

VOLUME XLIII
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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

APRIL 2007

www.potomacvalleyskiers.org

info@pvskiers.org

This is my swan song. It's been an often long but always rewarding close to five years since I was appointed the club's vice president, then elected as Veep and Pres, respectively. We've had some stormy times, and we've accomplished what was to be done in amicable and highly cooperative environs.

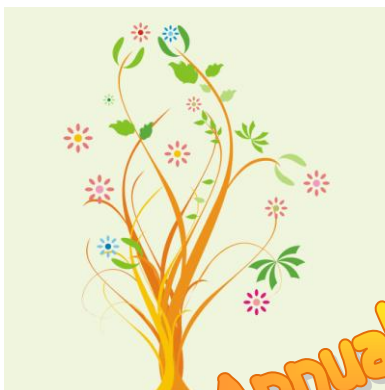
As I look back on our accomplishments during this long time period, several events come to mind, foremost the 40th anniversary celebration in November 2005. I was lucky to participate in several really great ski trips, some with significant sightseeing add-ons, such as the Spain-Morocco and the Scandinavian trips, both led by Nancy and Ray McKinley. Just recently, we updated our ski-trip guidelines, and I believe that, thanks to a very insightful and dedicated trip committee headed by Bob Marx, we have the most expert trip leaders and among the best ski trips anywhere.

If there's a concern, one that has been on our leadership's agenda for some time, it is the need to attract new and younger blood to our membership ranks. For a variety of reasons ski club memberships have been declining, and we're no different, though less severely affected than others. Still, to assure our long-term viability, we do need to attract new compatible members, and efforts to this end will, hopefully, intensify in the months to come.

As seen on page 3 in this issue of Toot, ExCom resolved unanimously to authorize added flexibility in the requirements for applicants' eligibility to become full members. It is imperative that the proposed changes be approved by the membership in the upcoming annual meeting. At the annual meeting, we also will have the opportunity to approve membership for four deserving applicants (**see page 4**).

As I conclude my term in office, I offer my thanks to a whole bunch of wonderful people for their support and dedication to our great club's well being. In fact, they are too many to mention all of them here. But I would be remiss not to mention the always laboring-in-our-behalf Program Chairman and Knee, Ray McKinley, former and present Treasurers, Ray Jones and Dick Laeser, former Membership Chair Pat Vagonis, former and current Webmasters, Marvin Hass and Dave Lerner, who breathed new life into our greatly expanded website, and all of our current ExCom members, who have liberally given of their time and energies to keep us successfully meeting our members' expectations. To all of them, and the many whom I haven't mentioned by name, my sincerest thanks, along with my best wishes for the continued success of our upcoming leadership in moving us forward in an ever-evolving ski loving bunch of great people. May great snow conditions, unblemished camaraderie and goodwill be with us all for many years to come.

David



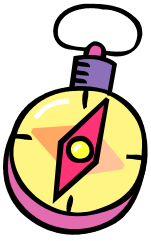
Annual Meeting 2007

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

7:30

**at
Reg and Jean Heitchue's
Party Room
Reston, VA**

703-437-7611



Directions Reg and Jean Heitchue's Party Room
11990 Market St # 1015
Reston, VA 20190

703-437-7611

From Beltway: Take Rt. 267 West (Dulles Toll Rd.)
Take Exit 12 (Reston Parkway.) Turn right at end of ramp.
Turn left at 2nd light onto Bluemont Way.
Go 2 blocks and turn right on Library St.
Go 1 block and turn left on Market St.
Midtown Condominium is on the right at 11990 Market St.
Free parking == Pull up in front of the building and have the valet park
your car. (Tips would be appreciated, I'm sure, but not necessary.)

Changes

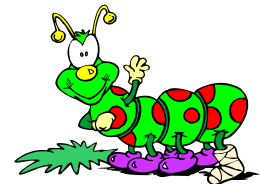
June Read-Martin
581 Cedar Spring St
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
Tel: 301-926-8108

Tony Drago
tdragon2@verizon.net



Myron is Doing well

Hello everybody,



I recently visited my surgeon to check on recovery progress. He said recovery is going very well. I now can put weight on the bad hip to the extent of being uncomfortable. This means I can walk somewhat without crutches. But no golf or skiing yet. I now am scheduled for four weeks of leg strength training. Without asking, he said I would be able to drive in three to four weeks. It sounded to me as though he is asked that by every patient. An obvious clue as to which is one of the most important activities in American life. Looking forward to a nice spring,

I want to thank everyone for all the get well cards I received, as well as the telephone calls and visits. A person needs all the encouragement available. Fumiko's sister is visiting us to help with the cooking and housework. She is a skier so she understands a person's frustration with a bad leg join.

