

Volume 48
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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

June 2013

www.pvskiers.org

info@pvskiers.org

President's Message:

Big news!

PVS has just dramatically expanded our membership; as of this writing, 24 members from the disbanding Capital Golden Skiers (CGS) have joined PVS! In this time of lower ski club participation across the nation and around the world, PVS is primed and ready to move forward with even more exciting activities.

Here's what happened: the management of Capital Golden Skiers decided to dismantle their club and offer their members the opportunity to join other ski clubs - a great idea. After talking with us at PVS, CGS invited the Presidents and representatives of four local ski clubs to come to a luncheon in April to meet about 40 CGS members for the purpose of acquainting them with what each club has to offer.

PVS is easy to talk about: we have a great time on fabulous ski trips around the world, we meet in members' homes for great talk and delectable goodies, we hike and bike and share other fun activities -- and we have the friendliest people in town. What's not to like about PVS, right? After we pointed out the virtues of our club, 24 of the Capital Golden Skiers have elected to join so far.

Membership Records Chair, Dave Warthen, now reports our membership at 173 members and counting. Over the coming months we plan to publish bios in the TOOT so that we can get to know each and every one of our new members.

We're planning a special welcome to those joining from Capital Golden Skiers and all other newcomers to PVS in an upcoming event. More to come on that soon; stay tuned to future TOOTs. We hope everyone will plan to attend all of our summer events (think "Summer Fest" in July to talk about the 2014 ski trips and "Steak and Swim" in August to enjoy the finest filet mignon and take a dip in the pool). Get to know those new to PVS. Let's show our new members why we're the club that has the best ski friends ever! Welcome, new members, to PVS! We're excited to have you!

And, everyone, don't forget that it's time now to sign up for one or more of our four great ski trips for 2014! See more info in this issue of TOOT.

--Nancy



June General Meeting
Tuesday, 18 June 2013, 7:30 PM
At the home of John & Barbara Holt
1424 Highwood Drive
McLean, VA 22101-2519
703-534-2512

BHOLT@NVCC.edu, john.holt@nreca.coop

--Directions next page



Directions: 1424 Highwood Drive, McLean, VA 22101-2519 (check maps)

From Washington, DC via Chain Bridge:

Take Chain Bridge onto N. Glebe Road, 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 Road. 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 Street.** 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.



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 Road. 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 Street.** 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.



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 Road. 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 Street.** 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.

In Virginia:

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

NUMBER 86

The midweek PVS skiers and their spouses celebrated the 86th birthday of Shirley Rettig on Friday May 25th at the TARA THAI in the RIO Center in Gaithersburg, MD. Shirley started the skiing season with two weeks in Utah in December. She and her younger sister went to Chamonix in February and March with Dick Comerford, and then rushed home from London to get a few days in March at Liberty Mountain with John Smith.

Happy Birthday Shirley!

--Sara Huggins



Jean van der Tak, Shirley Rettig, & John Smith

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Coming Event:

Special Event !!!

Join us at PVS' 23nd (*almost* annual)



“STEAK AND SWIM”

At the HINES'

11019 John Marshall Highway, Delaplane, VA
Saturday August 3, 2013 at 3pm rain or shine

This is PVS' oldest annual club event!

Celebrate summer at the Hines' beautiful Delaplane, VA home where the living' is good --- and the steaks -oh my! Limited to 40. Reserve Now! Deadline to sign up or cancel: July 27th.

BRING: Your own bathing suit and towel and either an **appetizer, salad, or dessert.**

INCLUDED: steaks, baked potatoes and fixings, beverages and lots of fun!!

Cost: Approximately \$15 per person.

NOTE: Because of the cost outlay to our hosts, “no-shows” will be responsible for price of steak, potatoes and beverages supplied by our hosts if reservations are not cancelled by July 27th.

To sign up phone Kerry or Marianne 540 364-4810, or email mchines@erols.com to tell them what you'll bring.



SKI TALK

I would like to welcome our new members from Capital Golden Skiers. We look forward to your participation in our ski trips and other club activities.

