



VOLUME XXXV

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.

DECEMBER 2001

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WASHINGTON

MARYLAND

VIRGINIA

Fellow PVSers:

In spite of all that 9-11 is said to have changed, basic things have not but only strengthened--ourselves, our continuing interests and what matters to guide us. When we stop to look around us and inside us, long lasting life standards and values do not change, but reverberate strongly.

And that's what we in PVS share together. To quote a cherished and respected past president--

"What other club offers more year-round activities, meets monthly in private homes, has such an abundance of capable volunteers, runs more rave-review ski trips, has better cooks or a more dimpled knee? And what other club has a wait list?" Lu Beale, March 1999

YEAH! It began snowing in the Rockies on Thanksgiving Day!!! See--we are blessed! Here's to David Abraham's improving health.
Happy Holidays to all!


Ned Flaherty
President XXIV



*****HOLIDAY PARTY*****

December 18 - 7:30 P.M.
Home of Eloise and Mike Strand
10728 Lady Slipper Terrace, Rockville, Md.

You are asked to bring an appetizer, salad or dessert. Please telephone: 301-468-1535.

Directions to the Strands' home:

From Virginia: Take Beltway 1-495 to I-270. Take first exit onto Democracy Blvd (East). Follow Democracy Blvd to Old Georgetown Road (left turn at light). Follow Old Georgetown Road North to 4th light, Tuckerman Lane. Turn right on Tuckerman to the first right turn on Gloxinia and enter the "Cloisters."

From Maryland, take Beltway or Wisconsin Avenue to Old Georgetown Road. Turn right on Tuckerman Lane to first right turn on Gloxinia into the "Cloisters."

The Cloisters: After you have entered the Cloisters sub-division, cross Valerian Lane to the stop sign one block later at Valerian Lane (the Lane does a loop.) Turn right on Valerian Lane one block to first right turn on Lady Slipper Terrace. Follow Lady Slipper to its end at the cul-de-sac to 10278. **NOTE:** 5 cars can easily park in our driveway without blocking our neighbor's access. In the cul-de-sac, park headed into the curb. Before the cul-de-sac, park parallel to the curb.

ICE SKATING

Please join us for the next PVS ice skating session on Wednesday, December 12, from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. followed by lunch at the nearby Corner Bakery.

This is the "Cheapskate" session -- \$5.00 includes admission and skates. The rink is located on Westlake Drive between Democracy Blvd and Tuckerman Lane in Rockville, MD. Questions? Call Bette Walker, 202-333-0766.

SOME PVS INFORMATION TO KEEP:

- For Email change of address, send new one to Karen Felker, karknox@metronets.com. You can find the PVS Email list on the web site.
- For postal change of address, send new one to Marilyn Clark at clark@worldnet.att.net.
- PVS Web Site is www.potomacvalleyski.org
Send photo contributions as jpeg files to marvin.hass@erols.com

WISP-----MIDWEEK-----JANUARY 9-11, 2002

**Call WISP now to reserve your room
Ask for the Ski Chalet Demo Day Rate**

**Room per night (single or double).....\$58
Voucher for Thursday Lift Ticket..... \$ 2
Apres Ski Supplies per person
(approximately).....\$ 5**

- ** Let Shirley Rettig (703-836-0147) know if you are going so she can plan Apres Ski on Wednesday and Thursday nights and buy your vouchers from Ski Chalet.**
- ** Rooms paid indivually. For each room call Wisp Hotel (1-800-462-9477) to reserve a room and pay deposit for one night with credit card or mail in check. With a roommate, individual cost drops to \$29 per night. Shirley will try to match you with a roommate if you need one.**
- ** Lift tickets are obtained individually at area with your voucher. 70+ skiers do not need a voucher as they ski free.**
- **Meals are paid individually.**