Thanks again, Myron



PROPOSED BY-LAWS AMENDMENT 2007

The ExCom proposes an amendment to the By Laws of Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc. to encourage the outcome of increasing the actively skiing membership. The proposed amended language is depicted in the **bolded** words in the section listing Active Member requirements as follows:

SECTION I - MEMBERSHIP

A. An intended member who is not a charter member is termed an applicant. An applicant must:

1. Be invited and sponsored by an active member in good standing
2. Submit a written application for membership together with dues. Attend at least three club meetings **OR three PVS functions OR ski with PVS members on two or more week-long PVS-endorsed ski trips OR host one club meeting and attend at least one PVS function.**
3. Ski at least three days with a club member or members.
4. Display skiing ability
5. **Notwithstanding the above provisions, if otherwise convinced of the applicant's qualifications for membership, upon a two-thirds vote of all Ex Com members.**
6. Be approved by vote of the members at the annual meeting, provided, however, that five or more negative votes shall be sufficient to bar an applicant from **membership in** the club.

The amended By-Laws would provide other (and often more meaningful) opportunities to get to know Applicant Members than the current three club meeting attendance. As we've seen in the reduction in meeting attendance over the years, meetings can be difficult to get to; particularly for individuals who work evenings, live/work somewhat distant from the DC area, or have other (family) commitments.

Also, the amended By-Laws would formalize that practice whereby ExCom has waived a requirement when the Applicant Member essentially fulfilled the spirit of our requirements. For example: participated on four PVS ski trips but attended only one meeting. This provision would require a super-majority of six ExCom votes in the affirmative.

Votes can be cast either by mail or by vote at the meeting.

To vote by postal service, mail the form below to Mary Beale at 4040 51st St. NW, Washington, DC 20016. Be sure to put a return address label on the envelope. Mary will take the unopened envelopes to the annual meeting, and hand them to Inspector of Ballots, John Smith. If you come to the April meeting, the envelope will be returned to you and you can vote from the floor. Mail-in votes are due by **April 12, 2007.**

Note: If there are two people in your household who are voting, please copy form.



BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS 2007

I approve the proposed By-laws amendments. (check here)_____

I do not approve the proposed By-laws amendments. (check here)_____

This is our Annual Meeting and Elections - 2007



in

Slate of Officers

Members have the opportunity to vote for the following slate of officers by ballot at the annual meeting in accordance with our By-laws.

President = Mike Strand

Vice President = Dick Comerford

ExCom members = Carolyn Maurer, Ruth Powers, and David Warthen

(A biographical sketch of each ExCom and VP candidate appeared in the February Toot.)

Applicant Members Eligible for Membership



The following Applicant Members have met the qualifications for full membership. Members have the opportunity to vote on these candidates for membership by ballot at the annual meeting in accordance with our By-laws.

Marianne Gustafson (sponsored by Betty Byrne)

Ann Snyder (sponsored by John Brunelli)

Cara Jablon (sponsored by Rosemary and Dick Schwartzbard)

Bob Jablon (sponsored by Rosemary and Dick Schwartzbard)

PVS BOARD MEMBERS, OFFICERS, and CHAIRPERSONS - 2006-2007

President - *David Abraham*

Vice President - *Mike Strand*

Secretary - *Mary Beale*

Treasurer - *Dick Laeser*

Membership - *Pat Vagonis*

Events - *Ray McKinley*

Mid-week Events - *Mike Strand*

Webmaster - *David Lerner*

Ski Trip Cmte Chair - *Bob Marx*

TOOT Editor - *Jan Marx*

TOOT Proofer - *Bob Marx*

TOOT Mailer -

Meeting Records - *Sara Huggins*

Historian - *Jan Marx*

First Term:

Bob Knopes

Dick Laeser

David Lerner

Second Term

Charlotte Eddy

Burr Schuler

Dick Schwartzbard

Coming Event

BROOKSIDE GARDENS GUIDED TOUR

Thursday, April 26, 10:30 AM

Thanks to Rachel Abraham's initiative we will have a revival of the popular Brookside Botanical Gardens spring tour, led and guided by a member of the Garden's cadre of professionals.

Meet at the Visitors Center at 10:30 AM and the tour will begin promptly at 10:45, lasting about an hour.

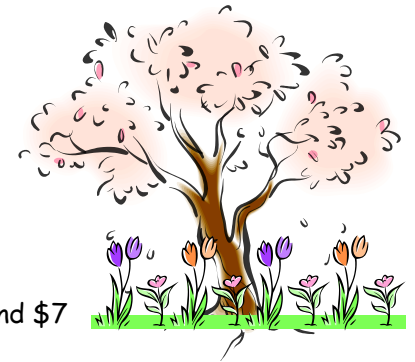
Cost: Depending on the number of participants, the cost will range between \$ 5 and \$7 per person. The maximum number of participants is 20.

