



TOOT



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www.potomacvalleyskiers.org

VIRGINIA

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Havng just returned from another fun meeting/socializing with PVSkers earlier this afternoon, I'm reminded of why this is such a special club. With a bit of spring in the air and the gregarious nature of the group we had to call three times for the meeting to start. Thank you Cara and Bob once again for opening up your home for our monthly get together (especially 3 days after you just returned from leading the successful Steamboat ski trip). And how about those ski trips this year—great ski conditions with plenty of snow/powder and NO INJURIES. This has got to be a first, at least in the 8 years since I've been skiing with PVS. There's still a good part of the ski season remaining out west for those who can't get enough. But start thinking next year for our two ski trips that are already in the works—one in the US and one in Europe—see more later in the TOOT.

Those of you who took part in our "Sing Along" après ski at Snowmass really enjoyed it. SO I'd like to put together a Friday night East Coast version but with more musicians. If you like to sing and/or play guitar, fiddle, bass or a percussion instrument, let me know by email at

Greetings PVS Members/Friends,

shank@mris.com or phone call 301 330-2953. We'll plan something for this spring.

Remember if you have a special interest or hobby let us know if you'd like to plan a PVS group activity. If you've never done it before, give it a try. Members are very helpful when you ask. You all know Ray McKinley heads up Activities and Events for our club. So call him with your ideas if you'd like to plan an activity or event. And ski trip committee chair person, Rosemary, is always looking for someone to lead a ski trip, including for February, 2012.

Putting on my real estate hat for a moment, this may be your last chance to make that move up—low prices and low interest rates—they won't be around forever. There are several agents in our club who I'm sure would be happy to assist.

Lastly Save the Date: April 19th is the date of the Annual Meeting at the Heitchue's condo party room in Reston. We need your vote and welcome to the new officers and ExCom members plus the very active new club members.

Cheers!
Sharon

**PVS Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, 15 March 7:30 PM,
at the Jan Marx residence
Directions, next page**

In this issue: Pres message, monthly mtg info, Candidates for PVS ExCom profiles, Future trips (Snowmass, Andorra), Review of previous trips, Members Corner, The Knee, Calendar, Ski Talk, Roster Changes



**The PVS Monthly Meeting is Tuesday, March 15, 2011 at 7:30pm,
at the home of Jan Marx** 8312 Oxford Dr., Springfield, VA 22152
703-451-9158 jebbmarx@aol.com

FROM NORTH ON THE BELTWAY:

Take Exit 54A west onto Braddock Rd. Go to the fifth stop light and angle **left** onto Burke Lake Rd. Turn **left** at next stop light onto Rolling Rd. Go to fourth stop light and turn **left** onto Forrester Blvd. (called Hillside on the right side of Rolling). Go two short blocks and turn **right** onto Oxford Dr. (opposite the school on your left). Go about two blocks, past the Dead End sign to 8312 on your **left**.

FROM SHIRLEY HIGHWAY AND I-95:

Exit 95 SOUTH at Old Keene Mill Rd (Hwy 644) West. (Franconia Rd and the Mall go to the East.) **Go to the seventh stop light** and turn right onto Rolling Rd. **Go through one light**, past McDonalds and turn **right** onto Roxbury Ave. (opposite the post office). **Turn at the second right** (road curves around to the left) onto Fenwood Dr. **Go one block** and dead end into Oxford Dr. **Turn right** and the house is the fourth on the left, 8312 Oxford Drive.

PVS Monthly Meeting Roundup (February 27, 2011)



Above: Bob Jablon operating his super-duper cork extractor

Holding a monthly meeting in 60 F weather while some local areas received more snow just a few days earlier seems rather unusual. However, the mild temperature did bring out more than 30 PVSers, some of whom had returned on February 23 from a highly enjoyable PVS Steamboat ski trip reviewed elsewhere in this issue. In fact, the energetic leaders of the Steamboat trip, Cara and Bob Jablon, also hosted this late February Sunday afternoon meeting at their centrally located home in Washington.

It was indeed a pleasurable opportunity to renew acquaintances with other PVS members at this activity at the Jablon residence which was filled with paintings and sculpture acquired during their travels around the world as well as from this area. They were not only interesting to view, but each of these seemed to have a special story about the object and its acquisition. The ambiance was complimented by the wine and nibbles provided by the hosts.

