

VOLUME XLIV
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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

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Season's Greetings PVSers,

A Happy New Year to one and all. And with the New Year comes the urge to do resolutions. New Year's Resolutions go back to 153 B.C. when Janus, a mythical king of early Rome, was placed at the head of the calendar. With two faces, Janus could look back on past events and forward to the future. Thus, Janus became the ancient symbol for resolutions. Many Romans looked for forgiveness from their enemies and also exchanged gifts before the beginning of each year.

Of course, since Janus, the calendar has changed from time to time. Julius Caesar made January 1 the beginning of the year in 46 B.C. to more accurately reflect the seasons. Thus Janus was celebrated as today's January. In the Middle Ages, Christians changed New Year's day to December 25th. The Chinese use a lunar calendar with a new year that begins at the time of the first full moon after the sun enters Aquarius.

Although the date for New Year's Day is not the same in every culture, it is always a time for celebration and customs to ensure good luck in the coming year.

Here are some recommended resolutions from *The Daily Green*.

1. I will relinquish my title of Most Likely to Acquire Useless Stuff I Don't Wear or Need.
2. I will avenge my phantom load. (Energy wasted by electronics when they are plugged in but not in use.)
3. I will be smarter than bottled water companies and drink for free what they are trying to sell me.
4. If I can remember to TiVo "Dancing with the Stars," I can remember to bring my own bags to the grocery store.
5. I will switch to recycled paper products at home.
6. I will consider whether my meal came from the farm or the factory.
7. I will take a day off from road rage and take mass transit or car-pool one day a week.



My resolution is: "In 2007, I didn't do well finishing things I started. So in 2008 I resolve to do a better job of..."

Best Wishes, *Mike*



Monthly Meeting

Sunday
January 27, 2008
2:00 PM

At Dorian Janney's
home
In Gaithersburg, MD





Dorian Janney's house
9617 Harvest Knolls Way
Gaithersburg, MD 20882
301-414-0121

**Note Special
Day and Time
(NOT the 3rd Tuesday)**

Directions:

- ***From Beltway**, Proceed to I-270 toward Frederick.
- *Continue on I-270 about 11 miles past Montrose Road.
- *At exit 16 AB, go RIGHT onto Father Hurley Boulevard (MD-27) toward Damascus.
After 0.4 miles road name changes to Ridge Rd (though still MD-27).
- *Proceed 5 miles from I-270 on Ridge Rd. then,
- *Turn RIGHT (East) onto Sweepstakes Rd.
- *Proceed 1.1 miles on Sweepstakes Road, then,
- *Turn RIGHT at T-junction (South) onto SR-124 [Woodfield Rd].
- *Proceed 0.6 mi then Turn LEFT (East) onto Harvest Knolls Way to 9817
(Harvest Knolls Way (is a dead end street).

Landmark: School in on right side of Woodfield opposite Harvest Knolls way.

Renewed Memberships

Nat Seeman

5300 Holmes Run Pkwy, Apt 1401
Alexandria, VA 22304-2882
Home: 703-461-0859

Don Dillon

27 October Glory Ave
Ocean View, DE 19970-3209
Home: 302-537-7878
Cell: 302-462-5453
E-mail: ddillon39@mchsi.com

Holidays messages from some of our members.

Bing Poon 12/18

REGRETS that I won't be in attendance for an event I anticipated for over a month. I was planning to bring the prosciutto and the Sopapressata salami to the PVS party. Please relay my Seasonal Greetings for all the events through Epiphany. I have a swollen right leg and plan to have it checked.

Mt Snow, VT had nice snow last week, and with snow guns the conditions there should be excellent. Whitetail reopened last week, as reported in the Hagerstown newspaper. I hope Ray's vehicle, with the lights, was not buried in the avalanche at Ski Charnita, oops.. .. know reknown as Ski Liberty. As finale, I offer my "Kosher," non-piggish PAX HOMINIBUS BONAE VOLUNTATIS.
From "Hey You."