RSVP: To reserve your space, please call Rachel not later than April 16 at 301-530-7612 or e-mail rhabraham@aol.com.

Bring: It is suggested that participants bring their lunch sandwich and, weather permitting, an outdoor group luncheon will be had by all.

Directions:

Brookside Gardens, located in Wheaton, Maryland, is reached easily by taking Georgia Avenue north from the Beltway, turning right at Randolph Road, and again right at Glenallan Avenue. The Gardens Visitor Center is at 1800, a right turn at the four-way stop. Parking is on-site.



Past Events

MARCH MEETING AT LIZ AND JOE'S

They arrived through the front door and more burst in through the back door. Liz and Joe welcomed 33 PVsers to their charming home. Due to scarce street parking some found spots on the street behind their house, located the secret signal (a white towel tied on the back gate), and found their way through the nicely landscaped back yard, past the hot tub, and into the back door.

Beverages in the kitchen and nibbles in the dining room is where attendees found cheeses, veggies, chips, dips, meat, breads, and other enticing fare. Coffee and dessert followed. Among the VERY-seldom-seen were Bill Hagar and Kathy Quinden; they were in town from Reno because Bill is headed for Afghanistan.



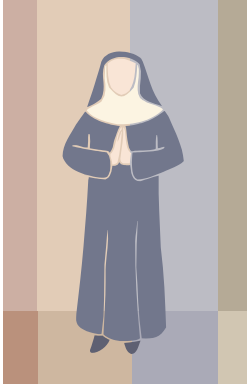
David called the meeting o order, after which information and events were described. Dottie Villers introduced her guest and neighbor, Jan Sutton, who moved here from Boulder, CO, and yes, skis!



**A great Thank You to Joe and Liz,
...and to Trooper, their Australian Terrier, who helped clean up.**

Doubt !!

Reviewed by Dick Schwartzbard



"Doubt" is, without a doubt, one of the most powerful and engrossing plays to be performed in the Washington area this year. On Sunday, March 25, 20 culture seekers from as far away as Baltimore went to the National Theater. We watched actress Cherry Jones in her Tony Award-winning role of Sister Aloysius, a middle school principal in the 1960's who is concerned about Father Flynn's excessive friendliness with one of the boys. Well, you get the picture. Following the performance, a number of the PVSers proceeded to Les Halles Restaurant. We dined al fresco on a beautiful spring afternoon.

After thoughtful discussion of the events depicted in the play, there was a split between the "doubters" and the "believers."

(Hey, you really didn't expect PVSers to all agree, did you?)

Thanks to Nancy and Ray McKinley for obtaining the tickets and organizing the event.



Ski Trips



2007 - 2008 PVS-Endorsed Ski Trips

The ExCom, at its March meeting, approved unanimously the two additional ski trips recommended by the Ski Trip Committee for the 2007-2008 winter ski season.

The three PVS-endorsed ski trips for the coming winter season are as follows:

Snowmass, CO, January 17-24, 2008

Carolyn Maurer and Dave DeVilbiss will lead PVS on another ski trip to Snowmass, CO, staying at The Snowmass Mountain Chalet - see separate trip announcement for additional information.

Sun Valley, ID, February 9-16, 2008

Ray and Nancy McKinley will lead PVS on a ski trip to Sun Valley, ID, staying at The Lodge in Sun Valley - see separate trip announcement for additional information.

Bulgaria / Slovenia, March 2-13, 2008

Kerry and Marianne Hines will lead PVS on a ski trip to Bansko, Bulgaria and Kranjska Gora, Slovenia - see separate trip announcement for additional information.

Argentina - Brazil - Summer 2007 - Canceled

Just before this issue of Toot went to "press," Ray and Nancy McKinley informed the Editor that uncooperative travel vendors have forced them to **cancel** their plan for leading PVS to Las Leñas, Buenos Aires, and Rio de Janeiro in August 2007. The Ski Trip Committee thanks Ray and Nancy for their effort on behalf of PVS.

SNOWMASS

SNOWMASS 2008

January 17 through 24

Hurry! This may be a last chance to stay at our much loved Snowmass Mountain Chalet. Recent purchase by a large developer will make major changes with new construction and concept within the next two years.

- **Join us for this perennial favorite-- slopeside skiing at Snowmass with interchangeable lift tickets and free bus service to Aspen Highlands, Ajax Mountain, and Buttermilk ski areas, more than 5,000 acres of skiing. Direct access to 3,100 acres of Snowmass slopes is just outside the door.**
- **We will stay once again at the charming and friendly Snowmass Mountain Chalet to enjoy the convenience of slopeside lodging served by the welcoming Mountain Chalet staff. Lodging includes a daily family-style breakfast and daily soup lunch, greatly appreciated by trip participants and other guests, many of whom return year after year.**
- **The trip will include group dinners, après-ski parties, and other activities available in the Aspen environs.**
- **Approximate trip cost is \$1,900, details to be announced when air transport is arranged.**

For more information:

**Contact trip leaders Carolyn Maurer and David DeVilbiss at 703-370-4865
or by e-mail at Carolyn.maurer@verizon.net.**

To reserve:

- **Send deposit of \$250 per person to:
Carolyn Maurer at 4508 Peacock Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304**
- **Note "PVS-Snowmass 2008" on the memo line.**

February 9-16, 2008, join Nancy and Ray McKinley to Ski World Renowned



Everyone has heard of it. It's where "it happened," Now you can ski there. Sun Valley, Idaho. We fly on United via Denver. Our Lodging will be at the world famous Sun Valley Lodge. Skiing is on two glorious mountains, Bald and Dollar. Bald Mountain features finely appointed day lodges, a total of 14 lifts and 65 varied runs await on either side of the mountain. Bald Mountain's seemingly endless runs stretch 2,054 acres to the edges of the Sawtooth National Forest and slide 3,400 vertical feet, top to bottom. Dollar Mountain, "the finest teaching mountain in the world," caters to the needs of beginners with 10 runs and 628 feet of supportive, nurturing vertical rise. Expert or novice, the options for quality skiing are nearly limitless to all Sun Valley guests.



The World Famous Sun Valley

Bald Mountain - A Superb Ski

The Sun Valley Lodge, built in 1936, was constructed from the ground up with every amenity a skier could imagine. The 148-room-hotel is a complete luxury hotel with an adjoining glass enclosed outdoor pool and Sun Valley's famous outdoor ice rink and Terrace. Inside guests enjoy Gretchen's Restaurant, the elegant Lodge Dining Room, the Eddie Duchin Lounge, Beauty Salon, Spa and Exercise Room - a bowling alley (6 lanes) and game room. Relive the luxurious accommodations and service of a bygone era.

We expect our trip will cost some \$2,100. This includes a pre and post trip party, 3 dinners, lodging, air fare and lift tickets. Land only will be about \$1,600, and the single supplement will be some \$800.

We have only limited space. To reserve a spot on this memorable trip, send your check for \$250 per person payable to Ray McKinley (refundable through July when prices will be firm) and send it to McKinley's, 2326 N Upton Street, Arlington, VA 22207-4045. Please call us for lots more information at (703) 527-7126.

Œki and See the Balkans

Sunday, March 2 through Thursday, March 13, 2008

This trip offers the opportunity to ski in two countries (Bulgaria and Slovenia), tour two capital cities (Sofia and Ljubljana), and experience the unique culture of this region where eastern and western cultures merge.

TRIP OVERVIEW -- We depart Washington/Dulles at 5:20 pm, transfer in Munich, Germany, for Sofia, Bulgaria, and overnight in a 4-star hotel in Sofia (breakfast included). The next day we tour Sofia before transferring late in the afternoon by bus (about a 2-hour trip) to a 5-star hotel in Bansko at the gondola station (breakfast and dinner included). After four nights and three days skiing (elective day tours are possible to Rila Monastery, Sofia, the town of Bansko, and other sites of interest), we return to Sofia and fly to Ljubljana, Slovenia. We overnight in Ljubljana in a 4-star hotel (breakfast included), then tour the Slovenian capital city the following day. Late in the afternoon we transfer by bus to Kranjska Gora (about 1.5 hours) to a slopeside 4-star hotel (breakfast and lunch included). After four nights/three days skiing (elective day tours are possible to Lake Bled, Ljubljana, and other local sites), we return by bus to Ljubljana for the flight home. Transferring in Munich, we arrive back at Washington/Dulles at 6:30 pm. All flights are on Lufthansa.

