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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
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President's Message:



I am looking forward to the end of the hectic holiday season, and the beginning of the ski season. I realize that the ski season has already begun for some of our members, and I envy Dave Lerner for his projected 100 days of skiing this year in

Utah. Those of us who attended the presentation by Brian Eardley at the Ski Center last month learned about all the new equipment that should make skiing easier, namely the even wider skis (best, of course, for deep powder), and the many innovative ski boots.



In showing us the various new ski models, Brian described the skis in terms of "camber," "sidecut," "rocker," and "reverse camber." Brian noted that the ski shapes were "getting interesting," and pointed in particular to the development of a "five point" ski, with five points of contact and reverse camber and side cut in the tip and tail. I thought it would be useful to have a better understanding of these terms,

and have done some research, which I present below.

The term "camber" refers to the shape of the edge of the ski, viewed from the side. In a traditional camber ski, the tips and tails have a slight upward tilt; the skis make contact with the snow below the tip and above the tails, and the center of the ski is arched up slightly away from the ground/snow (this arch is often referred to as "positive camber" or just "camber").

"Sidecut" is the shape of the edge of the ski, viewed from the top or bottom. A ski with "sidecut" is wider at the tip and tail than at the waist of the

ski. There are different amounts of "sidecut" in various skis; Brian recommends a waist of 80-95 cm. (a narrow ski would have a waist of 65-78 cm.). Weighting of a traditional camber sidecut ski, with rotation onto the edge, causes the ski to bend, make contact with the snow along the entire length of the ski, and allows the skier to "carve" a turn. Due to their good edge contact, camber sidecut skis, in addition to providing easy handling and responsive turning, offer good grip on icy slopes.

Rocker skis have tips and/or tails that rise off the ground earlier than in a camber ski, and the midsection is lower to the ground. In a ski with tip "rocker," the tip starts to go up before the sidecut ends, but the ski has "positive" camber for most of the ski. This type of ski will float in powder; depending on the design, the ski can retain good edge grip due to the positive camber (however, some tip rocker skis offer less edge contact and grip on hard packed snow).

--Continued on page 2

2013's First

Monthly Meeting

Marna Blanchette's home

Bethesda, MD

January 13

Sunday, 3:00 PM

Directions next page

Directions

From the Beltway

Take the Beltway I-495 to the River Road exit, MD-190E, toward Washington. Stay on River Road for 3.7 miles. Turn right onto Little Falls Parkway and, after .6 mile, turn left at the light onto Massachusetts Avenue (MD-396). Two lanes turn left onto Mass Ave – stay in the right lane. Take the first right onto Falmouth Road. 5315 is .3 mile on the left. It is a yellow brick house with green/black shutters.

From the South through Washington, DC

Make your way to MacArthur Boulevard. Turn right on Loughboro Road. Turn left on Dalecarlia Parkway. Enter the roundabout and take the 4th exit, Massachusetts Avenue, and proceed into Maryland. After .6 mile, turn left on Falmouth Road. 5315 is .3 mile on the left. It is a yellow brick house with green/black shutters.

Alternate Route through Washington, DC

Take Massachusetts Avenue north through Washington. After the roundabout on Westmoreland Circle, continue north on Massachusetts Avenue and proceed into Maryland. After .6 mile, turn left on Falmouth Road. 5315 is .3 mile on the left. The house is a yellow brick with green/black shutters.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

President's Message, cont.

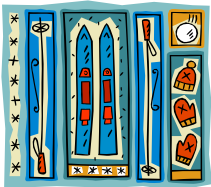
Tail rocker refers to the tail of the ski going up before the sidecut ends. A ski with tail rocker makes a ski easier to ski backwards in powder. Skis with both tip and tail rocker will have some positive camber (upward arch) in the center of the ski. Skis with both tip and tail rocker are biased towards only powder skiing.

