



VOLUME 49  
NUMBER 3

*Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.*  
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

MARCH 2014

[www.pvskiers.org](http://www.pvskiers.org)

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Fellow PVSers,

Here we are in March already and the last of this year's fabulous PVS Ski Trips is about to get underway. PVS has a history of running fun ski trips – for skiers and non-skiers as well, and this year has been no exception. I hope everyone took advantage of the opportunity to participate this year – even if you are no longer heading down the ski hill yourself.

That brings me to the thought for this month. Consider being among those who bring so much pleasure to our PVS friends by leading or co-leading a ski trip. Rosemary Schwartzbard and her indomitable Ski Trip Committee are hard at work setting up next year's trips and have some great trips lined up for us. In the 2013-2014 season, we ran four exciting ski trips and next year promises to be just as much fun.

Rosemary ([rosemaryschw@gmail.com](mailto:rosemaryschw@gmail.com)) would be happy to talk with you about what's involved in leading a trip. Ray and I have run many trips for the Club over the years and we can assure you that not only does the group benefit when someone steps up to lead a trip, but the satisfaction of giving your friends a good time is well worth it!

*Nancy*

### **Monthly Meeting**

Sunday, March 23, 2014  
2:00 PM

At Maryann Rozzell's home  
3422 Barkley Dr  
Fairfax, VA 22031

[ptmaryann@cox.net](mailto:ptmaryann@cox.net)  
703-280-1171



### *Directions*

From the beltway, take Route 50 W towards Fairfax.  
Proceed about 2.1 miles and turn left on Barkley Drive.  
Proceed 0.9 of a mile and 3422 Barkley Drive is on the right.

As this TOOT is being released a skiing and viewing the start of the few days for Cortina. The snow in looking forward to some exciting also go to Venice and Florence. Locally, the snow gods have provided one of the most favorable conditions in years, and our local skiers have taken full advantage.



group of PVSers are in Alyeska for both Iditarod. Another group will be leaving in a the Dolomites is great this year, so we are skiing. Several members of the Cortina group will



Our Ski Trip Committee (STC) is ready to accept proposals for the 2015 ski season. We have already received a proposal for Snowmass for next January, staying at the Snowmass Mountain Chalet. This is one of the club's favorite destinations, so we are excited to be going there again next year. We are expecting several other proposals and look forward to a full year of skiing opportunities.

I have just been working on summarizing the trip evaluations from Snowmass and Vail. I am always pleased that the feedback we get from our trips is so positive. Many people say our ski trips are "better" than other group trips on which they have participated. What makes a group trip successful? Even more than the hotel or ski area, people appreciate good communication, good leadership and the camaraderie of group activities. Remember that our PVS trip leaders are volunteers who spend considerable time and effort over months organizing the trip. Sometimes, they may get a free "comp" for their work, but often they do not. As a club, each member needs to participate and be invested in making our trips go as smoothly as possible. Some things you can do to help:

1. Get to know other group members;
2. Let people know what your ski level is and invite others of comparable level to ski with you;
3. Volunteer to help the leader set up or clean up at a social event;
4. Help set up lunch "meet ups" on the mountain;
5. If you find an interesting excursion, dinner place, or ski area, take the initiative and invite others to go with you;
6. If you notice someone has a particular problem, let the leader know;
7. And most importantly, always be respectful of your fellow trip members.



Enjoy the rest of the ski season! Ciao.

*Rosemary Schwartzbard*  
rosemaryschw@gmail.com



## Ski Trip:

### **CORTINA D'AMPEZZO - 2014**

**PVS & BRSC (Blue Ridge Ski Council), March 7- March 15 +++++**

**PRICE – Approximately \$2,590 (Single Supplement – Approximately \$3,172)**



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 1,220 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.

#### **Included:**

- Air between Washington (IAD or BWI) and Venice via Delta Airlines via JFK, and round-trip transfers between Venice and Cortina
- 7 nights accommodations at a 4\*+ Ancora hotel in downtown Cortina
- Full breakfast buffet and six 3-course dinners (Ancora is known for its great food)
- 3 BRSC Parties: Welcome at the Olympic Ice Stadium; Après Ski at Tofana Ski Area by Cable Car; and Farewell Dinner Dance at OUR Ancora hotel with 4-course dinner, drinks, and dancing
- Après Ski wine and cheese with the trip leaders on days between the BRSC parties
- Regular trip insurance – option for trip cancellation insurance
- Fee-Based Sightseeing and Shopping Tours: Conegliano (+wine tasting), Bolzano, Innsbruck, Salzburg – more details are being developed – I have the individual prices – email me.