Trudy Santoro 12/17

I would like to attend, but I am in a recovery mode at the moment from a double eye (same eye) surgery performed last week. One was a Trabeculectomy, which is a micro-surgical technique to bring down the eye pressure, and the other was for removal of a cataract and lens implant. The pressure problem has not resolved yet, but the doctor said everything went well with the surgeries, and he is optimistic about the outcome. At least the stitches in the eye are not continuing to drive me crazy---and I am actually able to see more clearly again. This growing old really tests one's patience!

Susan Payne

Susan and David regret not being able to ski with the Snowmass gang this year. Susan is undergoing intensive treatments for cancer.

(We all wish her well, fortitude, and lots of patience.)

Don Dillon 12/19

He sends his regards from Delaware to all his friends in PVS. Unfortunately, severe back trouble prevents him from considering a ski trip.

(We all wish him the very best.)

Alice Swalm and Jacques Hadler 1/1/08

They both are very disappointed that they cannot share in the last (?) Snowmass Mountain Chalet venture...Jacques is having trouble with one of his hips and Alice has just had therapy to one of her knees.

(Please recover soon!!)

Left at Sally's Oktoberfest == clear plastic salad spoon and fork.

~~~~~

*In Memory of our friend John Pulos,*

*12/5/07*

*a long time member of PVS, and avid skier:*



My thoughts bring me to this man who I have known for about 25 years, he was Greek, and had an engineer's mind. It seems that he was always either just returning from, or on his way to Greece; he loved his home islands. He spent many years working at the "David Taylor Model Basin" where he kept his engineering and mathematical mind well focused. John always had an opinion, and took great pleasure in expressing it, regardless of the subject. You could always count on an interesting conversation when you spent time with John. In particular, he could entertainingly fill an evening with thought and debate after a long day of skiing.

*John at Alta, 1984* I fondly remember John on the ski trip to Val Gardena two years ago. He wasn't skiing on this trip due to shoulder problems, but he spent his time helping Betty select the wine for the evening's festivities. His opinion on this subject was excellent. It also seemed that every day he would greet me in the lobby upon my return from skiing. He always asked about the conditions, visibility and wanted to know the runs I skied. After he fully debriefed me, he would and then explain the appropriate history of the particular area and the runs I navigated. He would in great detail go over the turns on the trails and asked how I skied them and if I had trouble. I soon learned that I didn't need a trail map; all I needed to do was talk to John. I guess he was either somehow looking over my shoulder or using that mathematical mind of his to relive his past experiences on the same trails.

*John, Bob McNeill, Dick—March 2006*

John, we miss you, I'll ski a trail for you in Colorado, and please keep looking over my shoulder



*by Dick Comerford.*

## Past Events



# December Meeting

by Myron Marquardt

*Twass a week before Christmas,  
and skiers were heading for their annual Yule meeting.  
All were anticipating an evening of drinking, visiting,  
and an enormous amount of good eating.*

Prior to the appointed hour of 7:30, 51 members and guests began arriving. No one wanted to be late. Past experience has shown that one who is late will miss out on some good food. What a great variety of tasty dishes. This writer tried them all. It is beneficial not to have supper before you leave home.



President Mike called the meeting to order and proceeded to call on each of the trip leaders to indicate the status of scheduled trips. All trips are in good shape and expect to go as planned. Ray McKinley announced that the January and February meetings would be held on the last Sunday of each month in the afternoon. The weather may not be so good for night driving. The president kept the meeting short, as there was a great variety of desserts available. All good events eventually come to an end and all headed for their cars to return home.

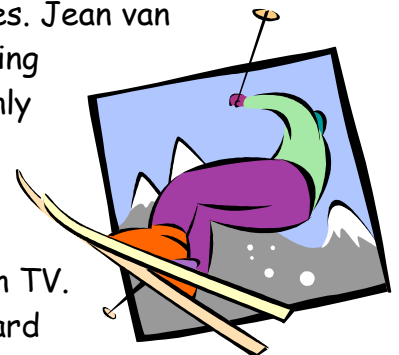
*The members and guests were heard to exclaim, as they drove out of sight,  
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night.*

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to **Sherri and Tom McKenna** for hosting our Holiday Event.

## SKIING AT LIBERTY MOUNTAIN DEC. 20<sup>TH</sup>



We arrived at the mountain with a morning temperature of 21 degrees under an azure blue sky. During the day, it gradually warmed up to 40 degrees. Liberty had groomed all the trails in ribbons of beautiful corduroy. PVSers along with a couple of ski patrollers had the early morning back side of the mountain to themselves. Jean van der Tak set the bar very high for her first day of skiing streaking down the mountain for twenty runs. Shirley Rettig was the only PVSers to have a freebie from the Dulles Ski and Snowboard Expo Show. Shirley was nursing a bruise suffered from a fall a few days earlier in Park City and skied conservatively. New in the dining area were additional cubicles, new carpeting & tables, and a large flat screen TV. Everybody left after a great day of skiing, and they were looking forward to a day at Whitetail after the first of the year before our trips to Snowmass and Wisp.





## Blob's Park



We all had a good time but were also sad. Blob's Park has been a popular establishment for 74 years. Owned and run by the Blob family, it is located in Jessup, convenient to the DC and