There are also full rocker skis, which have a flat camber in the middle of the ski, with tip and tail rockers. Full rocker skis are also referred to as "reverse camber" skis. This type of ski is good at floating in powder, but offers little grip on hard packed snow.

Among the boots that Brian showed us were (1) a three piece boot with a tongue that flips open; (2) boots with "intuition" liners for people with cold feet; (3) a boot by Atomic with soft material on the side for feet with bunions; (4) a boot with a screw that can widen the boot at the front; (5) climbing style boots that have a back release walking feature; and (6) a Fischer vacuum boot with a shell that is heat molded to the contour of the skier's foot. Many of the new boots are lighter in weight.



We also learned about new goggles that have easy to change lenses, which attach to the goggles by magnets.



If you are in the market for new skis, what ski is best for you, with all the options available? Unless you are planning to spend most of your time in deep powder, or want to buy a second pair of skis just to use as powder skis, you should probably purchase a more traditional camber sidecut ski. Brian recommended a Solomon BBR ski, which has an almost slalom sidecut, and is a good all mountain ski because it is quick and easy to turn. Stockli, a small Swiss company, is making a similar ski. I have been very pleased with the Atomic skis that I bought several years ago from the Ski Center. My husband also bought Atomic skis, after trying quite a few demo skis; he is very happy with his Atomics, and has pronounced them far superior to his prior pair of K2 skis. I suggest that you take a trip to the Ski Center to discuss with them the many options available this year in both skis and boots.

Assuming that there is snow at Whitetail on January 4, the Ski Center is having a demo day where you can try some of the more exotic skis that are available this season. I look forward to skiing at Whitetail on January 4, and hope to see many PVS members there that day.

With best wishes for an excellent ski season.

Cara Jablon



In Memory of Dick Clark



Richard Alan Clark, 80, of Williamsburg, passed away on December 19, 2012 at the Hospice House of Williamsburg. Dick (and his wife Marilyn) was a 40 year plus member of PVS. They hosted numerous events and Dick, who was an avid runner, started the annual PVS Fun Runs around Lake Accotink. After the runs everyone repaired to the nearby Clark house for food and drinks. This event ran for some 15 years. For the most part, Dick was quiet. But he had a wry sense of humor, often surprising PVSers with his funny, or occasionally caustic, comments. Dick and Marilyn moved to Williamsburg some seven years ago. Since moving to Williamsburg, Dick and Marilyn hosted two very well attended Williamsburg weekends for PVS. Dick was also a superb skier with perfect form on slopes of any difficulty.



He is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Marilyn; two sons, Vince and his wife, Karen; and Cameron and his wife, Melanie; five grandchildren, a brother, Merrill and his wife, Ingrid; and five nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brother, Chester H. Clark, II.

Dick was born and raised in Seneca Falls, NY, and graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science degree. He began his career with Eastman Kodak Company in NY and later moved to Virginia to work for the federal government, retiring after 35 years of service. An outdoor enthusiast, Dick enjoyed camping, hiking, bicycling, and running. He was also an avid skier and was a twenty-year member of the National Ski Patrol. In addition, he enjoyed sailing and sailboat racing. He was a member of the Colony Auto Enthusiasts and the Williamsburg British Car Club. Dick's musical ability was expressed through playing a baritone horn in a community band in Springfield, VA and he was a member of a church choir in Washington, D.C. for forty years. He was also very fond of the several cats he and Marilyn enjoyed.



The family will receive friends on Thursday, January 3, 2013 from 4-6 PM at Nelsen Funeral Home, 3785 Strawberry Plains Rd, Williamsburg. A memorial service will be held on Friday, January 4 at 11 AM at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, 215 Richmond Rd, Williamsburg, VA.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice House of Williamsburg, 4445 Powhatan Pkwy, Williamsburg, VA 23188, The American Parkinson Disease Association, 135 Parkinson Ave., Staten Island, NY 10305 or the Heritage Humane Society, 430 Waller Mill Rd, Williamsburg, VA 23185. Online condolences may be expressed at www.nelsencares.com.

