

VOLUME 47
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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

MARCH 2012

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President's Message:

I am writing this column shortly after my return from two weeks of skiing in Colorado – a week in Snowmass with PVS, followed by a week in Vail (with a group called Slopedusters – several PVS members were on the Slopedusters trip). I took one day off between Snowmass and Vail to see the sights of Aspen and give my legs a little rest – otherwise, I skied for 14 full days. This is the closest I have come to being a “ski bum.” Ideally, it would be nice to live in ski country (at least during the winter), and ski three or four times a week, with some time to rest. However, such a life is not in my plans (if we lived anywhere else, my husband would pick New York City), and I have to take advantage of the limited number of skiing days that I can get.

Snowmass is a favorite locale for PVS - the Mountain Chalet, where we stayed, is a ski-in, ski-out facility, and provides lunch as well as breakfast. The mountain offers a wide selection of very long, well-groomed intermediate runs, as well as some challenging terrain. There are many excellent restaurants in Snowmass Village within walking distance or only a short bus ride away. Free bus service is available to go to the town of Aspen (an attractive town with some interesting Victorian buildings), Aspen

Mountain (which overlooks the town), and Aspen Highlands. I did not take advantage of the other mountains on this trip. We had two days of skiing in fresh powder – the first day, the powder was rather heavy and difficult to ski (the trick is to keep one's weight evenly distributed between both skis); but the second powder day, we had fluffy, spectacular, champagne powder. I enjoyed skiing with many of the PVS members who participated in the trip, and had an excellent time at all the dinners and après-ski events arranged by trip leaders Carolyn DeVilbiss and Sharon Mulholland. We stayed at the Mountain Chalet an extra day, and then headed to Vail. *Cont.pg 2*



March Meeting

at the Ufholz Home

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

7:30 PM

Bethesda,



MD

Phil and Eugenia Ufholz

8613 Long Acre Court

Bethesda, MD 20817

301-469-6135



FROM VIRGINIA ON THE BELTWAY CROSSING INTO MARYLAND: Take River Road (MD-190 E) exit (Exit 39B) toward Washington. Turn left onto Burdette Road and proceed 1.3 miles. Turn right on Bradley Boulevard (MD-191) and proceed 1.1 miles. Turn left onto Valley Road; take the first right onto Ridge Road. Continue on Ridge to the top of the hill, 8613 Long Acre Court is on the right (the first house in the cul-de-sac).

FROM WASHINGTON, DC, ON WISCONSIN AVENUE: Follow Wisconsin Avenue, crossing into Maryland. Turn left on Bradley Lane (MD-191 N) and proceed 2.7 miles. Turn right onto Valley Road. Take the first right onto Ridge Road. Continue on Ridge to the top of the hill, 8613 Long Acre Court is on the right (the first house in the cul-de-sac).

FROM I-270 TOWARDS WASHINGTON: On the I-270 spur, take exit 1 - Democracy Boulevard. Turn left on Democracy Boulevard. Turn right on Fernwood Road and proceed 1.2 miles. Take a slight left on Greentree Road and proceed .5 mile. Take a right onto Ridge Place; take a left onto Ridge Road; 8613 Long Acre Court is on the left, the first house in the cul-de-sac.



President's Message continued...

Vail is several hours away from Snowmass, and transportation between the two areas is available by a Colorado Mountain Express van for a reasonable rate. The town of Vail, while not historic, is an attractive place modeled after a Swiss/Austrian ski town, and has a wide selection of restaurants and shops. Restaurants of interest in Vail include the Larkspur, Sweet Basil, and Up the Creek (all overpriced, as is most everything in Vail); we also understand that a restaurant called Lancelot is good. The highlight of Vail is the vast network of back bowl skiing – an incredibly beautiful expanse of open terrain, as well as trails through the woods. The China Bowl is the easiest of the bowls, particularly because there are typically two groomed trails on either side of the bowl. For those seeking greater challenges, there are the Sun Down Bowl, the Sun Up Bowl, the Siberia Bowl, and the Inner and Outer Mongolia Bowls. Blue Sky Basin, which is accessible from the bottom of China Bowl, has an exquisite view of the Vail Bowls from one of its groomed trails, and also has some lovely, not too steep, bump runs. The front part of Vail has a large variety of

trails, including a number of interesting bump runs.



Amazingly, I survived a week at Vail following PVS member David Lerner down a variety of black (and one double black) bump runs, including a challenging run called “Straight Shot” on the Sun Down Bowl. David gently coaxed me down the first two turns to a point where I was not in dread terror of the steepness of the hill; he also successfully took me down another steep run (which also had some rocks and bare areas) called “38.” This run is named after the 38th President, Gerald Ford, although rumor has it that the President was more comfortable on intermediate runs. We also made our way to the Inner Mongolia Bowl, accessible by a poma lift and a long hike up a catwalk, which, contrary to expectations, went uphill for a significant way before going downhill. Much to my surprise, there was a groomed trail on the bowl; I did try the deep heavy powder on the side of the groomed trail, but decided it was too much work.