Baltimore areas. One found traditional food well prepared, and 70 brands of beer, including their own brand. The main attraction has been the variety of bands offering polkas plus oldie and present-day danceable music.



Nine of us who ignored the bad weather warnings thoroughly enjoyed our evening. Dick and Betty Comerford arrived with their daughter Debbie. As a United flight attendant, she arranged to work a flight from Munich to BWI, where D and B picked her up. Our event organizers, Liz and Joe, were our dance models because they have had lessons. Bob and Jan Marx brought

two friends, Al and Susan, who dance regularly at various places in the area.

Debbie talked with the owner who shared some of Blob's history, pictures included.

*by Betty and Dick*

**BLOB'S PARK** closed January 1, 2008. Below is some of the history of this long-running institution.

**FOUNDED:** 1933 **PURPOSE:** To provide a bit of the homeland for all to enjoy.

As a boy of 13, Max Blob and his family, emigrated from Vogenberg, Germany (near Passau, in Bavaria), in 1896. Max was the oldest of three sons born to Katherine and Phillip Blob. His brothers were John and Henry. They settled on 150 acres of open farm land and woods in Jessup, Maryland. About 10 years later, they built the farm house that Max lived in the remainder of his life and is still occupied with family members.

A small building containing a bowling alley was added to the property in 1925. On Sundays, Max would take a truck to the Baltimore ethnic community and bring back some friends for dancing, dining and bowling. In 1933, when prohibition ended, he opened "Blob's Park" for business. In 1942, Katherine and John Eggerl, Max's niece and her husband, moved in with him to help him run the farm and business. The Eggerls had 5 children and as they came of age, they too became involved.

Uncle Max, as most people called him, died February 1969, but the Eggerl family continued to operate the business. As a matter of fact, as the Eggerl children married and had children, Blob's Park began drawing on a third generation of employees. Katherine Eggerl, who remarried after her husband died and became Katherine Peters, cooked most of the food and presided as hostess until shortly before her death in April at the age of 89. Before her death, she arranged to sell the hall and the farmland surrounding it to developers.



### A "Join-us-if-you-can" trip to WISP with the Schwartzbards.

Rosemary announced at the December meeting that they planned to go to WISP on Dec 22 and invited PVSers to join them.

Dick and I went last weekend, just before Christmas. We went up Friday. Arrived around 11:00 and were able to get in our room. Skied all afternoon on well groomed, soft snow. We skied for six hours on Saturday. Although there was fog at the top, all the lifts were open, the snow was good, no ice, no bare spots and, even more important, no people. Although we skied all over the mountain, we especially enjoyed skiing off the new Lift 7. There is a blue run, called Aces Run, and a black run, called Over the Edge, that were fun to ski. Also, the Terrain Park was not set up so we had that to ski. Had a good dinner at Pine Lodge. Sorry no other PVSers went with us.





## Ski Trips

# WISP Demo Day

Beginning Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>

*Join PVS for just a day or make a long weekend of it!*

**Ski inexpensively and with friends!** For Demo Thursday you even get to try the latest skis, free of charge! Come to experience WISP's new backside slopes.

Join us on **Thursday** for the actual Ski Chalet sponsored Demo Day where lift tickets are only **\$10 with voucher** (must purchase special vouchers at the Ski Chalet near you - starting Nov. 1st).

(All lift tickets need to be obtained individually at the ski area with your voucher or senior ID.)



|             | <u>Adult</u> | <u>Seniors (60-69)</u> | <u>Sr. Seniors (70+)</u> |
|-------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| M-F All Day | \$39         | \$28                   | Free!                    |
| S-S All Day | \$57         | \$35                   | Free!                    |

Wisp also has rates for Morning only, Twilight, Night & 2 day & 3 day tickets

See [www.wispresort.com](http://www.wispresort.com) for details.

|                     |                                             |       |           |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| <b>Hotel Prices</b> | Wednesday & Thursday night Demo Days deal   | \$79  | per room. |
|                     | Friday (no deal unless we have > 8 rooms)   | \$239 | per room. |
|                     | Saturday (no deal unless we have > 8 rooms) | \$249 | per room. |

**Rooms** will be paid individually. For each room, call WISP (1-800-462-9477) to reserve your room. Ask for the Ski Chalet Demo Day rate. The room rate includes 1-4 people. We can try to match individuals with roommates if you wish. Rooms go fast so **Call Now** if you think you want to go. Cancellation is 14 days prior to the first night's stay.

**The Hotel** offers smoke free ski-in/ski-out convenience, secure WiFi access, fitness center, heated indoor pool and Jacuzzi, and more. Remember your swim suit.

**Meals** will be paid individually. All rooms have a refrigerator. There are 2-3 places to eat in the hotel and several good restaurants in the area for dinner.

**Contact:** Pat Vagonis (301-838-5545 or [Pvagonis@comcast.net](mailto:Pvagonis@comcast.net)) if you have any questions and/or are going so she can plan some group après-ski events! Join us on our 'A la Carte' trip!