A tidbit from a profile in Toot: Dick taught Marilyn how to ski before marriage, using what was hi-tech then: wooden skis, cable bindings, and square-toe leather, lace boots. As a Ski Patroller, Dick worked at Massanutten where Marilyn and son, Cam also became Patrollers.

Dick will be sorely missed by us all.





TRIBUTE TO SHELDON DREWS



On the bright and beautiful sunny morning of November 29, 2012, at 9:00am, a memorial service was held for Sheldon Drews at Arlington National Cemetery. Interment was with full military honors. Sheldon's daughters, Dina Drews and Alexandra (Zandi) Sanderson, were there from Oregon and Arizona, respectively. A number of PVS members and Sheldon's friends were in attendance to express sympathy and celebrate the life of Sheldon. A reception at the Ft. Myer Officers' Club followed.

Sheldon was a past president of PVS and we remember the many ski trips with Sheldon in both Europe and the western states. Not too many years ago, Sheldon spent over a year in Silverthorne, CO, checking out the possibility of a move to Colorado. He skied many days with Huey Roberts, but thankfully for PVS friends, he returned home to Arlington.

With sadness we said goodbye to our friend and ski buddy who achieved his wish to ski until the age of 80, which he accomplished on his last trip to Snowmass in 2010.

Charlotte Eddy



via Charlotte Eddy

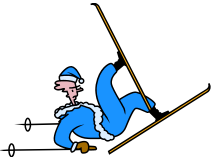
SKI TALK

January 2013



A Happy New Year to all. We have three great ski trips coming up soon: **Steamboat, Chamonix and Canyons**. I am hoping to get some local skiing in before going out west. Here are some possibilities:

LOCAL SKIING:



Ski Demo Day at Whitetail on January 4 sponsored by Ski Center.

With a voucher from Ski Center, you can get a lift ticket for \$30 and demo as many skis as you like. However, if you are 65+, you can get a ticket for \$28 so no need for a voucher. Last year this was canceled for lack of snow but they are more optimistic this year. As of now (a few days before),



Cara and I are planning on going to Whitetail. Give us a call or an email if you are interested. rosemaryschw@gmail.com or rcjablon@aol.com or (R)703 598 6150 or (C)202 669 5322.

Ski Appreciation Day at Whitetail on February 6 sponsored by Ski Chalet. Get a voucher from Ski Chalet for a \$30 lift ticket.

Timberline Ski Appreciation Day is January 10 and the tickets are \$3.00. Now that's a bargain.



John Smith will be coordinating our local ski trips. For those who wish to carpool, there will be a designated meeting place in Gaithersburg. John said feel free to contact him. He normally decides on the weekend for the coming week's schedule. You can email John Smith at johnhsmith@juno.com. His phone number is 301-299-8376.

David Warthen or John Smith will also send an email to the people on the local ski list if a local trip is planned. If you want to be included on the local ski list, let David Warthen know.

Dick Comerford is teaching skiing at **Ski Liberty**. Perhaps we can get a group together for a "Ski Tips" lesson from Dick some Monday as soon as there is snow!

Let me know if anyone is interested in planning a two or three day mid-week trip to **WISP** in January or February. Remember that 70+ skiers ski free!!

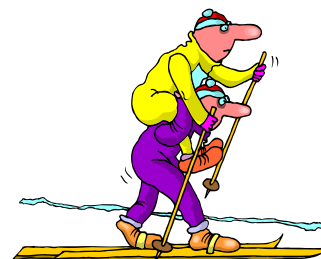


SKI TRIP PROPOSALS FOR 2014

Now that we have officially entered 2013, it is time to plan for 2014. I would like to hear from anyone who would like to lead a ski trip next year. BRSC will be going to Vail early February and Cortina, Italy, early March. If you have never led a ski trip you might want to consider leading a BRSC trip. The Ski Trip Committee would like to have some preliminary proposals/ideas by March. Send questions, ideas or proposals to me.



