

VOLUME 46
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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

JANUARY 2011

www.potomacvalleyski.org

info@pvskiers.org

Seasons Greetings Members and Applicants,

What a wonderful Holiday party/meeting we had at the Mahallatis' home in Herndon a couple of weeks ago. There were 47 attendees, and the food that everyone shared was "simply marvelous". Marianne Cook's entertainment with her PVS anthem along with a couple of Christmas carols that everyone joined in singing, finished our annual get together warmly. We didn't even mind the frigid weather or the Beltway traffic.

And now we're into 2011—where did 2010 go? I don't know where it went, but most reports are that 2011 will be better economically and weather wise (we'll see about both). For us skiers it means we're in our favorite time of year with our Snowmass trip just a couple of weeks away. Some of you have been out west already, but many of you opt for getting your ski legs back at some of our local ski areas. I had the fortune of doing a family trip to Whitetail on Tuesday. The conditions were very good for all man made snow, but the highlight for me was my 3 grand girls (6 and under) participating in the morning kids camp. I know they'll be burning up the slopes in a few years. [See my photos below.](#)

As a reminder the next two PVS monthly meetings will be on Sunday afternoons. So if you're not off skiing, plan to attend. And thank you to all those members who open up their homes for these and other meetings/activities our club does during the year.

We are really fortunate to have wonderful volunteers in our club. In particular I want to mention the temporary TOOT editors: Jan Marx, Dave Warthen and Marvin Hass. They do a wonderful job monthly for us, and we are very appreciative. In addition Dave Warthen distributes the TOOT electronically every month promptly. He also writes up the Members' Corner section of our newsletter. Along those lines, Dave would really like to hear from more of you about your activities, vacations, happenings, etc. This column is really the forum for you to give us all your great news. So don't hesitate. Just write it up and email to Dave with any photos you might have. These are things our members love to read about.

Happy New Year and here's to a great ski season!

Fondly,

Sharon



[Monthly Meeting](#) see next page...

Monthly Meeting



Join us for a winter afternoon meeting
16 January at 2:00 pm
at John and Barbara Holt's house.
1424 Highwood Drive
McLean, VA 22101
(703) 907-5805



Directions: check your maps

From Washington, DC via Chain Bridge

Take Chain Bridge onto N. Glebe Rd., crossing into Virginia. Go straight (not turning right on Chain Bridge Road). As you go up the hill to Glebe Road, do not take the turnoff to Military Rd. At the top of the hill after a big curve, the first right is River Street – there is a sign there that says Chain Bridge Forest. **Turn right onto River St.** Go 3 blocks on River. You go down a hill and up the next. At the top of that hill (the third left) **turn left on Highwood**. Go to the very end, about 4 or 5 blocks, ending in a cul-de-sac. We're at the back of the cul-de-sac

1424 Highwood Dr. 703 534 2512

From the Beltway (I-495)

Take the Georgetown Pike exit (exit 44) east.

Turn left onto Route 123, Chain Bridge Road.

Turn right onto N. Glebe Road. As you go up the hill to Glebe Road, do not take the turnoff to Military Rd. At the top of the hill after a big curve, the first right is River Street – there is a sign there that says Chain Bridge Forest. **Turn right onto River St.** Go 3 blocks on River. You go down a hill and up the next. At the top of that hill (the third left) **turn left on Highwood**. Go to the very end, about 4 or 5 blocks, ending in a cul-de-sac. We're at the back of the cul-de-sac

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From Virginia via the Dulles Toll Road

Merge onto Route 123 N via exit 19B toward McLean.

Turn right onto N. Glebe Road As you go up the hill to Glebe Road, do not take the turnoff to Military Rd. At the top of the hill after a big curve, the first right is River Street – there is a sign there that says Chain Bridge Forest. **Turn right onto River St.** Go 3 blocks on River. You go down a hill and up the next. At the top of that hill (the third left) **turn left on Highwood**. Go to the very end, about 4 or 5 blocks, ending in a cul-de-sac. We're at the back of the cul-de-sac

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In VA

Depending on where you're coming from, **go to N. Glebe Road**, heading toward the Potomac River and Chain Bridge. A few blocks past the light on Glebe and Chesterbrook, is **River Street – turn left** - there is a sign there that says Chain Bridge Forest. Go 3 blocks on River. You go down a hill and up the next. At the top of that hill (the third left) **turn left on Highwood**. Go to the very end, about 4 or 5 blocks, ending in a cul-de-sac. We're at the back of the cul-de-sac.

