted a knee but skied on. Reg Heitchue, on the very last morning seriously jammed his thumb. Incidentally, Reg, Dick Clark and Cathy Peoples, in an informal poll, took first place as most stylish skiers. Beginner Dick Will entered his first class in a state of "raging terror" and ended the week with a silver in his class competition. Sally Finan was another medalist.

Off the main slopes, there were other activities: Xcountry skiing (Chris and Janet Wain pronounced the trails excellent). Visits to the

(Continued on next page)



CANADIAN CAPERS (Continued from previous page)

nearby chalet of Peggy and Kirk Burns, where Aina and Hank Thomas were also in residence, and where a kettle of glühwein seemed always simmering. Visits to "metropolitan downtown" Sutton to purchase wools, postcards, and, of course, more food. Best buys: apres ski boots and Jack Peoples' cap from Conegak town, Ireland.

Each day ended with a party in the leader's and Charlie Huggins' enormous suite where free drinks and snacks were dispensed as the skiers relaxed with their boots off and recounted the day's exploits.

After dinner there was more entertainment for those who still had the strength: a Classical Guitar Recital. A sleigh ride under full moon. A Warren Miller movie, "Beyond the Edge." An illustrated astronomy presentation by Bernard Scherdwewan (who, as we loaded the bus for departure in 12° weather set up his telescope in the parking lot to show us Jupiter and three of its moons). And, of course, THE DANCE in the disco where, dancing to oldies but goodies tapes from home, some virtuoso performances were given - notably, by Bette Walker, Helen Price, Norm Engelman, Kirk Burns and the leader himself.



Sooner or later, it had to end. No regrets. The infamous Canadian cold had crept in; the Montrealers were creeping back; our clothes were creeping tighter. We'd had the best of it. Time to go. Time to say goodbye. Time to say, "Merci Monsieur le Capitan Peoples, for one whale of a trip."

PAST EVENT

JANUARY MEETING AT SALLY FINAN'S by Virginia Larson

More than fifty PVSers participated in a lively meeting on January 20th at the attractive, comfortable home of Sally Finan in Vienna. A first-time PVS hostess, Sally entertained us royally.

So many of those present had just returned the previous Saturday from the PVS trip to Sutton, Canada, that the occasion seemed like a post-trip party. In any case, it was a party with a great variety of delicious goodies (Sally must have been cooking up a storm since her return from Canada!) and drinks and everyone talking excitedly about ski trips just completed or planned in the near future. We all enjoyed examining the collections of great color photos of the Sutton trip that the Clarks and the Thomases brought to the meeting.

There was, as usual, a short business meeting conducted by Eheldon Drews where it was announced that a few tickets for the August production of the Bolshoi Ballet were still available. (See page 3.)

Bob Wyckoff reported on his 4 days just spent at a Learn-to-Ski Clinic for the Handicapped at Hidden Valley, Pa., sponsored by the Natl. Handicapped Sports & Recreation Assoc. Bob roomed 2 days with a skier with only one leg and 2 days with one who had lost both legs. Blind skiers also attended the clinic.

After the business meeting in the rec. room, APOCALYPSE SNOW, a funny, fast-moving film depicting amazing feats on skis, was shown in two sittings. Someone said it was like a James Bond movie.

We all thank Sally for opening her home to us and for giving us such clear directions on how to get there.

PVS OFFICERS

President Sheldon Drews
 Vice President ... Jan Marx
 Secretary Irene Farrell
 Treasurer Margaret Wyckoff
 Membership Marilyn Clark
 Program Chairman . Ray McKinley
 TOOT Editor Lu Beale
 TOOT Production .. Jan & Bob Marx
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 ERSC Reps..... Sheldon Drews
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 Charlie Huggins
 Janet Marx

First Term:

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 Margaret Wyckoff

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