

VOLUME XXXII
NUMBER 12

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.

WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

DECEMBER 1997

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Christmas is coming and chances are your wish-list contains an item or two related to skiing. Unless you settle for one of the last PVS headbands or cookbooks extant, there is nothing for it but to make tracks to the nearest ski shop and prepare to spend BIG BUCKS. (Brian Eardley will show you how.)

Which leads me to marvel, not for the first time, at the huge amount of money we spend on ski equipment when most of us ski less than 3 weeks a year. Tennis and golf also require costly expenditures but that equipment can be used for maybe 52 weeks a year. So, what is it about skiing that so dominates our lives when we actually ski so little?

Can it be because skiers--and I'm talking about PVSers here--are well, not exactly a breed, but a FAMILY who for a very few days a year share the thrill of victory over terror and the humiliation of head plants and then spend 50 weeks TALKING about it while--and this is the important thing--EATING up a storm all the while?

If so, spend on. For PVSers, there couldn't be a better deal! Ski heil!

Lu Beale, President

CHRISTMAS PARTY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16



7:30 p.m. at the Heitchues'
2146 Owl's Cove Lane, Reston, VA.



Please bring your favorite hors d'oeuvre or dessert. (And, please, no high heels to protect the floors.)

DIRECTIONS: From Beltway, 495, take Exit 267, Dulles Toll Road. Take Exit 14, Hunter Mill Road, turn left. Turn right onto Sunrise Valley Drive. Turn left at first traffic light, South Lakes Drive. Pass shopping center and turn at first left, Ridge Heights Road. First right onto Owl's Cove Lane. Go to end, park in cul-de-sac. 2146 is at the bottom of a steep driveway. Bike path at left of 2146 has stairs with a railing. Make a right turn onto lighted path along the garage side towards the street.

COMING EVENTS

SKI LIBERTY, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1997

If the weather conditions remain cold enough to snow cover most of the trails, Myron Marquardt will lead the first midweek skiing of the season. Lift passes are \$30--seniors 65+ ski for \$15.

Interested skiers should contact Myron (301-460-3269) as we will car pool from the parking lot of the Fairlane Bowling Alley on Shady Grove Road, departing promptly at 7:30 a.m. for Ski Liberty.



MIDWEEK HIKE TO THE MALL AND PAGEANT OF PEACE

Monday, Dec. 29, 1997

PVSers are invited to join Shirley Rettig and the Easy Hikers of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club for a walk around the Mall with a stop at the Pageant of Peace on the Ellipse. Meet at the top of the escalator at the Smithsonian Metro Stop at 10AM. Length of the hike will depend on the weather. Afterward we will stop at the Food Court in the Old Post Office for a light lunch. For further info, call Shirley at (703) 836-0147.

Klezmer Band and Dinner January 11

Come to the Chevy Chase Holiday Inn's Palladian Ballroom at 5520 Wisconsin Avenue in Maryland. It is opposite Saks Fifth Avenue, two long blocks north of Western Avenue. Don't confuse it with the Bethesda Holiday Inn. If you come north on I 495, take exit #34, Wisconsin Ave going south toward Washington. Continue about 3 miles. Just past Somerset Street, is the Holiday Inn.

Full course buffet dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. Dancing at 7:00 complete with easy instructions for young and old. It's a family affair - casual! Excluding cash bar, total cost is \$17.00. Parking is free in the hotel.

Send a check for \$17 per person to Jeannette Albersheim, 3574 Fiske Terrace, Silver Spring, MD 20906 by **January 2**. Make the check payable to Jeannette. We are guaranteed the Palladian if we have 20 takers. (With a small crowd the hotel uses a smaller dance space.) The more the merrier! Bring your family and friends.

Questions? Call Jeannette at 301-598-7525.

WISP-----MID-WEEK-----98

January 14-16

CALL NOW--Rooms are being held by PVS until Dec 11.

If you miss this date and make reservations which are not under PVS, please let us know, and join us for Apres Ski on Wed and Thurs.