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A Delightful December Meeting/Holiday Party

Lee and Sal Mahallati opened their spacious and elegantly-decorated home to forty-six PVSers and CGSers (Gloria Geer-Wood and Don Vierimaa) on Tuesday, December 14, 2011. The gathering was a party disguised as a monthly meeting. That old adage: "Everyone gathers in the kitchen" proved true in this case, but in this case there was a large C-shaped granite island where folks gathered. The tables and counters were covered with an amazing assortment of appetizers and desserts. Attendees ate their fill of delicious offerings brought by all comers while sipping on a glass of wine. Lee's meatballs, Eloise's pate, cheeses, dips, deviled eggs, cheesecakes, Christmas bread, Dave's oatmeal cake, peppermint candy, baklava, and many other delicious goodies did not last long.



One of the highlights of the evening was the presence of nonagenarian Marianne Cook who not only played the piano and sang the PVS song that she composed, but also played Christmas carols on request without reference to a single sheet of music. It was truly a touching and memorable performance. Brava Marianne.

And thank you, Lee and Sal.



by Ellie Thayer



SKI TALK

by Rosemary Schwartzbard

Our first ski trip of 2011 leaves for Snowmass on January 19. Over forty people will be going on that trip. On February 17 a group of sixteen will go to Steamboat. Before going out west, you may want to get some practice at our local resorts. Join other PVSers for the following local ski trips.

LOCAL SKIING:

Ski Demo Day at Whitetail on January 5 sponsored by Ski Center. With a voucher from Ski Center, you can get a lift ticket for \$20 and demo as many skis as you like. For those 65 and over, you can get a four-hour ticket for \$23 without the voucher. The regular mid-week four-hour pass is \$46, 50% off for 65+. Sharon Mulholland is coordinating this trip. If you are going, email Sharon at shank@mrisc.com.



Ski Appreciation Day at Whitetail on January 19 sponsored by Ski Chalet. Get a voucher from Ski Chalet for a \$20 lift ticket. Charlie Huggins is coordinating this event. If you want to go, call or email Charlie 301-424-5725, rowhugb@juno.com. For those who want to car pool meet at 8am at the bowling alley parking lot on Shady Grove Rd.

Ski Demo day at Timberline on January 13 sponsored by Ski Chalet. Lift tickets will be \$2.00 with a voucher from Ski Chalet. Kerry and Marianne Hines are planning on going.

Ski Club deals at Wintergreen the weekend of January 7 - 9, 2011. Check out this link for details. <http://www.wintergreenresort.com/skiclubs/default.aspx>. Contact Jan Marx at jebbmarx@aol.com or at (703) 451-9158 and she will forward to you an email from Wintergreen that will allow you to purchase a 2-day ticket discounted by 50% for January 8 and 9, 2011.

Wisp. Let me know if anyone is interested in planning a two or three day trip to **WISP** in February.

BAGGAGE

The rumor is that American Airlines is considering changing their boot bag+ski bag = one bag policy. If this goes through they will consider your suitcase as a bag (\$25 each way), your ski bag as a second piece (\$35 each way), and your boot bag as a third piece (\$100 each way). The three bags would cost the skier \$320 round trip!!! Please check with your airline and be sure you understand their baggage policy. We recommend putting your boots with your clothing or taking as carry on. Also, look into sending your skis by Fed Ex or UPS.



SKI TRIP PROPOSALS FOR 2012

Now that we have officially entered 2011, it is time to plan for 2012. I would like to hear from anyone who would like to lead a ski trip next year. The Ski Trip Committee would like to have some preliminary proposals/ideas by March. Send questions, ideas or proposals to me.

rosemaryphd@verizon.net



Ski Trips



SNOWMASS 2011
Wednesday, January 19-26, 2011



PRE-TRIP BRUNCH: Calling all Snowmass skiers. Ruth Powers is hosting a brunch at 11:30 on Saturday, January 8, 2011. Please RSVP to Carolyn DeVilbiss no later than Wednesday, January 5.