Rosemary Schwartzbard
rosemaryschw@gmail.com



Ski Trips:



Steamboat Springs

Trip lead by John Lyon and John Holt
February 2 - 9, 2013

The [Potomac Valley Skiers](#) in conjunction with BRSC invite you to attend a week of skiing in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. [Steamboat Springs, Ski Town USA](#) has a base elevation of 6,900 feet, ideal for anyone who has difficulty adapting to high altitude (sleeping below 7,500 feet keeps the headaches away). Besides offering 2,965 acres of trails and glades with a large variety for all levels of downhill skiers, Steamboat has a wealth of other activities. These activities include cross-country skiing, snowshoe tours, snowmobile tours, ice skating, soaking in the natural mineral hot springs, winter fly fishing, the winter driving school center, hot balloon rides, winter horseback riding, dinner sleigh rides, day spas and shopping in Steamboat Springs. In addition, this is the 100th anniversary of Steamboat Springs and there will be lots of additional festivities.

ACCOMMODATIONS: The **STEAMBOAT GRAND** is 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. Restaurants/cafes in the hotel: The Cabin Restaurant and Bar specializes in organic, natural and local fare; Grand Café is a casual Western theme like country store for grabbing a snack or coffee; and Bistro Bar is open pool side.

THE COST IS \$2,045 PER PERSON, based on double occupancy. The price includes:

Lodging at the Steamboat Grand for Seven Nights
Daily Breakfasts
BRSC Welcome Party
One PVS Group Dinner
BRSC Dinner Dance
Après Ski Parties Including One on Top of Mountain
Pre-trip Party
Five-day Lift Ticket
Round Trip Air from Reagan National to Hayden
Round Trip Ground Transfers and Tips

A single supplement is \$685. Non-skiers deduct \$236. If airfare is not included, deduct \$466. Add \$32 to buy a 6-day lift ticket (5-day lift ticket is included).

To reserve a place: Please send a deposit of \$200 per person to John Lyon. See details below.

Cancellation Policy: There is no penalty for airline cancellation up to 95 days before the trip. There is no penalty for lodging cancellation up to 90 days before the trip. The trip leaders are continuing to work out further details regarding cancellation penalties.

Trip Insurance: \$140/person (group rate).

Payment Schedule: **Payment for the trip is due immediately.**

For more information: contact trip leaders John Lyon at jslhiker@verizon.net (703-590-2913) or John Holt john.holt@nreca.coop (703-915-6258). Also, see July '12 TOOT.



PVS & BRSC Eurofest 2013 **Chamonix, France**

February 22 – March 2, 2013

Chamonix is the birthplace of modern winter sports since it hosted the first Olympic Winter Games in 1924, and Mont Blanc is the tallest mountain in Europe west of the Urals.

Chamonix is simply one of Europe's premier ski and snowboard areas. On this trip size matters; please note the size of the Mont Blanc ski area – over 700 km of ski trails that surround our hotel that is located right in the center of Chamonix.

Chamonix is a huge winter paradise surrounded by seven superb ski areas and the most complete and varied terrain we'll visit this ski season. We will ski at Mont Blanc with 24 cable cars and 175 lifts. These cover 300 km of blue runs, 300 km of red runs, and 100 km of black runs. There are more than 42 km of cross country ski trails. Skiers can enjoy the easier slopes of Le Tour and the varied slopes of La Flegere, Le Brevent and Argentiere. Particularly famous is the 20 km run down the Vallee Blanche glacier from the Aiguille du Midi (3840 m) to Italy. This day long ski run requires advance booking with a guide, but is an experience you'll never forget.

