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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
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info@pvskiers.org

President's Message:



Bob and I have just returned from my daughter's "barefoot in the park" wedding. Let me tell you about my daughter Lara. Basically, she is the antithesis of her parents, having rejected city life in favor of a "sustainable" existence intertwined with nature. After attending a private high school in the District of Columbia,

Lara headed to the Midwest for college to escape the "pressures" of the east coast. Upon completion of Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, she embarked on a four-month bike journey, carrying everything she needed on her bike. Her bike trip took her down to Louisiana, across the country to California, and half way up the coast of California. Given that the most I have ever biked in a day was 40 miles (a one-time event), I marvel at how she was able to accomplish this bike trip.



She then returned to the Midwest, where she worked on an organic farm in Prairie Farm, Wisconsin, and ultimately persuaded her parents to help her buy her own farm. Her farm did not have electricity or indoor plumbing. Lara grew organic vegetables, ploughed her fields with oxen, raised beef cattle and chickens (and slaughtered her own chickens), chopped wood for the wood stove, built her own kitchen cabinets, and made her own floor and kitchen tiles.



After six challenging years on the farm, and finally a freeze in August that destroyed her crops and a neighbor shooting her dog, she decided to move on to other pursuits. Consistent with the pioneer tradition, she headed west. After a few years in Seattle, she moved to Portland,

Oregon, where she obtained a Masters degree in teaching from Lewis and Clark University. She then took a job teaching at a small environmental high school in the woods near Nevada City, California. Although the rural setting was her "cup of tea," she was lonely, and headed back to Portland, Oregon to find a man whom she could take back to the woods. Her quest was successful – she met her husband, Derek, at a folk music festival. She needed to make a phone call, but being anti-technology, she did not have a cell phone, and asked him if she could borrow his cell phone. A romance ensued, and after she and Derek had been together for several years, they moved to a little log cabin on the top of a desert mountain in northern California.



One day I received a phone call from my daughter – "sit down, mother," she said. Derek and I want to move to town (Ashland, Oregon)." My daughter, of course, had said for years that she would never give up rural life for a man. She and Derek are now living in a little house in Ashland.

--continued on p. 2

PVS Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, September 18, 2012, 7:30 PM

at the home of Melissa FitzGerald

2520 Farrier Lane, Reston, VA 20191-2116

thediehlhouse@gmail.com or 703-476-9259



--directions on next page

President’s Message – continued from p. 1

I did not expect my daughter’s wedding to be “traditional” and, indeed, it was not. The wedding took place outside at a small bed and breakfast inn in Washougal, Washington, near the Columbia River Gorge area (about a half hour drive from the Portland, Oregon airport). The festivities ran from Friday through Sunday. Most of my daughter’s friends (along with their children and a few dogs) camped out on the property. Lara and Derek stayed in a little “honeymoon” cabin in the woods. Because of space constraints, my daughter limited us to a few close friends whom she had known growing up (neither we nor our friends were up for camping in a tent).

Bob and I stayed in the bed and breakfast inn – a contemporary house “decorated” with a western cowboy theme, replete with even more objects than I have in my house. On the walls, floor and shelves were animal antlers, wagon wheels, a saddle, spurs and chaps, cowboy boots and hats, farm tools, animal skin rugs, pottery, china, Pendleton blankets, and knick knacks of all sorts and varieties. Many of the small objects bore price tags, mostly in the \$1- 5 range. (Of course, I came back with a few odds and ends, namely, two Chinese cups with dragon pictures, a turtle fur blanket, and a contemporary sculpture.)

We arrived late Wednesday night, and were put to work on Thursday marketing for the barbeque event on Friday. We did get a chance on Thursday to see a little of the Columbia River Gorge area, namely the Bonneville Power Plant and fish ladder (where the salmon are swimming upstream), and the wind surfers on the Columbia River. Friday, I (along with some help) baked eight pies and two cakes for the evening, while Bob was sent off to buy more provisions.

The wedding ceremony on Saturday was one of a kind. My daughter, who wore a short dress with shades of cream and green and long net gloves to match the dress, was indeed barefoot on the grass. Derek wore a vest and a greenish English-style sports jacket. A large part of the wedding ceremony was a puppet show put on by Lara, Derek, and two of their friends. In the puppet show, various animal hand puppets (a chicken, goat, rabbit, and fox) told the story of how Lara and Derek had met. Lara and Derek each had a friend speak briefly – Lara’s friend correctly described her as dynamic, energetic, and passionate, and then they exchanged very poignant and personal vows.



Lara’s large German Shepherd mix dog walked after her down the aisle at the conclusion of the ceremony. A reception and dinner on the deck and driveway of the bed and breakfast followed, with guests enjoying salmon cakes, lasagna, carrot cake, and local wine. A Sunday brunch capped off the weekend.