WAITLISTED! PVS returns to our "Old Faithful" Colorado ski resort with reduced pricing in 2011. We will again stay at Snowmass Mountain Chalet with its ski-in ski-out convenience, the welcoming staff, and the many amenities of the Aspen environ. Place your name on the wait list for this PVS favorite! Contact Carolyn, 703-370-4865 (Carolyn.maurer@verizon.net), or Sharon, 301-330-2953 (shank@mrisc.com), immediately, if interested. Carolyn's address: Carolyn DeVilbiss, 4508 Peacock Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304.

Check out the lower rates this year!

Full package, including air: \$1938

Land only: \$1494

Single Supplement: +\$886

www.mountainchalet.com

www.aspensnowmass.com



+Slope-side lodging at Snowmass Mountain Chalet includes a daily family-style hot breakfast and soup lunch. The spacious, welcoming lobby has an oversized stone fireplace, flat screen TV, and card table for "Dave's" games.

+The trip includes group dinners and our own apres-ski parties. There are many other activities available in the Aspen environs.



Steamboat Springs

February 17 - 23, 2011

Pre-trip lunch: Sunday, February 13 at 1:00 at Jablons' house

A hardy bunch of sixteen skiers is going to Steamboat. The trip is now closed.
Cara Jablon, 4573 Indian Rock Terrace, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20007
202-333-5332 or rcjablon@aol.com

The [Potomac Valley Skiers](#) week of skiing in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, is going to be a grand time. We are staying in the **STEAMBOAT GRAND**, a premier hotel a short 100-yard walk from the high-speed gondola, with complimentary ski storage slope side. It has an outdoor heated pool and two hot tubs, sauna, full service spa and fitness center, in-room coffee makers and flat screen TVs, and wireless internet.



Happy New Year!

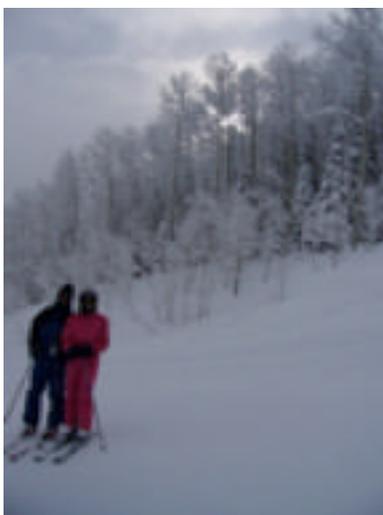
Members Corner



By J. David Warthen, Jr.
dwarthen@verizon.net

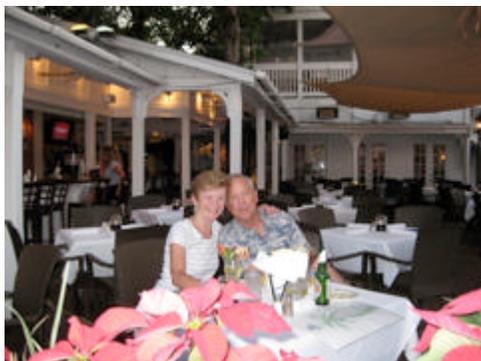
Getting to Know You – Kathy Felmev and Bob Gleeson (Applicant Couple):

Our life together began when we met on a wonderful ski trip to Morzine/Avoriaz, France in March 2000. In 2004, we got married and we have been on a lovely honeymoon ever since. In 2005, Bob had a problem



Snowmass, 2009

with his kidneys, and Kathy provided him one of hers for which he will be forever grateful. Although we live just a few blocks from the White House in Washington D.C., we have a summer home near Ocean City, Maryland, where we both like to spend time at the beach in the summer swimming, biking, or just relaxing. Kathy graduated from Swarthmore College and later received a Masters degree from Tufts University. Bob graduated from the University of Maryland and received his Masters degree from the University of Southern California.