This monthly meeting was one of the few at which both past, present, and future trips could be discussed as the current ski season is not yet over even in this area. The past trips to Steamboat and Snowmass were highly successful not only for good snow conditions and conviviality, but also for the absence of injuries. The 2012 season seems promising with a familiar favorite, Snowmass, and an unusual new destination, Andorra, attracting a lot of interest. So far PVS has been blessed this year with not only good snow conditions on its trips, but also with the competent officers and members who have been involved in its activities.

The following two pages contain Candidates for PVS officers and ExCom proposed by the Nominating Committee chaired by Nancy McKinley.

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, 2011.

Cara Jablon – Candidate for President



Cara Jablon has been a skier for more than 47 years. Her initial ski experience was at Mount Holyoke College (in South Hadley, Massachusetts) at a no longer extant ski area called Mt. Tom. After a single ski experience, she went home for Christmas vacation and bought her first pair of skis – long wooden skis - and lace-up boots. As technology has changed, Cara has progressed to shorter and shorter skis, and now has a pair of Atomic parabolic skis that virtually ski themselves. She still enjoys the moguls and is always trying to improve her bump technique.

After graduating from Mount Holyoke with a major in chemistry, and a minor in philosophy, Cara headed to New York City to attend Columbia University in a doctorate program in Biochemistry. Although she eventually finished the doctorate, she decided that she was not destined to be a scientist. What else to do but go to law school! After marrying Robert Jablon, and several months after her first child, Stephen, was born, she started law school in Albany, New York. During that year, Robert joined a law firm in Washington, D.C., and Cara dropped out of law school. She resumed law school at George Washington University the following year, and also finished writing her doctoral dissertation that year. Halfway through law school, she had another child, Lara.

After finishing law school, Cara started work in the Office of General Counsel of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, where she practiced pesticide law for thirteen years. Cara's third child, Joel, was born in 1984.

Near the end of her time at EPA, Cara did a detail at the U.S. Attorney's Office in D.C. Over the course of four months, she tried numerous misdemeanor drug cases. Her subsequent legal career, over a period of about twelve years, was at three different law firms, where she wrote countless briefs and memoranda in the area of chemical regulatory law.

Cara retired early from law – despite her father's advice never to retire – and turned her attention in a different direction to beading. She has a small jewelry business and makes necklaces, earrings, and bracelets (from fresh-water pearls, semi-precious stones, crystal, pewter, and silver) that she sells at local craft shows and privately.

When not making jewelry or skiing, Cara spends time with her two dogs, Dante, a Yorkshire Terrier, and Princess Leia, a Shitzu mix; goes to dance aerobics three times a week; swims regularly in the summer, works in her garden, and enjoys concerts, opera, and theatre. She is also a member of a Toastmasters Speaking Club. Cara and her husband enjoy collecting art, particularly folk art, and have not been able to resist the sand paintings sold on the square in Santa Fe and other art objects from western ski trips.

Jan Marx – Candidate for Vice President



Jan has been a member of PVS since close to the beginning of the Club's formation.

She grew up in St. Paul, MN and started skiing as a high school junior. Jan attended Stephens College in MO and transferred into the Occupational Therapy program

at the University of Minnesota. A sorority sister invited her to a college ski club meeting based on the agriculture campus (foresters, home ec, vets). Her first "second family" was a group of canoeists (Boundary Waters) and skiers. There she met Bob Marx and that group remains close. Her second "second family" became PVS after they moved to this area with Bob's Census Bureau job in 1966. Jan found a job with former PVSer, Pat Cope, who invited Bob and Jan to this "new ski club." At that time most PVS members also belonged to SCWDC. Pat took Jan and Bob to tennis games at Hains Point and to some SCWDC meetings.

They carpooled with Charlie Gordon and Brook Armat for water skiing near Leonardtown, MD, and weekend skiing in New England. PVS had lobster feeds with homemade pies at Great Falls, sailing out of Annapolis, and thawing-out weekends at Cape Hatteras over Memorial Day weekend.

It took Bob and Jan about two years to become full members because they were never at a ski area where PVS's Basic Proficiency Test was given. Larry Pease signed them off on that test at Wisp.

Jan and Bob's two sons grew up in PVS, learning to ski during weekends at Wisp and week-long trips to Mt. Sutton. They became beautiful skiers – now the problem is too little money and too little time off.