Happily, my daughter was very pleased with her wedding, and declared it to be everything she had wanted. We believe that Lara and Derek are well matched – both are energetic and lively, talkative, athletic, and inclined towards outdoor activities, such as camping, canoeing, biking, Ultimate Frisbee, and hiking. My daughter is a good telemark skier telemarktips.com/FSurmasStance.html, but it is not one of her passions. I wish my daughter and her husband happiness and good fortune, and expect that their lives will be as unique and dynamic as their wedding celebration.



Directions:

From the Beltway (I-495) -
Take the Dulles Toll Road (Rte 267) west to exit 12, Reston Parkway. Turn left onto Reston Parkway. Go about two miles, and turn left at the light onto Lawyers Road (note that if you turn left, the street is Lawyers Road; if you turn right, the street is McLearn Road). Take the first left onto Farrier Lane. Melissa’s house is the third on the left.

From the South -
Take Fairfax County Parkway north. Turn right onto Fox Mill Road. Turn right onto Reston Parkway. Turn left onto Lawyers Road. Take the first left onto Farrier Lane. Melissa’s house is the third on the left.



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-Ellen Burgess ([new e-mail address](mailto:ellenburgess@yahoo.com))

ellenburgess@yahoo.com

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Coming Events:

RESCHEDULED-RESCHEDULED-RESCHEDULED
BIKE OVER WILSON BRIDGE TO NATIONAL HARBOR
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
9:00 AM From Roosevelt Island

Join us on Friday, September 14, for a bike ride to National Harbor, the new town center on the shore of the Potomac in Prince George's County. We will start at the Roosevelt Island parking lot, take the bike path along the river, ride through Old Town, Alexandria, and ride



over the Wilson Bridge to National Harbor. There is a 12-foot wide pedestrian/bike path on the new (north) span of the Wilson Bridge. The path is wider than the typical bike path and there are three rest areas equipped with telescopes where you can stop and enjoy fantastic views of Washington and Alexandria. It is approximately 2.5 miles from the entrance of the path on S. Washington St. in Alexandria to National Harbor. We will stop and look at the views from the bridge. Once at

National Harbor we will see the statue "The Awakening" at its new home. We will stop for coffee, cold drinks and snacks.

It is approximately 12.5 miles (about 25 miles round trip) from Roosevelt Island to National Harbor. You may also join the group for a shorter segment of the ride by starting at the Daingerfield Island Sailing Marina, which is just south of National Airport. It is approximately 6 miles from the Marina to National Harbor (12 miles round trip). **We will leave Roosevelt Island promptly at 9am Friday, September 14.** Please plan on getting there a few minutes earlier to meet and greet. **We will be at the Marina at approximately 9:45.**



Please email me if you plan on participating and tell me where you will meet us. Also leave your cell phone number. On the day of the ride, call my cell if there is a problem.



Rosemary Schwartzbard
rosemaryschw@gmail.com
703-598-6150





SKI TALK September 2012



It is hard to believe it is September already. The weather will soon get cooler as we approach fall and we can begin to think seriously about skiing again. The club has an exciting and diverse ski season coming up in 2013. **Steamboat**, Colorado, **The Canyons**, Utah and **Chamonix**, France will be our main ski trip destinations.



The trip fliers in the July TOOT have all the information. There is still room on all of the trips. If you have never skied in Europe, **Chamonix** is the place to start. It is only one hour from Geneva, 90 minutes from Lausanne and 50 minutes from Annecy. The beautiful town lies in the shadow of Mont Blanc. The ski pass includes skiing in Verbier and Courmaier. Skiers and non-skiers should find plenty to do on this trip.

Steamboat has always been a PVS favorite. The wide groomers and the glades are hard to beat. If you just want to just hang out, the town of Steamboat Springs has plenty of shops and restaurants. The spa and pool at The Grand, where we will be staying, can also keep you busy. Some say that Utah has the best snow in the world, champagne powder unlike anywhere else! If you want to experience it, sign up for **The Canyons** where you will enjoy fantastic skiing, a first class hotel plus an opportunity to visit Park City and Deer Valley.



The ski trip leaders have put a lot of hard work into setting up next year's trips but we need to have enough people sign up for the trips now to assure that they will run. Big deposits come due in September and October and if people don't sign up for each trip we cannot proceed with the trip. So, if you are thinking about one or more of the trips, please send your deposit in to the trip leader as soon as possible. And if you haven't been thinking about ski season yet, this is the time to do so! Ski trips are the main reason PVS exists. Please support PVS by participating in our trips. If you have any questions, contact the trip leaders or me.

Check out the new Arlington County website www.CreativeCommunityConnections.org where our Steamboat trip is featured.