#### **Other Considerations:**

Optional post-trip extension to Tuscany staying 4 nights in Florence at the 4\* Hotel Athenaeum, daily breakfast, tour of Florence, Delta return flight from Florence - **\$550.00**

Optional 2 nights stay in a 4\* hotel in **Venice** – TBD – email me

***Want more information, send email with Cortina in the subject and I'll send you updated information, without obligation to signing-up: Dick Comerford, [dick.comerford@verizon.net](mailto:dick.comerford@verizon.net), 571-426-3098 c, 703-777-9374 h***

## Past Event

### February 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Despite the big snow and warnings that parking spots were not cleaned, and given other options such as riding the Leisure World shuttle or walking, 26 members and one applicant (Herb Bennett) arrived at Celia Chen's 10<sup>th</sup> floor condo in Leisure World for the Sunday afternoon PVS meeting. When we first entered, we had signs directing us to the different food and drink stations. What a spread and variety! There was roast beef, turkey, venison, liver spread, and salmon (two ways), all labeled. Also, there was a variety of fruits, veggies, cheeses, crackers, croissants, home made warm bread, meatballs, and a couple of baked appetizers. Nuts, candies, chips and more were also around.



*Celia with Dick S and Dick C.*

In the absence of President Nancy McKinley, who was home sick following a trip to Vietnam and Cambodia, Ray McKinley (Events Chairman) presided. Rosemary Schwartzbard (Chair of the Ski Trip Committee) was called on to report on the trips. She gave a report on the Snowmass trip, which she was on; and Inge Lesjak, who led the BRSC trip to Vail, reported on her trip. In the absence of the Hines, Rosemary mentioned the Alyeska trip, which is the next trip to depart; and Dick Comerford reported on his BRSC trip to Cortina. Rosemary said the Ski Trip Committee was working on the trips for next year.



John Smith reported on the local weekly trips to Liberty Mountain, which had excellent conditions - better than some areas in the West. Charles Huggins told about the state of the art snowmaking equipment at Liberty Mountain, and he passed around pictures of the new resort and conference center, whose construction begins this week. The new facility will feature a grand events room, several meeting rooms, an indoor pool, seventeen hotel rooms, and two restaurants. It is a \$20 million dollar project and is scheduled to open in the spring of 2015.



The casualties of members from both home and skiing accidents were noted. Bob Jablon was there with a broken arm from a fall, and Shirley Rettig was there on crutches from being knocked down by another skier on the Utah slopes.

It was also reported that Mike Strand had fallen at their Wintergreen place and had broken a wrist.





The three new ExCom nominees were announced: Ellie Thayer, Inge Lesjak, and Paul Levy.

Ray announced that the next meeting, also a Sunday afternoon meeting, would be at Maryann Rozzell's house. A location is needed for the April general meeting as word was received that the party room at Reg Heitchue's building, where we have held this meeting for several years, would not be available this year as it was undergoing remodeling.

After the meeting, it was dessert and coffee time with selections of cake, cherry pie, and an assortment of cookies.

**Thank you Celia Chen for hosting this meeting.**

*Submitted by Sara Huggins*



**The Emerald**



**Isle.**



## Vail, Colorado, Ski Trip Report

My gear is spread all over the floor. It's not nearly as exciting to be putting things away as packing for a ski trip. I've just returned from the Potomac Valley Skier's trip to Vail with the Blue Ridge Ski Council, February 1 - 8, 2014.

The snow was fabulous!! Yes, it was chilly a few days and a bit windy at times, but it was February. The advantage of winter in Colorado, at this time of year, is wonderful, fluffy and forgiving snow! I didn't know that I could ski powder! It was like skiing on velvet. We set out early each morning for our skiing adventures, sorting into smaller groups to enjoy the mountains. Thanks to Gary Lance, Ron Mileikowsky, Dick Parlow, and Manfred Boehringer, we explored the famous back bowls in Vail and even Dan Leubecker skied in a small group (not alone) and led us down the steeper slopes in icy winds and fluffy snow.

Sunday, our first day, was a sunny one and we were thrilled to see the splendor of the surrounding mountains. On Tuesday, a minor diversion was the BRSC Race. Eight members participated: Mary Van Sinek from BOT received a Gold medal; Rich Lau, Peter Russell and I won Silver; and Helena Masley, Liz Stutz, Linda Newerla and Inge Lesjak won Bronze. The non-racers cheered us on from the sidelines!



