

VOLUME XXXIV

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.

DECEMBER 1999

NUMBER 12

WASHINGTON

MARYLAND

VIRGINIA

Fellow PVSers:

There's no mistaking it now; we're headed down the slippery slope (if you'll excuse the expression) toward ski season. And right in the middle of it all is the most exciting holiday season any of us has ever known.

First up, in just a couple of weeks, is the expedition to our perennial favorite – Steamboat, hosted by Ned and Jackie Flaherty. Close on the heels of that trip, Reg and Jean Heitchue hold our annual holiday meeting on the 21st. Then we celebrate at the Millennium Bash on 1/1/00 (over 60 partygoers signed up so far)! Next comes gorgeous Snowmass run by Barbara Leonhardt and Nat Seeman, followed by a trip across the sea to romantic Kitzbuhel and Salzburg with John Smith and Pat Tengel. Last up in the northern hemisphere is our McKinley adventure to Big Sky and Yellowstone. August skiing in Argentina in the southern hemisphere keeps us going all year. Not bad for a group our size!

Working hard to keep track of all this activity, making sure we hear the full scoop about every event before it happens and how it was after it happens, is our industrious TOOT Editor, Jessma Blockwick. Jessma is ably assisted by Bette Walker who single-handedly gets the TOOT addressed, folded, stapled, (almost never mutilated...) and out the door every month. For Jessma and Bette the chore comes up all too soon every month but they tackle it with gusto every time. Thanks again to both of them for their dedication to PVS.

And speaking of dedication, volunteers are always welcome to come forward and offer their time, their talents or their homes for PVS. Many, many thanks to all those who are able to do just that.

See you at the party!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

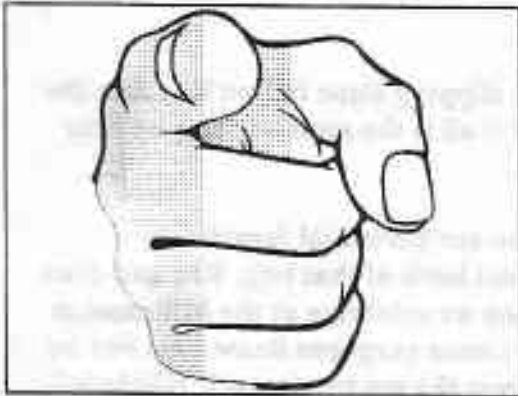
7:30 p.m. at the Heitchues'

2146 Owl's Cove Lane, Reston, VA



Please bring your favorite hors d'oeuvre or dessert. (And, please, no high heels in order to protect the floors.) Questions? Call 703-860-9190. Driving directions on next page.

Directions to the Heitchue home: From Beltway, 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. Take 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. Take a right turn onto lighted path along the garage



LAST CHANCE!!! PVS Millennium Party

January 1, 2000 1:30 pm to ???

*Join the 60 PVSers who are already signed up
Good Times, Libations, Complete Catered Dinner,
Champagne, Fun, Entertainment. Sign up now.*

RSVP: Marty McNeill (301) 881-6558

*Send your check for only \$45 per person (payable to Martha McNeill)
to the McNeills, 2 Hitching Post Place, Rockville, MD 20852*

TIME CAPSULE!!! PVS members are asked to find small items illustrating the history of the club and to bring them to the Millennium Party. There they will be placed in a box to be carried into the future until the time is ripe to reveal this history. Start looking now for items such as photos, tapes, trip souvenirs, party programs. And remember, SMALL!



MIDWEEK BIKE 'N LUNCH
Will Resume in March 2000.



The midweek **bike 'n lunch** group has concluded its 1999 season.

Every scheduled monthly event from March through November was able to take place, thanks in part to the scarcity of rain this year in the east.

The trips were lead by PVS members Marvin Hass, Betty Byrne, Shirley Rettig, John Matthews, and Bill Matzkin.

In addition to old favorites like the Mt. Vernon (led by Shirley R.) and W&OD Trail/Old Dominion Brewpub rides, a number of new routes and dining establishments were employed. Notable among these were the Middleburg/Piedmont Vineyard loop, the Garrett Park Cafe/Lake Needwood event led by Bill Matzkin, and the season finale at the Thyme Square Cafe in Bethesda conveniently located adjacent to the Capital Crescent Trail.

These monthly events will resume in March 2000. Come join us then and exercise the legs as well as the palate.

The City of Gaithersburg Council for the Arts
presents
The Rockville Art League
Mixed Media
and
DR. WILLIAM MATZKIN
MOBILES

Dec. 8, 1999 through Jan. 30, 2000

Reception : Dec. 16, 1999 - 7:30 to 9:0 p.m.