~~~~~

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

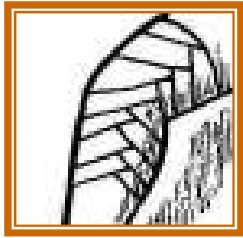


TWO IMPORTANT UPDATES FOR TRIP-GOERS:

PRE TRIP PARTY: Will now start at Noon January 26, and be a Brunch

AIRFARE INCREASE: United Airlines has raised fares \$10 roundtrip due to increases in fuel prices. Collection will be at the pre-trip party.

Please call us at (703) 527-7126 if you have any questions.



THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley

2007 is upon us. Full of bright promise and fluffy white powder. Once again, as I have done for more than the past 25 years, I want to wish you all a Happy Knee Year. It will be difficult to top last year's brilliance, but I'll try. It's just so diffkneecult making puns both zanknee and witknee (in California. The tallest mountain in the United States, except for Mt McKin-knee!!)

Congrats to Dick Schwartzbard, aka "the Armpit," on his witty column, the Knee Cap, in last month's TOOT. The Knee immediately became investigative reporter to ferret out Dick. If he keeps this up, Dick will become one of the "Bards of prey."

Farewell: Two of PVS's long-time members have moved away and decided not to renew their membership. We'll all miss June Kelsey, and Jeannette Albersheim. *Adieu*.

Recuperating is our own Marianne Cook. According to Margaret Wyckoff, Marianne broke the tip of her lower back. She is now in a rehabilitation center and has found a piano where she can practice every day. Further, Marianne has a very responsive audience at the center when she plays. Right and left on!