On Wednesday, we boarded a bus and headed to Beaver Creek. We skied with guides in small groups, exploring the whole mountain area – seven miles one way, a trip Peter Russell will not forget easily. Because of fresh snow conditions, a lot of 'poling' was necessary to get to the other side of the hill.

We stayed at the Vail Cascades Resort and Spa, a large hotel outside Vail Village with its own chairlift connection to the huge Vail ski area. Upon arrival we gathered in the Cascades sports center for wine and cheese, while we received our neck wallets, lift tickets, and Epic passes from Inge Lesjak, our trip leader, and further instructions from the tour operator, Effie Rubinstein. The Super Bowl was Sunday evening, and PVS celebrated football, food and drink in Inge and Liz' party room. On Monday, BRSC held a Welcome Reception for all 149 trip participants in the ballroom with appetizers and drinks. Tuesday, we had an Apres Ski Keg Party with great food. Tuesday and Wednesday evening small groups took the shuttle to explore Vail at Lionshead and Vail Village. Our Farewell Colorado Buffet dinner and dance was on Thursday evening. The food was delicious and the DJ



*Peter Russell, Inge Lesjak, Liz Stutz, Helena Masley,  
Linda Newerla, Mary Van Sinek*



*Inge Lesjak, Manfred Boehringer, Peter Russell, Helena  
Masley, Richard Lau, Liz Stutz, Linda Newerla, Jim Gunning*

was responsive to our music requests. We danced! Yep, we closed the place down! We all gathered in Inge and Liz' room again Friday evening to clean out the refrigerator, empty the bar, and watch Opening Ceremonies for the winter Olympic games in Sochi.



*Peter and Manfred enjoying a Weissbier at Pepi's*

The resort had an outdoor swimming pool and several outdoor hot tubs. I tried that for several days and then found the delicious Spa. The facilities were great, and the best treatment after a day of serious skiing was time in the steam room and the hot tub. It took away all the pain and stiffness! What fun!

On the down side, we had several who made trips to the hospital. The best news was that nothing was broken! They each had wonderful care from a competent and caring staff.

Saturday morning, we had a 5:00 am departure, so I'll say no more.

We slept on the bus to Denver, and flew out by various routes. I hope everyone had as much fun on this trip as I did! Thank you, Inge, for leading this wonderful trip.



*Bing Van Nuys, Gary Lance, Ron Mileukowski, Doug Barlow, Mary Van Sinek, Dick Parlow, Randy Barlow, and JanaLee Sponberg*

*Submitted by JanaLee Sponberg*

# Members' Corner



By J. David Warthen, Jr.  
[dwarthen@verizon.net](mailto:dwarthen@verizon.net)

## **2014 Winter Olympics:**

Any Olympics is always exciting, as the very best athletes around the world compete for gold, silver, and bronze metals. The host country spends billions (Putin spent 50 billion in taxpayer funds) to impress the world. However 'subtle?' is the desire to impress and outdo former host countries, the ultimate goal is reached in bringing athletes together in their unified purpose to do their very best and finish the race.



Just to participate is an honor, for it represents years of hard work and discipline, and for that alone, we can only feel admiration. I am sure that there are some that are competing only for the lucrative endorsements and fame, but many are competing for personal and admirable reasons. They often realize that they are role models for the next generation, and that they have the opportunity to exemplify honesty, integrity, and discipline. One often has to set aside media coverage of trivial incidents to sell news, and recognize the underlying majority who are genuinely called to participate.

The Winter Olympic Games are particularly interesting to us as skiers. One cannot be but amazed at the speed of the downhill races, the huge ski jumps, the skill for bumps and slalom, cross country skiing, the snowboarder tricks, as competitors risk life and limb.

I really enjoy the figure skating, singles and pairs. The intricacies of the jumps, the dance, etc., are unbelievably fascinating.

I hope you enjoyed the Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, as you blot out the numerous commercials and concentrate on the achievements of the competitors. Reference: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olympics>.

--J. D. Warthen, Jr.

## **Saint Patrick's Day:**

March 17 is a cultural and religious holiday named after Saint Patrick (c. AD 385-461). This Feast Day commemorates Saint Patrick, the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, and celebrates the heritage and culture of the Irish in general. Celebrations generally involve public parades, festivals, the wearing of the green or shamrocks (the shamrock was utilized by Saint Patrick to explain the Trinity to Irish pagans), and alcohol consumption. The latter, along with the wearing of the green, makes this holiday a joyful time for all.