We have an ambitious ski season coming up in 2014. We are going back to **Snowmass**, a club favorite. We have a unique adventure/ski trip to **Alyeska, Alaska**, which will include going to Anchorage for the opening ceremony of the Iditarod dog sled race. We are participating in the BRSC Eurofest in **Cortina, Italy**. Last, but not least, we are co-sponsoring with Capital Golden Skiers a trip to **Vail** for the BRSC Western Carnival. Take a look at the flyers and please sign up early so the Ski Trip Leaders can make their early deposits.

The **Ski Travel Show** took place May 3 at the Tysons Corner Marriott. Fifteen PVSers attended, including five new members from Capital Golden Skiers. Among our attendees was our President, Nancy McKinley, even

though it was her birthday! Representatives of various ski areas showcased their resorts to generate interest by ski clubs in visiting those resorts. The vendors came with maps, brochures, pins, pens and other goodies to gain attention. It was an excellent opportunity to get information about the various resorts and to talk to people from

other ski clubs about their experiences and future plans. There was a cash bar and some food was served throughout the evening. The evening concluded with a prize drawing; the only PVSers who won trips were those who had already left and could, therefore, not collect a prize. Isn't that unfortunate?

The following day the **semi-annual BRSC meeting** was held. John Holt, Dick Comerford and I attended. Representatives from each of the Council clubs discussed past trips, future trips and any problems the clubs may be having. It was reported that the BRSC trips to Steamboat and Chamonix went exceedingly well, each with no major problems. Also discussed were the 2014 trips to Vail and Cortina. There was a representative from Vail and a representative from Holiday Tours, the vendor of the Cortina trip. If you go to the BRSC website (www.skicouncil.com), you can find a three minute video of Cortina.

Other news: Alyeska Resort is replacing their Chair 6 with a new high-speed detachable quad, which will make it easier to access the upper mountain trails. Vail is replacing Chair 4 and last year they replaced the Vista Bahn with a new Gondola. Also, there is a new restaurant at mid-Vail. With the Vail ski pass, you can also ski at Keystone, Breckenridge and Beaver Creek.



Please see the initial flyers for our 2014 trips in this TOOT. We are happy that the prices are comparable to last year's prices. The trips are still a bargain compared to what you might be able to book individually. All of our trips include parties, dinners and other activities. Let me know if you have any questions.

--Rosemary Schwartzbard
rosemaryschw@gmail.com

Ski Trips:

Snowmass 2014

Wednesday to Wednesday, January 15-22, 2014

We're going back to Snowmass!! Join us for a return trip to this "Old Faithful" ski resort. Once again, we will be staying at our beloved Snowmass Mountain Chalet. Reserve your space now for this PVS favorite!

- Snowmass offers direct access to 3,100 acres of slope-side skiing just outside the door.
- The skiing terrain totals more than 5,000 acres with interchangeable lift tickets and free bus service to Aspen Highlands, Ajax Mountain, and Buttermilk ski areas.
- Slope-side lodging at Snowmass Mountain Chalet includes a daily family-style breakfast and daily soup lunch, greatly appreciated by trip participants and other guests, many of whom return year after year. This small hotel, with its welcoming staff, is unique for its convenience and friendly ambiance.
- The trip will include airfare (or land only), van to and from airport, hotel gratuities, ski passes (at a great rate), pre-trip party, hotel apres ski parties, and group dinner to celebrate our trip!

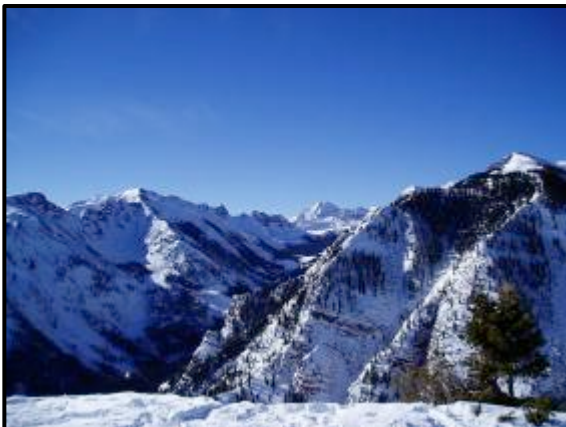


Trip costs:

Full Snowmass trip package	\$1,965	
"Land only"	\$1,432	
Single Supplement	+\$711	(greatly reduced this year)



PVS has reserved 21 rooms. Those interested can now register by sending **\$300 to Carolyn DeVilbiss** at 4508 Peacock Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304 (note "PVS-Snowmass 2014" on the memo line)



Sign up early for the limited air spaces (good price, good schedule)!

For more information contact trip leaders:
Carolyn DeVilbiss at 703-370-4865 or 703-509-0189 c
(carolyn.maurer@verizon.net)
Louann Eadie at 703-860-0318 or 703-203-0936 c
(louann50@mac.com)

Ski Trips:

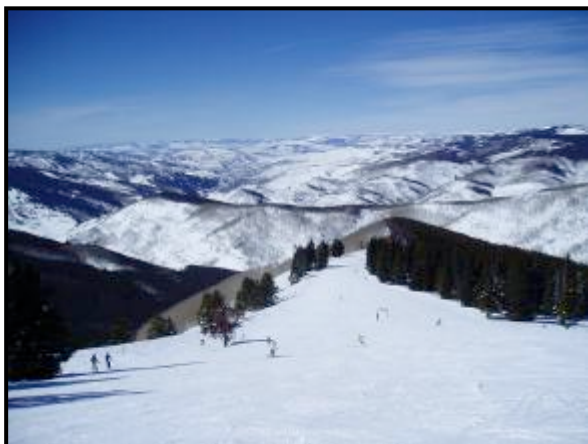
**POTOMAC VALLEY SKIERS and CAPITAL GOLDEN SKIERS
BLUE RIDGE SKI COUNCIL TRIP TO **VAIL, COLORADO**
FEBRUARY 1 – 8, 2014**

Join us on this BRSC trip to Vail co-sponsored by Potomac Valley Skiers (PVS) and Capital Golden Skiers (CGS). We will be staying at the ski-in/ski-out Vail Cascade Resort and Spa, which is a complete destination in itself, offering all the services and amenities you'd expect in a AAA Four-Diamond ski resort in Vail, Colorado. In addition to an award-winning spa and health club, fine dining and ski-in/ski-out accommodations, they provide a shuttle to Lionshead and Vail Village and Infinity edge outdoor pool and three outdoor hot tubs.



PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- * Roundtrip airfare between Washington, DC, and Denver on United Airlines
- * Roundtrip group transfers with complimentary bottled water, Denver Airport to the Vail Cascade Resort & Spa, with a 45-minute grocery/liquor stop en route
- * Seven nights lodging at the Vail Cascade Resort & Spa
- * Five of Seven Day Adult Group Lift Tickets valid at Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone and Arapahoe Basin (transportation to alternate resorts is available at an additional fee)
- * Complimentary Mountain Tour on Sunday for intermediate and advanced skiers
- * Wine & Cheese welcome reception at Charter Sports on arrival day



Blue Ridge Ski Council Activities:

- Sunday Night Welcome Reception, February 2, 7:00pm – 9:00pm
- Mid-Week Après-Ski Party, Tuesday, February 4, 4:00 pm – 6:00pm
- Farewell Dinner Dance, Thursday, February 6, 7:00 pm – 11:00pm
- BRSC RACE, Tuesday, February 4, 10am-1pm. Black Forest Race Arena

PACKAGE PRICE PER PERSON:

\$ 1,963.00 [from Reagan National Airport], double occupancy, Vail Cascade Resort & Spa

\$ 2007.00 [from Dulles Airport], double occupancy, Vail Cascade Resort & Spa

Add \$ 788.00 for single supplement

Deduct \$ 445.00 for package without airline ticket

DEPOSIT: Please send deposit of **\$200.00 made out to Inge Lesjak** to reserve space on this trip and send it to: Inge Lesjak, 8123 Kingsview Court, Springfield, VA 22152 ingelesjak@aol.com

Initial deposit of \$ 200.00 due as soon as possible;
\$500 per person due September 15;
\$500 per person due October 15;
final payment due December 10.