Jan has been an ExCom member, Historian, Toot Editor, Vice President, and President (1987), has been on the ski trip committee, and has led ski trips and events. Bob and Jan were involved with mailing of the early Toot and Jan continued under the tutelage of Lu Beale, learning the basics of news reporting at the same time.

Dick Schwartzbard – candidate for 1-year replacement assignment on ExCom



life threatening assignment: Washington DC. After completing his military service, he remained in the area working as an engineer variously for the US

Dick was raised in New Jersey and graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY with a degree in Electrical Engineering. Shortly after, he entered the US Army where he was given a dangerous,

government, government contractors or consultants until he achieved his current exalted position as retiree. He continues to reside in the area, currently in Arlington.

Dick was a latecomer to skiing, not taking it up until his late forties. He participated in a PVS trip to Sun Valley in 2000 and joined PVS shortly thereafter. He has been on at least one and usually two or three PVS trips each year since. This will be Dick's third stint on EXCOM.

John Holt – candidate for ExCom



John was born in Washington DC. He graduated from the University of Maryland with a BS in Mechanical Engineering followed by two years of graduate school in Nuclear Engineering. John worked for 35 years for the US

association for rural electric cooperatives, where he's Senior Manager of Generation (and still working).

John joined the Ski Club of Washington DC in 1971 as a novice skier and was a member of SCWDC for 24 years. He was a board member, program chairperson for several different programs, led many trips to Europe and Western US as well as Eastern "Learn to Ski" weeks. He met his wife Barbara in the Ski Club and they have three children. Barbara and John were in a German Dance Group for about 10 years and performed at one of PVS's Oktoberfest parties. They applied for membership in PVS three years ago and John has been on two ski trips with PVS.

government – Corps of Engineers and Rural Electrification Administration - where he was the Nuclear Staff Advisor, Chief of Power Plants and Deputy Director of Power Supply. He retired in 1993 and went to work for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, a trade

Melissa Fitzgerald – candidate for ExCom

Melissa grew up in a village in NY State and fell in love with skiing in the icy Northeast at Mount Tremblant. After college at William and Mary, she and three other ex-coeds went west to ski and seek their fortunes (husbands) in Denver. After marrying a cowboy from Montana who began a career in the Foreign Service, it was off to six capitals: San Salvador, London, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago de Chile, Quito and Port Moresby (Papua, New

Guinea). The best skiing was in Chile: Portillo and Farrelones! Five children later and stints as a teacher of English as a Second Language in various posts, Melissa settled in Reston, VA, retired from teaching high school Government and History, and kept on traveling in retirement. The trips with all those interesting people in PVS have been great fun!

Reg Heitchue – candidate for ExCom

Most recently, Reg has been a consultant to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. He had a 27-year career as a senior CIA officer in the Directorate of Science and Technology where he managed advanced intelligence collection programs. He retired from the CIA Senior Intelligence Service having held senior leadership and management positions throughout his career. He is a recognized intelligence and national security expert and is currently an adjunct professor at the Bush School of Government & Public Service where he teaches intelligence and national security.

Prior to joining CIA, Reg was employed by the Boeing Corporation as an engineer and project manager. Reg is married to Jean Heitchue and they have four children and five grandchildren. Reg has been with PVS since 1976 and is a past president. Reg and Jean have hosted numerous PVS events over the years including many PVS Christmas parties. Reg remains an active skier though several shoulder injuries have somewhat tempered his style.

Snowmass 2012

Wednesday to Wednesday, January 18-25, 2012

Early Alert! PVS returns to our “Old Faithful” ski resort with reduced pricing in 2012. We will again stay at our beloved Snowmass Mountain Chalet! Join us 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 group dinners, après-ski parties, and other activities available in the Aspen environs.

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 2012” on the memo line*)

For more information contact trip leaders:

Carolyn Devilbiss at 703-370-4865 (carolyn.maurer@verizon.net)

Sharon Mulholland at 301-330-2953 (shank@mris.com)

March 3-12 or 16, 2012, join Nancy and Ray McKinley to See and Ski in Andorra!