Ski Snowmass, CO Jan. 17 - 24, 2001

They are skiing at Snowmass!! The mountain has received 33" of new snow in the last week and some lifts are open. Here is the web address if you want to keep up with the snow report: www.aspensnowmass.com. The pre-trip party will be at the Leonhardt's at 4:00 PM on Sat. Jan. 12th; an RSVP is needed. The time of our return from Eagle/Vail has been changed and the following are our flights at this point: on Jan. 17th, United flight 399 from Dulles at 7:00 AM, arrive Denver at 8:49 AM; leave Denver on United flight 5683 at 9:45 AM and arrive Eagle/Vail at 10:30 AM. On Jan. 24th, leave Eagle/Vail on United flight 5696 at 1:45 PM and arrive Denver at 2:35 PM; leave Denver on flight 1240 at 3:45 PM and arrive Dulles at 8:53 PM. As yet, we do not know the recommended arrival time at Dulles for our 7:00 AM departure. The trip is currently full but we still have a single male and a single female on our wait list; in case we are able to get an extra room, please call us if you are a single and want to be added to the wait list. If you have any questions, please call Barbara or Fred Leonhardt at 301-963-8111 or email to: fbleonhardt@starpower.net.

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Monday, December 10 to Monday December 17, 2001

Contact: Sally Finan (703-716-9023)



BANFF/LAKE LOUISE, CANADA

Saturday, February 2, 2002 to Saturday, February 9, 2002

Contacts: John H. Smith (301-299-8376) or Jack Peoples (301-438-7298)

PVS CHAMONIX

Friday, March 8 through Saturday, March 16

(Optional extension to Prague)

Contacts: Mary Ward and Jim Slack (703-754-8814)

March 15-30, 2002, join Nancy and Ray McKinley for



A Grand European Ski Extravaganza and Sailing Holiday

- *A Week in 4 Star Luxury in Courchevel 1850, the Deer Valley of the 70,000 acre Trois Vallées in the Spectacular Savoie Alps*
- *5 Day Cruise Amongst the Picturesque Greek Isles and 2 Days in Athens*
- *An Outstanding 3-day Add-on in Historic, Exotic Istanbul, Turkey!*
- **Do both weeks or either week alone. Trip can follow BRSC trip to Chamonix.**

Courchevel is perhaps the world's greatest ski resort - the elitist of the Trois Vallées area of France, the largest ski resort complex in the world—23 miles wide and over 6000 vertical feet! You can take advantage of the largest

**We Are Just Back From a Visit—It's Truly Superb
>> Only 1 Room Left!! Call Us Immediately to Sign Up <<**

interlinked sports area in the world. Our package gives you ski privileges in all three valleys. Courchevel is perfectly situated for all. With over 210 lifts, 600 km of slopes, and endless off-slope possibilities, Les Trois Vallées is some 17 times the size of Vail! And we are at Courchevel 1850, at the top—*la crème de la crème*. In Courchevel's heart, we'll stay at 4 ★ Les Trois Vallées Hôtel and spa for ski-in, ski-out-luxury. Just down the slope is the center of the beautiful town, home of fabulous shopping and restaurants. Enjoy great rooms, all breakfasts and 4 gourmet dinners at the lovely hotel. All rooms have unobstructed mountain views and are designed with perfect European luxury.

Our second week is in Greece. 2 nights lodging at the Hotel Stanley, downtown Athens with breakfasts and tour of the Acropolis and Athens included. Depart Athens Monday on Royal Olympic Cruise Lines in upgraded cabins. Visit Kusadasi and Ephesus, fabled Turkish sites, as well as the most famous Greek Islands, Mykonos, Patmos, Rhodes, Crete, and Santorini. On our return, we have a tour to Delphi with lunch. Too soon, March 30 we return to the United States. SPECTACULAR PACKAGE TO TURKEY: A special 2 night 3 day add-on in Istanbul: air from Athens to Istanbul, stay at 4 ★ Taxim Plaza, day tour of Istanbul, world famous bazaars, Haggia Sophia, lunch. Return April 1.