Activity Center at Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm, 506 South Frederick Ave., Gaithersburg, Md. Call for viewing hours: 301-258-6350.

******* *******

Irene and Jack Ragen write from Arizona to thank everyone for their good wishes, the party at the McNeill's, and the wedding cake that the Flakes gave-- and all! Their new address is 2189 Ewin Drive, Prescott, AZ 86305. Phone 520-717-4106.

SKI LIBERTY - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1999

If the weather is cold enough to cover most of the trails, Myron Marquardt will lead midweek skiing at Liberty. Lift passes are \$33 - seniors 65+ ski for \$16.50.

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

Snowmass - 2000

All arrangements have been finalized. Please call Barbara or Nat if you have any questions. Mark your calendar for the pre-trip party at The Leonhardt's, 606 Firehouse Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20878 on:

Sunday, January 9, 2000 at 4:00 PM; please call for directions if needed.

Since we are planning to serve dinner, we would appreciate confirmation at: 301-963-8111.

Nothing to bring. Spouses who are not trip participants are most welcome.

March 5 - 12, 2000, join Nancy and Ray McKinley to

SKI BIG SKY MONTANA

The trip is full with a small waiting list. In the past the waiting list has almost always cleared. Please call us for more information and to get on the list at (703) 527-7126.

BIG SKY Participants: The final payment is due by January 5, 2000.

Pre trip party Saturday, January 15, 2000. We will send you a letter in early December with lots more information, a list of participants and the total you owe.

See and Ski in Argentina

The grandeur of Argentina's Patagonia, the Old World beauty and tango passion of Buenos Aires, and to top it all off — great skiing! We're planning this fabulous trip for August 12th to 23rd, 2000. Seven days, six nights in Argentina's world-class 25,000 acre, ski resort, Bariloche, and 4 days, 3 nights in South America's most cosmopolitan, spectacular city, the Paris of the Western Hemisphere, Buenos Aires. We'll include all lodging in 5 Star hotels, daily breakfasts in Bariloche and Buenos Aires, 3 dinners in Bariloche, 2 dinners and a multicourse lunch in Buenos Aires, airfare from Washington DC, all transfers, happy hours most evenings, pre and post trip parties, and three eye-opening tours in Buenos Aires. Not included are the remaining meals and ski lift tickets. (\$20-25 per day.) Our estimate of costs is \$2635 (subject to some change dependent on finalization of hotels and airfare). This is \$60 less than a similar trip we ran to Chile 3 years ago—and Argentina is much better!!

We will also offer a spectacular 3-day add-on. This will include a day trip to Uruguay, an additional night in exciting Buenos Aires, round trip air to one of the seven natural wonders of the world, Iguazu Falls (on full-size jet aircraft--about 2 hours each way), two nights at the 5 Star Sheraton Internacional with falls-view rooms, all transfers, all breakfasts, one dinner and one lunch. Our return is on August 26. Our estimate of this chance-of-a-lifetime, 3-day add-on is \$575. We highly recommend it.

Our see and ski trip is for everyone. While we ski, non-skiers will be taking lake trips, touring and shopping in Bariloche City, taking in the sights of Patagonia and simply enjoying one of the world's foremost parks. Truly something for everyone. Space is limited for this trip of a lifetime. To hold a space, send a check for \$200 per person, made out to Ray McKinley, Mail it to 2326 North Upton Street, Arlington, VA 22207-4045. This deposit is refundable until January 2000 when our flyer will provide the final costs and details. We have oodles more information in our 4-page letter; call us at 703-527-7126 for a copy.



!!! NOMINATIONS !!!

A PVS Nominating Committee will meet soon to select a slate of officers including president and three 2-year ExComers to be voted on at the April meeting.

Suggestions are welcome. Please contact Lu Beale (chairperson), or committee members Karen Felker, Bob Harmon, Myron Marquardt, Nat Seeman or Liz Triau.

SKIING AT SEVEN SPRINGS FEB. 7, 8, & 9TH

Seven Springs Mountain Resort covers 5,000 acres and is located in the heart of the Laurel Highlands recreation area. It is a four season resort with skiing as the major winter activity. Skiing covers 30 slopes and trails with 7 triple chair lifts and 3 quad lifts. Lift tickets are \$32, and seniors 70+ ski free.

Lodging

Lodging for the trip will be in Somerset, PA., 20 minutes by car from the mountain. Those going on the three day trip will need to make their own lodging reservations. The following are recommended:

	<u>Regular Rate</u>	<u>Senior</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Ramada Inn	\$64.00	\$50.15	1-(800) 272-6232 1-(814) 443-4646
Hampton Inn	54.00	49.00	1-(800) 426-7866 1-(814) 445-9161
Knights Inn	59.95	53.95	1-(814) 445-8933
Holiday Inn	72.00	69.00	1-(800) 465-4329 1-(814) 445-9611
Days Inn	48.00	44.00	1-(800) 329-7466 1-(814) 445-9200
Super 8 Motel	47.99	43.19	1-(800) 800-8000 1-(814) 445-8799

Slope Side Lodging

All 385 rooms in the main lodge are booked. Anybody who strongly desires this type of lodging can make weekly checks as a cancellation might occur. The 3 day midweek room package is \$275. per person based on double occupancy and it does include the \$32. lift ticket. It is not recommended for seniors as you would end up with 2 three day lift tickets worth \$96. each. Seniors should stay in Somerset. Reservations for the main lodge are 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday until 7 p.m. Tel 1-(800) 452-2223 or 1-(814) 352-7777

Those wishing to go on the ski trip to Seven Springs should call Charles Huggins (301) 424-5725 or Jack Peoples (301) 881-6220 so we can arrange car pools. .

CHILI HIKE by Knox Feiker

"In the 15 years I/we have run this hike, it is the first time the weather has been this nice," said Ray McKinley. Indeed, it was beautiful and a perfect day for a hike, and so thought many other people from the area, for we had to wait in a long line to pass the gatehouse to enter Great Falls Park. We met several on horseback, and some competent mountain bikers suddenly appeared from the wooded hills. All 30 PVSers finished the same 5-mile hike, which became divided into 3-4 groups. It was hard to keep up with Lu Beale who kept one group on course. Dick Clark led the whole bunch, and Marvin Hass swept.

It was so rewarding to reach the McKinley house with its new, beautiful brick-paved entranceway. Wine, beer, and other drinks with hors d'oeuvres were waiting and kept us busy till it was time for the chili. We could have very hot or less hot chili, and it was enjoyed by all along with other goodies and desserts with coffee and the usual PVS camaraderie.



A heap of thanks to Nancy and Ray for continuing to give us such a wonderful event.

ANCHORS AWEIGH FOR ANNAPOLIS.

On Friday, October 22, eight PVsers led by Sheldon Drews set sail for Annapolis to tour the Old Town and the Naval Academy.

After a rather confusing ride on the Town Trolley, we arrived at our first stop, the Hammond-Harwood House, an Eighteenth Century mansion with reputedly the finest front doorway in Colonial America. Then we moved on to the Maryland State House, built about 1760 and the oldest state capitol still in use. By then, it was almost lunchtime, so we entered the Naval Academy grounds in time to watch the Corps of Midshipmen assemble and march in to lunch in formation. We were informed that all 4000 are served at the same time. Must have a lot of waiters!

After our own lunch, we set off on a guided tour of the Academy grounds, which included Bancroft Hall where the entire Corps of Midshipmen lives. The tour ended at the Chapel and the crypt below where John Paul Jones lies in a tomb resembling that of Napoleon in Paris.

Then we moved to the parade ground for the Friday afternoon review. Sheldon had very cleverly arranged our visit for the Homecoming weekend which meant a special parade. As the review ended, the 30 companies of Midshipmen passed the reviewing stand and marched eastward to their dorm. We marched westward toward our cars in the stadium parking lot, not trusting the town trolley.

Thanks, Sheldon, for arranging a very pleasant and instructive day.

.....Shirley Rettig

NOVEMBER 9TH MIDWEEK HIKE

PVSers met at 10:30 for the circular hike around Clopper lake. It was a gorgeous day with the lake full of Canadian geese and ducks. The trail was flat and the short 4 mile hike built up our appetites for the Italian buffet at Cafe Mileto in the Clopper Mill Village Center. Many hikers filled large plates full of mussels which reminded us of Mt. Sutton where all the town restaurants claim to have the best mussels.

This was only the 2nd PVS hike around Clopper lake . The other one was led by Frank Shelburne on April 16, 1998. Our leader, George Hicho, suggested that we make it an annual Frank Shelburne Memorial November Hike which he would be happy to lead each year. Thanks for the suggestion, hike, and super buffet. You really picked a winner this year George.

Charles Huggins



NOVEMBER MEETING

Myron Marquardt

To Ruth's house we all did go
To see the ski equipment show.
The new boots sure did look neat,
New skis would be a nice treat,
But only if the Rockies will ever get snow.

It was a nice cool evening when PVSers arrived at Ruth Powers' lovely and spacious home. The cool temperature helped to put everyone in the mood to think snow and the associated skiing. Once inside Ruth's house, it didn't take long for everyone to find the table with all the goodies, and there was quite a variety and a lot of each.

The meeting was brought to order by Vice President Ned Flaherty. The first gentleman informed us that the President was somewhere on the west coast trying to get a plane back to Washington.

The ski trip committee chairman was called upon to update everyone about ski trips and policies. The chairman called upon each ski trip leader for any comments about their trips.

Brian Eardley of the Washington Ski Center was called upon to tell everyone what is new in ski equipment. It was obvious that ski equipment designers have been busy coming up with new ideas. Brian expects that there will be a stampede of skiers to his ski center to update all their old ski equipment. After the conclusion of Brian's talk, there was a mad rush to the kitchen where coffee and a delicious dessert awaited.

A bit more conversation and then it was time to head home. Another successful meeting concluded and a great big thank you to Ruth for providing her house for a meeting and all the delicious food and drink.

A TASTE OF INDIA

On 16 October, Charlotte and Jim Kline hosted a unique PVS event – a taste of India (a cooking demonstration, dinner, and slide presentation on the Jaipur region of India.) Manju Shivraj Singh, author of Royal Indian Cookery and Spice Box, demonstrated Indian cooking techniques from the Royal Court of Rajasthan. Manju prepared tandoori chicken that she cut into bite-size pieces and served as an appetizer. She also prepared meatball curry, pink lentil dahl, potato curry, and rice khichia red chilly. Then Manju showed us her modern side; she prepared Basmati rice—perfectly cooked from the microwave. When cooked, the grains “stood straight up.” For dessert, she made sweet rice that—in Indian culture—is served at weddings to the bride and groom.

After the cooking demonstration, we all enjoyed a sit-down dinner at the lovely tables that Charlotte and Jim had artfully decorated. Then Manju—accompanied by her husband Shivraj—put on an illustrated, cultural tour of her home province Rajasthan.

Sincere thanks to Charlotte and Jim Kline for once again sharing their home and warm hospitality with fellow PVSers.



ARTS CLUB DINNER

Forty-six usually casually dressed PVSers gazed at each other in mutual admiration, the women in sparkling attire, the men impressive in their tuxes. So pleased was everyone that the men raised their glasses to the women and the ladies reciprocated by toasting the men.

After drinks and hors d'oeuvres and much conversation, came the delicious dinner, starting with white bean and roasted red pepper soup, followed by chicken with apricot grand marnier sauce and huge cheese/herbal biscuits, and ending with a banana bread pudding with hot bourbon sauce. (Eat your hearts out, absentees!)

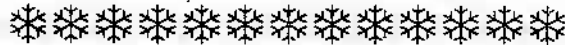
Marianne Cook delighted all with numerous selections on the piano through the evening. At one point after dinner, Jackie Flaherty pulled assorted members up to their feet and got them to dancing, a first for an Arts Club dinner.

Stars on their report cards for Bill Anderson who did the planning and arranging and for Terry and Ham Morton for making it all possible!

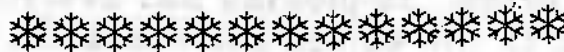
....Jessma Blockwick

PVS BOARD

President	Nancy McKinley	EXCOM
Vice President	Ned Flaherty	
Secretary	Karen Felker	First Term:
Treasurer	Pat Tengel	Don Dillon
Membership	Marilyn Clark	Sheldon Drews
Program Chair	Ray McKinley	Charlotte Kline
TOOT Editor	Jessma Blockwick	
TOOT Production	Bette Walker	Second Term:
Ski Trip Chair	Serge Triau	Bob Marx
Midweek Activities ...	Charles Huggins	Marty McNeill
Ombudsman	Bill Anderson	Jean Heitchue
Meeting Records	Sara Huggins	



NOTE: Three French-language books were found at the Ewings' home after the September meeting. If they are yours, please claim by calling Nancy McKinley at 703-527-7126.



This is a much-requested dish served by Nancy Ewing at the September meeting.