Andorra has sufficient skiing for everyone

Potomac Valley Skiers is joining BRSC for a true gem of a ski trip—to one of the smallest and most mountainous countries in the world—Andorra, a skier’s and tourist’s paradise. And we’ll visit spectacular Barcelona. There are optional trips: to Madrid and the Prado Museum, the medieval, walled city of Carcassonne, France with its winding cobbled streets, and turrets—a World Heritage Site. We’ll have the opportunity to visit the fortress city, Toledo with its Christian, Jewish and Islamic heritage, and Segovia and Avila to see the 2,000 year old Roman aqueduct, the fairyland castle of Alcazar and much more. Skiing in Andorra is World Class. It has 7,600 acres, a vertical of 3,575 feet, 111 lifts with a capacity of 156,390 skiers/hr, and 187 mi of runs.



Upper Lift Restaurant

Our 10 day 9 night Trip Includes: 2 nights in historic, vibrant Barcelona; 7 nights at the 5-star Crown Plaza Hotel in Andorra’s capital, with two people per junior suite—and including breakfast and a daily 5-course themed buffet dinner! We include your Emergency Medical and repatriation insurance, a pre-trip party, a welcome party, a mid-week Apres Ski party, a Grand Finale Dance in the ballroom and a post trip party. We will also offer a 4 night post-trip extension to Madrid including three superb tours.



Crowne Plaza lobby

Prices are not yet finalized; we expect the 10-day 9-night package to be \$2,300-\$2,400pp and the 4 day Madrid add-on at about \$600-\$700. We have limited space. To reserve a spot on this memorable trip, send your check for \$100 per person, refundable, payable to Ray McKinley, with “Andorra” in the memo line, to 1805 Crystal Drive Unit 813, Arlington, VA 22202. We’ll have more info on returning from our visit to Andorra in May. Reach us at (703) 527-7126.

We Gave Wisp a Whirl

We thought the club might like to hear about our recent trip to WISP (Feb 8-10, 2011) - an idea that sprang up in Snowmass – and, thanks to Sue Lyon, we were encouraged to go. As we understand, there was not an official PVS contingent, but we decided to give WISP a whirl. (A couple other PVSmers may have been there too.) A caveat - basically, Jack is a Rocky Mountain skier, and Linda is a perpetual beginner, so we have two perspectives to share, but we both liked WISP and had a great time. WISP is in western Maryland on Deep Creek Lake. WISP was a pleasant surprise -- and a bargain to boot!



First, the skiing. Like many east coast ski resorts, the runs were short, and the elevation was low (3,115 feet at summit). But the runs were very well groomed, with plenty of natural and man-made snow. Jack reports that the black runs were fun, as were the blues. The greens were the longest and great cruisers (albeit a bit narrow according to Linda).

Second, the bargain. WISP offers a "Midweek Madness" special Sun-Thurs for \$59.00 per person per night, including lodging -- and a lift ticket.

Now, the food: Dinner and breakfast at the hotel restaurant called "D.C.'s (apparently no relation to the nation's Capital) were both quite good and reasonably priced, with a very nice atmosphere (intimate setting, tablecloths and fireplace). The slope-side cafeteria was huge, with lots of good soups (and unfortunately, fried foods) at great prices. It has a gigantic picture window with a perfect view of boarders doing impossible flips on the terrain park. We also dined at the Cornish Manor in Oakland, MD:

(www.cornishmanor.net) (301-334-6499) which is a very pretty 20 minute drive along the lake from WISP. The Manor is an 1893 Victorian house, popular with locals going back decades. The food

was good, prices were fair, and the management was very accommodating. It would be an especially good place for a group dinner. The Front Desk staffer at WISP named Lora, who seemed to know the area best (and appreciated having visitors from Washington), also recommended the brewery near the hotel for pizza, salads, and such fare.

And now, the added fun: Our first night, we stumbled upon a band playing in one of WISP's two bars (which are about 20 feet apart). It was called the Steve Hussey Band, which hails from West Virginia. The five-piece group buoyed the crowd with upbeat rock and country music, and tore the house down with "Country Road." At that point, we'd only been at WISP a few hours, and the place looked (and felt) rather dismal because it was very overcast, windy and cold when we arrived. But already, we were warming up to WISP.

Bonuses: Ski in/ski out, large heated indoor pool, Nordic center, snow tubing, snow mobiles, a mountain coaster ride, ice skating, a large ski shop (plus a sundry shop), and night skiing.