Full French Ski Extravaganza & Greek Isles Cruise \$3,097; Turkey Add on \$360

To reserve, send your check for \$1600 to Ray McKinley at 2326 North Upton Street, Arlington, VA 22207. Please call us for more information or other options at (703) 527-7126.

CAPITOL HILL IN VIEW



At the first huff/puff of frigid winter on October 27, fourteen of PVS' heartiest blew into the townhouse of Marilyn and Jim Panagopoulos for a moveable feast. First with libations and the tastiest of morsels to accompany them. Took some prodding on the part of the hosts to get the group away from the warmth of what has to be one of the most attractive and tastefully furnished townhouses on Capitol Hill.

But face the winter we did. Even Nancy and Ray McKinley, who had just arrived from travels in France and were still suffering from jet lag. Following tour leader Marilyn, we first lifted our eyes to the house where John Philip Sousa had lived and died. (Do you know how he got his last name? His forbears arrived with a long unpronounceable name so the immigration official took the letters off their big trunk: So. USA. Just ask Bill Anderson.)

From there we visited the oldest Episcopal Church (attended by Jefferson); the blue house of Roberta Flack; and the impressive oldest dwelling in DC - the home of the Commandant of the Marine Corps. The building we did not see, nearby, was where an Ecumenical Peace Committee was born during the Vietnam era--just ask Jessma Blockwick.

The Capitol Hill Market and Flea Market was next, where the only purchase seemed to be three miniature pumpkin--guess who succumbed to the sidewalk hawker? Next on the itinerary a few blocks back toward the Capitol itself was the old picturesque pub, Hawk 'n Dove. Great food, great visiting. The only libations here for the PVSers didn't increase the alcoholic revenues--too much delicious competition from the Panagopoulos' moveable feast.

A superb way to kick off winter. Enthusiastic thanks to our hosts!!
....Jeannette Albersheim



Barb's & Fred's Eat-Walk-Eat-Walk-and-Eat Event
by Jan and Bob

Everything was well planned, including the weather!

When we arrived, multiple hor's dourves presented themselves, and drinks were served on the deck. Typical of PVSers taking advantage of the late, good weather, everyone was crowded onto the deck. Barb had to persuade us to pop indoors to partake of the meats, cheeses, veggies, and special spreads (our favorite was the Braunsweiger) which were beautifully arranged.



We were pleased to see Jacques Hadler (in town for the weekend), Alice Swalm, and Ruth Schreider. Marilyn Clark hopped in on her crutches (no, she didn't go on the walk) and was royally waited on by many of our PVS family.

CONT'D →

Barb then gathered up the "long walkers" and led us out to meander through her community, pointing out various noteworthy sites. Fred provided similar services to the "short walkers"--those under 5 foot 4. We all enjoyed the attractive houses, yards, open spaces, and fall trees. The short walkers headed directly to the shopping center meeting spot, while the rest of us looped around for more sites.

The Taste of Hong Kong restaurant was ready for all 37 of us. We enjoyed choice of soup, cashew chicken, broccoli beef, shrimp and snow peas, fried rice and lo mein. The alert staff was most gracious and efficient.

Figuring that we had not consumed enough by then, after the walk back to the house, we were plied with desserts--each and every one as yummy as you would expect.

Thanks, Barb and Fred, for a MOST enjoyable day.



NOVEMBER MEETING

Thanks to Ruth Powers for graciously hosting a third consecutive November general meeting in her spacious and splendid home. Until some other PVSer volunteers to Ray and tops your record, just say "No." Ruth's friend, Jessma Blockwick, did another remarkable effort in assisting 54 skiers with deluxe and smiling service.

Brian Eardley on his third presentation in the Powers living room was in his usual good spirits as he displayed skis and boots in the latest models. The assortment of equipment matched the skiing levels of all PVSers. Wally kept wondering as Sylvia Lukens took notes on the new and shorter skis because she is about to purchase a pair for their trip to the French Alps. Shirley Rettig suggests we follow the crowd to Wisp and demo the models on Jan. 9 & 10, 2002.