Bansko is Bulgaria's # 1 ski resort: It has benefited from a multi-million Euros investment, has the best snow record and the longest ski season (15 Dec - 15 May) of all Bulgarian ski resorts, and snowmaking covers many of the slopes. Bansko is located 3,025 feet above sea level. The two main ski areas are between 3,600 and 8,510 feet elevation, and are accessible on the new gondola, which starts from Bansko. The area caters to all levels of skiers and is the best resort in Bulgaria for advanced skiers. More information is available at www.Bulgariaski.com/bansko/index.shtml

Kranjska Gora is the longest operating ski resort in Slovenia and is in northwestern Slovenia near the borders with Austria and Italy. The slopes are suitable for all skiing levels. The best skiers in the world compete annually on the Podkoren run in World Cup men's giant slalom and slalom races. Kranjska Gora has 90 days guaranteed snow with 175 acres of artificial snow making and night skiing capability. The ski area is at an altitude ranging from 2,650-5,140 feet. More information is available at www.slovenia.info/?smucanje=58

INCLUDED IN PRICE -- Total Price \$2,800 (double occupancy) includes all air and bus transportation, hotels with meals as indicated above, two city tours, plus pre-trip party, portage of baggage, and post-trip party. (Price based on exchange rate of \$1.33 US to Euro). Single supplement \$306 based on single room availability. Land-only price, approximately \$1,950.

NOT INCLUDED: -- Medical Insurance and Trip Cancellation / Interruption Insurance, lunches, lift tickets, ski equipment rental, elective tours

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING US OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS:

Contact Marianne or Kerry Hines at 540-364-4810 or by e-mail at machines@rcn.com or klhines@erols.com.

TO RESERVE: Trip is limited to 25 participants. Send the trip application form and a deposit check for \$250 per person to: Marianne or Kerry Hines, 11019 John Marshall Highway, Delaplane, VA 20144. Note "PVS-Balkans 2008" on the memo line.

FYI-Just Cuz

Erich Windisch, Died at 89; Revolutionized Ski Jumping

By [DENNIS HEVESI](#)

Published: March 4, 2007

Erich Windisch, whose adjustment to an injured shoulder reshaped the sport of ski jumping, bringing competitors' arms to their sides, died Feb. 14 near his home in Vail, Colo. He was 89.

It was during a tournament in his native Germany in 1949 that Windisch left his slightly arched arms pointing downward and — to the surprise of his competitors and hundreds of spectators — soared farther than all the other jumpers. Windisch had dislocated a shoulder during a practice run several weeks earlier. "He did it to protect his shoulder," said Justin Henderson, curator of the Colorado Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame in Vail, into which Windisch was inducted in 1994. "The traditional position was to have your arms forward, in a Superman kind of position."

The position's aerodynamic advantage was soon demonstrated in wind-tunnel tests in Switzerland, but Henderson pointed out that the position also caught on quickly because the leap had happened at a large European meet.

Erich Alfred Windisch was born in Shoeneck, Germany, on Jan. 14, 1918. He started skiing at 3 and won his first race at 7. During World War II, he was a captain with the German army's mountain troops in Russia. For five years in the late 1940s and early '50s, he was a member of the German national ski-jumping team. Windisch moved to Colorado in 1947. Besides his daughter, Sasha, he is survived by his wife, the former Elena Bercovici.

For 39 years, he was an instructor and supervisor at the Vail Ski and Snowboard School, taking a particular interest in teaching beginners. In 1994, a trail on Vail Mountain leading to Golden Peak, the beginner's area on the mountain, was named Windisch Way.

PVS at Sun Peaks

In the early hours of Saturday, March 3, 23 PVSers left Dulles for Vancouver, Canada, and on to Sun Peaks Resort in British Columbia via chartered bus. It wasn't long before someone noted that there were five Bobs among the group, with the surnames of Harmon, Jablon, Knopes, Marx, and McNeill, collectively known throughout the trip as "the five Bobs." Jan Marx noted that she shared the trip's final dinner in Vancouver with three of the now famous group of "five Bobs."



Thanks to the trip leaders, Nancy and Ray McKinley, we all had a great time. Everything was on schedule and went smoothly, beginning with a brief reception on our arrival at Nancy Greene's Cahilty Lodge with Nancy Greene and her husband, Al Raine, a former coach of Canada's women's national ski team. Nancy was the first North American woman to win an Olympic gold medal in Alpine skiing, and is one of Canada's national treasures. She also is a wonderful hostess.

Our first full day at Sun Peaks began with a guided tour of the ski area by local Sun Guides. It was good that we had them if only because of limited visibility caused by fog and low-lying clouds. Nevertheless, it was a good day of skiing despite the poor vision. The day was made better by Al's and Nancy's evening reception for our group, and topped-off by an excellent group dinner at a local restaurant, The Steak House.



On Monday morning, Nancy Greene and Al Raine personally escorted our PVS group around a variety of the area's many ski slopes. Ah -- to ski like Nancy Greene!! As we did every evening but one when time simply was not available, we ended the day with a happy hour at the McKinleys' suite. One of the most entertaining happy hours was one where Ray had each of us telling why and when we took up skiing. Some of the stories were hilarious.