Reference:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint\\_Patrick%27s\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Patrick%27s_Day)

Curiosity led to investigating skiing in Ireland.

Ski Club of Ireland reference:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ski\\_Club\\_of\\_Ireland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ski_Club_of_Ireland)

Ski Club of Ireland:

<http://www.skiclub.ie>

Including the Ides of March on March 15 and Saint Patrick's Day on March 17, there are, you guessed it, 31 daily holidays, some and most of which are special and wacky. Examples include National Pig Day on March 1, Panic Day on March 9, and Bunsen Burner day on March 31.

Reference:

<http://www.holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/march.htm>

***Happy Saint Patrick's Day to you and yours!***



## **TOOT Distribution to 181 Members:**

-pdf: 151; Text (Att.): 1; USPS: 7

### **Thanks to:**

-TOOT Content/Proof Editor – E. Thayer

-TOOT Layout Editore – Jan Marx

-TOOT USPS – Volunteers

--D. Warthen - Electronic TOOT

**-Roster Changes:** (notify-[dwarthen@verizon.net](mailto:dwarthen@verizon.net))





# THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley  
[RaysKnee@gmail.com](mailto:RaysKnee@gmail.com)

After what can only be called an unusual season, it is finally **nee** March. But skiing remains in our hearts - and in our plans.

We remain a ski club. And the **Knee**, as he has over the years, remains pleased to advise you of changes that have occurred in ski areas and lodging.

Snow King Hotel, steps from the center of Jackson, Wyo., and where the **Knee** learned to ski "a few years ago," has finally gotten its much-needed upgrade. The 204-room hotel, which sits at the foot of Snow King Mountain, the locals' hill (and minutes from the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort), recently completed a \$17 million transformation that overhauled its rooms, exterior and spa. The new owner has also opened a restaurant, Hayden's Post, and added floor-to-ceiling windows that provide 240-degree views of Snow King. **Kneet!**

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

However, we've had a few injuries. Whilst in Utah skiing, Shirley Rettig had an accident and injured her pelvis. She was on crutches at our February meeting at Celia Chen's lovely abode in Silver Spring. Rosemary Schwartzbard, who had a similar injury, discussed with Shirley how she was able to work around the problem. Shirley is still planning on going on Kerry and Marianne Hines' Alaska trip, to enjoy Alaska's delights. She will not, however, have a sled in Alaska's famous, early-March dog race, the Iditarod.

This is not fun**nee**. Bob Jablon's arm was in a sling. He had broken his left humerus. This wasn't even droll.

Several noted that some die-hard Alaskan skiers are taking drastic steps to ski. This includes coming south to ski in our mid-Atlantic area. The **Knee** is not making this up!

Marsha and Dave Warthen were pleased to attend the meeting at Celia's. It's the closest a meeting has ever been to their home. Super.

Due to bleak driving conditions, there was consideration to cancelling the February meeting. However, the day dawned crisp and blue-skied, and over 25 PVSers attended. The **Knee** was reminded of a snowier year - the February 2003 PVS meeting was cancelled because of a blizzard, which was called Rory. When word came the meeting had been canceled, the **Knee** was appalled. We are a ski club, not wimps! How could this happen? But there were mitigating circumstances. Hosts (hospersons?), Dick and Rosemary Schwartzbard, had been skiing at Wintergreen when Rory struck. And they were snowed into the Wintergreen ski area and out of DC! Snow 'nuf.

Dick Comerford shares a ski home in Colorado's Summit County. He has just returned from skiing at Copper Mountain and Keystone. It certainly beats skiing at Liberty! And that was even though he got stuck snow-blowing their entire driveway before he could get in to the house. Bummer. Despite the opening of Breckenridge's 645-acre Peak 6, Dick didn't get to ski there. Perhaps next time.

30 years ago, the SALT arms control discussions between the USSR and the US led to a major arms control agreement. But as the Sochi Olympics started, another kind of salt discussion was needed. Four months earlier, leading experts on salt and snow had told Sochi officials that the Alpine skiing events required more than 19 tons of salt, a crucial ingredient for melting soft snow so it can refreeze into a hard surface. But, the organizers didn't listen. Now, the Games' signature events were in jeopardy of being compromised, or even canceled.

Large grains of salt overcome soft snow conditions when a hard, icy surface is needed. The salt melts the soft snow, and when the temperature drops a layer of ice forms.

It's true! After spending more than \$50 billion on the Games, they didn't order the full amount of salt recommended. Now suddenly, Sochi needed an emergency infusion of salt. They managed to acquire it from Switzerland for only \$150 a ton; the bill would be a mere \$3,500! The ski federation helped reroute a plane.

When the plane landed in Sochi, Russian officials expedited the customs process. After passing a security check, Olympic vehicles took the salt to the mountain where emergency workers sprinkled the soft snow with big-grained salt, fresh from Switzerland. "It could have ended in disaster, but it was good teamwork." And we had the Olympics.

As they say in France, *je suis fin**nee***.

**PVS Calendar 2014:**

Mar 23 Sun PVS Monthly Meeting, 2:00 PM, Rozzell, Fairfax, VA  
 Mar 25 Tue ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM, Thayer, Arlington, VA  
 Apr 15 Tue PVS Annual Meeting, 7:30 PM, Jablons, Washington, DC  
 Apr 22 Tue ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM, McKinleys, Arlington, VA



**Ski Trips:**

**PVS**

March 7-15++++, PVS/BRSC to Cortina, Italy (Dick Comerford)

| <b>Useful Ski "Links"</b>   |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Potomac Valley Skiers.....  | <a href="http://potomacvalleyski.org">potomacvalleyski.org</a>                     |
| BRSC Sanctioned Trips.....  | <a href="http://skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm">skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm</a> |
| DC Ski Online News.....     | <a href="http://dcski.com">dcski.com</a>   |
| Best of Times Ski Club..... | <a href="http://bestoftimeskiclub.org">bestoftimeskiclub.org</a>                   |

**ExCom Officers, Board Members, & Chairpersons**

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| President – <i>Nancy McKinley</i>                                      | EXCOM:                            |
| Vice President – <i>John Holt</i>                                      | First Term:                       |
| Secretary – <i>Ellie Thayer</i>  | <i>Marianne Sophonis</i>          |
| Treasurer – <i>Dick Laeser</i>   | <i>Bob Knopes</i>                 |
| Ex-Officio – <i>Cara Jablon</i>  | <i>Maryann Rozzell</i>            |
| Ski Trip Committee – <i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i>                      | Second Term:                      |
| Events – <i>Ray McKinley</i>   | <i>Carolyn Maurer DeVilbiss</i>   |
| Membership Records – <i>Dave Warthen</i>                               | <i>Louann Eadie</i>               |
| Membership PR Rep – <i>Carolyn DeVilbiss</i>                           | <i>Paul Levy</i>                  |
| TOOT Content/Proof Editor – <i>Ellie Thayer</i>                        | Webmaster – <i>Dave Lerner,</i>   |
| TOOT Layout Editors – <i>Jan Marx, Marvin Hass, &amp; Dave Warthen</i> | <i>Mary Ward (Backup)</i>         |
| TOOT (E-Distribution) – <i>Dave Warthen</i>                            | Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</i> |
| TOOT (USPS Distribution) – <i>Volunteers</i>                           | Historian – <i>Jan Marx</i>       |

**Nominating Committee Report for PVS Officers (2014 – 2015)**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Candidates for PVS <b>Officers &amp; Board Members</b>,<br/>for 2014-2015</p> <p><b>President:</b> Nancy <b>McKinley</b>†      <b>ExCom:</b> Inge Lesjak*</p> <p><b>Vice President:</b> John <b>Holt</b>‡      <b>ExCom:</b> Paul Levy (1-yr)**</p> <p style="margin-left: 150px;"><b>ExCom:</b> Ellie Thayer***</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 15, 2014</p> | <p>Submitted by the Nominating Committee:</p> <p>Reg <b>Heitchue</b> (Chair)</p> <p>Louann <b>Eadie</b></p> <p>Cara <b>Jablon</b></p> <p>Bob <b>Jablon</b></p> <p>Bob <b>Knopes</b></p> <p>Sue <b>Lyon</b></p> <p>Gerda <b>Picco</b></p> |
|---|--|

(Profile access: Username-Member, Password-TOOT)

† Profile: <http://pvskiers.org/TOOT/Mar13.pdf#page=9>

‡ Profile: <http://pvskiers.org/TOOT/Mar13.pdf#page=10>

\* Profile: <http://pvskiers.org/TOOT/Feb14.pdf#page=3>

\*\* Profile: <http://pvskiers.org/TOOT/Nov13.pdf#page=2>

\*\*\* Profile: <http://pvskiers.org/TOOT/Apr10.pdf#page=2>