Brian fielded questions from Byong Schuler, Nat Seeman, Sue Lyons, Mary Ward, John Smith and Sharon Mulholland. Great photo ops by Marvin Haas and the results now enhance the internet. Bob McNeil had just returned from Keystone and its delicious manmade snow. When he told Eloise Strand the name of his coach, she laughed for 8 1/2 minutes.

As Ruth and Jessma accepted thanks for their fine entertaining, they wonder on what side of the Potomac the November, 2002 meeting will take place.

....Jaclyn Flaherty

PVS AT THE ARTS CLUB OF WASHINGTON

What a very special evening! You can't imagine what you missed if you weren't there.

The most elegant and beautiful Arts Club - and PVS in black tie and evening gown! PLUS - the very special cocktail hour. THEN - a SUPER dinner - pumpkin soup (absolutely superb), broiled chicken over wild rice, and special vegetables elegantly presented. THEN pear and apple pie and coffee

THEN an array of liqueurs and brandies.

AND - best of all -- wonderful talking and visiting with friends in such beautiful surroundings..

Many thanks, Bill, for entertaining us so royally, for all your work making this special occasion possible, and to Ham Morton for inviting us to the Arts Club. We're all looking forward to next year. It's extra special!

.....Dot Mills



THE ANNUAL CHILI HIKE

Incredible weather--sunny, beautiful foliage, perfect fall temperature and great friends gathered for the McKinleys' annual chili hike on Saturday, November 16th on the Virginia side of Great Falls. We had a choice of a 6-mile hike with Ray and Nancy as our leaders or a 3-mile hike with Lu Beale leading. There was about an equal split of PVSers for each hike.

The 6-mile hike was highlighted with history tidbits from Ray as we climbed over rocks, tree roots and in between caught glimpses of the glorious scenery. Yes, all topics of conversation were covered, ranging from everyday life to stock market, exercise, trips, skiing, cooking, computers, on and on. Our legs and jaws had a terrific workout. The shorter hike, upward through beautiful woods, was new to most of that group. They had time to be fascinated by daring kayakers coming down straight over the falls.

Then off to North Upton street where we were greeted by our host in full Mexican garb--sombbrero and cape--to enjoy our evening meal starting with wonderful appetizers, wine and beer. Followed by hot/mild chili, salads and desserts. We were delighted to have Marilyn Clark and Jan Marx join us for dinner as they are both usually on the hike but this year elected to have foot surgery.

We thank Nancy and Ray for their wonderful hospitality and hope we can look forward to a 2002 chili hike.



IMPORTANT ACTIONS TAKEN BY EXCOM

----As a courtesy to the host of an ExCom meeting and to allow the host to prepare appropriately for the right number of attendees, PVS members are requested to follow these guidelines:

Those expected to attend ExCom meetings include: ExCom members, PVS President, immediate past President and other officers and assistants to ExCom (vice president, secretary, treasurer, TOOT editor, TOOT production, membership chair, ski trip chair, program chair, mid-week program chair, dining-out group leader, historians, and attendance keeper. Those people in the above positions should notify the host only if they will not attend an ExCom meeting.

All others, including spouses of the above members, are expected to notify the host if they will attend..

----Voted that hosts will receive \$150 to cover drink and food for monthly meetings.

----Voted that beginning in January, those attending monthly meetings will pay \$3 to attend.

Margaret Wyckoff and family want to thank PVSers for their wonderful support at the time of Bob's death. The reminiscences at the service were very warm and touching, and other expressions of sympathy meant a great deal to them



THE KNEE

by

Ray McKinley

I just realized that it has been at least five years since I wished you Happknee

Holidays, Merrknee Christmas and a Happy Chankneekah! This year, as you sit around the fully garlanded Christmas Knee, remember the gifts were brought to you in a reinkneedeer-pulled, shyknee sleigh. In the lead was Rudolph the red kneed reinkneedeer. Bet you are thinking "*Why does he keep up those corknee jokes?*" The answer is simple. You expect it of the Knee. This is why, in all the polls, the Knee remains the highest rated TOOT column which has appeared for 20 or more years. Why, without my "corknee jokes," the Knee would be...well... shorter.