Four friendly tips:

1. Ask for a room with a view. We did and got a nice room in the lodge at the base of the mountain facing the slopes, so it was fun to watch skiers - day and night. The room had a couch and kitchen-like area with refrigerator, sink and microwave.

2. WISP chair lift operators are hard to spot because their outfits are black with just a bit of dark green. Ski Patrol was virtually invisible, and no one could give us a phone # for it. To reach ski patrol, call the WISP Front Desk (301-387-5581) and they will transfer the call. The lifts move fast, be ready to get on quickly.

3. Renting equipment: Cost is \$39 per day (skis, boots, poles). They'll try to give you front entry boots (but Linda requested the traditional sturdier version that were great), and you have to ask for a helmet (\$10 extra). You can keep equipment until 10am the next day.

4. Ski lockers: There are ski lockers inside the hotel, on the lobby level, just feet from the slopes and the main chair lift.

Getting To/From: WISP is solid 3 hour and 15 minute drive from Rosslyn, VA. Go in the daylight, both because of the safer driving but also so you can see the pretty scenery and towns (Cumberland, Flintstone, Sideling, Accident).

Contact info: WISP Resort, 296 Marsh Hill Rd, McHenry, MD 21541; www.wispresort.com. Central Reservations 301-387-4000. Happy trails!

Submitted by Jack and Linda Sloan

Steamboat Springs Pre-Trip Lunch



Cara and Bob Jablon hosted a terrific pre-trip lunch on Sunday, February 13, 2011 for the Steamboat Springs, CO crowd. Fifteen of the sixteen travelers plus two non-traveling spouses attended. We feasted on Cara's stuffed cabbage, lasagna, salad, and two homemade cakes. Anyone who had planned on eating dinner later gave up that idea in

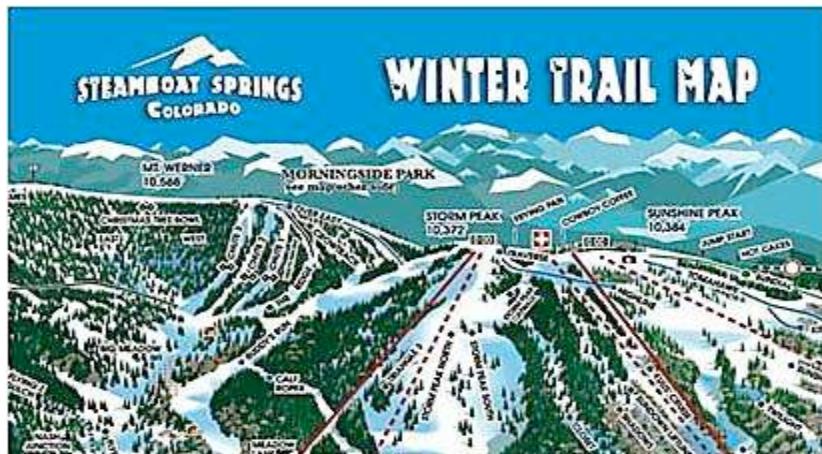
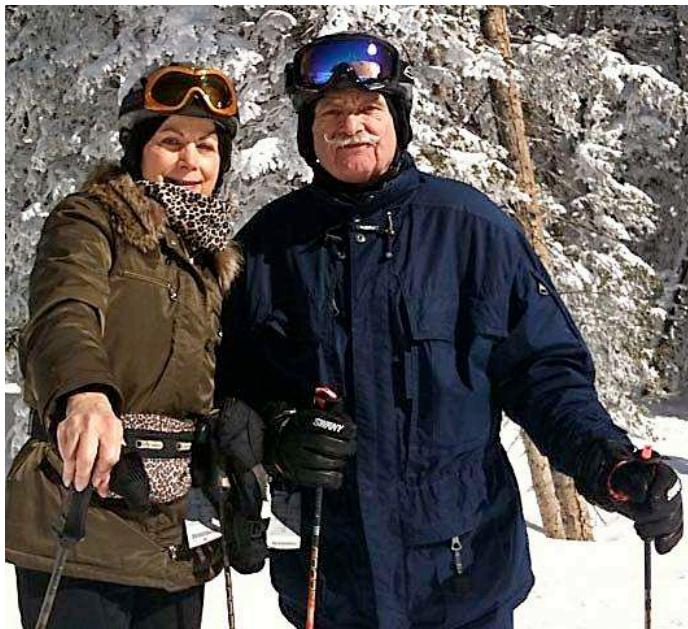
short order. There was much chatter about below freezing temperatures and ice under the snow, but that was last week and Cara promised good weather for our February 17 – 23 trip. Bob gave a rundown of the great restaurants in Steamboat and everyone left with visions of terrific skiing, dining, and camaraderie in their heads.



Thank you

Cara
And
Bob.

Below: Rosemary and Dick Schwartzbard
At Steamboat



A GRAND STEAMBOAT SKI TRIP (February 17-23, 2011)

The trip to Steamboat was Grand in so many ways: the hotel, the skiing, the gourmet meals and the weather.



The hotel is aptly named the **Steamboat Grand**. After an uneventful flight to Steamboat, we arrived at the Grand and entered a huge foyer with a waterfall. This is a premier hotel with a full service spa and fitness center. Jack Chapman took full advantage of the fitness center. There is a large outdoor heated pool with two hot tubs and drink service poolside. John Holt took full advantage of the "Mudslide" poolside drink service. Both Polli and John Brunelli used the spa. They said the deep tissue massages were great. It was comfortable, friendly, and the slope side ski and boot storage made getting to the Gondola easy. We had our own private party room for the entire stay, with fireplace, couches and full kitchen. After the long day of traveling, we gathered there for a pizza, wine and salad party. It was great just staying in and enjoying the pizza in our private space.

The **skiing** was definitely **grand**. Most of us took the free mountain tour the first morning to get oriented. It snowed most nights and we woke up to one to six inches of powder each morning. The temperatures were moderate and on the last day the sun was shining brilliantly. Some of our members took ski lessons and some gave lessons. Cara Jablon made her 80 year-old ski instructor do bumps all day. She said he told her he had not had a day like that in years. She thought he did a great job but we were wondering why he did not show up for her lesson the next day. Joe Jevcak also took lessons and said he finally has mastered good form. After his lesson, he was looking for a photographer to take his picture. Marie Heilen took a lesson after not skiing for seven years. She was skiing so hard her boots broke. Bob Heilen found his favorite slopes in short order. Bob Jablon was looking good after his lesson. Liz gave tree and powder lessons and ground down a 'pride' of men

(like a pride of lions). Reg Heitchue, Dick Schwartzbard, Bob Knopes, and John Brunelli all followed Liz. While John Lyon (hopefully a new applicant member) did not take lessons, he was voted the "Most Improved" during the week. While starting out tentatively, he ended the week in powder and trees. Sun and powder on the last day at Morningside were spectacular.

It was also a **Grand Gourmet** ski trip. Some of the finest restaurants in Steamboat were sampled: Café Diva, Epicurean French Bistro, 8th Street Steakhouse, Bistro CV, and Harwigs plus our group dinner at La Montana. Cara and Bob made reservations at restaurants every night and different members of the group joined them. We sampled an array of exotic food: Elk, Rabbit, Hen, Goose, Duck Liver, Wagyu Beef, Camarones, Steak Tartare and Oysters. This is in addition to the Apres Ski parties and dessert parties in our private room. However, the dinner that got the most rave reviews was organized and cooked by our own PVS chefs Ellie Thayer and Liz Warren-Boulton. They put together steak and salad for ten with lots of wine. They even finished off the cakes Cara baked and brought from home!! John and Polli Brunelli took advantage of the \$1.50 Bloody Marys for breakfast, which they found advertised on the Kids Menu.

Thankfully there were no ski injuries. The only injury was when a blood vessel burst in the eye of one of our members (full disclosure, it was Rosemary) after lunch on the first day. Alarmed when she saw the scary red eye in the mirror, she went to the ski patrol. They were so alarmed they took her down the mountain in a sled and to the hospital. The only person not alarmed was the ophthalmologist who pronounced her fit to ski for the rest of the week. While it looked scary, it is a benign condition.

So while Cara says she is a perfect 7.5 skier, we agree she is a perfect 10 ski-trip leader. Thank you Cara and Bob for planning this most enjoyable ski trip. Indeed, Bob was so relaxed that he forgot to wear a tie one day.