Rosemary Schwartzbard
rosemaryschw@gmail.com





Ski Trips:

Steamboat Springs

Trip lead by John Lyon and John Holt

February 2 - 9, 2013

The [Potomac Valley Skiers](#) in conjunction with BRSC invite you to attend a week of skiing in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. [Steamboat Springs, Ski Town USA](#) has a base elevation of 6,900 feet, ideal for anyone who has difficulty adapting to high altitude (sleeping below 7,500 feet keeps the headaches away). Besides offering 2,965 acres of trails and glades with a large variety for all levels of downhill skiers, Steamboat has a wealth of other activities. These activities include cross-country skiing, snowshoe tours, snowmobile tours, ice skating, soaking in the natural mineral hot springs, winter fly fishing, the winter driving school center, hot balloon rides, winter horseback riding, dinner sleigh rides, day spas and shopping in Steamboat Springs. In addition, this is the 100th anniversary of Steamboat Springs and there will be lots of additional festivities.

ACCOMMODATIONS: The **STEAMBOAT GRAND** is a premier hotel a short 100-yard walk from the high-speed gondola with complimentary ski storage slope side. It has an outdoor heated pool and two hot tubs, sauna, full service spa and fitness center, in-room coffee makers and flat screen TVs, and wireless internet. Restaurants/cafes in the hotel: The Cabin Restaurant and Bar specializes in organic, natural and local fare; Grand Café is a casual Western theme like country store for grabbing a snack or coffee; and Bistro Bar is open pool side.

THE COST IS \$2,045 PER PERSON, based on double occupancy. The price includes:

Lodging at the Steamboat Grand for Seven Nights
Daily Breakfasts
BRSC Welcome Party
One PVS Group Dinner
BRSC Dinner Dance
Après Ski Parties Including One on Top of Mountain
Pre-trip Party
Five-day Lift Ticket
Round Trip Air from Reagan National to Hayden
Round Trip Ground Transfers and Tips

A single supplement is \$685. Non-skiers deduct \$236. If airfare is not included, deduct \$466. Add \$32 to buy a 6-day lift ticket (5-day lift ticket is included).

To reserve a place: Please send a deposit of \$200 per person to John Lyon. See details below.

Cancellation Policy: There is no penalty for airline cancellation up to 95 days before the trip. There is no penalty for lodging cancellation up to 90 days before the trip. The trip leaders are continuing to work out further details regarding cancellation penalties.

Trip Insurance: \$140/person (group rate).

Payment Schedule: Deposit of \$200 is due ASAP with application. A payment of \$550 is due September 30. A payment of \$550 is due October 30. Final payment is due November 30.

For more information: contact trip leaders John Lyon at jslhiker@verizon.net (703-590-2913) or John Holt john.holt@nreca.coop (703-915-6258). Also, see July '12 TOOT.



PVS & BRSC Eurofest 2013 **Chamonix, France**

February 22 – March 2, 2013

Chamonix is the birthplace of modern winter sports since it hosted the first Olympic Winter Games in 1924, and Mont Blanc is the tallest mountain in Europe west of the Urals.

Chamonix is simply one of Europe's premier ski and snowboard areas. On this trip size matters; please note the size of the Mont Blanc ski area – over 700 km of ski trails that surround our hotel that is located right in the center of Chamonix.

Chamonix is a huge winter paradise surrounded by seven superb ski areas and the most complete and varied terrain we'll visit this ski season. We will ski at Mont Blanc with 24 cable cars and 175 lifts. These cover 300 km of blue runs, 300 km of red runs, and 100 km of black runs. There are more than 42 km of cross country ski trails. Skiers can enjoy the easier slopes of Le Tour and the varied slopes of La Flegere, Le Brevent and Argentiere. Particularly famous is the 20 km run down the Vallee Blanche glacier from the Aiguille du Midi (3840 m) to Italy. This day long ski run requires advance booking with a guide, but is an experience you'll never forget.

Chamonix is also a bustling town which is full of atmosphere, with cobbled streets and squares, beautiful old buildings, a fast running river, and pavement cafes crowded with shoppers and tourists sipping drinks and staring at the glaciers above. Wander through the town and outlying villages and you will discover baroque churches and protestant chapels dating from several hundred years, hotels and palaces from the golden age, Art Deco facades, traditional farmhouses, colossal villas and chalets contrasting with modern constructions. It is this architectural diversity that contributes to Chamonix's unique and indefinable charm. If you like your snow and scenery on the wild side, give Chamonix a try.

- **Price: \$2,355 double occupancy. (Single Supplement + \$400; Trip W/O Air - \$900)**
- **Transportation – Very Simple (Easier than a trip to Vail):**
 - **Airfare: Round trip airfare direct to Geneva from Dulles Airport on United.**
 - **Ground: Round trip charter bus from Geneva airport to hotel in Chamonix (1 Hr).**
- **Lodging: Seven nights lodging, double occupancy at the centrally located (3 star) Hotel Alpina.**
- **Food: Full buffet breakfast and dinner included daily.**
- **Insurance: Emergency Medical and repatriation insurance provided at no extra cost.**
- **Sightseeing Day Trip Options**
- **Pre and Post trip extension are available.**
- **3 Blue Ridge parties with 6 drink coupons. Friday night party includes DJ for dancing.**
- **2 Wine and cheese gatherings with the PVS trip leader, plus ski tips from Mount Liberty.**

Ski Day Trips outside of Chamonix:

- **Courmayeur:** Through the Mont Blanc Tunnel to Italy.
- **Verbier, Switzerland:** One day out of the six-day Mont Blanc ticket may be used at Verbier. Although there is enough skiing in the region to ski two weeks without skiing the same run twice, this could be a once in a lifetime chance to ski the prestigious Verbier. Charter buses will be provided for the day for those who are interested.

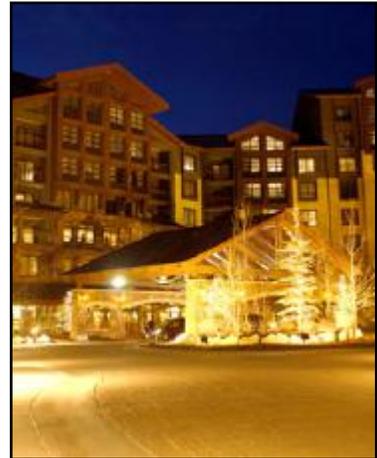
For more information: Dick.Comerford@verizon.net, (H) 703 777-9374, (C) 571 426-3098. For further information, see July '12 TOOT.

Potomac Valley Skiers Trip to the Canyons Resort in Utah

Sunday to Sunday, March 17-24, 2013

Trip leaders: Liz Warren-Boulton and Reg Heitchue

We will stay at the elegant Canyons Grand Summit Hotel (<http://www.canyonsresort.com/grandhome.html>) with ski-in and ski-out access located in the center of the Canyons Resort in Utah. The hotel's condominium suites provide complete kitchen and living room amenities with two bedrooms that accommodate two people in each.



Package price of \$1,980 (based on a group size of 20 to 24 people) includes:

Roundtrip air from Dulles on United Airlines (subject to change)

Roundtrip group charter bus Salt Lake City to the hotel

7 nights lodging in double occupancy bedroom suites

Welcome party provided by the hotel; private mountain tour

Pre- and post-trip party; après ski parties

(Land package only \$1,388; single supplement \$1,259)

Discounted group lift tickets are additional and will be available at great prices.

The Canyons Ski Resort:

The Canyons (40 minutes from the Salt Lake Airport) has recently been described as “the new big kid in Park City.” Since 1997 the Canyons has developed and expanded into Utah's largest ski and snowboard resort and the 5th largest resort in the United States. The resort encompasses eight separate peaks over a span of 3.5 miles and provides a 3,190 foot vertical drop; peak altitude 9,990 feet; and base altitude 6,800 feet. There is plenty of superb skiing for everyone at all levels. Start the day on the Orange Bubble Express, a high-speed quad with enclosed cabins and heated seats – what a treat. We also plan a ski day in fabulous Deer Valley (7 miles away) and another in Park City (4 miles).

A few paces from the hotel are fun après ski venues as well as a group of fine restaurants including award winning “The Farm” as well as several great on-mountain lunch cafeterias and restaurants. For those who don't ski (and those who do) the Canyons Spa and Health Club located in our hotel offers a wide range of rejuvenating therapies. The historic and charming mountain town of Park City is a short complimentary bus or van ride away where many beautiful art galleries, boutiques, and fine cafes and restaurants await your attention.

Contact Liz at elizawb@gmail.com or Reg at heitchu@yahoo.com .

For further information, see July '12 TOOT.

Members' Corner

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



River Cruise from Moscow to St. Petersburg - by Carolyn & David DeVilbiss

Enticed by glowing reports from PVS friends, we decided to try a river cruise from Moscow to St. Petersburg. We have just returned from two weeks on the Viking Truvor, with some jet lag, but mostly wonderful memories and pictures--new friends, too. We especially liked the comfort of carrying our stateroom with us (no need to pack and unpack), the small size of the ship, open seating at mealtimes in order to meet and chat with fellow travelers, and the highly informative tour-escorts.



Our first three days were in Moscow, with bus tours of the city and visits to the Kremlin, Red Square, Gum Department Store (you have to see it to believe it--dates from 1888), and the Tretyakov Art Gallery of Russian art. At David's request, we also

opted for a tour of the Military Museum, which especially focused on World War II history (termed "the Great Patriotic War"). We were pleasantly surprised at the beauty of the Kremlin. Somehow we had envisioned only stark, secretive buildings, but instead saw stunningly glorious Russian Orthodox cathedrals and palaces, with shining onion-shaped domes with colorful frescoes and icons inside (the government buildings are still off-limits to the public). A "Moscow by Night" bus and canal boat tour showed the city in fairy-tale illuminated splendor. At the first of several musical offerings, we attended a very lively classical folklore concert with musical conservatory students playing traditional Russian folk instruments, including balalaikas, domras, and other wind and percussion instruments.

Our ship then began cruising toward St. Petersburg along the "Waterway of the Czars," stopping each day for walking or bus tours in the scenic villages along the way. The Volga-Baltic Waterway is a series of natural lakes, rivers, artificial reservoirs, and canals that link the

Volga with the Baltic Sea. Envisioned by Peter the Great in the 18th Century, it was brought to fruition in the 1930's under the reign of Josef Stalin who utilized labor from the Gulag forced labor camps to complete the Moscow Canal and form the Rybinsk Reservoir (which flooded more than 700 villages and forests to create the largest man-made body of water on Earth). David was especially intrigued by the workings of the many locks as we passed through, and visited the newly opened Hydroelectrical Museum in Uglich, which dedicated an entire room to displays regarding the "slave labor" required to complete the projects.

On the village and island stops, we saw many more colorful churches and monasteries; visited a Russian family home with tea, cakes and vodka, and a "living museum" at a restored governor's palace complete with costumed guides and period dancing and music; saw craft-demonstrations and, of course, bought souvenirs. We were especially interested in the visit to a restoration center where young carpenters learn the art of restoring old wooden structures (without nails), and a children's middle school where they learn traditional crafts in addition to regular studies. A group of children charmed us with a variety of traditional music and skits. The

island of Kizhi was one of our favorite visits: now a Russian World Heritage Site (and on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites), it is a lovely outdoor museum of historical wooden buildings brought from other parts of Russia.

On shipboard, the tour escorts offered a series of lectures on Russian language and history, from the Romanovs to the present day. We were very impressed with their knowledge, humor, and frankness about political and social developments in Russia as well as their willingness to discuss their opinions and some of their concerns about the future. We regret to say that we have not become fluent in Russian, despite our guides' valiant efforts.

And on to beautiful St. Petersburg, founded by Peter the Great in the early 18th century as his "Window to the West," which is modeled on great European cities such as Amsterdam and Venice, with many canals, and grand palaces. The Hermitage Museum is so extensive that it would take several years to begin to digest the art collections stored there, but it was grand to see them in the setting of the immense and beautiful Winter Palace





complex. We signed on for a “Hermitage Behind Closed Doors” special tour that included a private viewing of the treasures of the Golden Room, and a visit to the Hermitage Storage Facility. It was interesting to learn about the methods used to protect the collections from fire and decay in this very modern building. In Pushkin, we visited the Catherine Palace and were awed by the “Amber Room”--a beautiful room decorated completely in amber of varying shades.

After an evening at the ballet, more bus and canal boat tours through the city, and a vigorous Cossack Folklore singing and dancing show, we said goodbye to the Viking Truvor, to our new friends, and to Russia (for now). It was a marvelous trip, and we highly recommend it to fellow travelers.

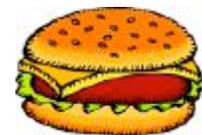
Past Events:

SUMMER FEST, July 15, 2012

Cara and Bob Jablon hosted a wonderful Summer Fest party in their cool and spacious basement on a hot (for those unfortunates who had to be outside) Sunday afternoon. Thirty-five hungry and thirsty PVSers arrived (plus one guest, our own Karen Knopes) and 36 attendees left three hours later no longer hungry or thirsty. We were happy to see out-of-town members, David and Susan Payne. There was an abundance of delicious food from stuffed cherry tomatoes, watermelon cubes with mint, creamy cheese spread, sun-dried tomato/olive dip, stuffed dates, quiche, cucumber salads, potato salad, pasta salad, leafy green salad with walnuts, and so on and so forth.

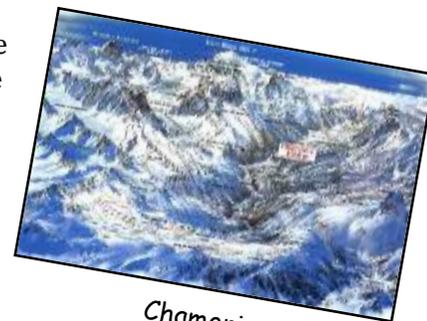


Periodically, our sartorially-perfect host wearing a tie linked to Bastille Day, Bob Jablon, would interrupt the hubbub to offer a public service announcement such as: “The Hebrew National hot dogs are done;” “the Nathan franks are ready;” “the well-done hamburgers are on the table;” and “the rare hamburgers for the adventurous are being served.”



Steamboat

One of the reasons for the July meeting is to allow the trip leaders to talk about the 2013 ski trips. We heard from the Johns of Steamboat fame, i.e., John Holt and John Lyon, who are leading an early BRSC-affiliated February trip to Steamboat Springs. Dick and Betty Comerford talked about the BRSC-affiliated trip to Chamonix in late February. Liz Warren-Boulton and Reg Heitchue extolled the virtues of spring skiing at the Canyons in Utah.



Chamonix

Ray McKinley talked of upcoming events, particularly the “Steak and Swim” that was hosted by Kerry and Marianne Hines on August 4. Thank you Cara and Bob for opening your home and hosting a memorable Summer Fest.



The Canyons

The afternoon ended with everyone enjoying an array of desserts including brownies, shortbread cookies, cakes, strawberries, tarts, tasty finger nibbles, etc., etc., etc.

--by E. Thayer

STEAK AND SWIM
AUGUST 4, 2012



A hot and humid summer day was lightened by a cool swim in the sparkling pool in the verdant landscape surrounding the beautiful home of Kerry and Marianne Hines in the Virginia countryside. Seventeen PVSers drove out Route 66 to Delaplane to revive the lapsed club tradition of "steak and swim," last celebrated in 1990. This was the oldest annual club event, hosted by Roy and Malda Elrod for two decades.



Kerry and Marianne served up delicious steaks grilled to order, with all the traditional accompaniments. It all started with a scrumptious display of appetizers brought by the lucky attendees. Cara Jablon walked in, jumped in the pool and immediately started swimming laps. Less athletic types enjoyed the shrimp and brie and tasty dips, with glasses of excellent local

Horton wines. After dining on homemade pies and cakes on the patio and the screened porch and the air-conditioned dining room, with lovely views of pasture and wooded hills, the party ended at nightfall. Margaret Wyckoff enjoyed it all so much that she stayed for a couple of days, practicing her German and swim strokes. Melissa FitzGerald examined the vegetable garden and was rewarded with a bundle of nutritious Swiss Chard, growing among raspberries and rosemary and zinnias, all guarded by a rock bear sculpture hauled out of the pasture. All agreed it was worth the drive, a tradition which should definitely be continued. Thanks Kerry and Marianne!



--Melissa FitzGerald





THE KNEE

by Ray
McKinley

RaysKnee@gmail.com

Gosharooty folks - it's been two months. And I've got lots to bring you up-to-date on. Do you recall the early TV show that used the term gosharooty? It also had Flubbadub. Yup, it was Howdy Dowdy. And it was a long time ago - I believe it was 1959! Actually it was over half a century ago, so long ago that TV was only called V. The Tele part came later.

It's been a hot and humid summer. What a pleasant change when the first of the big fall, fat-with-new-equipment-ads ski magazines arrive. Now I don't kneed any new equipment (or at least ski equipment), and [Nancy and the Knee](#) have our winter's trip planned. But what sheer joy it is looking at the ads for new "stuff" and new places to ski. It's time to think of the upcoming joys of skiing. The mere thought provides instant air conditioning - and time to finalize the upcoming season's skiing. One early September question: if it is called "Labor Day," how come there is no one working?

PVS Veep, [Bob Knopes](#), will miss our September meeting. He'll be in Ireland celebrating a major family reunion. According to [Bob](#), he's not Irish, but who wants to celebrate a reunion in Nebraska! Right On! Or is that Faith and Begorrah on?

A tip of the ol' Knee cap goes to [Marianne Arden Cook](#). She is now 99 and is PVS's oldest member. She was a traveling chanteuse during the '40s and '50s, and she still performs weekly at a local community center. There was a great article on [Marianne](#), who wrote the PVS anthem, in the Style Section of the August 13 *Washington Post*. She is now self-releasing a CD of her original material. It contains 15 of the more than 130 songs she's written. You'll have to get the CD for yourself to see if it contains the PVS anthem.

According to [Marvin Hass](#), the Chinese are researching ski resorts. As the skiing market explodes in China, entrepreneurs are coming to Europe to observe best practice in the ski business. Next a Winter Olympics in China?

You should'a been at PVS's 21st Steak and Swim. It was super. After an absence of some two decades, this event was held at the

home and pool of [Kerry and Marianne Hines](#). Many of the attendees had attended earlier Steak and Swims. So aside from all the normal chatter, there was lots of conversation about PVS events from 20 years ago.

Twenty years ago, [Margaret and Bob Wyckoff](#) were running yearly ski trips to Europe. [Dick Comerford](#) teased [Margaret](#) about seeing her in the altogether in an Austrian sauna. She denied it vehemently. [Dick](#) said he had confirmed it with [Huey Roberts](#). We may never know the naked truth.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

It's the end of summer and, of course, PVSers have been traveling or will be traveling soon. [Charles and Genee Boykin](#) are about to head to Cuba for a trip - do avoid the hurricanes! Having had such a great time on the [Reg Heitchue](#)-run, 4-masted sailing trip to Tahiti and the South Pacific several years ago, [Shirley Rettig](#) and her sister will soon be off on a Star Clipper trip. They will spend some time in the Caribbean and then sail through the Panama Canal. Sounds like fun—but do avoid the hurricanes! [Knee](#) useless trivia: to go from the Atlantic to the Pacific you actually have to go east. Check it out on a map.

Oui, Oui in gay Preee. Yup, [Lee and Sal Mahallati](#) are back from a trip to Paris. They went with their son. [Bob and Pres Cara Jablon](#) just returned from a trip to Seattle. They were there for the barefoot wedding of their daughter. Some people will do anything to save a few bucks on shoes! I toed you so.

Movin' on. New members [Linda and Jack Sloan](#) will soon be moving to Arlington's luxury high rise, the Turnberry Towers. Their plan is to grow the berries on top of the towers and turn them into blackberry wine. Would the [Knee](#) lie to you? Well, maybe.

Late breaking news: As of now, [Park City Ski Area](#) is having labor problems (different than labor pains or Labour problems) and will not open this coming season. Rest assured, they will resolve this!

Congrats to [Rosemary Schwartzbard](#)! She got our Steamboat Springs trip listed in the Arlington Creative Community Connections website. Potential new members! And speaking of Steamboat, before retiring [John Holt](#) was responsible for building the new Hayden power plant. To spark the conversation, the [Knee](#) figured you would get a charge out of that—you know watt I'm talking about. Ouch!

At 99, singer Marianne Arden Cook, is self-releasing a CD of original music

By Dave Nuttycombe, Published: August 13, 2012, Style Section, Washington Post

Local musician, 99, is ready for her big break: For the past decade, Marianne Arden Cook has spent her Tuesday afternoons performing at the Friendship Heights Community Center. Now, the 99-year-old pianist and singer is releasing an album of her own songs — 15 of the 130 she's written.



The woman napping in the lobby of the Friendship Heights Community Center snaps awake shortly before 3 p.m. She grabs her walker and makes her way steadily, and quickly, down the hall and into a bright community room. About 30 seniors have gathered, many queuing up to the coffee and snack table. The woman ignores the treats and guides herself directly to a piano in the corner. At 3 o'clock on the dot, she sits down and starts playing.



The light classical music and Great American Songbook selections are played with authority and without sheet music. What sets this performance apart is that the pianist is 99 years old. Also, she's about to self-release an album of her songs — 15 of the 130 she's written. And her enthusiasm for the project is no different from that of any 22-year-old hoping for a shout-out on Pitchfork.com.

At a table in the community center, a pair of Helens and a Lucy express delight with Marianne Arden Cook's efforts. "We come every Tuesday," Helen Huntley says. "We have our blood pressure done, then we come here."

For the past decade, Cook has spent her Tuesday afternoons here at the community center playing for her Chevy Chase neighbors. But during the '40s and '50s, as Marianne Arden, she toured Europe and America — singing, playing and tap dancing at top nightclubs and on the radio.

Born in 1913 to a colonel and a baroness in Vienna, Cook retains a slight accent with an imperial Austrian edge that brooks no foolishness. But it's countered by a girlish spark. "Will you come to me and cuddle?" she asks a visitor to her apartment in a Chevy Chase high-rise, and she squeezes close on the sofa to talk about her music.



"They say I'm unique. I'm 99. I write songs, words and music — and in four languages," she says, adding brightly, "That's better than Cole Porter." Many of her songs alternate verses in German, English, French and Danish. She calls her song "Liebe Means Love" — in which she sings, "Whatever language I speak, I always say 'I love you' " — a "language lesson."

Cook's singing is reminiscent of Marlene Dietrich's, but without the campy quality. Cook sings it straight and sincere. Pianist Robert Glenn, leader of a jazz quintet that regularly plays the senior-center circuit, met Cook at one of his performances. "I was truly shocked at how good a singer she was," he says. "Not a bad pianist, but a world-class singer, in my view — clear as a bell."

A leather-bound copy of "Who's Who in Music" from 1953 sits atop the baby grand in Cook's living room; she says she practices every day. The "Who's Who" calls her a "song stylist and chanteuse." Her entry comes one page before Louis Armstrong's.

"Oh, Louis Armstrong — he was a fan of mine," she says. "He stayed at the same hotel where I entertained. And, once, we were on a radio program together. Yeah, we were very good friends."

Cook came to America in 1940, part of a female vocal group that was booked at the Rainbow Room in New York City, a premier nightclub at the time. "And then, Hitler came," Cook says. She returned to Vienna, but Cook had found a benefactor during her stint in the United States — Bernard Davis, of Ziff-Davis publishing fame. "Mr. Davis, he read that the beautiful Viennese girls are being thrown out of the country, and he called me up and he said, 'If you ever need an affidavit, let me know.'"

"It's a twist-around, that a Jewish man sends an affidavit to a Catholic girl!" Cook chuckles. So she returned to the United States and launched her solo singing career, driving herself from show to show, town to town, years before the interstate highway system. The Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago, the Chase Hotel in St. Louis, the Pierre in New York. It was the era when hotels weren't just drab settings for conventions but had high-class nightclubs featuring big-name

entertainment.

“At the Lombardy Hotel in New York I stayed two years,” she says. “So that was nice.”

By 1942, she was married to a doctor, the first of her four marriages. Pressed, she scolds, “You want to know all about my lovers and all of that? How many lovers did I have? I don’t know, I didn’t count.” She huffs, then winks and says, “I am ready for another one!”

Cook first came to the District for an engagement at the Dupont Hotel. “I was married again,” she says, adding, “Husbands are not always easy. He didn’t want me to go away for weeks at a time.”

She says she preferred playing in Europe, where she performed after World War II. In Copenhagen during the 1950s, she had her own radio program. Cook recalls writing one of her songs in Denmark, inspired by “a young lieutenant who I met after I left my very stern and overpowering genius Hungarian husband, who gave me everything under the world, but I was just choked up.” The song is called “He’s Nobody Much.” Cook begins singing:

He’s nobody much, but I really don’t care

He has nothing else but a love I can share

He can’t give me rubies like the other one did

But he makes my lips burn

She stops and exclaims proudly, “You see, everything fits!”

Cook has transferred some of her records and reel-to-reel tapes onto three CDs. “The Classical Marianne Arden” has solo piano versions of Ravel, Debussy, Rachmaninoff and others; “Marianne Arden Sings and Plays for You” contains her original compositions; and “Marianne Arden Still Sings and Plays for You” is a collection of radio shows and homemade recordings. But the one she’s releasing is the collection of her originals.

On the cover of each disc is a different glamour shot. “I was very photogenic,” Cook says matter-of-factly. The pictures were taken by “a very famous photographer. It was Nickolas Muray, who did all the Hollywood stars,” she boasts, then dismisses him as “another Hungarian. A friend of my second husband’s.”



But Cook doesn’t like the photos. “Because you don’t show your pretty face, to heck with the pretty face,” she scowls, concerned that a picture that shows “bust and everything” suggests she isn’t a serious musician. “I am Viennese. And all Viennese musicians are very talented,” she states. So the final disc will use a photo that a press photographer took years ago in Copenhagen, a close-up of her “piano hands.”

“I don’t want to sell myself; I want to sell my songs!” says Cook, voicing the eternal songwriter’s lament. Cook sold her first song, “Please Don’t Go Away,” while she was performing in Scandinavia, many years ago.

The music business has changed several times over since the heyday of the traveling chanteuse, to the point where some people suggest that there isn’t a music business anymore.

But the thrill of seeing your work collected in one shareable form is timeless. So if “Marianne Arden Sings and Plays for You” isn’t a Warner Bros. or Sony release but a product of Cook’s checkbook, that’s par for the course for today’s musicians, be they 99 or 19. Cook doesn’t seem to mind. Instead, she speaks excitedly of getting “padded envelopes” and “sending [her CDs] out to the TV stations.”

Cook points to one of the discs and declares that her favorite track is “I Wish I Were Foolish.”

“It is a very philosophical, good song,” she says, “because that is real life.” Asked why she wishes she were foolish, Cook begins singing again:

I wish I were foolish as I was long ago

I was happy and trusting and thirsty to know

What makes the world round and what makes us tick

And what kind of chemicals make lovers stick

The sun was a beautiful bouncing ball

And for a good measure, some rain had to fall

To believe and to hope was a wondrous thrill

And a friendly word took away winter’s chill

“And then I grew up!” she shouts.



(See PVS Roster for Marianne’s contact information.)



(Marianne has been a PVS Member since 1984, sponsored by the Wyckoffs.)

2012 PVS Calendar:

- Sep 11 Tue ExCom: 7:30 PM (Ellie Thayer & Jack Chapman, Arlington, VA)
- Sep 14 Fri Bike over Wilson Bridge to National Harbor: 9:00 AM
(Rosemary Schwartzbard, Roosevelt Island, Arlington, VA)
- Sep 18 Tue Monthly Meeting: 7:30 PM (Melissa FitzGerald, Reston, VA)
- Oct 16 Tue Monthly Meeting: 7:30 PM (Bob & Karen Knopes, Fairfax Station, VA)



Ski Trips:

- Feb 02-09, 2013 PVS & BRSC *Steamboat Springs*, CO (John Lyon & John Holt)
- Feb 22-Mar 02, 2013 PVS & BRSC Eurofest, *Chamonix*, France (Dick Comerford)
- Mar 17-24, 2013 *The Canyons*, UT (Liz Warren-Boulton & Reg Heitchue)

Capital Golden Skiers:

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

- Sep 11 Tue An Evening of Bridge (VA)
- Sep 16 Sun Dance at the Elks Lodge (VA)
- Sep 21 Fri Dance at Hollin Hall (VA)
- Sep 23 Sun Colonial Market and Fair at Mount Vernon, VA
- Sep 27 Thu Hike in Great Falls Park (VA)
- Sep 29 Sat *Funny Money* at the Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA), VA
- Oct 09 Tue An Evening of Bridge (VA)
- Oct 16 Tue Planning Meeting (VA)
- Oct 20 Sat Luncheon at Clyde's Tower Oaks (MD)
- Oct 25 Thu Hike to Mary's Rock (VA)
- Oct 28 Sun Special Exhibits at the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), 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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