Several of us worked at the National Ski Expo last month. It was in one of the two Dulles Expo Center buildings. When Mike Strand arrived, he went to the other building which housed the Christmas Ornaments show. Mike won three trips to Santa-Land. And he loved it!

Springfields: Dave Lerner provides a *mea culpa* on his story last month. "I confess that I repeated a rumor that there is a Springfield in every state of the United States. There are only 32 Springfields in the US. This does not mean that there is a Springfield in 32 states. In fact, there are 5 different Springfields in Wisconsin." Whew, I'm glad we cleared that up.

Caveats! The world is loaded with them. So let me start with one. The Knee is back from two business trips and a trip to Knee Jersey to see family. And, although there hasn't been an official announcement, the Knee is again contemplating a run for President. (Lord knows everyone else is.) Thus, attention to PVS goings-on has been less than normal. So if this

column isn't up/down (pick one) to its normal level, I'm sorrknee. (I should have written the preceding as a footnote, but it would have been interpreted as a kneenote and my copy of "Strunk and White" simply doesn't tell where kneenotes are correctly placed, although it's likely above the fibula.)

When he came to office, Pres Bush created an Office of Faith-Based Initiatives to oversee religious organizations running social welfare. The Knee can "kick that up a notch." Herewith my new program for Faith-Based Learn to Ski. One starts on skis down the straight and narrow, leaning only slightly to the right or left. And you pray to God you don't fall!

Up until fairly recently—OK, it was 1978--PVS used to have our February meeting with nighttime skiing at the Charnita ski area (now Ski Liberty). Bringing back those "good times," this year several plan to ski at Liberty before the meeting. The official name is now Liberty Mountain. But my "Strunk and White," won't let me lie and call an 800 ft pimple a "Mountain." Notwithstanding, the ice there appears to have been left over from the seventies!

Going back a bit further, 73 years ago, on Jan. 14, 1934, the first ski lift in America went into operation at Woodstock, Vermont. It was a 150-foot long rope tow powered by the rear axle of a Ford Model A truck. Well, we've made some progress. Liberty now uses a 1981 Datsun!!

Speaking of Liberty, a tip of the Ol' Knee Cap goes to Jim Wingrove. He has been very, very good for the ski area. This year marks Jim's 37th year on the Liberty Ski Patrol. Right on!

Bob McNeill, who, along with Charles Huggins, was PVS's first skier this season, will ski at Bretton Woods in January. Bretton Woods is notable as it was where the World Bank was chartered in 1945. Bob will ski there with Adam Kahane founder of the Ski Center, and one of the few people in the area older than McNeill!

According to Marvin Hass, one of the people charged with torching the Two Elk mountaintop lodge at Vail ski area 5 years ago and other acts of eco-sabotage, was sentenced in Oregon to 13 years in prison. Yeah!

Not really! Betty Lawrence celebrated her 80th Birthday with a party. Invitees were asked to only bring gag gifts. One wag brought her a hard bound book titled "Sex after 80." When it was unwrapped and opened, all of the pages were blank!

Calendar 2008

Jan	6	Sun	Snowmass Pre-Trip Party at Ruth Powers' house -- 4-7 PM
Jan	15	Tue	Dec/Jan ExCom via teleconference
Jan	24	Thur	WISP Demo Day (\$10 lift tickets)
Jan	26	Sat	Sun Valley Pre-Trip Party at McKinley's -- <u>Noon</u>
Jan	27	<u>Sun</u>	Monthly Meeting - 2:00 PM at Dorian Janney's in Gaithersburg
Feb	3	Sun	Balkans Pre-Trip Party at Hines -- Noon
Feb	24	<u>Sun</u>	Monthly Meeting - 2:00 PM
April	20	Sun	Sun Valley Post-Trip Party



Ski Trips -- 2008

Snowmass - January 17-24 -- Carolyn Maurer
Sun Valley - February 9-16 - Nancy and Ray McKinley
Balkans - March 2-13 - Marianne and Kerry Hines



Jan and Bob Marx
8312 Oakford Dr.
Springfield, VA 22152

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR