



Volume 51  
Number 4

*Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.*  
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

April 2016

[www.pvskiers.org](http://www.pvskiers.org)

[info@pvskiers.org](mailto:info@pvskiers.org)

### President's Message

Most of the snow is gone (but not everywhere), and here we see the beginning signs of spring, with cherry blossoms and daffodils for starters. April for PVS means more social events both indoors and out. Check out the spring schedule with plans for an urban hike on the Mall, an Eclipse Concert at the George Washington Masonic Temple in Alexandria, and a Signature Theatre event. Our monthly meetings continue on the third Tuesday evenings beginning with the annual meeting in Reston April 19. Remember to bring an appetizer or dessert and check the directions to the new location (below). This important meeting is our opportunity to vote in our new club members, as well as three Executive Committee members to fill three expiring terms.

**ExCom News:** Marianne Sophonis has agreed to fill the vacant Vice President position for the remainder of the vacant term, which expires in April 2017. At our meeting on March 22, ExCom enthusiastically supported your President's recommendation and voted to appoint Marianne to this position. Thank you, Marianne, for saying "yes" to our search, and joining the club leadership in the VP role.

Plans are afoot for next year's ski trips, even as we wrap up this year's skiing. Watch for announcements to come, and contact Rosemary Schwartzbard if you may be considering trip leadership to a destination next year. If you would like to recommend or lead a spring or summer activity, Ray McKinley would like to hear from you.

I look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting on April 19.

**--Carolyn**

**Marianne Sophonis** – *Newly appointed ExCom Vice President of PVS*

Marianne Sophonis has been an active member of Potomac Valley Skiers since joining with many others from Capital Golden Skiers in 2013. While at CGS, she led several ski trips and was newsletter editor for several years.

Her love of skiing began in the 1960s when she worked in Germany for the US Army Special Services and journeyed to Austrian, German, and Italian ski slopes in her free time. She has continued to enjoy skiing through the years, both in the USA and abroad.

Since Marianne joined PVS, she has been an enthusiastic member attending meetings (and chairing one when the president and vice president were unable to attend), filling in for one term on the Executive Committee, writing several articles for the TOOT, leading ski trips to Snowmass in 2014 and 2015, working on the 2015 Jubilee planning team, and hosting a wine tasting at her home.

Marianne and her sister Clare (also a member) own a home in D.C., enjoy cooking, travel (especially to Lithuania, their ancestral home), theater-going, watching tennis, playing bridge, and attending classes at OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) at American University.

Marianne is looking forward to supporting Potomac Valley Skiers, her favorite ski club!

#### ***PVS Annual Meeting***

Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 7:30pm

Heitchue/Sinclair Clubhouse, [heitchu@yahoo.com](mailto:heitchu@yahoo.com), Reg 703-861-9190 c, Susan 202-361-6677

Stratford Clubhouse adjoining 1860 Stratford Park Place, Reston, VA 20190

***See next page for directions.***

**Directions to Annual Meeting from the Beltway:**

Stratford Clubhouse adjoining 1860 Stratford Park Place, Reston, VA 20190  
Take Route 267 West toward Reston/Herndon (Dulles toll road)  
Take exit 12 (VA 602/Reston Parkway) and bear right  
In 0.4 mile, turn right on Stratford Park Place  
Park in a space NOT marked RESERVED (Dave DeVilbiss will assist)  
Walk to the **Clubhouse Building** located in the center of the complex by the swimming pool (the other side of Building 1860).

**Bring:**

Please bring a favorite **appetizer** (surname **A to L**) or **dessert** (surname **M to Z**) to share. Beverages will be provided.  
Please take your platters and leftovers home with you.  
\$3.00/PVS member



Carpooling to the meeting from your ZIP CODE area is available. Are you willing to provide ride? Contact Inge Lesjak at 703-913-0759 or [Lesjak.inge@gmail.com](mailto:Lesjak.inge@gmail.com)

**Election of ExCom Board Members (2016 – 2017) at the April 19 Meeting:**

<p><u>ExCom Board Member Candidates (2-year term)</u></p> <p><b>ExCom:</b> Barry Lake*</p> <p><b>ExCom:</b> John H. Smith**</p> <p><b>ExCom:</b> Ellie Thayer***</p> <p>Additional nominations may be made by the signatures of any five active members in good standing and must be presented at a business meeting at least one month prior to the election, which will be held on April 19, 2016</p>	<p>Submitted by the Nominating Committee:</p> <p>Kerry Hines (<b>Chair</b>)</p> <p>John Holt</p> <p>Inge Lesjak</p> <p>Sue Lyon</p> <p>Nancy McKinley</p> <p>Eloise Strand</p>
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\* <<http://pvskiers.org/TOOT/2010-2019/16-02.pdf#page=6>>

\*\* <<http://pvskiers.org/TOOT/2010-2019/16-02.pdf#page=7>>

\*\*\* <<http://pvskiers.org/TOOT/2010-2019/16-02.pdf#page=7>>

**APPLICANT MEMBERS (7):**

**Royce Kneece & Marsha Patrick** - Falls Church, VA; Sponsor, Inge Lesjak; [Active Couple candidate](#)

Both divorced, Marsha and Royce met in 2007 through Match.com. Marsha works full-time for a small national association, whereas Royce works part time for a non-profit defense-consulting firm after a 31-year career in the Department of Defense. Marsha skied for many years in just about all the big western resorts, but had to put away her skies because of knee problems (an attempt in 2008 to restart skiing did not work and led to new surgery). Royce got a late start as a skier at age 45 when his daughters reached the age to learn to ski. However, he has made up for lost time and has skied regularly ever since. He went on an annual trip to Vail for some 10 years running, and has skied most of the big Western resorts, as well as many in New England and locally. The trip last year to Austria was his introduction to PVS, so enjoyable that he signed up for the Italy trip this year. Aside from skiing Royce enjoys golf and playing the cello. Both enjoy the great outdoors and travel and have had many great trips to places like Greece, Africa, India, Peru, Brazil, France, and England. They can frequently be found kayaking on Lake Barcroft in Falls Church, where they live with their three cats.

**Patricia Lesjak** - W. Springfield, VA; Sponsor, Inge Lesjak; [Active Individual candidate](#)

Profile not provided.

**Bob & Jill Nelson** - Chevy Chase, MD; Sponsor, Rosemary Schwartzbard; [Active Couple candidate](#)

Skiing has long been important in the lives of both Bob & Jill. Bob started skiing at age 6 when his family was living in Oslo, Norway for a year, and skis were a regular form of transportation. Growing up near Boston and then in Seattle, he skied downhill regularly. Jill came from the New York City area and learned to ski on big wooden skis and bear-trap bindings, most often on New England rocks & ice.

We continued skiing after we met in the 60's in New York, highlighted by a ski trip to Kitzbuhl, Austria in 1971. After moving to Washington, we began to ski in Colorado and Utah, taking our children on ski trips from an early age. We're now looking forward to skiing with our young granddaughters, who live in Burlington, Vt. I've always been a slow intermediate, and Bob a fast black diamond guy, so it's great to link up with a group with skiers at both levels.

**Richard & Sarah Sugarman** - Wilmington, VT; Sponsor, Inge Lesjak; [Associate Couple candidate](#)

Sarah: I learned to ski at Courchevel in the early 60s. Back then it was leather boots and 6ft. wooden skis. I'm only 5 ft. Happily now I am taller than my skis and am finally in control. When not on the mountain, I can be found in the back woods, either cross-country skiing or snow shoeing with our dog.

Richard: I first learned to ski on a "dry slope" in England. It was about 100 meters long and 40 meters wide, with a towrope on each side. My first trip on real snow was in Romania. I enjoyed it so much and fell in love with skiing, so the next season we went off to Bulgaria.

Both of us: We lived in Europe for over 17 years. During that time we regularly skied in France, Italy, Austria, and Andorra. We also visited the States to join family for their annual ski vacations in New England, which is probably why we chose to live in Wilmington, 10 minutes drive from Mount Snow in southern Vermont. In the almost 20 years since moving here, we have explored many of the Western ski resorts, including Tahoe, Summit County, Denver, Montana, and Salt Lake to name a few. Sometimes it's really tough to trade a typical Vermont winter, i.e., cold winds and icy terrain for the sunshine and powder days out west, but we somehow usually manage to make the effort!

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The newly formatted PVS web site ([pvskiers.org](http://pvskiers.org) OR [potomacvalleyskiers.org](http://potomacvalleyskiers.org)) is now fully functional.

*Mary Ellena Ward, Webmaster*

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*Join us for an Urban Hike!*

**Friday, April 15 at 10:00 am**  
**Walk the National Mall!**

Face it – you haven’t walked on the National Mall in a long time – and even if you have, you know you love our nation’s beautiful front yard in the springtime! Starting and ending at the Washington Monument, this easy (and flat!) hike is roughly 4.0 miles. It’s a lovely round trip that will take us to these and other famous sites:

- Vietnam Veterans Memorial
  - World War II Memorial
  - Lincoln Memorial
- Korean War Veterans Memorial
- Martin Luther King Memorial
  - FDR Memorial
- around the Tidal Basin to the Jefferson Memorial

After taking in the sites on our hike, those who are interested will head over to the stunning Hamilton (in the old Garfinckel’s building) for lunch.

We meet at the 15<sup>th</sup> street side of the Washington Monument by the concrete kiosk (with restrooms and souvenirs). It’s a convenient block or two from the Smithsonian Metro Stop.

Call or email Nancy McKinley to sign up so that we can be on the lookout for you. Also note if you are planning on lunch with us.

703-595-8375 OR [nancymckin@gmail.com](mailto:nancymckin@gmail.com)

**Join PVS for the  
Eclipse Chamber  
Orchestra's  
Concert  
Sunday,  
MAY 15 -  
3:00pm**



In its 24th season of world-class performances, Eclipse Chamber Orchestra offers audiences an eclectic pastiche of music. Once again the critically acclaimed ensemble, composed of musicians from the National Symphony Orchestra, will play its subscription season at the **George Washington Masonic Temple in Old Town Alexandria, VA**, one of the D.C. area's most intimate concert venues with free parking and located near the King Street Metro stop as well. Please join PVS to enjoy the upcoming concert, only 1 of 3 performances in the season. [www.eclipseco.org](http://www.eclipseco.org)

**SUNDAY, May 15 at 3 PM**

**A Journey to Prague**

**Dvorak: Romance for Violin and Orchestra**

**Dvorak: Silent Woods for Cello and Orchestra**

**Dvorak: Serenade for winds in D minor**

**Suk: Serenade for strings in E-flat**

A reception follows the concert in the Great Hall. Optional: gather for a local dinner after the concert.

Eclipse Chamber Orchestra is committed to bringing quality music at a price that everyone can afford. Therefore, it's "pay as you can." Donations are made at the door or you can donate online.

Please RSVP to Ray and Nancy McKinley at 703 527 7216 or at [nancymckin@gmail.com](mailto:nancymckin@gmail.com) by May 13 to let us know you're coming and we'll keep a lookout for you. Let us know if you plan to join us for dinner.

We'll see you there!

**Join PVS for an afternoon of fun at the theater!**



**Saturday, June 11 at 2 PM at Signature Theatre in  
Arlington, Virginia at Shirlington.**

La Cage aux Folles - the Tony Award-winning feel-good romp with exuberant music and dancing is sure to captivate you. It's the story of love and marriage, over-the-top gender-bending, and general good fun with blockbuster songs that will make you cheer. The award-winning Signature Theatre has a cozy feel and excellent views from all seats. This is bound to be one of Signature's sell-out shows!

We have reserved seats at \$56 each (discounted for group and senior rates). Contact Nancy McKinley at 703 595 8375 or at [nancymckin@gmail.com](mailto:nancymckin@gmail.com). Deadline is April 30 but sign up right away to be sure to get a seat. Send a check for \$56 per person payable to Nancy McKinley, 1805 Crystal Drive 3813, Arlington, VA 22202.

We will arrange dinner following the show for those interested at one of a dozen restaurants just a few steps from the theater. Free garage parking.

## SKI TALK - APRIL 2016



After skiing in Snowmass and Snowbird/Alta, the Jablons and I decided we were not ready to end the ski season quite yet. So we went to Steamboat for five days of skiing mid-March. We were hoping for snow and we got pummeled! After the first day of sun and ice, the storms moved in. By the end of the week we were skiing in a foot of powder. It was quite a challenge but we skied with guides each day. Every day at 9:15 the "Mountain Masters" (who were previously the "Over the Hill Gang," but who are now official Steamboat guides) take groups of age 50+ skiers all over the mountain. Usually there are several guides who separate the group into Mellow, Advanced and Aggressive skiers and ski with the group until around 3:00 PM. This is a wonderful opportunity to ski the whole mountain and go to areas you may not find on your own.

The club has two trips approved for next year. In

January, we will be going to **SNOWMASS**, again staying at the Snowmass Mountain Chalet. In March, we will be participating in the BRSC Eurofest at **GRINDELWALD**, Switzerland. Kathy and Barry Lake have agreed to lead the trip to Snowmass, and Inge Lesjak will lead the trip to Grindelwald. We are happy that Barry and Kathy have stepped up to the plate to lead the Snowmass trip, and that Inge has agreed to lead the Grindelwald trip. These trips will be advertised in the May TOOT. At that time, please consider signing up early so we can meet the deadlines for deposits to hotels.

The club cannot run ski trips without trip leaders. The trip leaders are responsible for advertising the trip in the TOOT and on the PVS web site; receiving trip payments; maintaining detailed financial records and coordinating payments to the trip vendor. In addition, the leaders need to keep track of skiers and non-skiers and make sure people get appropriate lift tickets, air tickets, etc.



They also arrange the trip's social activities, which include, at a minimum, a group dinner. Our leaders are there to provide assistance to skiers who may become injured or ill, or encounter other emergencies. A significant amount of effort goes into running a trip, and trip leaders are compensated for room, air and lift tickets, depending on the number of people who go on a trip. Another major benefit of being a trip leader is the satisfaction you get when the trip goes well. We are most grateful for those who agree to lead a trip and hope that more members of the club consider doing so in the future.



If you may be interested in leading a trip, one way to get ideas for trips is to attend the **Ski Travel Show** scheduled from 6:30PM to 9:00PM on Friday evening, **April 29, at the Marriott Hotel, 8020 Leesburg**

**Pike, Tysons Corner.** Check it out on the website: [www.prwtravelschows.com/DC.htm](http://www.prwtravelschows.com/DC.htm). Vendors from many ski resorts attend with brochures, maps and other information about their resorts. This is an opportunity to talk to tour operators and resort personnel. It is a fun evening with a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres served all evening. If you stick around to the end, you may even win a ski trip or at least a cap or a t-shirt. You must be pre-registered to attend. **Let me know if you want to attend and I will register you.**

Rosemary Schwartzbard, [rosemaryschw@gmail.com](mailto:rosemaryschw@gmail.com)

PVS/BRSC EUROFEST SKI TRIP  
MADONNA DI CAMPIGLIO, February 26 – March 6, 2016



Twenty-six skiers from PVS and other clubs went on the Inge-led contingent of this ski trip to Madonna di Campiglio in Italy. In addition to our local skiers, there were people from Vermont, Connecticut, New Jersey, North Carolina, Florida, Michigan, Texas, and California.

The bus from the Venice airport went through scenic countryside with glimpses of many villages, vineyards, farms, and churches. It was raining until we got up into the mountains where the precipitation turned to snow. Overnight, 12 inches of snow fell, which was a blessing, because it had been quite icy before we arrived. It also snowed a few nights while we were there.

The hotel was very nice, the bedrooms were comfortable, the food was good, there were many nice

public rooms, and there was a wonderful spa. There was also a ski rental shop, and agents who came to the hotel every night to sell ski passes and lessons. The ski slopes were easy to get to. The Alpine slopes were designated in the European style as blue, red, and black, with the majority being black. The grooming (or lack of) and signage were not what some skiers were used to, either. A few skiers found themselves far away from the hotel at the end of the day or missed the last lift and had to find transportation back to the hotel. Such are the experiences that make up a skiing adventure. In spite of or because of the adventures, the group enjoyed the entire experience and most would return.



The BRSC held events on three nights, each event included a ticket for wine or beer, and a dance was held after dinner one evening. The PVS group enjoyed a happy hour on another evening.

There was a pre-trip to Florence, which people really enjoyed. Three other trips were optional - one to Mantua, one to Verona, and one to Lake Garda. Quite a few of us went on the Lake Garda trip where we visited a beautiful village named Sirmione, which had a 17th century moated castle, 14th century church, house that Maria Callas had lived in, and some Greco-Roman ruins. The bus was stopped on the autostrada for a hour due to an accident going to the lake.

Venice was fun. It was very windy and then rained heavily the first evening. We went to San Marco Square, stopped in a cafe, wandered around in the back streets, and then found a restaurant for dinner. After dinner the



square was flooded and platforms were erected to walk on. Going back on the vaporetto, we saw some buildings that were flooded into the first floor.

Inge, our trip leader was wonderful, helpful, and informative.

--Marna Blanchette

# Members' Corner



By J. David Warthen, Jr.  
[dwarthen@verizon.net](mailto:dwarthen@verizon.net)

It is very interesting to hear from PVS Members about their activities and interests other than skiing. JanaLee Sponberg shares about her trip to Tajikistan, and about the humanitarian endeavors, which ensued on her work trip. Serving is one of the joys within our lives. Three cheers for JanaLee!

Tajikistan is a mountainous landlocked sovereign county in Central Asia. It is bordered by Afghanistan to the south, Uzbekistan to the west, Kyrgyzstan to the north, and China to the east. As a result of the breakup of the Soviet Union, Tajikistan became an independent nation in 1991.

## **Building in Tajikistan:**

I was disappointed to miss the Jubilee celebration. I had a very good reason. I was participating in a Habitat for Humanity International Project in Tajikistan. Thirteen members formed a team to finish two houses in the Dusti Settlement located 20 miles north of the Afghanistan border. Two mud brick blockhouses needed insulation, plaster, floors, ceilings, mud roofs, doors and windows. The yard needed clearing and leveling, as it was filled with weeds, trees and shrubs. We cut down trees and dug out roots. We built a wall at the front of the compound. We worked each day carrying water, lime, sand, gravel, cement, and plaster in buckets wherever it was needed on site. Within 10 days there was a transformation in this property. We knew that 11 family members would be able to move out of an overcrowded brother's home and move into their own homes before winter set in.

Tajikistan is one of the poorest countries in the world. I was sad to see the poverty and the primitive living conditions, especially the lack of clean drinking water. I had no preconceived expectations but the Tajik people that I met were the kindest most appreciative people. We worked

with plaster masters, builders and workers who assisted in completing each of the numerous projects. They made sure we had materials that we needed each day and that work was done properly. The children came by to help when they were out of school. I thought they were such beautiful people who were very caring and genuine and wanted us to feel welcome in their country. We enjoyed their unique hospitality.

The weather was warm, ranging in the 70s and 80s during the day and 40s and 50s in the evening. Our diet was simple. Breakfast was bread, rice porridge, and some days an egg. Lunch was brought to the worksite and was a meat dish with rice or beans or potatoes. Evening meals were a choice of soups, meat (chicken, lamb, goat or beef) a vegetable and potatoes. I thought the food was good but hard work does make one very hungry! Each morning we stopped at the market for fresh fruit and bottled water on our way to work.

I'm very satisfied with this experience, hard work included, but it reminds me that there is a great deal of need in our world. I didn't need to go to Tajikistan to find those in need. When asked if I'm ready to do this again, I'll say yes. In fact I'm headed to Cuba in April to work on another project.



*--JanaLee Sponberg, PhD*

## **TOOT Distribution to 161 Members:**

-pdf: 138; USPS: 3

## **Thanks to:**

- TOOT Coordinator - E. Thayer
- TOOT USPS – B. Leonhardt, J. Read, & L. Triau
- TOOT Layout Editor & Electronic TOOT  
– J. D. Warthen

**Roster Changes** (notify-[dwarthen@verizon.net](mailto:dwarthen@verizon.net))



*Hubba, Hubba!  
Guess who!*

## **Rock and Roll Marathon March 12, 2016**

PVSers are known for their skiing ability, but did you know that we also have some expert runners in the club? Martha Nelson, one of our PVS members, won the women's division of the Rock and Roll Marathon in Washington, DC on March 12, with a time of 2:58. This is the second year that Martha was the first woman over the line.



MARCH 19, 2016 PVS MEETING



Our March meeting was hosted by Melissa FitzGerald in her lovely home in Reston. Melissa prepared a Saint Patrick's Day celebration, with a table laden with hors d'oeuvres that included many Irish specialties and dessert featuring a cake with green icing, as well as various other tasty choices. Besides enjoying the food, we had the opportunity to view the numerous mementos of Melissa's interesting family history and travels with the State Department. The 30 members in attendance gathered under the threat of a spring (almost) snowstorm that never quite materialized in the DC Metro area, but did create some wet driving conditions. At least one member, Nancy McKinley, came prepared for the Saint Patrick's theme with her green "glasses."



President Carolyn DeVilbiss oversaw a business meeting that covered the numerous activities – tours, hikes, concerts, and plays - offered over the next few months. The 2015-16 ski season was closed out with a brief overview of the just-completed trip to Europe, and the 2016-17 ski season was immediately opened with the announcement that Barry and Kathy Lake are ready for people to sign on for the Snowmass trip scheduled for January 2017. Everyone was also cautioned to pay careful attention to the address for the April meeting, which like previous years will be hosted by Reg Heitchue in Reston, but will be in a DIFFERENT CONDO COMPLEX than in previous years.



The meeting concluded with what may have been PVS's first ever "demolition derby," although of brief duration and limited participation. Our very special thanks go to Melissa for hosting a most delightful gathering.

--Kerry Hines



## Visit to Alexandria's Black History Museum



Audrey Davis-  
Director      Maryann  
Rozzell-docent

On March 23, 2016, about 14 PVS history buffs converged on Alexandria's renowned Black History Museum to learn about the trials and triumphs of local African Americans dating back to the time of the Civil War. Maryann Rozzell, a docent at the museum for many years, arranged for us to meet with the museum's Director, Audrey Davis, a dynamic and knowledgeable speaker sought after for her insights into this dramatic time in our nation's history. Ms. Davis is presently also serving as a consultant to the TV drama, *Mercy Street*, currently showing on PBS.

Ms. Davis animatedly related to us the story of the first of many slaves who sought refuge at the Union-held Fort Monroe near Hampton Roads. General Benjamin Butler made the fateful decision to protect them from those who

wanted them returned to slavery by calling them "contraband of war." This decision spurred many others to seek the same refuge and set the stage for their roles supporting the North in the Civil War conflict.



Carolyn, Marna, Dave, Rosie, June,  
Maryann, & Charlotte

Many say that their contributions from that day helped to dramatically speed up the end of the war.

Thousands of these "contrabands," as these escaped slaves were called, settled in Alexandria where they were able to improve on their living conditions and influence Alexandria's future as an integrated city. However, as late as 1939, Alexandria still had no library available for African Americans; the only library was reserved for the use of whites only. This led to a historic sit-in by five young African Americans at the all-white library where they were subsequently arrested. After a tense

time, ultimately their courage resulted in the formation in 1940 of a library for the African American community, which was the genesis of the Black History Museum we see today in Alexandria.

Our group was enlightened as well by the other exhibits in the Museum including 19<sup>th</sup> century pictures and a historical account of the areas in Africa from which so many were taken and sold into slavery.

Today, in addition to visiting the Museum itself, you may walk in Alexandria's Contraband and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial located at the corner of Washington and Church Streets. For more information about Alexandria's Black History Museum please see the link here, [www.alexandriava.gov/blackhistory](http://www.alexandriava.gov/blackhistory), and consider a visit to this important museum yourself.

After the tour we were able to share our thoughts on what we had seen and to enjoy a good lunch on a gorgeous spring day in Alexandria. Many thanks go to Maryann Rozzell for sharing this historical treasure with us.



Dave, Jan, Marna, Maryann, & Charlotte



Shirley, Chalotte, Maryann, June, Rosie, & Marna

--Nancy McKinley



# THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley  
[RaysKnee@gmail.com](mailto:RaysKnee@gmail.com)

Gosharooty folks it's been three months. And I've got lots to bring you up-to-date on. Do you recall the early TV show that used the term gosharooty? It also had Flubbadub. Yup, it was Howdy Dowdy. And it was a long time ago—I believe it was 1961! It was over half a century ago; so long ago that TV was only called V. The Tele part came later.

Although I have yet to make any formal announcement, the **Knee** is contemplating a run for President. (Lord knows, everyone else is.)

When he came to office, Pres. George 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 a 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!!

Going to China? They are building the first "endless ski run." The slope will revolve beneath the skiers permitting continuous turns.

New member Kathy Lake was properly colored for our Saint Patrick's party at Melissa FitzGerald's Reston abode. Kathy's wrist cast, finally in its last week, was dyed a beautiful shade of Irish Green. Right on!

A month in Paris: Bob and Louann Eadie have rented an apartment on the left Bank for a month. Louann, after considerable searching in Google images, found the actual house where Bob spent three years as a preteen in Orleans—just outside of central Paris. They plan on going to visit it while there. Right on.

Bob and Cara Jablon and Rosemary Schwartzbard made an extra trip to Steamboat for some late skiing. They had a ball, in part due to wonderful snow conditions.

According to Marvin Hass, something new is happening in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The Wyoming soil, iced over for eight months of the year, is not particularly hospitable to heirloom tomatoes, baby basil or lettuce plants. Yet starting this spring, Vertical Harvest, a farm in the resort town of Jackson, will begin churning out some 100,000 pounds of fresh produce a year. It expects to have the farm operating this spring.

Vertical Harvest uses hydroponic farming methods inside a three-story greenhouse on a 4,500-square-foot downtown lot. It is engaging in a relatively new practice called vertical farming. It expects to show a small profit in this, its first full season of operations. As of last year, there were 30 such vertical farms in the United States and hundreds more worldwide. Japan, with 160, leads the field.

There was a major foodie discussion at the March meeting: Melissa FitzGerald, Louann and Bob Eadie, and Marna Blanchette all debated the wonders of *Rognon de veau*—veal kidneys. I guess you had to be there!

New Vice President Marianne Sophonis has just completed knee replacement surgery. She expects a complete recovery in time for the upcoming ski season.

Sadly, Bill Hager reports from Lake Tahoe: "Regret to advise you that Whistler's \$125 ticket is not the most expensive in the world. We ski at Northstar where a single day adult ticket is \$130. Only \$107 for seniors, however. Our \$360 season pass pays for itself rather quickly." Yoiks!!

Congratulations to Kerry and Marianne Hines. They spent the recent holidays finishing off their basement.

Sign on a CA gas station. "Ban pre-shredded cheese-make America grate again!"



**PVS Calendar 2016:**

- Apr 15 Fri Urban Hike on the Mall, 10:00 AM, N. McKinley, DC
- Apr 19 Tue Annual Meeting, 7:30 PM, Heitchue, Reston, VA
- Apr 26 Tue ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM, E. Thayer, Alexandria, VA
- Apr 29 Fri Paul Weber Spring Ski Show, 6:30-9:00 PM, Marriott Tysons Corner, RSVP - R. Schwartzbard, VA <<http://www.prwtravelshows.com/DC.htm>>
- May 15 Sun Eclipse Chamber Music Concert, 3:00 PM, McKinleys, Alexandria, VA
- May 17 Tue Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM, TBD
- June 11 Sat Signature Theatre, La Cage aux Folles, 2:00 PM, McKinleys, Arlington, VA

**PVS Ski Trips 2017:**



TBA



**Useful Ski "Links"**

- Potomac Valley Skiers .....[www.potomacvalleyskiers.org](http://www.potomacvalleyskiers.org)
- BRSC Sanctioned Trips .....[www.skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm](http://www.skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm)
- DC Ski Online News.....[www.dcski.com](http://www.dcski.com)
- Best of Times Ski Club.....[www.bestoftimeskiclub.org](http://www.bestoftimeskiclub.org)>Ski Trips

**ExCom**

<b>Officers:</b>	<b>Chairpersons:</b>
President – <i>Carolyn DeVilbiss</i> V. President – <i>Marianne Sophonis</i> Secretary – <i>Ellie Thayer</i> Treasurer – <i>Dick Schwartzbard</i> Ex Officio - <i>Nancy McKinley</i>	Ski Trip Committee – <i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i> Events – <i>Ray McKinley</i> Membership Records – <i>Dave Warthen</i> Membership PR Reps – <i>Inge Lesjak &amp; Marianne Sophonis</i>
<b>Board Members:</b> <b>First Term:</b> <i>Herb Bennett</i> <i>Marna Blanchette</i> <i>Nancy Pigman</i>	TOOT Coordinator – <i>Ellie Thayer</i> TOOT Layout Editors – <i>Jan Marx, Marvin Hass, &amp; Dave Warthen</i> TOOT (E-Distribution) – <i>Dave Warthen</i> TOOT (USPS Distribution) – <i>Barb Leonhardt, June Read, Liz Triau</i>
<b>Second Term:</b> <i>Reg Heitchue (1-year only)</i> <i>Inge Lesjak</i> <i>Ellie Thayer</i>	Webmaster – <i>Mary Ellena Ward</i> Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</i> Historian – <i>Jan Marx</i>