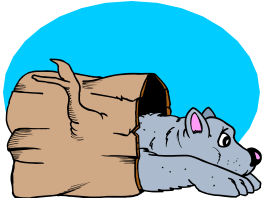
Another memorable run was down a trail called “Shangri-la,” which involved some skiing through the woods on the China Bowl. Much to my surprise, the snow was not as heavy as I expected, the trees were wide enough apart, and there were some lovely bumps on the trail. All in all, two good weeks of skiing with plenty of bumps and powder to keep me interested. I even think my technique improved some – I took a lesson at Snowmass, and one at Vail to try to smooth out my turns in the bumps. Both lessons were helpful, and gave me some pointers, particularly standing taller in the bumps. I strongly recommend lessons – even small changes in technique can make a huge difference in one’s ability and comfort level. We returned home without incident, despite the heavy snow in Denver the day of our return. Happily for us, but not for Vail, which is in need of several feet of snow, we flew out of Eagle/Vail, which had beautiful sunny weather, ideal for flying.

Reentry into one’s normal routine is, of course, a challenge, particularly after being away for more than two weeks. Much as one tries to take care of potential issues in advance, there is always a long “to do” list after the end of a trip, apart from the expected laundry, and the voluminous pile of mail. Thanks to my new iPad, I was able to keep up to date on my e-mails during the trip - this iPad was a birthday gift from my husband in September. In December, I finally opened the box, took the iPad to the Apple store in Georgetown, and received some rudimentary instructions on how to use it. I am happy to report that I am making progress and can now send e-mails on this device, as well as receive them.

My dogs, of course, were happy to have me home, and to return to their normal routine. Dante (our Yorkshire terrier) and I have been enjoying long walks in the pleasant weather. I am looking forward to the Andorra trip, and hope that my tired legs will recover in time to enjoy the challenges offered by this resort.

Cara Jablon

New Events



PVS LUNCH OUT GROUP (LOGs)

Join John Smith and other PVSers for lunch!

DATE: Wednesday, March 14, 2012

TIME: 1:00 PM

**Location: Umberto's Italian Restaurant
Cabin John Shopping Center
Potomac, MD**

**PLEASE CALL: John Smith at 301-299-8376 or email for info:
johnsmith@juno.com**

Direction's to Umberto's Restaurant

Umberto's is in the Cabin John Shopping Center at the corner of Seven Locks Road and Tuckerman Lane in Potomac, MD. It is on the east (back) side of the shopping center to the left of the California Tortilla Restaurant.

From I-270 driving south: Take the Montrose Road exit and go west for ¼ mile to Seven Locks Road. Turn left on seven Locks Road and proceed 1¼ miles. The Cabin John Shopping Center is on the left.

From Virginia driving east into Maryland on the beltway: Exit onto the I-270 spur and shortly take the Democracy Blvd exit west (this is at the Montgomery Shopping Mall). Proceed west on Democracy Blvd for 1 mile and turn right on Seven Locks Road. Proceed 1¼ miles to Tuckerman Lane. Cabin John Shopping Center is on the right side of the road.



THE TEXTILE MUSEUM

**2320 S ST, NW, Washington, DC
Sunday, April 29, 2012 at 1:00 PM**



Jannes Gibson is a former staff member and a current Advisory Council member of the Textile Museum, www.textilemuseum.org. The Textile Museum has a large permanent collection of handmade textiles from all over the world plus special exhibitions. Jannes will give a tour of the Museum and exhibitions that will be on view on April 29, 2012. The major exhibit is: "Sourcing the Museum," curated by Jack Lenor Larson. Other exhibitions are: "Woven Treasures of Japan's Tawaraya Workshop" (these are Court textiles) and "Dragons, Nawas, and Creatures of the Deep." To sign up, contact Jannes at 301-299-1157 or at ttaylor_g@hotmail.com. Directions will be announced in the April TOOT.

New Event

THE MUSIC MAN

AT ARENA STAGE

Saturday, June 2, 2012 at 2pm



PVS has acquired a block of seats for Meredith Wilson's *The Music Man*. This Arena Stage production is expected to follow in the steps of last year's record-setting production of *Oklahoma*. Our tickets are **\$60** each, with seats allocated in the order that checks are received. (On-line price is \$99 per seat, soon going to \$109.) Send checks to Dick Laeser at 1977 Lakeport Way, Reston, VA 20191. Questions: laeser@comcast.net or 571-490-3402.



SYNOPSIS

Having exhausted all 102 counties in Illinois, "Professor" Harold Hill gives Iowa a try and soon enough convinces River City of its trouble with the "sin and corruption" of the pool hall, trouble that can only be stopped by forming a boys' band. Marian the librarian suspects he's a con man, but she begins to trust him after seeing how he's given confidence to her shy younger brother. Soon, this "Music Man" has transformed the entire town, not only turning the bickering school board into a barbershop quartet, but himself into an honest man. When the stage erupts with "76 Trombones," you'll be cheering along with River City for Harold Hill!

