

VOLUME XXXIII *Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.*  
NUMBER 11 WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

NOVEMBER 1998

**PRESIDENT'S  
SITZMARK**

In November 1965, PVS was organized by a group of ardent skiers wanting a club for "real" skiers. Less than 3 weeks later the club's first newsletter was mimeographed and distributed to the membership, then numbering about 30.

As the club marks its 33rd anniversary, our newsletter proudly celebrates its own astonishing achievement--the continuous publication of more than 380 TOOTS.

This is surely an appropriate time to thank Editor Jessma Blockwick and Production Whiz Bette Walker for their super efforts in getting TOOT to us each month. For 4 1/2 years they have labored--Jessma, assigning and writing, pasting, telephoning, editing, cursing the computer, cajoling the printers; Bette, folding, stapling, stamping, addressing and mailing the finished product.

This they have done for more than 53 issues. That's dedication--a paradigm of PVS volunteerism.

So, let's hear it for these two and for all the contributing reporters and columnists who bring so much information and good cheer into our lives each month. They are the glue that holds this club together. We salute them.

*Lu*  
Lu Beale, President

**MONTHLY  
MEETING**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1998, 7:30 P.M.

Home of Marty and Bob McNeill  
2 Hitching Post Place, Rockville, Md. 20852  
Tel: 301-881-6558

**Special  
Program:**

The annual presentation of the latest in ski equipment by the Ski Center's Brian Eardley.

**Directions:** Take the Beltway to 270N. Take Exit 4A (Mojose Road East). Proceed east about one block and take first right into Walter Woods on Hitching Post Lane. Travel 6/10ths of a mile to Hitching Post Place. The McNeill are in #2, the corner house.



## COMING EVENTS

**ARTS CLUB DINNER, Saturday, November 7, 1998, 7 p.m.**  
**Reservations are closed. Call Bill Anderson, 301-654-4711 for information.**

**SUBARU**  
Presents  
**NATIONAL  
SKI & SNOWBOARD  
EXPO**



**“Super” Sale**

- **PATHFINDER**  
(Barren Miller's '98 Blockbuster Movie "Freeriders." Movie shown every two hours.  
Tickets: \$10.00 -FREE Ski Liberty/ Roundtop lift pass with each ticket (some restrictions apply)
- Over 100 Exhibitors + demos, clinics, & door prizes
- **“Mega” Ski Swap** (consignment starts Friday, 3 pm, 3rd floor Ballston Common)

**EXPERIENCE  
VIRTUAL REALITY  
SKIING**

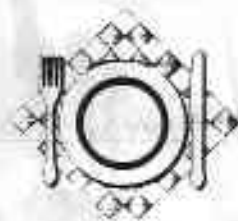
**November 6, 7 & 8, 1998**  
Ballston Common Mall in Arlington, VA  
Glebe Road & Wilson Blvd.

Sponsored by The Blue Ridge Ski Council  
& Sports Focus Magazine

Show hours: Friday 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am - 9:00 pm; Sunday Noon - 6:00 pm

For more information contact Zedack Associates (703) 644-9999  
or our Website at [www.zedackassociates.com](http://www.zedackassociates.com)

**FREE ADMISSION**



### MIDWEEK BIKE 'N LUNCH

**Glen Echo to Potomac (and return)**

**Thursday, November 12, 1998; 10:30 AM**

**Starting Point:** Glen Echo/Clara Barton Parking Lot [West side of Glen Echo; on MacArthur Blvd. Near Goldsboro Road]. Ride will proceed along MacArthur Blvd. and Great Falls Rd bikepaths to Potomac with lunch at the Village Deli. Total distance: 17 miles; mostly flat with one long hill.

Non-cyclists welcome to join us for the Luncheon portion of this activity at around noon. The Village Deli is located in small shopping center at southwest corner of River and Great Falls Roads.

Leader: Marvin Hass (703) 751-4737

**ANNUAL CHILI HIKE: November 21, 1998. Dinner is full but all are welcome to join the hike. Gather at the Great Falls Visitors' Center at 1 p.m.. Call the McKinleys at 703-527-7126 for information.**

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### **PVS SONG CONTEST**



The three winning entries in the Club song contest were printed in the October TOOT.

The winners were Marianne Cook who wrote not only the words but the score of a march entitled "Our Potomac Valley Ski Club Is the Best"; Jessma Blockwick for a cheerful song to the tune of "There Is a Tavern in the Town"; the Walns for a rousing 4-chorus number to the tune of "Funiculi-Funicula."

All winners received appropriate awards which we are sure will enhance their trophy cases. All entries will be featured at future club events.

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### **AND MORE ON THIS....**

There continues to be some confusion about how, what and when reimbursement is made to those valient PVSers who host the club's monthly meetings. (May they live forever and their tribe increase!)

In an attempt to clarify this not very arcane subject, ExComer Bob Marx offers this EOB (explanation of benefits, PVS style).

The Club will pay up to \$150, after the host-hostess subtracts the take at the door from his/her total expense for the meeting. Quite simple really, as the following examples illustrate.

<u>Food &amp; Drink</u>	<u>What we should eat</u>	<u>What we do eat</u>	<u>What we want to eat</u>
Expense	130.00	220.00	350.00
Door take	<u>70.00</u>	<u>70.00</u>	<u>70.00</u>
Balance	60.00	150.00	280.00
Club Pays	60.00	150.00	150.00

# WISP-----MID-WEEK-----99

January 13 - 15

**CALL WISP NOW- to reserve your room.**

**Ask for the Ski Chalet Demo Day rates.**

## Cost

**Room** per night (single or double)

\$40 (approximately)

Voucher for Thursday's lift ticket

\$ 2.00 per person, under age 70

Apres ski supplies

\$ 2.00 per person (approximately)

## ARRANGEMENTS

- \*\* Let us know if you are going, so we can plan for Apres Ski on Thursday and buy your vouchers from Ski Chalet. Also we will try to match you with a roommate if you need one.
- \*\* Room paid individually. For each room, call Wisp Hotel to reserve the room and pay a deposit for one night with a credit card or mail them a check. 1-800-462-9477.
- \*\* Lift tickets are obtained individually at area: picture ID needed for voucher.
- \*\* Meals paid individually. Bring lunch or breakfast stuff if desired; refrigerator in the rooms.

**Call Bob or Jan Marx**

**Phone: 703-451-9158**

## SCHEDULED TRIPS FOR THE 1999-2000 SEASONS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>LOCATIONS</u>	<u>TRIP LEADERS</u>
Dec. 9 to 16, 1998	Steamboat, CO.	Ned & Jaclyn Flaherty
Jan. 9 to 16, 1999	Telluride, CO.	Don & Kathy Dillon
Jan. 30 to Feb. 6, 1999	Sun Valley, ID.	Dina Taylor & Sheldon Drews
Feb. 19 to Mar. 2, 1999	Cortina, Italy	John Smith & Pat Tengel
* Feb. 20 to Feb 24, 1999 BRSC Trip	Mt. Tremblant, Canada	John & Romona Matthews
Mar. 27 to Apr. 3, 1999	Vail, CO	Ray & Nancy McKinley
Dec. 26, 99 to Jan. 2, 2000 BRSC Trip	Steamboat, CO.	Betty Lawrence & Betty Byrne

The following ski trips are in the planning stage:

Jan. 29 to Feb. 5, 2000 BRSC Trip	Park City, UT.	Trip Leader not designated at present time
Feb 26 to Mar 4, 2000 BRSC Trip	Loon, NH or Killington, VT	Exact location not decided by BRSC
Aug 31 to Sep 13, 2000	Bariloche, Argentina	Ray & Nancy McKinley

If a member is interested in a particular trip, please indicate to the Trip Leader at this time to put your name on the list and make the deposit requested by the Trip Leader. Remember the trips fill up quickly and there is a limit to the number of people on each trip.