Chamonix is also a bustling town which is full of atmosphere, with cobbled streets and squares, beautiful old buildings, a fast running river, and pavement cafes crowded with shoppers and tourists sipping drinks and staring at the glaciers above. Wander through the town and outlying villages and you will discover baroque churches and protestant chapels dating from several hundred years, hotels and palaces from the golden age, Art Deco facades, traditional farmhouses, colossal villas and chalets contrasting with modern constructions. It is this architectural diversity that contributes to Chamonix's unique and indefinable charm. If you like your snow and scenery on the wild side, give Chamonix a try.

- **Price: \$2,355 double occupancy. (Single Supplement + \$400; Trip W/O Air - \$900)**
- **Transportation – Very Simple (Easier than a trip to Vail):**
 - **Airfare: Round trip airfare direct to Geneva from Dulles Airport on United.**
 - **Ground: Round trip charter bus from Geneva airport to hotel in Chamonix (1 Hr).**
- **Lodging: Seven nights lodging, double occupancy at the centrally located (3 star) Hotel Alpina.**
- **Food: Full buffet breakfast and dinner included daily.**
- **Insurance: Emergency Medical and repatriation insurance provided at no extra cost.**
- **Sightseeing Day Trip Options**
- **Pre and Post trip extension are available.**
- **3 Blue Ridge parties with 6 drink coupons. Friday night party includes DJ for dancing.**
- **2 Wine and cheese gatherings with the PVS trip leader, plus ski tips from Mount Liberty.**

Ski Day Trips outside of Chamonix:

- **Courmayeur:** Through the Mont Blanc Tunnel to Italy.
- **Verbier, Switzerland:** One day out of the six-day Mont Blanc ticket may be used at Verbier. Although there is enough skiing in the region to ski two weeks without skiing the same run twice, this could be a once in a lifetime chance to ski the prestigious Verbier. Charter buses will be provided for the day for those who are interested.

For more information: Dick.Comerford@verizon.net, (H) 703 777-9374, (C) 571 426-3098. For further information, see July '12 TOOT.

Potomac Valley Skiers Trip to the Canyons Resort in Utah

Sunday to Sunday, March 17-24, 2013

Trip leaders: Liz Warren-Boulton and Reg Heitchue

We will stay at the elegant Canyons Grand Summit Hotel (<http://www.canyonsresort.com/grandhome.html>) with ski-in and ski-out access located in the center of the Canyons Resort in Utah. The hotel's condominium suites provide complete kitchen and living room amenities with two bedrooms that accommodate two people in each.

Package price of \$1,980 (based on a group size of 20 to 24 people) includes:

Roundtrip air from Dulles on United Airlines (subject to change)

Roundtrip group charter bus Salt Lake City to the hotel

7 nights lodging in double occupancy bedroom suites

Welcome party provided by the hotel; private mountain tour

Pre- and post-trip party; après ski parties

(Land package only \$1,388; single supplement \$1,259)



Discounted group lift tickets are additional and will be available at great prices.

The Canyons Ski Resort:

The Canyons (40 minutes from the Salt Lake Airport) has recently been described as “the new big kid in Park City.” Since 1997 the Canyons has developed and expanded into Utah's largest ski and snowboard resort and the 5th largest resort in the United States. The resort encompasses eight separate peaks over a span of 3.5 miles and provides a 3,190 foot vertical drop; peak altitude 9,990 feet; and base altitude 6,800 feet. There is plenty of superb skiing for everyone at all levels. Start the day on the Orange Bubble Express, a high-speed quad with enclosed cabins and heated seats – what a treat. We also plan a ski day in fabulous Deer Valley (7 miles away) and another in Park City (4 miles).

A few paces from the hotel are fun après ski venues as well as a group of fine restaurants including award winning “The Farm” as well as several great on-mountain lunch cafeterias and restaurants. For those who don't ski (and those who do) the Canyons Spa and Health Club located in our hotel offers a wide range of rejuvenating therapies. The historic and charming mountain town of Park City is a short complimentary bus or van ride away where many beautiful art galleries, boutiques, and fine cafes and restaurants await your attention.

Contact Liz at elizawb@gmail.com or Reg at heitchu@yahoo.com .