THREE WEEKS COLE SLAW

3 lbs. White cabbage, chopped	1 cup salad oil
(1 green pepper, chopped)	1 cup cider vinegar
2 white onions, chopped	1 t. Celery seed
1 1/2-2 cups sugar	2 t. Salt

Combine cabbage, optional pepper, onions, sugar. Mix well. Mix oil, vinegar, celery seed, and salt and bring to a hard boil. Pour over cabbage mixture and stir very well. Store in refrigerator in air-tight container. Let stand at least 3 days as flavor improves as it ages. Will keep refrigerated for a month. Serves 10



THE KNEE

by

Ray McKinley

The thrill is gone? *La nina* is destroying our early ski season? Not true. Our

own Bob McNeill spent a week at Keystone and skied starting November 9. While not totally overwhelming, skiing was tolerable. Breckenridge and Loveland were also open. And the first World Cup of the year was moved to Copper Mt. and Beaver Creek starting November 28. Right on.

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

The Knee simply cannot understand the glee in the eyes of Liberty Patrollers Jim Wingrove and Bob McNeill when a "special tour" of Liberty is offered. But I won't ski there. To quote Henry Patrick, "Give me death or give me Liberty."

Suzanne Boisclair and Betty Lawrence have a ukneeque Millenkneeum planned. They leave to ski in Chamoknee, France December 23 and spend the Millennium in gay *Paris*. *O la la!*

Ubiquitous PVS: Bette Walker and Jessma Blockwick were both shopping at the Ft. McNair commissary and almost ran into each other. No lawsuits are planned--yet. Applicant member Marty Rine was chatting with Don and Marijane Harper at our wonderful Arts Club bash. It turns out that Marty taught Don and Marijane's son first aid at a Ski Patrol refresher.

Condolences to our November hostess Ruth Powers on the recent loss of her mother.

The Internet is awesome. Bill Hager wrote from half way around the world and half-way through a 9 week training effort in Boskneeia. There was snow there and cold but no Bosnian skiing yet. As we approach the joyous holidays, some of Bill's words bring to the fore just how

grateful we should be that traffic problems are our major grief. *"I had planned to hike in the nearby mountains on an occasional sunny afternoon, but learned that it wouldn't be a good idea. I had wondered about hunting, since the hillsides appear perfect for wildlife and deer. But there are no deer. They have virtually all been killed when they stepped on land mines. That's why I haven't gone hiking."* What a pity...

And a more local pity. Last month Charlotte Kline's daughter bought her dream car-- a 1999 Lexus. Her second day, in a parking lot, a car rear ended her. Another car rear ended it, pushing the Lexus into the car in front of it. It was totalled, with only 178 miles on it. Ouch.

A tip of the ol' Knee cap to Pres Nancy. She was just named a Vice President of her company. Right on! That's still no excuse for the sexist salutation starting her messages. "Fellow PVSers" should be "Fellowperson PVSers."

Let me update you on Pat and Don Copes' move to Southern Virginia. In preparation for Don's retirement, they put their Alexandria abode on the market. It sold immediately. They are now living in a Shirlington rental unit. Don and Pat will celebrate the Millennium in their new home with John and Dorie Waddick. And there are plans to uncork a bottle of 1906 Port. Yummy.

Several others are also retiring. Larry Pease and Barbara Leonhardt leave (often) civil service at the first of the year. Larry will become a paid Ski Patroller at Wisp. Barbara will initially concentrate on running her Snowmass ski trip. Pat Tengel is also retiring in the spring. However, she is taking a new full time job as a financial advisor.

Are we having fun yet? The two largest meetings in our history have been this year. According to Sara Huggins' data, we had 84 attend the April Annual Meeting at Jim and Charlotte Kline's. And 75 attended the November event at Ruth Powers' Great Falls home. Right in!

Some of us no longer ski as much as we would like. Not Tony Drago. He has seven ski trips planned for the season. Tony refuses to go back to Ski Liberty, quoting Henry Patrick.

CALENDAR

- Dec. 21 ... Christmas Party at the Heitchues', pp. 1&2
- Dec. 22 ... Skiing at Ski Liberty, led by Myron Marquardt, p. 4
- Dec. 28 ... ExCom at the Clarks'
- Jan. 1 ... Millennium Party at the Klines', p. 2
- Jan. 13 ... Skiing at Whitetail, led by Shirley Rettig
- Jan. 18 ... Monthly meeting at Carol Bridgers'
- Jan. 25 ... ExCom at Lu Beale's
- Feb. 7... 8 &9. Skiing at Seven Springs, p. 6
- Feb. 15 ... Monthly meeting at home of Ramona & John Matthews *Put Egan*
- Feb. 22 ... ExCom at the Felkers'
- Feb. 24 ... Walk thru the ZOO, led by Betty Byrne & Marvin Haas
- Mar 21 ... Monthly meeting at the Egan's *John & Ramona Walker*
- Apr. 1 ... Wine tasting at the Waddicks' *Clips*
- Nov. 4 ... 35th Anniversary Party

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