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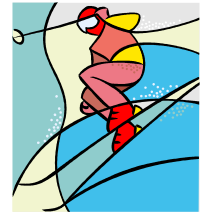
Nominating Committee Report for PVS Officers (2012 – 2013)

<p>Candidates for PVS Officers for 2012-2013</p> <p>President: Cara Jablon Vice President: Bob Knopes ExCom: Louann Eadie Excom: Carolyn DeVilbiss ExCom: Liz Warren-Boulton</p> <p>Additional nominations may be made by the signatures of any five active members in good standing and must be presented at a business meeting at least one month prior to the election which will be held on April 17, 2012</p>	<p>Submitted by the Nominating Committee:</p> <p>Nancy McKinley (Chair) John Brunelli Serge Triau Sue Lyon Dick Laeser Charlotte Eddy</p>
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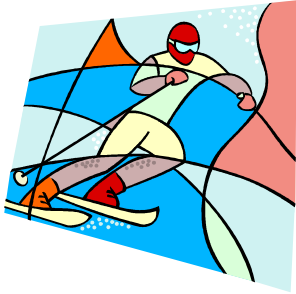
ExCom Candidates for April Election:

Cara Jablon – Candidate for President – Second Year

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.



Bob Knopes – Candidate for Vice President



A native of Wisconsin, where the highest peak is about 700 feet, Bob Knopes came to skiing late. In the midst of a Foreign Service career concentrating on Asia, Bob took an assignment as cultural attaché in Rome and learned to ski in Cervinia in the Italian Alps. From Rome he returned to Asia, serving in Beijing, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, and skiing in northern Japan whenever possible. Bob was introduced to PVS about the time he retired from the foreign service in 1994, and has enjoyed the great ski trips, excellent food, and unlimited friendships PVS has provided ever since.

Louann Eadie – Candidate for ExCom

Louann Eadie grew up in South Jersey and began skiing in her 20s with some college friends. She learned to ski at Chad's Ford "HILL" near Andrew Wyeth's home. She skied a few times in the next two years at Sugar Bush and Mad River Glen, VT. In her early 40s, when Louann and Bob's children were old enough to participate, she returned to skiing and the Eadies bought a cottage at Deep Creek Lake. They spent a lot of time on Wisp Mountain and enjoyed family time in that beautiful setting.



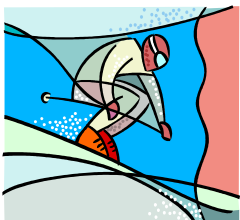
As a health and physical education teacher, and a coach of girls' sports (field hockey, basketball, and lacrosse), Louann taught at the University of Maryland as she pursued her M.A. in Psychology. Louann taught for 35 years, 27 of which were in Fairfax County at all levels (elementary, middle, and high school).

Sports have always been an integral part of Louann's daily life. Since Louann retired in June 2007, her other sports love is tennis. Her favorite time of day is on the court. She captains a GWTA team that plays competitively spring and fall and plays in a mixed senior group two days a week. She says that keeps her on her toes and above all "smiling"!

Louann and Bob have recently hit the road and sky traveling to the most amazing places in the world. They are ticking off the bucket list quickly to make up for the years they could not travel due to their professions. Finally, Louann states that "PVS has been a star in the sky for me and I have met so many fun and decent people...it doesn't get any better than that." Louann has now skied with PVS in Bulgaria, Slovenia, Snowmass, and Vail and will soon add Andorra to the list.

Carolyn Maurer DeVilbiss – Candidate for ExCom

Carolyn Maurer DeVilbiss was born in St. Petersburg, FL, but relocated with her parents and brothers to New England after WWII, to grow up in the snowy/messy weather of New England, just outside of Boston. She learned to ski on the local golf course hill at age 10 with the super-long skis (no edges) of the time. "Real" skiing followed in her teens at Cannon Mountain in New Hampshire (skis had edges then) and later at her college Snow Bowl (Middlebury, VT). Travels and studies during college and after afforded skiing opportunities in Austria and Japan. When her children were old enough, she taught them and various friends to ski in the hills of West Virginia, Pennsylvania,



Vermont, and New Hampshire. In 2005, she retired from a long career as Clinical Social Worker for the mental health system in Fairfax County. During those years, her ski vacations with friends and with area clubs allowed her to continue her love for the mountains. She met her husband, David DeVilbiss, on a PVS Snowmass trip about ten years ago, and subsequently was recruited to co-lead the annual Snowmass trip. After a run of six years as trip leader, Carolyn has announced her “retirement” from active trip leading. However, she is looking forward to many future activities with PVS, as well as “mentoring” future trip leaders. This will be her second term as ExCom member. She has also supported the Membership Committee with recruitment and PR activities.

Liz Warren-Boulton – Candidate for ExCom

Liz Warren-Boulton grew up in Canberra, Australia. She was 13 when her father made her first pair of lovely wooden skis. She now wishes that she had saved them. She learned to ski with charming European ski instructors who came south for the Australian winter. Those were the early days for Smiggins Hole, Perisher Valley, and Thredbo – all in New South Wales. Skiers hiked a lot carrying their skis or skated across a large flat area to get to the Perisher T bars.



Liz remembers one amazing time spring skiing after the season had closed. “Early morning, my father and I drove high up into the mountains and then hiked for a couple of hours. We skied on glittering pristine snow looping our way down until we ran into grass and then hiked out. I have never found spring conditions to compare with those in Australia – maybe something to do with altitude.” The highest mountain in Australia is Kosciusko at 7,310 feet.

Liz graduated from the Royal Canberra School of Nursing, left to see the world, and married an American. Her early days in the USA included many great ski trips to Vermont with its amazing white windswept frozen trees at the top of the lifts and several not-so-fun frostbite days when even Liz quit early. All that Austrian technique that Liz worked so hard to gain in Australia, she has since worked very hard to lose, beginning in Vermont with compression turns!

Liz moved from Princeton to Washington University in St Louis when her husband joined the economics faculty and she worked at the Washington U Diabetes Research and Training Center (post earning her masters degree in nursing from St. Louis University). Liz liked St Louis because it was closer to the Rockies! Since then, western USA skiing has won her over with its beautiful mountains and fabulous snow. Liz has skied most areas in Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Montana, and several days in California out of Truckee. She remembers thankfully a heli-skiing week at Bobbie Burns in the Canadian Rockies that showed her what real powder is. Liz states that she “would like more of that.” She introduced her son Geoffrey to skiing at Liberty, PA, and then skied in Taos, NM for many years – many members met him there during a PVS ski trip. Taos remains an all time favorite place for Liz.

She likes living in Washington DC where she paints and works for the National Diabetes Education Program. Liz has enjoyed many special ski trips with good friends and looks forward to lots more.

Past Events

PVS February 19 Monthly Meeting Review



On a Sunday afternoon in February, over 40 PVS members and guests assembled at the home of Jannes Gibson (photo on left) in Potomac. The large attendance could be attributed in part to relief over a winter storm warning which was only reduced that morning to a probability of afternoon rain showers, which in fact did not materialize. Those who attended were enchanted by the eclectic décor selected by the hostess, who has had a several decade involvement with the Textile Museum. The combination of attractive surroundings, tasty refreshments and camaraderie of fellow skiers provided a gracious atmosphere for meeting fellow skiers and hearing about past and future trips.

All are aware of the relatively mild winter this season, which has impacted the ski areas of North America. As a result, the local areas around Washington have had limited skiing, while the Rocky Mountain areas have managed to keep going, though this is not one of their banner years. The forthcoming PVS trip to Andorra though should benefit from the colder than usual winter in Europe. Announcements were made about future PVS local activities, future trips for the next season, and the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for election of club officers which will occur at the April annual meeting,

In conclusion, all expressed appreciation for the hospitality of the hostess, who has also arranged a forthcoming tour of the Textile Museum. Thanks to efforts of Jannes and other PVS members, the Club certainly looks like it will continue to thrive in future decades at least as well as in those of the past.



by Marvin Hass

PVS partaking of the delicious refreshments

Snowmass 2012

Submitted by Kathy Felmey and Bob Gleeson



Photos by Louann Eadie



One word characterizes our 18-25 January 2012 trip to Snowmass well, and that is luck! While packing our bags for the trip to Snowmass, many of us wondered if there would be any snow to ski upon. Three days before our arrival, however, Snowmass had a snowfall of approximately 14 inches. Also, luckily, the flight from Denver to Aspen went off without a hitch. (A lot of us remember the ordeal we had getting to Aspen from Denver last year!)

We had good snow until Saturday, 21 January, when a few rocks started peeping out from the scraped-off snow. Luckily, a storm arrived that night and dumped about 15 inches on the slopes. During the week we were there, Snowmass received a total of 18 inches of snow. At upper elevations, there were 53 inches of snow; at the middle, 37 inches; and lower elevations had 27 inches. In comparison, Keystone had 30 inches at all elevations, and Vail had a base depth of 35 inches. So, we at Snowmass were happy skiers!

During this trip, three of our group were slipping down the slopes for the first time in many years. For Jane Dealy, it had been at least fifteen years, and six years for both Cathy Sands and Susan Ives. They all did splendidly!

We had a great day on Thursday, 19 January, getting reacquainted with skis, poles, and downhill motion. Unfortunately, however, Marianne Gustafson took a fall on her first run, injuring her shoulder. Marianne was not able to ski for the rest of the trip, but she joined us in our “apres-ski” activities, including the fabulous group dinner that night at the “Brothers Grill.” There was great food and excellent conversation.

On Friday, 20 January, we had a fun “après-ski” party at the Snowmass Chalet, with lots of tasty snacks, various libations, and a fun sing-along with “The Shenanigans,” our own Sharon Mulholland and Annie Cummins, who each brought a guitar on the trip. We had so much fun that night that we repeated it all on Sunday night. We also played games during the day in the lunchroom of the chalet.

On Monday, 23 January, we had glorious sun and lots of fun skiing. That night, the chalet hosted a party for all their guests in the main lobby, and we know that PVSers always love a good party!



It snowed all Monday night, which we all loved to see on Tuesday morning, 24 January. We enjoyed great powder skiing, although some clouds rolled in and made it difficult to see our way down the slopes. The obscurity, however, did not deter our fearless skiers! We all made it back to the chalet to enjoy another delicious lunch of soup, bread, fruit and cookies. Some of us also went into Aspen in the evenings to enjoy the lights, the shops, and the restaurants.

Tuesday night, 24 January, we had a delicious group dinner at "The Snowmass Club." Before dessert, several presentations were made. Club President Cara Jablon gave Rosemary Schwartzbard a gift in thanks for all the work she has done as the leader of PVS' ski trip committee. Cara also presented Jean van der Tak with a gift in recognition of her 80-year-long ski career. Although Jean has decided to stop skiing, we hope she decides to join us on future trip, even if not on the slopes.



Photos by Bob Knopes



Rosemary then presented gifts as a token of our thanks to Carolyn DeVilbiss and Sharon Mulholland for having this fantastic trip to Snowmass, as well as many past trips.

As Rosemary reported in the February TOOT, Carolyn informed the group at dinner that she had decided to take more time for herself and would not be leading any more ski trips in the foreseeable future. The PVS members gave Carolyn a standing ovation in recognition of the dedication she has shown the club over many years. In the February TOOT, Rosemary also reported that Sharon had decided to take some time off from leading Snowmass trips. We were all grateful that Sharon had led this and earlier trips.

Early Wednesday morning, 25 January, the sun was shining brilliantly as PVS skiers headed for the airport to return to the DC area. All good things must end!

This year, we suggested a new format for the Snowmass trip write-up. We asked participants to provide input on three topics: their best ski adventure; their best "apres-ski" experience; and/or "tall tales" about themselves or other skiers. Here is what we received:

-- Nestor Delevaux suggested that the award for the "most improved skier of the year" go to Bob Jablon for his improved ability, speed, style, and technique. Congratulations, Bob!

--Sharon Mulholland said that her roommate, Susan Ives, when putting skis on for first time in years had her skis facing backwards. She had no problem skiing, however, when they were turned around. She also lent me the top of her swim suit, which I wore with travel underwear while luxuriating in the hot tub. What fun we had.

--Carolyn DeVilbiss visited the new exhibition in Snowmass Mall on the dig being done by scientists "racing against time to uncover this unique site packed with astonishingly well-preserved bones of mammoths, mastodons, and other giant extinct beasts, opening a vivid window into the vanished world of the Ice Age." It is thought to be one of the most important finds of that era in the United States--certainly at that altitude, and it is at "our

Snowmass." Carolyn said that there are only two or three bones in the exhibit, since most of them have gone back to Denver for studying and assembling. She added that the fun part of the exhibition was the 40-minute collection of videos showing the crews of staff and volunteers digging up the reservoir, because they had competitions to see which teams could collect the most bones. A one-hour program by NOVA-National Geographic on this dig was shown on WETA on 1 February. Carolyn hopes we all had the opportunity to see it.

-- Annie **Cummins'** friend Pete Smythe at first found the skiing at Snowmass to be similar to what he was used to on Maine slopes, i.e., the challenge of bits of ice, plus a few rocks and trees poking through the snow, all compounded by diminished oxygen at 12,000+ feet. Then Pete experienced Monday's soft groomed corduroy, mild temperature, a sunny, cloudless day and fearless skiing buddies, all of which made for unsurpassed skiing memories and an ultimate Colorado ski day. Another convert made!

Annie's best "apres-ski" experiences were the wonderful dinners Sharon arranged, getting to know fellow club members, singing and making music with friends, and hot tub relaxing. Annie and Pete would like to thank Sharon for being their ski guide on Friday, and they commended her for a flawless sense of timing, both on and off the slope.

--Jannes Gibson liked skiing Elk Mountain and also the group dinners because there was an opportunity to get to know some of the group. With some fellow PVSers, Jannes took the bus from Snowmass to the Anderson Ranch Arts Center where artists were in residence for three weeks in several different mediums. They saw the exhibition space in the main building, toured the studios, and met the artists. The ranch also has fabulous summer workshops for all levels. <www.andersonranch.org>

-- Corinne Moore reported that she and Jane Dealy took a ski lesson together with an excellent instructor, K-Willie, and hoped to have the same instructor for the next lesson. Corinne, however, got a different instructor, Chip, who, she said, was "a dead loss" and didn't pay attention to her skiing style at all. He did, however, suggest that Corinne downsize her skis from 153m to 136m, and she said that shorter skis gave her much better control. Corinne and Jane then spent the day on the green slopes – no instructors – and managed 9 runs altogether - great fun and a certain sense of freedom. Corinne then moved to the blue slopes with another instructor, Bill, who was a great teacher. It was pretty scary at the top at Elk Camp as it was extremely foggy, with poor visibility. The good news was that the fog hid how steep the slope was! A very good day and the only instructor Corinne tipped! Corinne concluded that it was all in all a wonderful experience. She said she still hadn't totally mastered parallel skiing but was almost there, and she hopes to return to Snowmass next year (arthritis hip allowing) to battle more blue slopes --and fewer green ones.

--Jane Dealy said that her "fears" of being back on the slopes after 20 years were soon alleviated. Skiing came back thanks to instructor K-Willie and her instructions, including the importance of "comfortable" boots. Jane had previously thought skiing with uncomfortable boots was part of the "experience." Corinne and Jane went back the next day and it was a scene from "American Idol." Quickly, K-Willie said, "Corinne - you will go back to beginners; Jane, you stay." Jane had made the cut for another performance. The third day, Jane sat in the lovely lounge of Mountain Chalet, put her feet up, finished her book and got in a game of Quibbage. Back on the slopes, K-Willie had moved on, so Corinne and Jane managed very well with their new confidence. All and all, Jane skied mostly by herself on Dawdler, Scooper, Hal's Hollow and missing a turn, ended up at Camp Ground -- beautiful but lots of polling. Jane had a run through the woods and a jump where you actually got some air beneath your skies. Taking mostly greens, Jane practiced, practiced, and practiced, and she's ready for next year!

--Inquiring minds want to know if Dave DeVilbiss succeeded in getting the recipe for the Snowmass Chalet's delicious pancakes! If so, please share!

SKI TALK

As this month's TOOT hits the press, many of us will be en-route to Spain/Andorra. More than forty PVSers are participating in this trip. Many will go to Barcelona, Andorra, and Madrid. A true "SEE and SKI Adventure."



Belonging to a ski club has many advantages. Skiing in a variety of places is one of them. Another is the cost of the trips. It would be hard to beat the cost of the Andorra trip on your own. Buying in bulk certainly has its advantages. There was a recent article reporting that the ski tickets at Steamboat have surpassed \$100! They are just catching up with Vail, Beaver Creek, and Aspen where the window price is beyond \$100. Of course, we all know not to buy ski tickets at the window. There are always deals on line and sometimes in town at convenience stores. However, the best deal is when we get group rates, which are often half of the window price. This is a huge advantage of skiing with a club.

LOCAL SKIING:

Our intrepid PVSers have been able to get in some good local skiing in spite of the weather. I had a wonderful day skiing with John Smith, Charlie Huggins, Shirley Rettig and guest, Ruth Healy, at Ski Liberty. Jan Marx, Marty Rine, and Mary Ward had some terrific skiing this past week at Snowshoe. The skiing and accommodations were free as Jan won them at the Ski Travel Show last spring. Eloise caught a sunny day at Wintergreen a week ago after it snowed eight inches! Not sure there will be any more local skiing as some of the resorts will stop making snow as of March 1. If there is, John Smith will let you know.

SKI TRAVEL SHOW MAY 4

Save the date. The Ski Travel Show will be on Friday evening, May 4, at the Tysons Marriott. More information will be in the April TOOT.

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Capital Golden Skiers

(PVS and CGS have enjoyed participating in several of each others' events. This is a list of CGS up and coming events. They are a fun group. More information is available at capitalgoldenskiers.com

March 16, 2012 (Friday): Dance Night at Hollin Hall (VA)

March 17, 2012 (Saturday): Heaven Can Wait at the Little Theater of Alexandria (VA)

March 18, 2012 (Sunday): Dance at the Elks Lodge (VA)

April 11, 2012 (Wednesday): Cherry Blossoms at the Tidal Basin (DC)

April 15, 2012 (Sunday): Walk from Alexandria to National Harbor and Return (VA)

April 15, 2012 (Sunday): Dance at the Elks Lodge (VA)

April 19, 2012 (Thursday): Hike the Billy Goat Trail (MD)

April 20, 2012 (Friday): Dance Night at Hollin Hall (VA)

April 21, 2012 (Saturday): Membership Luncheon, Pier 7 Restaurant (DC)

April 25, 2012 (Wednesday): a Stroll through the National Arboretum (DC/MD)

IN MEMORIAM - BETTE WALKER

December 28, 1918 - Early February 2012



Bette Walker died a few weeks ago at the age of 94. She was a member of PVS for 34 years, from October 28, 1975 until June 30, 2009. The following biography was in the March 1986 TOOT when she was a candidate for ExCom:

Bette Walker is that gal who zips to meetings and events in a mint condition white 1968 Mercedes Coupe that is the envy of all vintage car connoisseurs. She is also a club rarity - a born and bred Washingtonian. She graduated from Central High and George Washington University. Ice skating was an early hobby and she often cut figures on the reflecting pool and the frozen C&O canal.

She married into the marine corps and had three children – skiers all and all now departed from Bette's home on the waterfront near Arena Stage. But, when the family was younger and husband Bob retired, the family lived for seven years in Europe. One Christmas vacation in Kitzbuhel, it was too warm for the customary ice skating so Bette rented ski equipment, took a few lessons, drank a good bit of glühwein and in no time was hooked on the combination.

When the family returned to the U.S. Bette went on a 1975 Wyckoff ski trip and was so impressed she joined PVS and has been on every Wyckoff trip since. Her favorite ski place is Davos and her most memorable ski experience was snowplowing 14 kilometres from Davos to Klosters. She has been an active member of the club since 1976. Among her contributions was the editing of the cook book (still available at \$6.95).

But, it is on the ice that Bette continues to star, inspiring fellow skiers to hit the rinks for apres ski entertainment. She skates twice a week and is an officer of the Ice Club of Washington. Ice dancing is her forte.

She is remembered well and fondly by many PVSers. She was part of a fearsome foursome, i.e., Bette, Margaret Wyckoff, Jeanne Strickland, and Lu Beale. Margaret recalls that the four of them had dinners together and tried to attend every PVS event. Margaret observed that Bette was a sweet person and “never said a bad word about anyone.” Margaret noted that anyone who followed her down the slopes marveled at her elegance and grace and that it was like observing “dancing on the slopes.” The Wyckoffs led dozens of trips to Europe over the years and Bette never missed a one.



Jan M, Bette, Lu

Her friendships extended far beyond the foursome and many remember the PVS trips to Mt. Sutton led by Charles Huggins and Jack Peoples. Jan Marx skied with Bette there and, indeed, supplied the famous and incriminating pictures of Bette in a nightgown with a bra on her head. Bette danced with Bill Anderson in his raccoon coat at a “costume party” at Mt. Sutton. Barbara Leonhardt remembers that “boy, could the two of them dance!” Bill Anderson and Bette met pre-PVS at the Ski Club of Washington and he recalls that she loved to ski in Europe and went on many ski trips there. Bill commented that Bette “liked her martini.”



Barbara L, Lu Beale, Bette

Dave Warthen remembers a trip to Snowmass led by the Leonhardts when Bette was on a slow two-person lift trying to get to the Alpine Springs Lift (way before the gondola existed). Dave was on the lift behind her and states that the “only problem was that she fell asleep on the lift, and forgot to get off. I remember that they had to stop the lift and haul her off. I still remember her sailing around the half circle and heading back down. We laughed about that for a long time.”

Over and over again her skiing is described by PVSers as “elegant.” What a wonderful memory.”

Members' Corner

By J. David Warthen, Jr.
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Getting to Know You:

Dan & Betty Churchill (**Applicant Couple**)

Dan first tried skiing when 7 years old in the Boston area. Equipped with 19th century skis more than twice his stubby height, he attempted a mini-hill. As the only remnant of the original pre-bear-trap bindings was a single leather toe strap on each ski, there was no problem of non-releasing bindings. The procedure was trudge up the hill, launch, turn (no way), stop (fall down), retrieve skis from bottom, trudge up, repeat process. This first attempt lasted for about 3 very short runs.

Betty first learned to ski in the 1960s at Seven Springs, PA, as a student of Adam of the namesake DC ski shop. Dan joined her and about 8 others there for her next season at a lovely lodge near the slopes. As Seven Springs often lacked a key ingredient, snow, we both remember trying to find the ice patches between the rocks to somehow complete the 2- minute run. The season got mixed reviews – Betty finished in a cast and Dan with a bruise the size of a watermelon. Against all odds, we married a year later.

We spent many years in Europe and during our time in Frankfurt (1968-71) skied in the Alps most winter weekends. Those were the good old days when even lowly USG employees felt wealthy compared to most Europeans and could afford to ski all the top Alpine resorts. Also, the drive to the Alps was quick as Germans were not yet wealthy enough to turn the Autobahns into parking lots for Mercedes and BMWs. That was wonderful skiing, generously fueled by cheese fondue, kirschwasser, raclette, schnaps, beer and the occasional wine-filled bota.

We continued skiing for many years as we moved to Seattle, Brussels, New York and London. Together we spent 23 years in Europe, which was great not only for skiing but our principal past-times of eating, travel, sightseeing and more eating. In the early-90s, beset by various failing joints, we both gave up skiing, as well as our other love, tennis. Golf became our sport, successfully for Betty, less so for Dan (golf balls rarely follow his instructions). Now equipped with various new and repaired joints, Dan has once again taken up tennis and proposes to do the same with skiing. Betty probably will not hit the slopes but is very supportive.

Where's the snow?

Many of us are wondering where the snow is this year. If you have gone to a ski area in Colorado, you know exactly of what I speak. Usually the base is a 100⁺ inches, but this year, one can see gray areas and pine tree seedlings peaking through the ski trails. In 12 years of visiting Colorado, I have never seen snow so sparse on the slopes. Is this global warming, which we have not heard much about since Gore seemed to drop out of the limelight? Parts of Alaska and Europe have received far more precipitation than usual, compared to the lower 48. Locally in the DC metro area, all we have received are dustings to make local skiing next to impossible.

Temperatures have also been higher than usual in the DC metro area with some youngsters parading around in T-shirts and shorts. These temperatures are reflected in my plots of home energy usage (Therms & Kwh) for January – nice savings, but not conducive to snow for skiing.



According to Seth Borenstein, Associated Press, Feb. 12, 2012, "The reason is changes in Arctic winds that are redirecting snow and cold. Instead of dipping down low, the jet stream winds that normally bring cold and snow south got trapped up north. It's called the Arctic oscillation. Think of it as a cousin to the famous El Nino.



