

VOLUME 46
NUMBER 5

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

MAY 2011

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President's Message:

I look forward to working with all of the PVS officers and members to make this a successful and enjoyable year for the club. Many thanks go to all the PVS members who worked so hard this past year for our club. A special thanks to our past president, Sharon Mulholland, who also doubled as a co-trip leader for the Snowmass trip and helped send out the TOOT "snail mail." I appreciate that, with her busy and demanding real-estate work, Sharon was able to take the time to lead our club, and always did so in a cheerful and competent manner.

I am also very grateful that Ellie Thayer not only ably performed the role of vice-president, but also served as the TOOT contents editor. Without Ellie's vigilance in keeping us all on our toes, the club would have had great difficulty in meeting the TOOT publication deadlines. I am so pleased that Ellie is continuing as the TOOT contents editor this year. Many, many thanks to Dave Warthen, Jan Marx, and Marvin Hass, who took on, and are continuing, the very demanding job of editing the TOOT. Dave Warthen also performed yeoman's service as the chairperson of the membership committee and carried out the electronic distribution of the TOOT, and Jan also ably served as the club's historian.

Many other people deserve recognition – Carolyn DeVilbiss, trip leader for the Snowmass trip and membership PR representative; Dick Laeser, treasurer and ExCom member; Mary Beale, secretary and ExCom member; Ray McKinley, events coordinator and author of the monthly Knee column – an opus that never ceases to be amazing; Nancy McKinley, nominating committee chairperson; Dave Lerner, webmaster; Sue Lyon, meeting records coordinator; Dick Schwartzbard, John Brunelli, and John Seabold, ExCom members; Barbara Leonhardt, who sent out the USPS TOOTs; and Sharon Mulholland who printed out the monthly USPS TOOTs. I am also appreciative of the members who hosted monthly and ExCom meetings and those who led special activities. The strength of the club depends on its members, and it is very gratifying that many members have devoted so much time and effort to the success of the club.

I have several goals for the upcoming year. First, I would like to recruit new members to keep the club vibrant and healthy. I need your help in this goal – invite your friends to meetings, and encourage them to join us on ski trips and other activities. Second, I hope to increase participation in club meetings and activities. I encourage you to say "yes" when Ray asks you to host a meeting or run an event. Let's be creative in offering off-season events – if you have suggestions for a group activity, please let me know. I can be reached at 202-333-5332 or rcjablon@aol.com. A third goal is to increase the number of local ski day trips, and to develop an easy mechanism for organizing last minute local trips. Finally, I hope that we can increase our skiing population sufficiently to run a third ski trip each year, either in the West or New England.

Again, with many thanks to all the PVS members who devoted so much time and effort to club activities. Let's continue the good work this year.

Cara Jablon



May meeting at **Bob and Karen Knopes**
Tuesday, May 17 7:30 PM
Fairfax Station, VA

Past Events



... and hike we did...

...four of us, anyway, on Tuesday, April 19th. If you will recall, it was a cloudy day with weather reports of possible thunderstorms in the afternoon. Well, in the morning, we did feel a few drops but it never rained on us. Apparently it did around the county, though, and may have influenced some of our hikers.

This was a great time to be at Great Falls. Not only was it National Park Week with free admission in all parks in the US, but the Falls were really swollen. Oh, the POWER!

I met John Lyon in the parking lot, we waited fifteen minutes, and then struck out after no one else arrived. We met Mary Beale, Daisy and Buddy coming from the other direction along the palisades. Mary's comment was that the dogs refused to walk around the block but were having a great time in the rocks. They continued on and then we met up with John's friend, Lew who was late and joined us there. Parts of the trails were blocked off due to high water. We three hiked toward River Bend Park but had to take the high road because of path closure. We abandoned our goal of the River Bend Visitor's Center because we stumbled upon a vacant house overlooking the river. We ate our lunch on the porch steps. We walked about 5 miles.

Thanks, John

by Jan Marx

Historical Note ---1968



We have 9 new members so I thought this would be of interest to everyone since our minds have been on membership.

This is a copy of the results of the ski test that was required for all new PVSers for years. One had to pass these items on a ski hill and be given by a qualified person. Larry was on the ski patrol at WISP. The kick turn was the toughest -- took some practice. The herring bone used the most energy -- but then we were younger.