In addition to The Steak House group dinner, we had two others. One was at an Italian restaurant with great food and the third was a fondue dinner in a beautiful lodge that was accessed by snowshoe. When we first heard back in PVS territory that the Sun Peaks trip included the snowshoe feature, I and I'm sure most others envisioned gliding over powdery snow on a beautiful moonlit night. It was quite unlike that. There was no moon in sight nor was the snow of the powdery variety. Rather, the snow was covered by a slippery, icy crust that led to a number of falls, but fortunately no injuries. Our further good fortunes were that the fondue dinner and setting were spectacular, and that vans from the Cahilty Lodge safely returned us to our temporary home.



Although there were no snowshoe related accidents, there was one in mid-week when one of "the five Bobs," Bob Harmon, fell and dislocated his shoulder in an isolated area where he was cross country skiing by himself. Luckily, he was able to walk to the Umbrella Café where the ski patrol was summoned. They took him to their clinic where, also luckily, a doctor on site re-located (reduced) his shoulder and sent Bob to a hospital in the neighboring town of Kamloops. After x-rays determined that there was no further damage, Bob took a taxi back to the hotel. He is O.K. Ask Bob about noncitizen hospital costs and the taxi cost. 9

Many of our members now have ski helmets. Joe Jevcak joined the wise people and purchased one. He says the helmet is not all he hoped for because, during his first run in his new helmet, he demonstrated a 5 star yard sale, and sprained his THUMB. Ice and loving care from Liz enabled him to ski the remaining days. Maybe a thumb helmet???

Also mid-week, a starlet was born from the PVS ranks. Sun Peaks was in process of developing marketing tools for the area, including the filming of a dog sled ride featuring none other than our own June Read-Martin as the occupant of the sled. You can view June's pictures on the Sun Peaks web site. What a performance!!

<http://www.sunpeaksresort.com/Winter/default.aspx> (Click through pictures -- 8-10 different scenes --. until you get to the dogsled picture. It will say, March 7. June is wearing a green jacket and red hat.) In addition to June's dog sled pictures, we saw pictures taken by the Schwartzbards on their recent trip to Antarctica. What a beautiful place!



Our final happy hour on Friday featured award presentations to each of us by Ray and Nancy. The best thing about the awards was that each came with a Canadian maple (maple leaf shaped) lollipop.

On Saturday, the 10th we left Sun Peaks for an overnight stay in Vancouver at the venerable and luxurious Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. We were on our own for dinner. Several of us ended up at a famous Vancouver fish house called Joe Fortes. Others went their own way, including the McKinleys and the Schwartzbards, who dined at one of their favorite Italian restaurants.



We departed Vancouver on Sunday morning, March 11, for Dulles. The airplane ride was fine and the group had lots of time at the baggage claim area to reminisce about another memorable PVS ski trip. From all of us, much thanks for the hard work of our superb trip leaders.

submitted by Bob (#5) McNeill

Joe, Cara, Ellie, Gene, Nancy, Jackie, Wilma, Nestor,
Jim Bryan, Bob Knopes, Bob Marx



PVS AT THE BRSC EUROFEST- SCHLADMING, AUSTRIA

On a beautiful Monday, February 26, 11 people (Joan and Glade Flake, Reg and Jean Heitchue, Sylvia and Wally Lukens, John Pulos, Shirley Rettig and her sister Beverly, Pat Tengel, and John Smith) on the PVS trip to Europe escaped the Washington area snow and ice and left Dulles airport for Munich, Germany and on to Athens, Greece. On Tuesday we arrived in a warm and sunny Athens at the beautiful Divini Palace hotel. We found a really nice local restaurant for a dinner of fine Greek specialties.



While in Athens, several of the group took a guided bus tour to see the historic sites of Athens that included the Acropolis, the original Olympic stadium, the Temple of Olympian Zeus. John Pulos was especially helpful with translating the Greek signs for us and with talking with the locals. On Thursday, March 1st, we had the earliest start of the boating season in many years when we took a beautiful boat trip from Piraeus, the harbor of Athens, to visit three of the nearby Greek Islands in the Aegean Sea. We first visited the small islands of Poros and Hydra. These are beautiful little islands that are a combination of old fishing villages and newer tourist areas. The local transport on these islands is still by four legged taxi (donkeys), for carrying people, goods, and even construction equipment around the hilly islands. No cars because of the very narrow paths and the steep hills. On the larger island of Aegina, we took a bus trip around the island to see the ancient temple of Aphaia and the more recent Aghios Nektarios Monastery. This island is best known as the original source of pistachio nuts. On Friday, Joan and Glade Flake, Reg and Jean Heitchue, and John Pulos took a beautiful bus trip along the coast outside of Athens. The rest of us had a leisurely day touring other parts of Athens, such as the old town section of Platka.



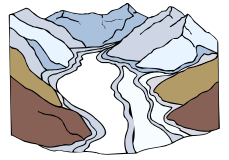
On Saturday, March 3d, we took a morning flight from Athens to Munich. In Munich, our friend Hilde (who lives in Munich) joined us for the bus trip to Schladming, Austria for the skiing. We arrived in the quaint village of Schladming late on Saturday afternoon to stay at the lovely Hotel Sport Royer. All of the BRSC ski clubs on the trip were able to stay at the same hotel.



Sunday was gray and dizzily in the village during the morning so most of the group rested up and explored the village while only Reg skied a bit. Monday turned out to be a beautiful day with sun and blue skies so Reg, John and Hilde had a fine day of skiing. There was very good snow on most of the mountain although it was not advisable to ski below the middle gondola station because the snow on the lower part of the mountain to allow skiing into the village was not too good. The rest of the people took a bus tour to the medieval villages in the Salzkammergut region near Salzburg. They visited Halstatt, Bad Ischl, Mondsee, and then ended up in Salzburg for a late lunch. Halstatt is a romantic old mining village that originally was established about 2000 BC for mining the salt deposits in the area. Later, it was prominent in the bronze age (1200 to 800 BC) and during the early iron age (800 to 600 BC). In more recent times it has become a prominent summer tourist attraction and is the home to many artists and craftsmen. The Kaiservilla, which is the summer residence of the Hapsburg dynasty, is located in the spa town of Bad Ischl.



On Tuesday, Wally had a great time skiing with a guide and he was particularly excited about the fine skiing. John, Hilde, and Shirley went to ski the magnificent Dachstein Glacier. The snow was beautiful and the trails were very well groomed; the best snow in Schladming. The scenery from the top of the glacier was magnificent. Reg, Jean, and John Pulos came along to the restaurant at the top of the glacier to enjoy the wonderful view. On Wednesday, the Flakes, the Lukens, Shirley, and Beverly went back to the glacier hoping to ski the beautiful snow. However, the clouds were below the top of the mountain so there was a whiteout with zero visibility. It was not possible to ski safely and it was not possible to enjoy any of the scenery from the top of the mountain. We learned that on this Wednesday the new snow was all in the Washington area with school closings instead of in Austria where the snow belongs.



Thursday - Rain! Rain! Rain! in the village. This meant great new snow on the upper part of the mountain. Those of us who were stuck in the raining village were able to visit a fascinating museum about the early days of mining in Schladming. At the swimming pool, Beverly got stuck in the water slide and needed a little push to get out. Friday, Lukens and Heitchues went on the bus trip to visit the lovely town of Salzburg. Finally there was good new snow on much of the mountain. All of the people who stayed in town went up on the gondola to have lunch at Uncle Willy's or to ski. In the evening, several of us went to the Neue Post Hotel for a special raclette dinner. The Austrian raclette differs from the Swiss version in that, in addition to the melted cheese and potatoes, there are various meats for cooking at the table.



On Saturday we left by bus to go to Vienna. Rain! Rain! Rain! on the bus ride until we approached Vienna in the mid-afternoon when the rain stopped and we arrived in beautiful sunshine and warmth. Ah! Vienna in the Springtime - how lovely. Sunday was a beautiful warm (about 65 degrees) and sunny day. Lukens and Heitchues took a bus tour of Vienna and the Schonbrun palace. Shirley and Beverly went to see the Lipizzan stallions in their gala performance. Pat and John visited the very interesting Freud museum and then spent time at the Freud café for lunch. The Flakes and John Pulos toured Vienna on foot to see the Rathaus, the Parliament building, and the cathedral. In the evening, several of the people went to a lovely concert of Mozart and Straus music. Monday - more touring of beautiful Vienna and fine eating in the cafes. Joan and Glade found the wonderful Griechenbeisl Café, the oldest café in Vienna, that was recommended by Marianne Cook. On Tuesday we took a very early (~ 5:00 AM) morning bus to the Vienna airport for a flight to Frankfurt and then on to Washington. All 11 people arrived home safely and healthy.



On Tues. Mar 6, the Flakes traveled by train to Kitzbuhl, Austria to have lunch with Bill and Elke Stecher (Bill was one of the founders of PVS). Kitzbuhl was the half way point as the Stechers were staying in Imst with their ski club.

submitted by John H. Smith



THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley

Dear Kneeophiles,

As you know, the Knee likes nothing better than publishing little quips (big ones would be **QUIPS**) about your foibles. A few are worth retelling because of their philosophical impact and great poignancy. Here's one that involved a conversation I had with our late TOOT editor Lu Beale some 20 years ago. To assure none of the language nuances are lost, I will quote directly from the August 1983 Knee.

Knee: "Oh do tell me fair TOOT editor, what's used to clean the whistle on locomotives.

Lu Beale: "Please do tell me Mr. Knee.

Knee: "A TOOT brush!"

Now there's a philosophy you can live with.

PVS had lots of ski trips this year, but not lots of great skiing. Dick Comerford provided a synopsis of the Steamboat trip. He said that the visibility wasn't all that good, but most PVSers' visibility isn't all that good. So it all worked out. Eye see. According to Jean van der Tak the snow was great, but some temperatures at Snowmass were in the 40's—in January.

At Big Sky, snow was sparse. According to trip leader Jan Marx it was rock skiing. And new member Cara Jablon had to have her skis retuned and rock-caused crevasses refilled. Perhaps an equivalent trip would have been to the Hard Rock Café.

At Sun Peaks, the snow was fine, but the normally sunny weather wasn't! It was grey skies and flat light. Our hostess, Olympic Gold Medal Winner Nancy Greene, said it was one of their worst weather weeks ever. However, we were grateful after talking to a group returning from Whistler, some 100 miles west. They had eight straight days of rain. Several times it was even raining at the top of the mountain. Soggy!

We've been reading of lack of snow in Europe. The Glade Flake-John Smith BRSC trip to Austria couldn't escape the woeful conditions. According to Shirley Rettig and Reg Heitchue, only 3 people skied. John Smith and Reg skied several days. And Shirley skied 3 runs on one day, including one to the top of the mountain where there was a modicum of snow. But there was also fog and a white out. Not fun.

This sounds absolutely terrible. But no one, on any of the trips, reports having anything other than a wonderful time. Why? Good old PVS camaraderie. **Hopefully we'll break the weather trend in Argentina and Rio this August.**

Bill Hager reports from Reno that in the Tahoe area there was virtually no snow until early March. So the skiing conditions weren't overwhelming throughout the PVS skiing area.

Be it because of el Niño, la Niña--or los Republicanos (or perhaps las Democratistas who took over in January) the year was, what's the technical term? Yucky!

According to Marvin Hass and the BBC we should all have skied at Gulmarg, in disputed territory, in Kashmir. It's at a height of 14,000ft, overlooking a maze of Himalayan snow capped mountains--at the top of the world. The snow is deep and fresh and there is plenty of it, unlike what most resorts in Europe and the US are experiencing. Here there are no lift lines and you can ski for miles and not see a soul. Gulmarg is enjoying its highest number of tourists to date and is preparing for a trip from PVS next year.

On a local positive note, Ski Liberty reports a base double their normal snow accumulation. **Currently it's above 2 inches.**

The Run Around: The day before she joined PVS to see the play "Doubt", Rosemary Schwartzbard competed in the Washington DC Marathon. She did a half marathon (a mere 13 miles). And Rosemary finished first in her age group. Ellie Thayer also competed. She was 3rd in her age group. **But there aren't that many teenagers competing. Red letter performances!**

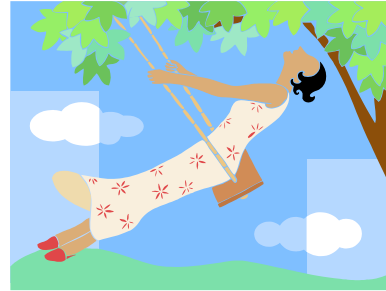
Not running around, yet, is Polli Brunelli. As you recall, Polli did in her right leg in Steamboat. She can walk, but not yet drive. And returned to work for part time in mid-March

Bill Hager is going back to Afghanistan. Bill and spouse Kathy Quinden were in town from Reno for the PVS March meeting. They came, according to Kathy, because the meeting was "just off Reno Road."

We are particularly grateful for our hosts for this DC meeting, Liz Warren-Boulton and Joe Jevcak. They held the meeting in-between two ski trips. Liz was proudly showing off her first-ever, reblooming **phalanopsis Orchid**. At Sun Peaks, Liz convinced Joe to get a ski helmet. He did; and his first day out with it he was run into by an out of control female skier. The result—a sprained thumb. So the obvious conclusion is that helmets don't prevent ski injuries. That's really thumbsing!

Calendar

April	13-15		Williamsburg Weekend - call to be wait listed
April	17	Tue	Annual Meeting at Heitchue's party room.
April	24	Tue	ExCom at Knopes'
April	26	Thu	Brookside Garden Tour
May	13	Sun	Sun Peaks post-trip Party
May	15	Tue	Monthly Meeting at Ufholz'
May	22	Tue	ExCom
June	19	Tue	Monthly Meeting at Callaway's
June	26	Tue	ExCom



Let's Swing into Spring



Jan and Bob Marx
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