# SKI SUN VALLEY, IDAHO

January 30 thru February 6, 1999

Coordinated by Dina Taylor (301-663-6889) and Sheldon Drews (703-521-5167)



**"ROUGHING IT IN LUXURY" is the motto! Great skiing on uncrowded slopes and lodging in the famous SUN VALLEY LODGE with amenities to numerous to list. All this for an individualized, unbelievably low price of :**

**Room w. 2 double beds, double occupancy - p.p. only \$1,270**

**Room w. 1 Queen bed, double occupancy - p.p. only \$1,194**

**A compatible group of enthusiastic skiers has already signed up. We do have room for a few more, especially one male participant. Come and join us. Please note that SHELDON DREWS graciously agreed to fill in for Nat Seeman to assist in coordinating this trip. For more information please call Sheldon or Dina. To sign up, send application and check for the full amount of the trip to Dina Taylor, 8403 Stonehouse Road, Frederick, MD 21702.**

**LAST CHANCE, SIGN UP NOW!! THE SUN VALLEY, IDAHO 1999 SKI TRIP WILL BE CLOSED - NOVEMBER 15, 1998.**

## M O N T T R E M B L A N T

Potomac Valley Skiers are part of the Blue Ridge Ski Council's "Winterfest 1999"

February 21 to 26 (five day) or February 20 to 27 (seven day option)

John and Ramona Matthews are your coordinators; phone: 301-589-7612

Ski Magazine rates Tremblant as the #1 ski resort in Eastern North America (1997 & 1998). Snow Country Magazine (1997) rates Tremblant as the #1 Value in Eastern North America. These low mountains (3,000 feet) present no altitude adjustment problem yet have great verticals (2131 feet).

Lodging in the Plaza Condominiums is located at the foot of the mountain in the heart of the Village. Deluxe condo units include two bedrooms for two persons each, two bathrooms and full kitchens. The studio units accommodate two at a small price increment. Convenient walk-to-the-slopes for all lodging. You have a choice of a five or seven-day package. Included with both are:

- Pre-trip party.
- Round-trip from Dulles to Montreal via Toronto.
- Round trip charter bus Montreal to Tremblant.
- 7 nights lodging (5 optional).
- 6 days lift tickets (4 optional).
- BRSC welcome party.
- Group race - inter club challenge.
- BRSC farewell dinner/dance: DJ music.
- Optional sight-seeing trip to Quebec City.
- Post-trip party.

	Accommodation	Five nights	Seven nights
<b>Costs of</b>	Two bedroom/two bath condo (four persons)	\$596	\$720
<b>Packages:</b>	Studio unit w/kitchen alcove (two persons)	\$675	\$800

Land only - deduct \$200; Cost adjustment for seniors, single supplement and non-skiers to be determined. **Payment Schedule:** A deposit of \$50 is payable with your application. A second payment of \$50 is due by November 5. A third payment of \$75 is due on December 5 and the final payment falls due on January 5, 1999. Trip agreement, emergency information form and travel schedules to be provided.

# TELLURIDE JAN 9-16, 1999!!

## SPACES STILL AVAILABLE

FULL PACKAGE INCLUDES: Round-Trip Jet Air, Transfers, Deluxe Lodge Accommodations in Mountain Village, Welcome Party, 5 of 6-Day Lift Ticket, Mountain Tour, One Dinner in Olde-Town Telluride, Several Apres-Skis, Pre- and Post-Trip Parties, Free Gondola to Town 15 Hours Daily

<b>FULL PKG., PER PERSON, DOUBLE (PP,D)</b>	<b>\$1195</b>
70 or Older, Full Pkg. (PP,D)	1070
Land Only, No Air or Transfers (PP,D)	815
Land Only, No Air or transfers, 70 or Older (PP,D)	690
Single Supplement (Added to Above)	515

Due NOW: \$600 PER PERSON; Final due Nov. 1

To Sign Up, Call Kathy or Don Dillon  
301 330 5371

You will find Telluride a great place to ski, seventy-five percent blues and greens, split-grooming and well-groomed. Snow is soft, deep and plentiful to 25 feet of pure Rocky Mountain powder each year. Runs, with long, rolling cruisers, are plentiful and nary a lift line in sight. With deluxe lodge accommodations at new, multimillion-dollar, Mountain Village, you will also be near the well-preserved old, wild-west town of Telluride. It's never too cold in Telluride and you will find it the most beautiful place you'll ever ski.