Submitted by Rosemary Schwartzbard

Members Corner



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

Getting to Know You – Francis B. (Bing) Van Nuys, (Applicant Member):

I am 72. I was born in New York City and grew up in Bethlehem, PA. I went to The Hill School and then to Washington & Lee University, both undergraduate and law school, graduating in 1962. Betty, my wife of 48 years, comes from Tuscaloosa, Alabama. We met at summer school at the University of Colorado in Boulder. We have two children, Susan and Peter.



Military Career: In October 1962, I entered Navy OCS. Following Naval Justice School, I was stationed for two years as the Legal Officer at the Naval Station, Kodiak, Alaska. In March 1964, we survived the Great Alaskan Earthquake. (The main quake, rated at a 9.2, lasted nearly four minutes during which time we subsided 5.5 feet. A series of 20 foot tidal waves followed, one of which barely missed us as we drove onto the main base so I could assume the

OOD watch.) I ended active duty in March 1966 stationed at Navy JAG Headquarters in the Pentagon. I then served in the active reserves for 21 years and retired with the rank of Commander, Judge Advocate Generals Corps, U.S. Naval Reserve. (I did not watch the TV show.)

Civilian Career: I spent 27 years working as a Federal Government Civil Servant attorney starting in April 1966. The first 10 years were spent doing Government Contract Law, working five years at the

Defense Fuel Supply Center, and another five years at the Navy General Counsel's Office where I divided my time between their Contract Appeals Division, and Office of Counsel for the Commandant, USMC. Then, for 17 years, I did personal injury and property damage law as the senior civilian for the Claims Division in Air Force JAG, mainly in international claims. I retired in April 1993.

Retirement: We live in Fairfax, Virginia. Currently, I volunteer two days a week at National Archives (where I discovered my great grandfather was captured by the Yankees at age 14), maintain a database for Volunteer Fairfax, and serve as a Certified Mediator settling cases in Fairfax and Alexandria Small Claims Courts. My wife and I have become world travelers. We have ranged from standing on the Great Wall of China to watching a lioness attack a zebra herd in the Serengeti.

As for skiing, I did not start until age 45. I skied a few years in New England, and then at Seven Springs, PA. When a sudden January thaw hit PA, I made last minute reservations out West and have skied since then with a ski club in Colorado, Utah and Whistler. I never progressed beyond the intermediate level with a preference for "cruiser blues." My week with the Potomac Valley Skiers in January at Snowmass was my finest, most enjoyable week ever.

PVS Website: <http://www.potomacvalleyskiers.org/>

The PVS website is administered by D. Lerner and R. Powers. It contains much useful information. Visit the site to see all TOOTs from 1965 to present, along with all personal profiles in those TOOTs. Want to know more about a PVS member, examine their profile. We also honor those who have gone before us in the obituary list. You can access Club Documents, such as the By-Laws, trip guidelines, past ExCom & PVS Presidents, Charter Members, PVS Cookbook, & ExCom minutes. Don't forget the Photo Gallery where pictures are posted. Some of the information is password-protected, but that is no problem. When the window pops up for your Username & Password, just click on Log In, and directions on how your Username & Password are determined will be revealed. Then, you can easily Log In. Be looking for new photos of recent ski trips in the coming weeks. See Guidelines for sharing your pics: <http://www.potomacvalleyskiers.org/photo-guidelines.html> on the website.

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THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley

It is approaching March, but skiing is still in our hearts--and in our plans. And the **Knee**, as he has over the years, wants to advise you of some of my favorite skiing ideas. So before Brian Eardley can, let me encourage you to try the newest ski fashion, skiing in knickers.

Knickers are great for skiing. They come in various manners of fabrics and coordinating colors. They can be worn alone (with, of course, short johns underneath). Knickers can be worn over your ski pants or under them (in which case they are considered to be pantaloons). And they are great for spring skiing.

Of course, the **Knee** never, ever wears knickers. He wears **kneekers**.

Yippee! According to Dave Warthen's latest figures, we could have as many as ten applicants ready to be voted on for full membership at the PVS Annual Meeting at Heitchue's. That's the most the **Knee** can remember, since Lu Beale's 1990 article in the Washington Post.

Occasionally I forget what I've written in this column. Could it be **amkneesia**?