Alyeska, Alaska with PVS

February 25 to March 4, 2014

Alyeska, Alaska <<http://www.alyeskaresort.com/>> is Alaska's premier ski area, located just 40 miles from Anchorage International Airport. Mt. Alyeska's base elevation is 250 feet and the total vertical rise is 3,200 feet. The summit is accessed by the Aerial Tram and affords panoramic views of the Chugach Mountains, one of the wildest places on Earth, with water views in one direction and glaciers in the other. Alyeska offers a mountain experience for all levels of skiers and riders, with 1,500 skiable acres, 113 acres of snowmaking, and average annual snowfall of 650 inches. Ski terrain composition is 11% Beginner, 52% Intermediate, and 37% Expert/Advanced.



Accommodations are double occupancy deluxe rooms in the Hotel Alyeska with ski-in/out access. The hotel offers complimentary guest use of the saltwater pool, whirlpool, traditional sauna, and fitness room. The Spa at Alyeska offers an extensive variety of specialty and custom treatments.

Numerous activities available through the Hotel concierge: Heli & Cat skiing; excursions to Portage Glacier (weekends only), Whittier & Prince William Sound, Anchorage, the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, Turnagain Arm; and arranging dogsledding, flightseeing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing. Possible Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) viewing with cooperative sun flares.

A day excursion to Anchorage for the opening ceremony of Alaska's premier sporting event, the Iditarod Musher (Dog Sled) Race, is included. Highlights of the day are: the ceremonial start of the Iditarod, lunch at the Glacier Brew House, tour of the Alaska Native Heritage Center, and the crazy "Running of the Reindeer."



Cost is \$1,550 per person for deluxe accommodations, round-trip air from Washington, bus transfers to and from Alyeska, Anchorage excursion, and pre-trip party. Flights to and from Anchorage are with United from BWI. Single supplement is \$645. Options available for daily breakfast buffet, room upgrades, and trip insurance. Lift tickets are not included; costs for 70+ = \$10.00/day; 60-69 = \$45/day or \$180 for 5-of-6 day; adult = \$60/day or \$240 for 5-of-6 day. Trip Leaders: Kerry and Marianne Hines, mchines@erols.com, skobelev@gwu.edu or 540-364-4810.

Ski Trips:

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, PVS & BRSC (Blue Ridge Ski Council)
March 7 - March 17, 2014



Additional Details and PRICES to come

Cortina is located in the Dolomites, the range that is included on the UNESCO World Heritage List for its extraordinary beauty and unique landscape. This World Heritage Site is widely regarded as being among the most attractive mountain landscapes in the world, one that you should not miss.

Cortina d'Ampezzo is a paradise for snow enthusiasts ranging from its early Olympic participation to its annual World Cup ski events. A location unrivalled by any other in the Alps, it offers a wide variety of slopes of every level of difficulty, with something to please everyone. Cortina is part of the Dolomiti Superski area, the world's largest skiing carousel that links 12 top ski resorts: one pass gives you access to 450 lifts and 1220 kilometers of trails.

In addition to the beauty of the area and the vastness of its snow sports paradise, Cortina offers a taste of the good life with good food, great wine and the luxury of slowness and enjoyment. Soak up the international atmosphere on Corso Italia, the famous pedestrian street with classy shops, refined restaurants, art, culture, and tradition of Italy.

The trip begins with the natural rush to the airport, followed by the flight across the ocean to Venice Marco Polo Airport. There we will have some time to rest and view some of the sights on our two-hour bus ride to Cortina and the experience continues....

Included:

Air between Washington (IAD or BWI) and Venice via Delta Airlines with a stop at JFK

Round trip transfers between Venice and Cortina

7 nights' accommodations at a 4* or 5* hotel in downtown Cortina

Full breakfast buffet and six 3-course dinners at the hotel

3 BRSC parties: Welcome at the Olympic Ice Stadium, Après Ski at Tofana Ski Area by Cable Car, and Farewell Dinner Dance at Lake Ghedina with a 4-course dinner, drinks, and dancing

Après ski wine and cheese with the trip leaders on days between the BRSC parties

Optional sightseeing and shopping tours: Conegliano (+wine tasting), Bolzano, Innsbruck, Salzburg

Possible trip extension to Florence

2 nights' accommodations at a 4* hotel in Venice after Cortina

Trip insurance

Dick Comerford (Trip Leader)

571-426-3098 c

dick.comerford@verizon.net

Members' Corner



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

Thayer/Chapman trip to Holland, April 11–20, 2013

In mid-April, Jack and I headed to Holland to see some tulips and a lot of art. We were on a nine-day Road Scholar trip on a small barge traveling to Amsterdam, Haarlem, Leiden, Rotterdam, Delft, and Gouda. Alas, the tulips were confined to planters and hothouses, still amazing and beautiful, but not yet in the fields because of an extended winter.



The art was magnificent. I am a lover of the art of Vincent (“Van Gogh” is virtually unpronounceable in Dutch) and we saw a lot of his paintings. My favorite museum was the Kroller-Muller Museum an hour and a half outside Amsterdam. Seeing Vincent’s Café Terrace at Night made the trip worthwhile on its own. We also saw many paintings by Rembrandt and a few by Vermeer on our journey through Holland. We visited the Frans Hals Museum in Haarlem. Alas, Vermeer’s Girl with the Pearl Earring, usually in The Hague, was in Tokyo.

Keukenhof is a 150-acre garden filled with tulips, many in huge warehouse-sized hothouses, and many other flowers. It was beautiful even without a lot of tulips coming up in the



grounds. It would not be Holland without windmills and we saw plenty of those also. I was surprised at how many thatched roof houses we saw while barging along the canals and rivers. I had associated those houses with the British Isles, but saw many more in Holland than I ever did in England or Ireland.

Life on the barge was cozy. In real estate lingo “cozy” is a euphemism for small and that held true on the barge also. However, it was more than adequate and the 16 Road Scholar participants quickly bonded. I did not hear anyone complain about the very narrow beds and small cabins. Meals were served family style at three tables. The food was hearty and good.

I loved stepping off the barge and being able to walk into the small towns. The canal houses were charming and the streets spotless. There were only a few churches worth visiting, in contrast to other parts of Europe. This was due to the effects of the Protestant reformation and the paucity of grand church art. We did see spectacular stained glass windows in St. John’s Church in Gouda (another unpronounceable Dutch word).



We visited the Royal Delft Porcelain Factory where we saw artisans’ hand painting the iconic blue and white pieces. A cashier was asked whether the Dutch bought Delft and she answered, “no, only the Japanese and the Americans.”

All in all, it was a special trip and Jack and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

--Ellie Thayer

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-New members listed on page 3

Thanks to:

-TOOT Content/Proof Editor – E. **Thayer**

-TOOT USPS – **Volunteers**

--D. Warthen – Layout Editor & Electronic TOOT

***MAY GENERAL MEETING, May 21, 2013
at the Home of Lee & Sal Mahallati***



The May 21 meeting of the Potomac Valley Skiers was called to order by President Nancy McKinley at the home of Lee and Sal Mahallati. There were 30 in attendance. Nancy mentioned that she, on behalf of PVS, and three other ski clubs made presentations to the disbanding Capital Golden Skiers, inviting them to join our group. To date, 24 have taken us up on that offer. The new additions bring our membership to 173.

Ray McKinley announced several events. The monthly meeting of the Executive Committee will be by conference call on May 28. The June 18 meeting will be held at the home of John & Barbara Holt

in McLean, VA. The July 28 Summerfest will be held at the home of Bob & Cara Jablon in Washington, DC. At this point, Cara told us of Bob's recent fall, his surgery, and the problems he is experiencing. Bob, we feel your pain. The summer Steak and Swim event will be on



August 3 at the home of Kerry & Marianne Hines.

Ellie Thayer introduced the ski trip leaders who were present, and they gave summaries of their upcoming 2014 winter ski trips. Carolyn DeVilbiss and Louann Eadie will be leading the January 15 to 22 trip to Snowmass, Colorado. The cost is \$1955 per person, which includes daily breakfast and lunch, and parties. On February 1-8, in conjunction with the Blue Ridge Ski Council, Inge Lesjak will lead a trip to Vail, Colorado. The estimated cost is \$2000. Kerry & Marianne Hines are the trip leaders for a trip to Alyeska, Alaska, from



February 25 to March 4. Estimated cost is \$1550 per person, but does not include meals or lifts. Amazingly, lifts and rentals for those 70 and older are \$10/day. Dick Comerford spoke of his March 7 - 17 trip to Cortina, Italy – also in conjunction with Blue Ridge Ski Council. The trip will include three parties, six dinners, and seven breakfasts with possible side trips. The price has not yet been finalized.

As always, the PVSers loved the social hour and especially appreciated the fabulous table that Lee presented. Homemade meatballs (with a special sauce), pesto, cheese, crackers, salami, chips, dips, wine, sodas – truly a wonderful spread. The evening ended with the group surrounding carrot cake, cookies, and a huge bowl of strawberries and blueberries, with whipped cream, of course.



--John Holt

Ski Trip Report:

Chamonix 2013

On Friday, 22 Feb 2013, 11 of 17 PVS participants departed Dulles Airport for the BRSC-sponsored ski trip to Chamonix, France. The flight on United Airlines arrived in Geneva on time, and the group was met in the airport by Judy & Lisa of Group Travel. A total of 140 BRSC members were on this trip.

Two members arrived for the ski week with an arm in a cast. Beverly Morris, sister of Shirley Rettig, was kicked in her arm by a horse in January & suffered a broken bone. Dorian Janney tripped on a curb in Paris and also broke a bone in her arm.



We arrived in Chamonix early on Saturday, just in time to enjoy an open-air market across the street from our hotel. Hotel Alpina was very conveniently located a half block from the main pedestrian shopping area. Buffet breakfast and dinners were located on the chandeliered top floor dining room with stunning panoramic views of the snow-covered mountains & ski trails.

On Sunday, a dozen PVSers joined a side trip to Annecy, a charming medieval lakeside town 1½ hours from Chamonix. An annual festival was being held in the old town section of Annecy. All types of elaborate costumes were on display, worn by actors who posed for thousands of

tourists taking photos over several hours. Annecy reminded us immediately of Venice, with a canal dissecting the town. The weather was very cold, but good.

Monday pleased skiers with a beautiful sunny day on the slopes of Chamonix. The snow was good and smiles abounded. The afternoon was capped with a cocktail party of French hors d'oeuvres and bar drinks for all BRSC participants prior to dinner.

Tuesday started off with a bus trip to Courmayeur, Italy, including a half dozen PVS skiers & shoppers. Skiers who stayed in Chamonix enjoyed a sunny day on the slopes. Our trip hosts had full participation at a PVS après ski party in their room before dinner at 7. A new record was set in consuming the local Cote du Rhone, and an expedition was sent out to search the town for more when the local market ran out.

An early morning bus on Wednesday took a small group on a 2½ hour trip to Lyon. On Thursday, 6 PVS members left early in the morning to tour Lausanne. Non-skiers of the day shopped in town, explored other parts of the beautiful



ski town & enjoyed warming weather climbing in the 40s. L'Aiguille du Midi in Chamonix drew some adventurous souls dressed warm enough to stand at the peak over the scenic valley from "Needle of the South (of France)": Bob Knopes with his big Nikon and Dorian Janney in her fashionable arm sling, to name two. La Mer de Glace is located halfway down the mountain, with a grand hotel & restaurant and 300 steps each way to view the cave in the glacier. It was accessible from town by cable train.

A quick wine & cheese party in our trip leaders' room was followed by a bus to the other BRSC hotel in Chamonix, The Prieure, where we enjoyed a dinner & dance. I'm proud to say that PVS was the only club left at 9:30! The McKinleys rocked all night, as did Sharon Mulholland, Reg Heitchue, Liz Warren-Boulton, and Cherie & David Bertagnoli.

Mary Ward, representing PVS, won a trivia contest all about Euros. Bravo to her and all of our hardy group!

On Friday, Dick, David, Sharon, & Mary went to the prestigious Verbier ski resort in Switzerland. For our last dinner in Chamonix, we received vouchers for 17€ each to use at a sister hotel a couple blocks away. It allowed us to be served, instead of buffet style, & the food was excellent. Various offerings were pheasant, fondue & salmon.

Saturday, we had time to grab a quick breakfast before departing at 7:30. Chamonix did not disappoint; there was plenty of mountain and snow for our most ardent skiers, and an abundance of charm and refreshments for those touring the area. The skiers returned daily with new tales of the adventures, praise for the area, and anticipation for what the next day would offer.

-- Betty Comerford





THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley
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The **Knee** is pleased to welcome some 24 new members to PVS and this column. They are from Capital Golden Skiers which is now demised! (Perhaps one reason is that they didn't call it "Capitol" Golden Skiers.) We are really glad to have you as readers! This is the longest-running ski gossip column in our newsletter, TOOT—some 34 years now. And some of the gossip is actually true. When we run out of gossip, I naturally do **Knee**-puns—which are, of course, Japan**Kneese**. When this column started, I was a **Kneephyte**, but now the style is truly **Kneeclassical**. **Kneet!**

Early in May, the **Knee** was preparing for summer. I closed out last ski season, including information on who skied last, and put away the parkas. The **Knee** was ready for summer.

Then TOOT arrived. And inside was information on not one, but four ski trips for 2014. Gads, the **Knee** is still writing 2011 on my checks! As a recovering ski trip leader, it's tough. Everyone wants everything early. But my mittens haven't even dried! The **Knee** simply isn't ready for 2014 skiing. I can't cope!

By August or early September I'll be ready. We'll have had our great summer events. It will be oppressively hot, hazy and humid. And it will be time to think about the cooling joys of skiing and next year's trips. Then the **Knee** will get out the flyers, review dates and locations of the various trips and make a decision. And you know what? The trips will be filled! Ah me, but that's the way the ol' ski cookie crumbles.

You asked if I could explain a fairly weird pun from last month's **Knee**. Of course I can.

Bummer: The annual May Tysons ski planning show was attended by many ski areas and 10-15 PVSers. This year's contingent was headed by Dick and Rosemary Schwartzbard. Lots of door prizes are given away to encourage attendance. This year's big prizes included several ski trips. Betsy Stephens won a trip to Sunday River, ME. New members John and Gisela Storm won lodging at Big Sky Montana and Joe Jevcak won a trip to Copper Mt. Unfortunately you had to be present to win and all had left the show earlier. As I said, bummer!

The **Knee** has been collecting travel tidbits. (These are tiny portions of a tid.)

I just discovered that my name is in Indon**Kneesia**. I now just hope someone goes there soon! Hmmm...

Half the world away from Indon**Kneesia**, we do have travelers. Bob and Karen Knopes are back from a lengthy tour of southern Spain. Away in Florida were new members John and Blanca Hotaling. John and Blanca were gone so long that they missed our May meeting.

PVS VEEP John Holt is off to a sheep farm in Northern Ireland. John met the farmers when his daughter was in vet school in Dublin. I won't ram that into ewe; it's a sheep shot.

My favorite Egyptian queen is **Kneefertiti**.

Sequestered! It's a word we've all learned recently. And now it's hit PVS. Bill Hager has done some overseas training in faraway places for the DOD. After each trip he wrote wonderful trip reports which all PVS enjoyed. Sadly, his training has been cancelled due to sequestration. We'll miss Bill's write-ups.

Ford Motor Company is recalling many late-model Mercurys. They found a trace of swordfish in one. Think about it

We all missed a **u**Kne**eque** chance for late season skiing according to Marvin Hass. For the first time, the top of Aspen Mountain opened for skiing on Memorial Day weekend, after getting nearly four feet of snow since closing for the season. 16 runs on 90 acres were open at the top of the mountain. If you are still gung-ho, Arapahoe Basin is still open.

I won't pull your leg on this one. Bob Jablon slipped on some stairs in a restaurant. He unfortunately tore his quadriceps and has now had surgery to repair it. Recovery is slow. He won't be able to drive for several months and won't ski this season. Since he's confined to a bed, Bob is taking this lying down. Yucko!

Boston Marathon: The Schwartzbards' son, Aaron, who skied with PVS in Andorra last year, skied in Colorado in early April and then went to Boston for the Marathon. Aaron finished in 2:57, had showered, and was a few blocks away when it happened. He heard bangs and saw people running away from the finish line. There wouldn't be taxis and time was running out to catch his flight. So Aaron **walked** to a metro that was two miles away. (After 26+ miles!). He made it to the airport and through security just before they closed his flight's door. Congrats! What a run around!

100-Year-Old Woman Celebrates Birthday Skiing

“By [Eliza Murphy | ABC News Blogs](#) – 10 hours ago **Elsa Bailey may be 100 years old, but that didn't stop her from hitting the slopes last weekend to celebrate her birthday in true snow bunny fashion.**

"It was something that I planned years ago," Bailey, of [Colorado Springs, Colo.](#), told [GoodMorningAmerica.com](#). "That on my 100th birthday I'd have one last ski, then hang up my skis. I've done it for 75 years. That's a long time. I've had enough."

On May 11, surrounded by friends and fellow ski buddies, Bailey took to the slopes at Arapahoe Basin Ski Area in Keystone, Colo., just as she did when she turned 90, for one final whirl down the mountain.

"When I got up on the hill, it wasn't so much the energy I was worried about, but if I knew how to turn," Bailey explained. "But it comes back to you."

The tenacious Bailey walked up the mountain by herself, though she had a few people by her side in case she needed help. "In case I fell down, I needed someone there to pick me upright and prop me back up on my skis," she giggled. **RELATED: [Friends for 91 Years Celebrate 100th Birthdays Together](#)** A true celebrity for the day, Bailey drew a big crowd during her birthday celebration.

"Even the people I didn't know were cheering for me," said Bailey. "It was a real fun, fun time."



Bailey is an active member of three different ski groups. As she's legally blind, she participates in the Visually Impaired and Blind Skiers of Colorado Springs, another called Silver Streaks Ski Club, for people over the age of 50, and also the Sno Jets, who helped arrange her party.

Since Bailey first started "hitting the powder," around the age of 25, a lot has changed.

"My first skis were made out of wood," she said. "They would cost \$7. Then the next ones were mahogany and laminated. Then

eventually they had plastic and metal on the sides to help you dig into the snow and get good turns. I used to be pretty good."

Her entire life, Bailey has been epitome of adventurous, traveling the world and trying many sports.

"I like to do things. My mother took me around the world when I was 50 which was real nice," she said. "We went by boat in those days. We stopped in Honolulu of course, then we went to Japan and stayed there for a month. We also stopped in India for a while and then came back across the Atlantic.

"I've even done kayaking and white water and tennis and scuba diving," Bailey continued. "And I do the trampoline on my deck. I jump on that 100 times every morning. Let me tell you, that activates every cell in your body."

RELATED: [16-Year-Old Solves Rubik's Cube Behind Back While Skiing Downhill](#) A former occupational therapist, Bailey says the secret to her longevity is simple: "Be active. I do things my way, like skiing when I'm 100. Nobody else does that even if they have energy. And I try to eat pretty correctly, and get exercise and fresh air and sunshine."

Seemingly straightforward advice from the 100-year-old rebel, who says she always tries to be positive, because you never know what life's going to hand you.

"If you're positive you can get through it OK," said Bailey. "When you think negatively, you're putting poison on your body. Just smile. They say laughter is the best medicine there is."

She says of her 100th birthday: "It was one of the best days of my life. I'll remember it forever," said Bailey."

2013 PVS Calendar:

- June 18 Tue Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM, Holts, McLean, VA
- June 25 Tue ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM, Schwartzbards, Arlington, VA
- July 28 Sun Summerfest, 2-5 PM, Jablons, Washington, DC
Special Welcome to New PVS (CGS) Members
- Aug 03 Sat Steak and Swim, Hines, Delaplane, VA



Needed – Event coordinators for Blob's Park, MD and Wolf Trap, VA Events. The coordinator for Blob's Park can pick the date, and the coordinator for Wolf Trap can pick the event and date. Contact Ray McKinley, raymckin@gmail.com or 703-527-7126.

Ski Trips:



- January 15-22, 2014: PVS Snowmass, CO (Carolyn DeVilbiss & Louann Eadie)
- February 1-8, 2014: PVS/CGS/BRSC Vail, CO (Inge Lesjak)
- February 25-March 4, 2014: PVS Alyeska, AK (Marianne & Kerry Hines)
- March 7-17, 2014: PVS/BRSC to Cortina, Italy (Dick and Betty Comerford)

Useful Ski "Links"

- Potomac Valley Skiers..... potomacvalleyskiers.org
- BRSC Sanctioned Trips..... skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm
- DC Ski Online News..... dcski.com

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