USEASA—BASIC PROFICIENCY TEST GIVE THIS HALF TO CANDIDATE

Please Print Plainly on Both Copies. Print Judges' Names.

Name Jan Marx Club Potomac Valley

	Trial	1	2	3		Trial	1	2	3
1. Skiing on Level		P			6. Snowplow Stop		P		
2. Kick or Step Turn—Right		P			7. Snowplow Turns		P		
Kick or Step Turn—Left		P			8. Straight Running		P		
3. Side Step—Right		P			9. Side Slipping—Right		P		
Side Step—Left		P			Side Slipping—Left		P		
4. Herringbone		P			10. 3 Link Stem Turns		P		
5. Traverse Climb—Right		P							
Traverse Climb—Left		P							

JUDGE Larry Pease

Judges Note: Indicate (P) Passed or (X) Failure in trial boxes — Summarize with large (P) or (X) here

A few years ago, PVS got wise and figured out that skiing with members would demonstrate one's ability. And, after all, enthusiasm for the sport is what is important.

Members Corner



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

TOOT Distribution to 160 members:

-pdf: 121; Text (Att.): 2; ; USPS: 10

Roster Changes: (notify dwarthen@verizon.net)

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Denmark

Thanks To:

-TOOT Layout Editor – J. Marx

-TOOT Content/Proof Editor – E. Thayer

-TOOT USPS – B. Leonhardt & S. Mulholland

-D. Warthen (Electronic TOOT)



Schwartzbards' Trip to Dublin, November 10-16, 2010

Here are some highlights of a five-day trip to Dublin--

Hotel: We stayed at the five-star Fitzwilliam Hotel, which is across from St. Stephens Green and just off Grafton St. It's a perfect location to walk just about anywhere in Dublin (and we did walk over much of Dublin).

Historical and Cultural Sites: Our first encounter with ancient history was with James Buckley, an Irish friend. He took us to **St. Michan's Church** which was founded in 1095, the oldest church on the north side of Dublin. Most interesting were the crypts (burial vaults) beneath the church. The dry atmosphere and limestone in the vaults have preserved and mummified the bodies. The crypts are accessed through iron hatches outside the

church and down stone steps to the underground. Our guide was quite a character, trying to imitate Dr. Frankenstein's servant Igor. We were permitted to try for good luck by entering a crypt and touching the finger of one of the mummies, identified as a 13th century crusader by the way his body was placed in the coffin. This is not a site we would have found on our own, nor is it a place to be visited by the faint of heart.

James also took us to the **Four Courts**, Ireland's main judiciary venue. James is a practicing barrister in Dublin; we were able not only to visit this magnificent building but also walk around one of the courtrooms and get briefed by James as to how the proceedings take place.

The museum and tour of **Kilmainham Goal**, a 19th century prison, gave us insight to modern Irish history. It was here that the English interred Irish revolutionaries. We visited the stone-breakers yard where the men of the 1916 Easter Rising were executed, and learned about the history of this uprising and of other events critical to the establishment of the Republic of Ireland.

Trinity College, the Book of Kells and Library. We saw the lavishly decorated Book of Kells, which was produced early in the 9th century by the monks of Iona. It contains the four gospels in Latin. We then visited the long room of the library, an architecturally breathtaking sight, which contains over 200,000 old books.

Christ Church. A friend arranged for us to go to the belfry on Sunday morning and watch the bell ringers (campanologists) in action. We were shown how the bells work, a much more complex process than just pulling a rope. Synchronizing the pulling among the various ringers is a tricky process. This was a truly unique experience. Just getting to the belfry up the darkened spiral staircase then walking across the catwalk on the roof to reach the belfry was exciting.

Glendalough. We visited this 6th century monastery and graveyard on our tour of the **Wicklow Mountains**. More on this below.

We also visited the **National Gallery** of Ireland on lovely Merrion Square for a spot of culture.

Pubs: We highly recommend the **Musical Pub Crawl**, which lasts 2.5 hours and about the same number of pints of Guinness. The leaders were two musicians who were both talented and witty. They explained the tradition of Irish music, how people get together in pubs and play not as entertainers, but for their own enjoyment. The **Crawl** took us to Gogarty's, The Ha'penny Bridge Inn, and Brannigans. This introduction to pubs and music helped us when we went to O'Donoghue's the next day and enjoyed the music and friendliness of the pub culture. We were welcomed as though we were old friends. There we met an Irish Olympian who had run in the 1968 games in Mexico City. We were also befriended by Peter Grogan, who was singing and playing music in the pub. Peter is a disc jockey with a program on Dublin's FM station. His program is heard here in Virginia through the magic of the internet. We went to Foley's pub and had a great dinner that was well beyond what you think of as pub food. **Palace Bar** in the Temple Bar area was fun since it was the hangout of our friend Susan, when she lived in Dublin.



Four Courts

Dick at the Palace Bar



Guinness and Jamieson:

No visit to Dublin is complete without a visit to the Guinness Storehouse. They have quite an operation going there including lectures, videos, a museum and it ends with a pint of Guinness. We had our Guinness on the top floor, which is a circular, glass-enclosed room, the highest point in Dublin from which all of Dublin can be seen. Spectacular! Not to be outdone, the Jamieson Distillery is also a must see. We went on a guided tour that ended with imbibing the great Irish whiskey. Dick was selected from the group to be a "taster" to compare Jamieson, Jack Daniels Bourbon, and Johnnie Walker Scotch. He even has a certificate to prove his competence in this process.

Day Trips: Although it was hard to pull ourselves away from Dublin, we did venture out of the city. One day we went on **the Wild Wicklow Tour**, which took us south to County Wicklow, the garden spot of Ireland. The Wicklow Mountains were spectacular with the vistas, the peat bogs, and fields of heather. We saw where Brave Heart and many other movies were made. The other highlight of this tour was visiting **Glendalough**, a 6th century monastery and graveyard, mentioned above.

The other day trip was north to the fishing village of **Howth**. We took the DART (Dublin Area Rapid Transit) train and found a delightful village. The highlight, or lowlight depending on how your legs feel, was the four-mile hike along the cliffs overlooking the sea. We had what was probably our best meal in **Howth**, at a seafood restaurant named The Oar House. Dick was excited when I said we were going there but he didn't quite catch my pronunciation.

Shopping: Dublin has two main shopping areas: Grafton Street on the south side and Henry and O'Connell Streets on the north side. Both contain several blocks of very upscale shops on pedestrian-friendly streets. With the Euro at 1:41, there were no bargains! Our only purchase was an Irish tweed cap for Dick and NOTHING FOR ROSEMARY!

Best Meal: Lunch at the Oar House in **Howth**. We had marinated anchovies; a mixed seafood grill with prawns, monkfish, haddock and salmon with three dipping sauces: mushroom, white wine and pesto; home-made brown bread; and outstanding chips. This was accompanied with a delicious Muscadet. We had this meal after doing the cliff walk and that may be why it was so good. We had no bad meals on this trip. Dublin is filled with excellent restaurants and the pub food is also good. I had an especially good fish chowder at Gogarty's.

Best Bargain: The 4 Euro round trip fare on DART to go to Howth.

Most Unusual Experience: Visiting the mummies and touching the finger of the crusader.

Rosemary at the Cliffs of Howth



FYI: -Index Links, accessed via the PVS Website Newsletter button, have been updated through Apr '11 TOOT.

-Snowmass 2011 photos can be accessed via the PVS Website Photo Gallery button.



- Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month
- Mental Health Month
- Allergy/Asthma Awareness Month
- National Good Car Keeping Month
- National Strawberry Month
- National Chocolate Custard Month
- Foot Health Month
- National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
- National High Blood Pressure Month
- National Hamburger Month
- Arthritis Month
- Better Sleep Month
- Correct Posture Month

- National Salad Month
- Older Americans Month
- National Barbecue Month
- National Bike Month
- National Mine Month
- National Egg Month
- National Artisan Gelato Month
- National Asparagus Month
- National Macaroon Day
- National Salad Month
- National Salsa Month
- National Share A Story month



Snowmass 2012

Wednesday to Wednesday, January 18-25, 2012



Ski four mountains for the price of one, with locked-in air pricing for the first 30 persons to sign up! Beat the galloping air fares due to rising fuel costs.

The staff at our "Old Faithful" Snowmass Mountain Chalet is waiting with open arms to welcome us once again.

Snowmass offers the crème de la crème of ski-in, ski-out experience with 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 hot breakfast and daily soup lunch, greatly appreciated by trip participants and other

guests, many of whom return year after year. The reunions in the Hot Tub quickly refresh the memories. The spacious, welcoming lobby with oversized stone fireplace, flat screen TV and card tables for "Dave's" games offers a comfortable gathering place. The hootenanny sing-alongs will again be a popular event.

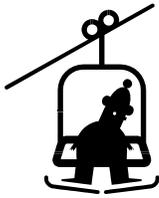
The trip will include group dinners, après-ski parties, and other activities available in the Aspen environs.

To lock in your reservation for this early season trip, send your deposit of \$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)



Here is the gang at Snowmass 2011



March 1-12 or 16, 2012, join Nancy and Ray McKinley to See and Ski in Andorra!

See and Ski Andorra 2012

**Only 4 Spaces
Left—Act Now!!**

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 more. *Skiing in Andorra is World Class, with 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 11-day 10-night Trip includes: 3 nights in historic, vibrant Barcelona; 7 nights at the 5-star Crown Plaza Hotel in Andorra's capital, with two people per 2 room junior suite. We include full breakfast and a daily 5-course themed buffet dinner! Trip includes your

Emergency Medical and repatriation insurance, a pre-trip party, a welcome party, a mid-week Apres Ski party, a

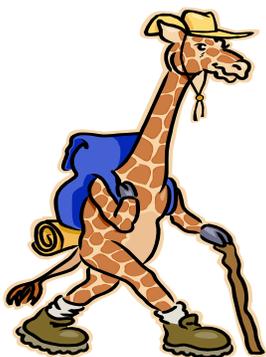
Grand Finale Dance in the ballroom and a post-trip party. We will also offer a 4-night post-trip extension to historic scenic Madrid including three superb tours.

Prices are not yet finalized; we expect the 11-day, 10-night package to be \$2,400-\$2,600pp and the 4-day Madrid add-on at about \$800-\$900.

We have limited space. To reserve a spot on this memorable PVS See & Ski in Andorra trip, send your check for \$100 per person payable to Ray McKinley, refundable 'til August and with "Andorra" in the memo line. Include your full name from your passport, and if you want the Spain Add-on. Mail to 1805 Crystal Drive # 813, Arlington, VA 22202. More info on returning from Andorra in May, at (703) 527-7126 or raymckin@gmail.com.



Crown Plaza Lobby



Watch for It.....

A new hike is in the planning stage.
An e-mail notice will be forth coming.

You may call Jan Marx to inquire. 703-451-9158



THE KNEE

by Ray
McKinley

RaysKnee@gmail.com

It's a bright, shining, cumulus-clouded, flower-filled May. After another DC wretched winter, May, abloom with the vibrant colors of spring, causes the Knee to wax poetic (not his skis). Rhyme comes to mind. And I become, once again... poetknee.

*'Tis May, 'tis May, the lusty month of May
And skiers, skiers everywhere
Have put their skis away
To go rollick in the hay
Or to take in a play
And perhaps to ski another cold day
In a month that begins with a "J"
Enough already! Alright! OK?*

Luckily, the Knee won't wax poetic again until membership renewal time this summer.

Now begins brazenly benign bantering, boisterous bragging, and some blazingly bold bombshells from your bosom budKnee.

We had a great annual meeting at Reg Heitchue's Reston condo. Everyone was in Spring Finery in bright colors. The ultimate came when Genee Boykin and Suzanne Boisclair were talking. Genee was in a bright orange sweater and Suzanne in a glow-green vest and big, chunky turquoise jewelry. They literally lit up the party room.

All of our applicant members were unanimously approved for membership. When they were recalled from the kitchen, no one came. They were busy eating the desserts. Welcome to Potomac Valley Skiers and Eaters!

Then came the election of officers. The Knee misses the politics of a true election. Missing were the trading of compliments and attacks, the thrusting and the parrying, the banners, campaign buttons, platforms, speeches and all the hoopla. We didn't have the thrill of victory or the agony of defeat. (My last ski boots gave me the agony of de feet.) Rather, our election process was...it was...the technical term escapes me. Ah, yes, this election was boring.

Is PVS sexist? The last two PVS nominating committees were run by Rosemary Schwartzbard and Nancy McKinley. And their choices for Pres. and Veep were Sharon Mulholland and Ellie Thayer, and Cara Jablon

and Janet Marx. Gentlemen, do you notice anything? Perhaps an EEO action is warranted. They wanted to change my name to Ramona...

Newly elected PVS Pres. Cara Jablon and her and Bob's son traveled the most to get to the Annual Meeting. He came all the way from Israel solely to attend the meeting.

Tiptoeing through the Tulips? No. The Knee and Nancy are having a great time barging through the tulips on a six-day barge tour of the Netherlands and Belgium. Thereafter, we drive 800 miles south through the length of France to visit Andorra. Are you aware that the Dutch, due to inflation, are thinking of changing the name Tulips to Threelips. It's true. Would the Knee ever tell you a fib?

With the end of the ski season, lots of us are traveling. In May, Mike and Eloise Strand will be visiting Provence and then to a beach house near Marseille. Lee and Sal Mahallati are on a 12-day cruise to Turkey and Greece. (Of course a turkey always has grease.) They will start with a few days in Rome in early June. Also this spring, Jack Chapman and Ellie Thayer will be visiting southern France including Lyon and Nancy. The Knee always assumed that one should see Lyon in Winter!

Louann and Bob Eadie are in Eastern Europe. They've visited Romania and Hungary. The latter name is incorrect—there's lots of food.

Last skiers of the season. Joe Jevcak returned from a week of skiing at Winter Park on April 1st. Incredibly, they had 3 to 8 inches of fresh powder EVERY day! But Bob McNeill beat that by 10 days. Bob and son Craig closed down Vermont, skiing at Stratton on April 10. Did anyone else ski later?

For a change, John Smith didn't have ducks and ducklings in his boat this spring. That's a big honk. John is planning on taking his boat to Maine this summer. Cool.

Dick and Sandy Laeser love Broadway theater. They visit New York several times a year. In April, they saw four plays including Spiderman, which has since shut down for a major rewrite. They loved it. Dick said that the play needed work, but that the special flying effects were worth the price of admission.

According to Marvin Hass, quoting the BBC, there is a plan to put bubble wrap on Scottish ski slopes. Since there's scant sun in Scotland, it would keep the slopes cooler and save as much as a foot of snow in a week. Perhaps bubble wrap would help Liberty Mountain keep its glacier!

2011 Calendar

May	1	Sun	BRSC Meeting (Cara, Rosemary, Dave L)
May	17	Tue	PVS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM (Knopes, VA)
May	24	Tue	ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM (Jablons, DC)
May	???		Hike - watch for an e-mail
Jun	21	Tue	PVS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM (Warren-Boulton, DC)
Jun	28	Tue	ExCom Meeting 7:30 PM (Beale)



Ski Trips

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

March 1-12, 2012 Andorra (Ray & Nancy McKinley)

Useful Ski "Links"

Potomac Valley Skiers

<http://www.potomacvalleyski.org>

Capital Golden Skiers

<http://www.capitalgoldenski.com>

BRSC Sanctioned Trips

<http://www.skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm>

DC Ski Online News

<http://www.dcski.com>

Thanks, Marvin.....

Czar's 100-Year-Old Receipts Boost Sales of Russian Imperial Skis, Faberge - Bloomberg

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-04-10/czar-s-100-year-old-receipts-boost-sales-of-russian-imperial-skis-faberge.html>



"Two Pairs of Skis and a Pair of Boots" by A.B. Otto Brandt.

The lot is estimated at \$60,000 to \$80,000. Source: Sotheby's via Bloomberg

EXCERPT:

Research often takes years, yet occasionally she gets lucky. She spent less than two months locating a file related to two sets of early-20th-century skis and a pair of leather boots that belonged to Czarevitch Alexei and are offered tomorrow at Sotheby's with a presale estimate of \$60,000 to \$80,000.

The items were a gift from the Moscow Ski Club to the czarevitch in 1910. The group petitioned the Imperial Court for permission to present the skiing equipment to the 6-year-old Alexei and request that he become a patron of the organization. Czarevitch Alexei was killed with the rest of his family by the Bolsheviks in 1918.