When the Arctic oscillation is in a positive phase, the winds spin fast in the Arctic keeping the cold north. But in the past few days, the Arctic oscillation turned negative, though not in its normal way, Halpert (deputy director of the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center) said. The cold jet stream dipped in Europe and Asia, but is still bottled up over North America.

That's because another weather phenomenon, called the North Atlantic oscillation, is playing oddball by staying positive and keeping the cold away from the rest of North America. About 90 percent of the time, the North Atlantic and Arctic oscillations are in synch, Halpert said. But not this time, so much of the United States is escaping the winter's worst."



Happy St. Patrick's Day, March 17





THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley
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It is March, but skiing is still in our hearts—and in our plans. Indeed, some 40 of us are currently off skiing in Andorra. We remain a ski club. And the Knee, as he has over the years, feels required to advise you of some of my favorite skiing causes. So let me remind you again that you should all 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 wears knickers. He wears knickerers.

Ubiquitous PVS—sort of: on a weekend in mid-February, Dick and Sandy Laeser were in New York City to see some Broadway plays. The same weekend, Rosemary and Dick Schwartzbard and Polli and John Brunelli were also in the Big Apple seeing shows. And you know what? They never saw each other.

Utah's first legal distillery since 1870 and its only ski-in pub is in Park City, according to Marvin Hass. It produces award-winning small batches of whiskey. If you order a whiskey flight, you will only get two glasses, as the law stipulates you can only have two alcoholic drinks in front of you. But things are changing. They are now allowed to sell alcohol on Sundays.

Despite the threat of snow, a winter-record 40 PVSers and guests showed up at Jan Gibson's Potomac abode. A great time was had by all and we had the chance to see Jan's beautiful witch hazels blooming like forsythias.

Busy lady: The morning after the meeting, our hostess, Jan Gibson, was scheduled to take a train to NYC for a few days with her new grandchild. Then she would return, and fly to Aspen for a few runs before returning to the DC area in time to head to Andorra.

At the meeting, John Smith was asked about local skiing this winter. In a word, John said, "frustrating." Nights haven't even been cold enough to make snow. In a word, "yucko."

Notwithstanding, six PVSers went to Liberty during the week and did "a little" skiing on what was described as the consistency of a snow cone. There they ran into Dick Comerford, who is now an instructor at Liberty. Dick described trying to teach skiing on mushy snow as "a bit like yodeling."(?)

Whilst many of us were at Jan's, Eloise and Mike Strand were at Wintergreen. They had 5" of new snow, and Eloise got some final turns in before heading for Andorra.

With our lack of snow this year, the Knee was reminded of a snowier year - the February 2003 PVS meeting which was cancelled because of a blizzard, which I believe was called Rory. When word came, the meeting had been cancelled, the Knee was appalled. We are a ski club, not wimps! How could we let this happen? But there were some mitigating circumstances. Our hosts (ho-persons?), Dick and Rosemary Schwartzbard, had been skiing at Wintergreen when Rory struck. And they were snowed into Wintergreen and out of DC! Snow 'nuf.

Lest I forget, knickers are great for skiing at high altitude. Even when the air is quite sparse, if you wear them, you are still breathing in short pants. Ouch!

Spell check is for those of us making congenital spelling mistakes. The Knee's system decided that "Jessma" Blockwick should be "Jetsam," and that "Myron" Marquardt should be "Moron." I received the following some time ago, and I just found it again:

Eye halve a spelling chequer
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.
Eye have run this poem threw
I am shore your pleased two no
Its letter perfect awl the weigh
My chequer tolled me sew!

According to AARP, If God wanted us to be able to touch our toes, (S)He would have put them on our knees! Right on—and left on.

According to Marvin Hass, some 60 couples donned ski goggles, parkas, and skis to mark Valentine's Day by saying "I do" during a mass mountaintop ceremony at the 21st annual mountaintop matrimony ceremony and reception at Colorado's Loveland Ski Area. They skied down for a party. Women added veils to their helmets or hats, and some carved turns down the mountain wearing gowns as snowflakes fell.

Finalknee, instead of wearing boots with my knickerers, I wear (what else) skickerers.

As they say in France, *je suis finknee*.

2012 Calendar



Mar 14	Wed	LOGs, Umberto's Italian Restaurant; 1:00 PM (Smith, Potomac, MD)
Mar 18	SUN	Snowmass Post-Trip Party; 2-4 PM (Mulholland, Frederick, MD)
Mar 20	Tue	Monthly Meeting; 7:30 PM (Ufholz, Bethesda, MD)
Mar 27	Tue	ExCom Meeting; 7:30 PM (Conference call)
Apr 17	Tue	Annual Meeting; 7:30 PM (Heitchue, Reston, VA)
Apr 22	SUN	Andorra Post-Trip Party; 2:00 PM (Hines, Delaplane, VA)
Apr 29	Sat	The Textile Museum; 1:00 PM (Gibson, DC)
Jun 02	Sat	The Music Man, Arena Stage; 2:00 PM (Laeser, DC)

Useful Ski "Links"

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

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