For further information, see July '12 TOOT.

Past Event

PVS Holiday Meeting

December 18, 2012



Our gracious hostess, Jan Marx, welcomed 28 PVS members to her nicely holiday-decorated home in Springfield, VA, for our December PVS holiday party meeting.

Plenty of wine and sodas were available, and fellow PVSers brought a bountiful array of delicious appetizers and desserts. There were shrimp, pate, meatballs, cheeses, smoked salmon, dip, and fruit on the table. There were also plenty of cookies, candy, and cake - enough to satisfy every sweet tooth. We had a merry, jolly time, trying all the goodies while conversing with our fellow PVS members and their spouses. In fact, Santa was amongst us. He, for some reason, must have been naughty this past year. At least that's what was printed on Ray's Santa hat.

Ruth Powers traveled from her new home in Richmond, VA to be with us. She journeyed north to stay with Carolyn and Dave DeVilbiss. Dave Warthen was walking quite well after his recent hip surgery, only using a cane for added stability.



Vice president Bob Knopes presided over a short meeting. The events report was given by "Santa" Ray. He announced that our next two meetings would be on Sunday afternoons, January 13 and February 17. Rosemary and trip leaders discussed upcoming ski trips. Rosemary also asked for suggestions for future ski trips. Local skiing was mentioned, if we have any snow.

After our meeting we socialized and enjoyed some more munchies and coffee or wine. Everyone had an enjoyable time and we thank our hostess Jan for providing such a nice, warm inviting atmosphere for our party and meeting.

by *Sue Lyon*

Past Event

Eclipse Chamber Orchestra Concert

PVSers thoroughly enjoyed the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra afternoon concert on December 9, 2012. It was held at the George Washington Masonic Memorial Temple -- a beautiful building in its own right. The performance was in a tiered seating hall that offered remarkable acoustics, handsomely decorated walls and high ceiling, and a polished parquet floor.



All of the members of the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra are also members of the National Symphony Orchestra. In this performance, concertos by Vivaldi and Bach were featured. One thing that makes the Eclipse performances special is the explanations given before each piece. They help the audience learn about the pieces and composers so they can better appreciate the music. The Bach Concerto for Oboe and Violin was most engaging. Violins and cellos challenging and answering each other was fun to see.



A special, surprise treat was the organ solo played by William Neil, who played the Kennedy Center's new organ at its recent inauguration. "Trumpets" sounded in from the pipes in the ceiling of the hall.

A reception followed where the musicians joined the audience for refreshments and conversation.

Eclipse's final concert of the year will be on Sunday April 23 at 3:00PM. It will feature the music of Mozart, including his glorious *Sinfonia Concertante* for Violin and Viola.



by Jan Marx & Ray Mckinley

Below is the review from the Washington Post:

Eclipse brings out the subtleties of an 18th-century 'firestorm'

By Stephen Brookes

The early 18th century was a great time to be alive, if you happened to love music. Not only was Johann Sebastian Bach churning out one masterpiece after another, but a dozen other top-notch composers — from Handel to Vivaldi to Telemann — were all thriving as well, generating what cellist David Teie of the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra calls a "firestorm" of creative energy.

Members' Corner

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



TOOT:

January 2013 begins the 48th Volume of the Potomac Valley Skiers' Newsletter, the TOOT. The Newsletter was begun in 1965, and has become a mainstay of communication within our ski club. Every edition of the newsletter is archived on the club's website <pvskiers.org>, and each edition can be viewed via username and password.

When first started, the newsletter was a one-page bulletin, which was snail-mailed to members. Now, the TOOT is rarely less than 8 pages, is in color with graphics, and is distributed via e-mail to 95% of the membership. For the convenience of members, indices (links to specific TOOT articles) of Profiles, PVS Anniversaries, Other Special Items, Obituaries, PVS Ski Trip Write Ups (2000-present), and Event Write ups (2010-present) are available via the Newsletter button on the PVS website, with username and password.

When TOOT began in 1965 with no computers, there was one TOOT Editor. However, with the increased complexity of production, our staff has expanded. The present TOOT staff includes Content/Proof Editor, E. Thayer; Layout Editors: J. Marx, M. Hass, and D. Warthen; USPS TOOT distribution, B. Leonhardt; and Electronic TOOT distribution, D. Warthen.

Recent updates to the PVS website, under the Past Events button, are graphical presentations of the present year's events with guest access to those TOOT write ups via secure links. This is a user-friendly feature for those seeking information about our ski club and possible membership.

Other TOOT information also appears on the PVS website: ski trip announcements, the current TOOT calendar of events, PVS Charter and Founding Members, Past PVS Presidents and ExCom Members, and the PVS Cook Book.

TOOT Distribution to 147 Members:

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Roster Changes: (notify dwarthen@verizon.net)

Thanks to:

-TOOT Content/Proof Editor – E. Thayer

-TOOT Layout Editor – J. Marx

-TOOT USPS – B. Leonhardt

--D. Warthen Electronic TOOT

Happy New Year, MMXIII:

"Auld Lang Syne"

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And auld lang syne.

CHORUS:

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll tak a cup of kindness yet,
For auld lang syne!

And surely ye'll be your pint-stowp,
And surely I'll be mine,
And we'll tak a cup o kindness yet,
For auld lang syne!

We twa hae run about the braes,
And pou'd the gowans fine,
But we've wander'd monie a weary fit,
Sin auld lang syne.

We twa hae paidl'd in the burn,
Frae morning sun till dine,
But seas between us braid hae roar'd
Sin auld lang syne.

And there's a hand my trusty fiere,
And gie's a hand o thine,
And we'll tak a right guid-willie waught,
For auld lang syne.





THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley
RaysKnee@gmail.com

2013 is now upon us. It's full of bright promise, fluffy white powder and the expectation of a truly great ski season. For the 34th year, let me be the first, and likely only, one to wish you all a most Happy Knee Year.

A few resolutions: First I promise to be good to you all. You and the rest of PVS are my subjects. Without you and your foibles there would be nothing to write about. Also, without you as readers there would be no reason for the Knee. Keep up the good work. **And PLEASE send your Knee 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 Knee is intended to be read!

Sadly, as you will read elsewhere in this TOOT, Dick Clark passed away just before Christmas. Dick and Marilyn were 40-year plus PVS members and good friends. They moved to Williamsburg seven years ago. Dick wrote a guest Knee in 1988, where he mentioned a PVS Golf Tourney at "the Charnita Country Club." He was one of the most perfect skiers ever. He will most certainly be missed. And, of course, our condolences to Marilyn.

John and Polly Brunelli drove to Philadelphia with friends to attend the Army-Navy football game. I wonder which side retired Admiral John was rooting for.

Skiing looks great for the season. Marvin Hass reports that French resorts are overwhelmed with new snow. WV's Homestead had its earliest opening ever, and Big Sky had over 60" on the ground by mid December. Wow!

Got a note from Melissa FitzGerald. Just before Christmas, she was at her son's house at Crystal Mt., near Mt. Rainier in WA. "We have 70" of new powder, and skiers are coming in from Utah to enjoy it!" She certainly had a very White Christmas!

Let me give you two hints for success. 1) Never tell anyone everything you know.

Hurricane Sandy was really bad news for Bob and Louann Eadie. Their second home at Deep Creek Lake was a casualty. A tree came down and took out their front deck and part of their roof. The house is now not "tree chic."

The Eadies had some really good news too. Bob had cancer surgery on December 21 and it was successful. If it was a trade, it was a good one!

PVS officers are traveling. PVS Secretary and President, Bob and Cara Jablon are just back from Oregon. And Veep Bob Knopes will soon be heading for Spain. Ski Trip Chair, Rosemary Schwartzbard and Dick are back from a "Bike and Barge trip in Belgium." Rosemary always does alliterative trips!

In the President's Message, Cara Jablon always manages to get ski-related photos. I particularly liked the one of pumpkin chiffon pie.

Global Warming could destroy the ski industry says Marvin Hass, quoting the NY Times. As temperatures increase, the nation's ski areas, especially those at lower elevations and latitudes, will eventually vanish. More than half of the 103 ski resorts in the Northeast will not be able to maintain a 100-day season by 2039. In Aspen, CO the snowpack could be confined to the top quarter of the mountain.

The strategy for coping with a lack of snow is to make it; 88 percent of resorts do so. Improvements in snow-making technology have helped resorts compensate for warming trends. But that may not be the case for long. With nighttime minimum temperatures warming at a faster rate than daytime maximum temperatures, it is uncertain as to what extent snow-making will last as an adaptation strategy. Further, even in the Rockies, it is difficult to find enough water to make snow. After last year's dry winter and a parched, sweltering summer, reservoirs are depleted, and streams are low.

The Knee is pleased to report that Gail Pease is continuing her recovery from a stroke. She still doesn't have full use of her right hand and arm, but Gail has returned to feeding horses in the mornings. She also helps with daughter Angie's veterinary practice. Larry Pease continues with his work as a paid ski patroller. **Such a deal!**

Veep Bob Knopes recently signed up for Facebook. Then he found there was no one he wanted to know. Melissa FitzGerald just finished reading Bob's book on growing up on a farm. She loved it and will become a farmer.

Lots of news on early skiers next month.

2013 PVS Calendar:

- Jan 04 Fri Ski Center Demo Day, Whitetail, PA (Contact Rosemary or Cara - see Ski Talk)
- Jan 10 Thu Customer Appreciation Day, \$3.00 voucher Ski Chalet (Timberline, WV)
- Jan 13 Sun Monthly Meeting: 3:00 PM, Marna Blanchette, Bethesda, MD
- Feb 06 Wed Customer Appreciation Day, \$30.00 voucher Ski Chalet (Whitetail, PA)
- Feb 17 Sun Monthly Meeting: 2:00 or 3:00 PM (TBA)
- April 16 Tue Annual Meeting: 7:30, Reg Heitchue's Reston Party Room



Ski Trips:



- Feb 02-09, 2013: PVS & BRSC *Steamboat Springs*, CO (John Lyon & John Holt)
- Feb 22-Mar 02, 2013: PVS & BRSC Eurofest, *Chamonix*, France (Dick Comerford)
- Mar 17-24, 2013: PVS *The Canyons*, UT (Liz Warren-Boulton & Reg Heitchue)

Capital Golden Skiers:

- January 8, 2013 (Tuesday) –An Evening of Bridge
- January 13, 2013 (Sunday) – Roads of Arabia at the Sackler Gallery
- January 17, 2013 (Thursday) – Sugarloaf Mountain Hike
- January 27, 2013 (Sunday) – Dance at the Elks Lodge
- January 29, 2013 (Tuesday) – Planning Meeting
- February 19, 2013 (Tuesday) – An Evening of Bridge
- February 21, 2013 (Thursday) – A Hike in Burke Lake Park
- February 24, 2013 (Sunday) – Dial “M” for Murder at Little Theater of Alexandria (LTA)
- February 24, 2013 (Sunday) – Dance at the Elks Lodge



Local Skiing

When weather permits, impromptu weekday ski trips may be organized to Whitetail, 90-minute drive, or Ski Liberty, 60 minute drive. Typically we arrive at the ski resorts around 11:00 am and ski till 3:00 pm to avoid traffic.

Useful Ski "Links"	
Potomac Valley Skiers.....	potomacvalleyski.org
Capital Golden Skiers.....	capitalgoldenskiers.com
BRSC Sanctioned Trips.....	skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm
DC Ski Online News.....	dcski.com

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