After last month, a multitude of you asked for a bit more historknee—alright it was one person after several glasses of wine. Ankneeway, this marks the **Knee**'s 33rd year—having started in 1979. This was well before most of us could vote. Alright, before three of us could vote. There were two reasons for the name. I had just twisted my **knee** in Aspen. And there was a gossip column in the old Washington Star called "the Ear." And this column would be at a lower level!

For the first year, the **Knee** was written anonkneemously, under the pseudokneem "Big Foot." Was that my pen name? No, my pen name was Mont Blanc. Actually, my pen name was Bic, but for a ski column, Mont Blanc sounded considerably eruditer.

A Walk on the Wild side: Marvin Hass sent me this picture (top of right column). It's from last month; high wire artist Freddy Nock walked the rope of the Corvatsch cable car in Silvaplana, Switzerland. Mr. Nock walked down from the upper station at 10,837 feet to the base station to set a newmark in the Guinness book of records. It gives me goose bumps just to see the photo.



Next winter, Nancy and the **Knee** are planning to run a trip to Andorra, sponsored by the BRSC. In case you didn't know, BRSC surprisingly stands for **Blue** and **Red** Smelly Coat-go figure. During last season's BRSC trip to Italy, leaders Betty and Dick Comerford were discussing the merits of clubs with a member of another club. The other guy said "PVS is a club of snobs. They only drink wine!" This guy was apparently wearing a BRSC.

The **Knee** reminisces about snow storms in DC: During the height of a city-closing storm a few years ago, Alice Swalm and the **Knee** received "Thank You Again" calls from Jim Slack and Mary Ward. Seems that on the exact date in 1989, the three of them - and many others - were returning from a Bob and Margaret Wyckoff-led trip to Europe. They reached New York when the biggest snow storm of the century hit. I believe it was called Tyrone. All DC airports were closed, so the group came by train. Jim and Mary's car was at Alice's. I met them at Union Station and drove them to Alice's. Alice put them up for the night.

Here's a follow-up to John Brunelli's Snowmass report that Kathy Felmy and Bob Gleeson were the only PVSers to arrive home on the expected return date. Not quite. Kathy and Bob left Aspen and arrived at Dulles on time about 4:10PM. But they didn't get off the plane until 6:40PM, as there was a problem lining the plane up with the terminal gate. The bags never arrived; due to too much snow on the conveyor.

Thanks to a passing snow plow, Bob got the car out of the airport parking space. It took Kathy and Bob 6 grueling hours from Dulles to DC as cars were spinning out, sliding to the side of the road, or running out of gas. Thanks to their 2000 Honda, they finally arrived at 1:30AM. Getting there (and back) ain't half the fun!

2011 Calendar

Mar 15 Tue	PVS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM (Marx, VA)
Mar 22 Tue	ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM (Mulholland, MD)
Apr 19 Tue	PVS Annual Meeting, 7:30 PM (Heitchue, VA)
Apr 26 Tue	ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM (Schwartzbard, VA)
May 17 Tue	PVS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 (Knopes, VA)
May 24 Tue	ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM (TBA)



Ski Trips

January 18-25, 2012 Snowmass (DeVilbiss & Mulholland)

March 3-12, 2012 Andorra (Ray & Nancy McKinley)

Useful Ski "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

SKI TALK



Another fabulous ski season. We just got back from Steamboat and it was an excellent trip. We had fresh powder most days in Snowmass **and** in Steamboat. We certainly hit the right weeks. Also, we had some great local skiing this year because the weather stayed so cold. See the write-up on WISP.

The 2012 ski season is already looking fantastic. Two trips have been approved by ExCom -- Snowmass January, 2012, which will be led by Carolyn Maurer DeVilbiss and Sharon Mulholland, and the BRSC trip to Andorra, March 3-12, 2012,

which will be led by the McKinleys. We look forward to hearing from you about any other ideas you have for mid-February next year and/or December of this year.

The timeline for proposals is as follows: preliminary proposals are due by early March; full proposals are due by late April to be presented to ExCom at the May meeting. This does not mean that all details have to be worked out by that time. The approved trips will be published in the June TOOT. Please send questions, ideas and/or proposals to me.

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Roster Changes: notify dwarthen@verizon.net

-Walter Flowers (**new e-mail address**)
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-Barbara J. Wilson
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-Jonathan Wilson (**reinstated Junior Member**)
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