Key West, 2009

Kathy is fluent in French and has spent a large part of her life in France both as a private sector teacher and later as a government employee. Kathy retired after a 22 year career with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Bob has been employed as a

counterintelligence/security officer for 45 years with Military Intelligence, CIA, and most recently the National Security Agency. We now look forward to being active members of PVS.

Thanksgiving in Rome, Nov '10 – Ellie Thayer:

Pasta for Thanksgiving dinner? Limoncello over gelato for dessert? Jack and I celebrated Thanksgiving in Rome with Jack's elder daughter and her friend and my nephew and his friend. It was a traditional Thanksgiving with family and friends in an untraditional setting.

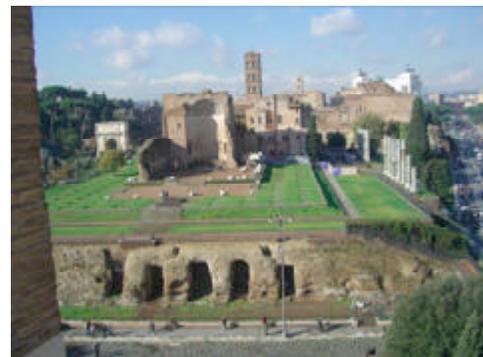
Part of the fun in any city is meandering and Rome is an excellent meandering city. Jack opined that there is not a single street in Rome at right angles, so meandering is apt. We saw lots, but there were three highlights: a newly-offered tour of the Coliseum underground and access to the third level; a visit to the art museum at the Villa Borghese; and a day trip to Pompeii. Of the three, Pompeii was the most memorable. The ruins are so extensive and well-preserved that one gets a sense of what daily life was all about in 79 A.D.



Pompeii with Vesuvius in bckgrd

The food was also memorable. We learned to steer clear of any restaurant that had laminated pages with a picture of the food below the menu item. We easily found family-owned restaurants where we were treated well. I loved the homemade pastas. It was good that we "meandered" all over the city to offset the calories.

Because the weather can be iffy, at best, travel to Europe in late November is a bargain. It is also a great Thayer/Chapman Thanksgiving tradition.



Roman Forum from Coliseum



THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley
RaysKnee@gmail.com

I've been robbed! 2011 is now upon us. Who stole 2010? It can't possibly be later than June of 2010. Time can't possibly move that fast. It certainly didn't in years past. We should all get together and form a T Party—to recapture old Times, when Time moved reasonably.

Notwithstanding, after an unreasonably cold December and lots of snow in the west, 2011 is full of bright promise, fluffy white powder and the expectation of a truly great ski season. (The Knee hates to report it, but according to Bob McNeill, with the cold, dry air, even Liberty had powder in mid-December.) And parts of western Colorado got 8 feet of snow in a pre-Christmas blizzard. Let me again this year be the first, and likely only, one to wish you all a most Happy Kneee Year.

A few resolutions: First I promise to be good to you all. You and the rest of PVS are my subjects. Without you, there would be nothing to write about. Also without you as readers, there would be no reason for the Kneee. Keep up the good work. **And PLEASE send your Kneee tidbits to my email address above. I kneed your help!**

I also resolve to be good to my knees. After all, I don't ski on my elbows. I often massage my knees with a light weight, kneetsfoot oil. (What else?) This helps keep the knees from getting chapped and red. Please do not massage this column with kneetsfoot oil. This Kneee is intended to be read!

You will read about it elsewhere, but the PVS Holiday Party at Lee and Sal Mahallatis' was simply marvelous. According to Lee, they have been in their house three years and this is their first party. And what a turnout. We had almost 50 people including, for the first time in eons, Sylvia Lukens. Sylvia was moving gingerly, recovering from shoulder replacement surgery. And she is rarin' to get back to skiing.

Also recovering nicely, thank you, is Aina Thomas. After hip replacement surgery, Aina is back home with "absolutely no pain." Right on!

It's simply marbulous. As several saw for the first time at the ExCom Meeting, John and Polli Brunelli have some spectacular new, stone countertops in their kitchen. It's certainly

nothing to be taken for granite. Of quartz, they are not even slightly jaded.