**DEADLINE IS APPROACHING FOR US TO CANCEL UNUSED ACCOMMODATIONS AND AIR SEATS SO WE AVOID EXTRA CHARGES.**

The trip is a "GO" with the the wonderful group already signed on. It is an exceptional value. All those who have delayed signing up should do so now.

Don and Kathy

♥♥♥♥ \* \* \* \* ♥♥♥♥ \* \* \* \* ♥♥♥♥ \* \* \* \* ♥♥♥♥ \* \* \* \*

March 27 to April 3, 1999 join Nancy and R. McKinley and

♥♥♥♥

# VAIL

♥♥♥♥

### The Premier US Ski Destination!

Experience the thrill of skiing the highest rated ski area in the US—and doing it with your PVS friends. The Vail mega-resort was built from scratch to encompass the best ski terrain in Colorado. Vail's skiing and unrivaled natural beauty make it a place to go back to again and again. Vail is a 7 mile wide ski area with 4,644 skiable acres and the largest network of high-speed quads in North America. At the top, VAIL is 7 miles wide. March and April are Vail's snowiest months, so we are guaranteed great powder skiing! Vail has added practice parks for moderately paced skiing so you can relax and enjoy. Special signs are posted at the top of each recently-groomed slope to help you guess work. Snow conditions and grooming information are always available on our in-room cable TV. Vail is truly for everyone! And ski Vail! And we fly from close-in Reagan National Airport to Eagle Vail on a great schedule on United Airlines.

♥♥♥♥ We'll stay slopeside at the newly appointed, Lift House. Each spacious unit has a fireplace, queen size bed, queen size sleep sofa, full kitchen, and private balcony. Prices are per person and based on only two people per unit. Single supplement is \$550. And best of all our units are only 100 steps from the new high-speed, leather upholstered, heated Lionshead Gondola. The Lift House has two restaurants, a Jacuzzi, bank, two ski shops and is in the heart of Lionshead Village. VAIL. You'll love it!

♥♥♥♥ All the goodies you expect on a McKinley-run trip: 5 of 6 day lift passes good at Vail, Beaver Creek, Arrowhead, Keystone & Breckenridge—almost 11,000 acres!! Airfare, transfers baggage handling and gratuities. We've included three special multi course group dinners at prime Vail dining establishments, apres ski every night, and gala pre and post trip parties.

**Incredible VAIL Value: 8 Days, 7 Nights Only \$1,348, \$1,188 70+**  
**Land Only package: \$1,009, \$849 70+**

For information call Nancy or Ray at (703) 527-7126. To sign up fill out the form in our lavender flyer (or call us) and send it with your check for \$800 (pay to Ray McKinley) to McKinleys, 2326 North Upton St, Arlington, VA 22207-4045. You'll absolutely ♥ VAIL

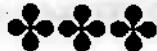


NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A PVS Nominating Committee soon will meet to select a slate of President and three 2-year ExCom members to be voted on at the April Annual Meeting. Suggestions are welcome. Please contact any committee member. They are Bill Anderson, Chairperson, Jessma Blockwick, Suzanne Boisclair, Irene Farrell, Jack Ragen and Serge Triau.

**Oops!** Seems a frequent department? Apologies to Dick Will, for leaving off his last name as we made clear he is a full member of the club.

And Charlie Gordon! Apologies to this long-time member whose last name was somehow changed by writer and editor. It really was great to see you at the Heitchues' party, Charlie.



PAST EVENTS



**On the morning of Tuesday, October 6, some 22 PVSers met at the GM plant in Baltimore for a tour of the plant where 800 Chevrolet Astro and GMC Safari vans are made each day with 2 shifts of production by 3,000 people.**

**It was an absolutely fascinating tour, showing how the several parts of the steel skeleton are welded, then go through metal-finishing operations to assure a completely smooth surface. Corrosion-resistant materials are applied, and the bodies completely submerged in tanks in preparation for the next painting, which is applied robotically. (And this is an eerie procedure to be seen if you have never seen robots in operation!)**

**In the Trim Department, the windshield is robotically sealed and hardware fittings assembled. Instrument panels are put in place by articulated arms, as are the seats, and this automatic operation, too, is fascinating to watch. So too the rest of the whole assembly process.**

**By the end, we had all worked up a good appetite for lunch at Phillip's Sea Food House at the Inner Harbour, where we had a chance to socialize somewhat before out trek back to the Washington area.**

**Many thanks to Charlie Huggins for making possible such an interesting trip for PVSers. ....Report by Helen Price**

## You Won't Believe This, Butt...

Well, first of all, the weather was awful, as it normally is at the Blue Knob retreat of Betty Lawrence. It was partly cloudy and the thermometer was stuck on 44 degrees. And then there was the question of whether we would have water this year, so one felt the need to use only a cupful of water at a time when bathing or washing hair. And, should I flush or not?

The games were time consuming, mentally exhausting, and the wrong people won. The dial on the oven said 350 when it was actually 200 degrees, and the food was only average PVS fare. The fire took a committee to start and maintain. The last boring evening involved patiently sitting through a movie about polar bears, then trying to subtly escape having to endure "Crime and Punishment." (Dick's excuse to turn it off was that the TV would keep people awake.)

The hiking was modest except for the "double black diamond" Gorge of Death. The trees were not spectacular, having just started to turn. Besides Josie, we saw animals (plain old deer) only twice. The "green slope" walkers were disappointed by not finding any trophy balls on the golf course; they had to settle for acorns to feed Suzanne's city squirrels.

To top off the weekend, we had an official visit from the nose government. It was a woman trying to map the roads and pinpoint the houses for the Census Bureau. Was SHE ever surprised to come face to face with THE BOSS FROM WASHINGTON, good old BM.

This was just another boring PVS event, hosted by the most gracious Betty Lawrence, the only bright spot in the entire long, tedious weekend



### VIRGINIA'S WESTERN FRONTIER SITE OF PVS OCTOBER MEETING

Thirty-six members, Ann Marie Black (applicant) and Ted and Susan Carmen (guests) braved the elements (fine fall weather) and highways (rush hour in the outback) to enjoyed the excellent food, a beautifully redecorated kitchen, a finely tuned piano and the gracious hospitality of Marijane and Don Harper.

President, Lu Beale, managed to keep the crowd in hand and conducted the meeting with her usual no nonsense approach. She did, however, encourage all present to participate in a sing along of the three PVS song contest entries. The McKinley's took the lead in singing "Our Potomac Valley Ski Club is the Best" (music and lyrics by Marianne Cook). Nancy and Ray were joined by Jessma Blockwick to present "There is a ski club in this town" (lyrics by Jessma Blockwick), and finally a rousing ski song sung to the tune of Funiculi-Funicula (lyrics by Anonymous). Lu presented Jessma with a beautiful tambourine. Marianne was not present for the debut of her original work, and Anonymous did not step forward to claim his/her prize?

The evening closed with Don Harper's scarf juggling act and Marijane Harper's serving scrumptious carrot cake and coffee. *Kudos to the Harpers!*





# THE KNEE

by

Ray McKinley

- 9 -

It's finally November. At least in the higher spots, the frost is already on the pumpkins. The highland persimmons have also had their frost and are now cloyingly sweet-tart. The 1998-1999 ski season is now upon us with its ubiquitous white stuff (except at Liberty where the scheduled opening date is February 11.)

The Knee learned the word ubiquitous from a late 1950's TV commercial for Nucoa margarine, "the new ubiquitous comestible." They no longer make Nucoa. It became Oldcoa and then faded away--just like Charkneeta.