A tip of the ol' Knee Cap to Bill Anderson for bringing us to our "Ankles" in subbing for me last month. Two ankneemous PVSers told me how much they liked the new format!! Luckily, I was saved by a fan letter from Gladie Youngblood. She said thank you for all of the chuckles.

You have heard of "Copy cat crimes." PVS now moves to the forefront with "Copy cat operations." In October, Marilyn Clark had foot surgery. Within three weeks, both Janet Marx and Carol Bridgers had similar surgery. Sue Lyon suggested they could get together and compare-ahem-footnotes. Don't shoot me I only report...

Also don't shoot me for the following, which is from Serge Triau. A woman was delayed at security at Dulles Airport. She was carrying two 16" long plastic knitting needles. Eventually, she was let on the plane, but the knitting needles were confiscated. It wasn't because authorities thought the needles were a weapon. They were worried that she might knit an Afghan! Ouch.

At our wonderful meeting at Ruth Powers, there was some confusion as to how long Brian Eardley had been showing us the newest in ski equipment. Pres Ned Flaherty thought it was six years. Brian said more like sixteen. Wrong! Brian first showed at a meeting at Adele Waggaman's in 1981. Interesting that at that

meeting, Brian discussed the final replacement of leather boots with completely plastic ones. This year we are back to leather! It's true>

Reminds me of a true story. In 1988, Brian almost didn't show. When he learned the meeting was "far out" in Virginia, he hesitated. Lu Beale, who was making the arrangements said "No problem," as she had been bugged by Ski Chalet for several years to do the annual new equipment event. Brian quickly decided he would do it. Truth is, Lu didn't know anyone at Ski Chalet from Adam. Do not play poker with her!!

Congrats to applicant Rosemary Schwartzbard. She just completed the Marine Marathon. It was her seventh!

On a business trip, the Knee had a 2 hour layover in Salt Lake City. They're primed for the 2001 Olympics and for skiing. Shops sold six different ski magazines (and unfortunately three others on snowboarding). Whilst previously there had been scant whiteness, over Thanksgiving Park City had over 2 feet of snow and Alta/Snowbird had over three feet. Indeed, Utah now has snow through the wazoo. (That's a technical term.)

The food at our grand Arts Club dinner was the best ever. Perhaps it was because host Bill Anderson organized the seating so well. Bill seated me between Usama bin Laden and the rock group Kiss—who smeared face paint on my knees.

Serge and Liz Triau are off for a golf week in Myrtle Beach. Fumiko and Myron Marquardt are back from a reunion in Knebraska. And Mary Ward was at an Arabian Horse show (My Friend Flika??) in Williamsburg. Traveling a bit further, old and new member Judy Macaluso is recently back from the South Pacific island of Palau where she was scuba diving.

Did you know that the Knee is fully half Ukrankneean--including both knees.

Home Sold Home! Both Betty Lawrence and Sue Walsh have sold their homes. Sue is headed back to Arizona (finally!) and Betty will close on her newest Bethaknee abode. Right out.

Bob McNeill was headed west to ski in November. He claims it was to Summit County. It was really (give me death or give me) Liberty.

- Dec. 12 ... Ice Skating, p. 2
- Dec. 18 ... Holiday Party at the Strands', pp. 1&2
- Dec. 28 ... ExCom at the Clarks'. Note this is a Friday.
- Jan. 9 ... 10,11, Demo Day at Wisp, p. 3
- Jan. 15 ... Monthly meeting at home of Pat Summers and Al Richman
- Jan. 22 ... ExCom at Lu Beale's
- Feb. 19 ... Monthly meeting
- Feb. 26 ... ExCom at Margaret Wyckoff's
- May 11 ... Tour of Hillwood and lunch

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