Last month I reported that Vail would have \$99 lift tickets this season. I was wrong. According to Marvin Hass and the Aspen Times, over the holidays, Vail and Beaver Creek charged \$108 for a one day lift pass! Perhaps you bought the chair. Breckenridge charged \$104. The four Aspen ski areas kept holiday prices to a mere \$99/day.

Who in PVS skied first this season? Bill Hager said that he and Kathy Quinden skied Heavenly on 29 November, the Monday after the Thanksgiving crowds had departed. Kathy and Bill had superb snow, sustained by the "bracing" 15 degree temperature. Did anyone ski earlier?

Many of us had a great August Finger Lakes Wine trip put together by Susan and David Payne. Sadly, it won't happen again. The Paynes have sold their vineyard, and they now spend half time in Florida and the other half in Southern New York. With, of course, a few weeks of skiing thrown in.

Timberrr! In the early December snowstorms, Charlie and Sara Huggins had a good sized tree come down on their house. Luckily it didn't break through the roof.

Jolly ol'...Several months ago, several PVSers received bogus e-mails from Dick Comerford saying that he was stranded in England and needed money to get home. New Member John Holt just got the same e-mail from a friend of his—who had never been in England.

The Wonders of Technology. As a precaution, before leaving for her Florida home, Rachel Abraham needed to replace a sump pump. She mentioned it to a friend. He said I can help, got out his iphone, and in a moment handed Rachel his phone. The woman at the other end was in Colorado. But she could help Rachel in Maryland. Contractors arrived the next day. They had the part and installed it immediately. Rachel is now in Florida. Kneet.

North to Alaska. Maryann Rozzell will soon be enroute to Alaska. Maryann won't be skiing; rather, she is off to see the Northern Lights with Marty Rine. I'm told the Northern Lights have fewer calories than Bud Lights.

Rosemary and Dick Schwartzbard are back from a brief vacation in Ireland. Dick wanted a Meerscham Pipe, but couldn't find a bag for his pipe. Rosemary wanted a heavy real rock, but settled for a sham rock. Kneenuf!

2011 Calendar

Jan	8	Sat	Snowmass Pre-trip Brunch; 11:30 AM (Ruth Powers, VA)
Jan	11	Tue	ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM (Schwartzbard, VA)
Jan	16	Sun	PVS Monthly AFTERNOON Meeting, 2:00 PM (Holts, VA)
Feb	9	Wed	ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM (Conference Call)
Feb	13	Sun	Steamboat Pre-trip Lunch, 1:00 PM (Jablon)
Feb	27	Sun	PVS Monthly AFTERNOON Meeting, 2:00 PM (Jablon, DC)
Mar	15	Tue	PVS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM (Marx, VA)
Mar	22	Tue	ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM (TBA)
Apr	19	Tue	PVS Annual Meeting (TBA)
Apr	26	Tue	ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM (TBA)
May	17	Tue	PVS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 (Knopes, VA)
May	24	Tue	ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM (TBA)



Ski Trips

January 19-26, 2011 Snowmass (DeVilbiss & Mulholland)

February 17-23, 2011 Steamboat (Jablon)



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Melissa FitzGerald (New e-mail address)

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Useful "Links"

Potomac Valley Skiers	http://www.potomacvalleyskiers.org
Capital Golden Skiers	http://www.capitalgoldenskiers.com
BRSC Sanctioned Trips	http://www.skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm
DC Ski Online News	http://www.dcski.com

PVS Board - 2010-2011

Officers, Board Members, & Chairpersons

President – Sharon Mulholland Vice President – Ellie Thayer Secretary – Mary Beale Treasurer – Dick Laeser Ex-Officio – Dottie Villers	EXCOM: <u>First Term:</u> Mary Beale Dick Laeser John Brunelli (1 yr)
Membership Records – Dave Warthen Membership PR Rep – Carolyn DeVilbiss Events – Ray McKinley Ski Trip Comm – Rosemary Schwartzbard TOOT Editor – rotating TOOT Proofread – Ellie Thayer TOOT Mailer – rotating	<u>Second Term:</u> Cara Jablon John Seabold Dick Schwartzbard
	Webmaster – Dave Lerner Meeting Records – Sue Lyon Historian – Jan Marx