** Room paid individually. For each room, call Wisp Hotel to reserve the room and pay a deposit of \$42.12 for one night with a credit card or mail them a check. 1-800-462-9477.

** Send a check to us for Apres Ski (\$3) and/or vouchers (\$2).

Make check payable to: **Robert Marx**
Mail to: 8312 Oakford Dr.
Springfield, VA 22152

(Memo note: "PVS-WISP Mid-week")
Phone: 703-451-9158



Val d'Isere, France

*January 9-17, 1998 Join Nancy & Ray McKinley on this Club Any Mountain Trip via Swissair
Cost reduced to only \$1,299 For more information phone(703) 527-7126*



Feb 22-March 1 or March 4, 1998

SKI BIG SKY MONTANA

The trip is full with a wait list. For more info. call Nancy or Ray at (703) 527-7126.

Trip participants: Your final payment is due not later than December 6



CORRECTIONS to the PVS Directory:

Myron, & Fumiko Marquardt - Tel: 301-460-3269

Jackie & Ned Flaherty - Tel: 301-929-9664

If you know of any other corrections in telephone numbers or addresses that need to be made in the new directory, please call Marilyn Clark (703-978-9435).

P A S T E V E N T S

A MUSEUM WITH A BYTE

On October 29, eleven PVSers gathered in Rosslyn to check out the world's only interactive news museum called--what else?--The Newseum. Funded by the Freedom Forum, a foundation dedicated to the advancement of freedom of the press, the Newseum showcases an astonishing array of exhibits aimed at increasing the public understanding of the news media and its importance in the cause of freedom.

For more than two hours we explored exhibits documenting the history of news deliveries, searched out the day's front page of our hometown papers, saw films of the greatest moments in history, peeked into real-life broadcast studios and much, much more. And still felt we had barely begun to see all the displays or to interact as reporters or TV newscasters.

We ended up in Freedom Park where sections of the Berlin Wall and other symbols of humanity's never-ending fight for liberty were displayed.

It was a brilliant autumnal day and as we relaxed at outdoor tables munching on snacks bought at the News Byte Cafe, we vowed to return another day. It was another of the Huggins' Groups' many mid-week successes. Next time, join us if you can.

.....Lu Beale



BLACK HILL REGIONAL PARK HIKE

Six miles of pure beauty! The Fall foliage, at its peak, with brilliant reds and golds shading to copper was breathtaking and brought out the impressionist painter in all of us, as we hiked along the trail of Little Seneca Lake, nestled in the heart of Black Hill Regional Park.

On November 6, 5½ PVSers made the trek. The "½" being Josie II Beale, who trudged right along at a smart pace, sans leash, at Lu's side like the good little dachshund she is. When we stopped for a snack along the way in a convenient shelter, Josie snacked too with great gusto.

Some migratory birds were in evidence and we passed the interesting remains of the old Water's Mill, which dates back to the 1800's. The park is beautifully landscaped and the trails mostly paved for biking as well as hiking, and are easy to make good time on. There are boats for rent in season.

Many thanks to Myron Marquardt who led the hike and to Charlie Huggins who planned it.

... Rosemary Soler

ANNUAL CHILI HIKE

On November 22, 17 PVSers, under the capable leadership of Dick Clark, made the annual Chili Hike from the Virginia side of Great Falls downstream to the confluence of the Potomac and Difficult Run. We had ideal hiking weather -- overcast and just the right temperature, though the going was pretty sloppy, owing to all the rain we've had recently. This is always an enjoyable hike, about 7 miles long by my calculations, with great scenic vistas across the Potomac here and there along the way, and there was still just a bit of color in the trees, even this late in the season. At about the midpoint we passed the bones of a deer, and when Bette Walker and her group caught up with us a bit later, she asked why we hadn't saved any venison for them. (Really, Bette!)

After the hike we repaired to the McKinleys for the main event, the chili dinner. I don't know how many were there, but there were far more than had been on the hike -- seemed like a pretty full house to me. We had two delicious kinds of chili, hot and mild, as well as the usual array of desserts, salads, and appetizers, which we enjoyed in an ambience of festive conviviality. Many thanks to the McKinleys for organizing this popular annual event and to Dick for leading the hike.

Bob Harmon

A MOST ELEGANT AFFAIR

PVSers ooh'd and ah'd at each other's festive attire at the annual Autumn Dinner at the Arts Club of Washington. Sparkles, beads, pleats adorned the women, while the men looked handsome in their black ties. The elegant setting to display all our finery was once again graciously made possible by Ham and Terry Morton.

Bill Anderson, who had done a splendid job of arranging the whole event, had even provided a history of the Arts Club dinner. Seems everyone had such a good time at the PVS 25th Anniversary dinner in the fall of 1990, that it was decided to perpetuate that affair. So apparently this was the 7th anniversary of the 25th anniversary.

Bill's history also revealed that the per person liquor bill has gone from \$3.58 per person to \$8.45 per person in 1996. His history assured us that this was due to the rising cost of spirits and not to greater imbibing by PVSers.

Conversation was as elevated as the surroundings. The writer followed an intense discussion by Serge Triau and Myron Marquardt as to whether the black tie goes inside or outside the little white tabs of a tux shirt.

Great food and wine followed the mingling hour. All in all, a delightful evening. There will surely be a call for an anniversary of the 7th anniversary of the 25th anniversary! Thanks, Bill--and we look forward to next year.

...Jessma Blockwick

NOVEMBER MEETING

At the November meeting, over 40 PVS membered gathered in Ruth Powers' lovely, spacious living and dining areas and enjoyed the fine food and libations our hostess provided. We all viewed photos that Jack Peoples already had from the Arts Club Dinner.

After a brief business meeting, we were treated to Brian Eardley's 14th annual "What's Hot and What's Not" in ski equipment.

As usual, Brian combined wit, humor, and technical expertise for another very enjoyable and enlightening program. He began by showing us some of the newer wider "shaped" skis like the Volkl, Atomic and Dynastar. Brian discussed side cut and how it varies in the different brands and said these shaped skis can all be skied 7-13 CM shorter than traditional "straight" skis. He also reminded us that they have beveled edges and require a knowledgeable tuning shop for servicing them.

Perhaps the most technologically advanced ski Brian showed us was the K2 Merlin 4. This ski has a built-in "piezoelectric damping system" that, with the help of a microchip, gives the skier feedback during terrain and speed shifts. (Now that's real "cold" war technology!)

When discussing boots, Brian told us that buckles are back and rear entry is out. He showed us a new boot that comes with a key that allows swiveling at the heel which especially helps duck-footed skiers. (Aren't we all a little duck-footed lately--after 6 straight rainy weekends?)

In the binding department, Brian showed us the new Marker that helps absorb shock. He also discussed the importance of matching the technology of bindings to skis and of properly sized "lifters".

Brian's overall message was this: When buying new skis and gear, ask yourselves the following questions:

1. Where do you ski? (East, West, Europe)
2. How do you ski? (Fast, slowly, aggressively, conservatively)
3. What do you ski? (bumps, crud, groomed, powder)
4. How much do you want to spend to be able to do this well, safely, and happily?

Thank you again, Ruth, for welcoming PVS back into your home for the second time this year!

....Janet Wain



REMINDER! Aina Thomas and Jan Marx are still looking for photos and memorabilia on PVS history. See November TOOT for special requests.



THE KNEE

by

Ray McKinley

The thrill is gone. Time was that a highlight of our PVS biannual membership ritual was when our new, clean PVS membership cards arrived. I'd eagerly sign the new card, search through my wallet to find the old soldier, now wrinkled and limp from two years of nearly constant use, and out with the old and in with the new. I haven't done that this year. Is new, by definition, better than old? What's wrong with old? Perhaps I'm aging (no, not you--everyone else, but not you), but that aging symbol of PVS still looks pretty damn good to me. Why replace old with new? I'm keeping my old card.

With all the furor over *el nino* and the upcoming, either too snowy or warm winter weather, I called the Ski Liberty folk. If anyone knew the true poop, it would most certainly be Ski Liberty. I chatted at length with their prognosticators. Yes, they were aware of *el nino*. It's a Mexican restaurant near Harrisburg. And, no, it was not going to affect their planned season opening on Valentine's Day.

Rarely does the Knee get a true news scoop. But this time I even beat out News 4. Our President, Lu Beale, not Bill what's-his-face, did a criminal act. She went to a neighbor's house, and knocked on and tried the front door to assure the house was empty. Lu then went around to the back door and threw a brick through the back window, shattering it. That's right--a red brick. Repair costs were in excess of \$250. She will claim extenuating circumstances. The neighbor was in her car, returning from a hospital stay and lost her key. Sure, but breaking and entering is still breaking and entering. The Knee predicts a year's jail term. Can a criminal be President? Yes, there's certainly the case of Bill what's-his-face.

Myron and Fumiko Marquardt are back from some extended touring in the British Isles. However they returned via a circuitous route--through Los Angeles. There they visited son

David and the Grandtwins. Myron says he doesn't understand the idea of a "Civil Trial." Because they aren't. Right on.

Knox Felker says some snowboarders are nice because they went to boarding school. Yes, but it had a very small graduating class.

Did you know that last season Snowshoe Ski Resort had over 500,000 skier visits? That's more than Jackson Hole or Big Sky (or Liberty).

Thanksgiving feasts: Charlotte Eddy spent hers in Brazil with her daughter. Do the French expats living there eat Thanksgiving Dinner or Thanksgiving *Dinde*? Penny Hanshaw spent the holiday skiing in Telluride. Tell my ride? And Carol Bridgers was just back from the Yucatan and visiting Mayan ruins. Certainly not Mayan ruins, Carol, perhaps Youran?

I get three different ski magazines (all right, they aren't really that different). I have a pet peeve. An article is continued on page 196. I get to p 194 then suddenly it's p 1E, 2E up to perhaps p 46E. Then it's the rest of the magazine and story. These "E" pages, mostly ads about Eastern Skiing (an oxymoron), tell of the wonders of "skiing" at Bromley and Great Gorge. Who cares? Don't editors understand the fundamental concept of numbering? Letters went out as numbers with the Romans. And even the Romans didn't use "E." Nor did the Romans ski in the East!

For the first time in a decade, the Postal service will have an alpine skier on a stamp. It will be the only sports stamp of 1998. Is the Postal service going downhill?

Best wishes to Paul Yessler who is undergoing chemotherapy to stem his recently discovered pancreatic cancer. Hang in there!

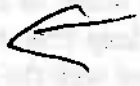
When Glade Flake sat down at the ExCom Meeting at Aina Thomas', the chair collapsed under him. Being a lawyer, Glade's first word was "Whiplash." Wife Joan's first word was "Diet."

Three men left their briefcases at Aina's, Nat Seeman, the Knee, (who?) and the injured Glade Flake. Now well practiced, Glade also left his briefcase (but no broken chairs) at the meeting at Ruth Powers'. Hmmm.

CALENDAR

- Dec. 18 ... Midweek Skiing at Ski Liberty, p. 2
- Dec. 19 ... ExCom at Lu Beale's, 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 29 ... NOTE THIS IS A CHANGE OF LOCATION
- Jan. 11 ... Hike to the Pageant of Peace, p. 2
- Jan. 14 ... Klezmer Party, p. 2
- Jan. 14 ... to 16, Skiing at WISP, p. 3
- Jan. 20 ... Monthly meeting at Ruth Schrider's
- Jan. 24 ... Pre-Big Sky party at the McKinleys'
- Jan. 27 ... Walk through the Zoo
- Jan. 27 ... ExCom at Lu Beale's
- Mar. 28 ... Wine Tasting at the Copes'
- Dec 31 ... 1999--Millenium Party

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Del

July 18 Rusty
1 piece of
EXCOM @ Big Sky

Bette Walker
 #806
 2801 New Mexico Avenue, N.W.
 Washington, D. C. 20007