Since it's almost ski time, here's a true ski story. When Huey Roberts moved to Colorado, one of his first jobs was to be a Ski Host at Copper Mountain. Huey dutifully met his first group of 20. He took them to the highest point at Copper and skied down--straight down with no stops. At the bottom Huey turned around. Not a single member of his group was anywhere in sight!

They actually "opened" Killington--half of one run--for a few hours at the end of October. And Winter Park is partially open--Keystone soon will be. *Enroute* (the Knee loves to use foreign words--like *champagne*) to Betty Lawrence's, we drove by Braddock Heights. Their season has not yet started--their 1970 season!

For the third straight year we all had an absolute ball at Betty Lawrence's alternate abode at Blue Knob, including a great game of guess whose college age picture it is, and again one of the funniest dinner parties in club historknee.

A bit of Blue Knob news: The run in front of Betty Lawrence's house is now Jack Rabbit, not Bunny Hop. Since it's a blue run, they thought "Bunny Hop" made it sound too green.

And the winner of the cheapest airfare to Denver goes to Bob McNeill. He got a round trip for \$146. Bad news, it's for the first week of December. Because of his hip, Bob can't dance, he plans to ski Keystone in December. Right on.

Congrats to Don and Pat Cope. They are

grandparents--for the second time.

Do you know what they call a new reader of this column? A kneeophyte.

Now it can be told. Several months ago, George Hicho was not feeling very well. A doctor's visit got him immediately to the hospital for triple bypass surgery. Now George has lost a bit of weight, feels great and has ski plans. But his puns are still bad. And the Knee knows bad puns.

A bit early for skiing, but Rachel and David Abraham are off to Switzerland and then to Israel. And Dina Taylor is visiting Germany.

Gail Pease's daughter Angie got married in Newport News last month. At the wedding, Angie was serenaded (?) by most of the Wisp ski patrol including Gail, son Greg, and hubby Larry. Right on--all right, a little flat!

Yes, it's true. After Peoples Drugs was bought by CVS, our own Jack Peoples sold all of his Peoples stock. To misquote Barbra Streisand "But first be a Peoples who needs Peoples..."

After Jim Slack and Mary Ward's splendid Oktoberfest, Dina Taylor's car wouldn't start. Charles Higgins and then Sheldon Drews tried to jump start her car. Thereafter, all three cars almost backed into each other. Right off!

After the "charge" from conservative Sheldon, Dina gave Bill Anderson a check for the Arts Club Dinner. Instead of Bill Anderson, the check was made out to Bill Clinton! Go figure.

It was a pleasure to see Roy and Malda Elrod sipping the Oktoberfest ale. They were returning from their time share in Shawnee, Pa. They reported the fall skiing was "pretty poor."

The day after Oktoberfest was Mary Ward's birthday. Jim took her to see Oscar Wilde's "A Woman of Little Importance."

Earlier, Jessma Blockwick, Ruth Schrider and Jeannette Albersheim enjoyed a show at Ghost Theater. A full house is 18. Sounds frightening.

Missing from the October PVS meeting was songwriter Marianne Cook who, instead, traveled to Florida. Marianne entrusted Veep Nancy McKinley and Knee Ray to sing her great PVS song. It was a mistake, Marianne, we really butchered it. *Kneea culpa.*

CALENDAR

- Nov. 6 ... 7 & 8, Ski & Snowboard Expo, p. 2
- Nov. 7 ... Arts Club Dinner, p. 2
- Nov. 12 ... Midweek Bike 'N Lunch, p. 2
- Nov. 17 ... Monthly meeting at the McNeills', p. 1
- Nov. 21 ... Chili Hike, p. 3
- Nov. 24 ... ExCom at Bill Anderson's
- Dec. 15 ... Holiday Party at the Heitchues'
- Dec. 21 ... Midweek Skiing at Ski Liberty
- Jan. 13 ... to 15th, Ski Demo at Wisp, p. 4
- Dec. 29 ... ExCom at Dot Mills'
- Jan. 18 ... Monthly Meeting
- Jan. 1 ... 2000, Millenium Party
- Nov. ... 2000, PVS 35th Anniversary

Dec 17  
Dec 18

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

