

Volume 49
Number 9

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

September
2014

www.pvskiers.org

info@pvskiers.org

President's Message

Hello everyone!

We're winding up the summer and can look back on some truly fun events we've run. In August, we went to Annapolis for a full day both on the water and eating overlooking the bay – thanks again Barb Leonhardt and Reg Heitchue! We swam (well, some of us did) and ate steak (and ALL of us did that!) at the Steak and Swim party – thanks again to Marianne and Kerry Hines!

This will be the 50th winter of Potomac Valley Skiers' existence, so let's get this celebratory year started! So far, we're planning a wine tasting, Oktoberfest, a hike, and a walk across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge for a Ferris wheel ride and lunch. There's much more - culminating in PVS' 50th Celebration in November of 2015.

In the past 49 years, PVSers have done so many things that it's impossible to list them all, but here are a few: ski trips in four continents and New Zealand, theater-going locally plus in London, hikes in all the local areas (for 20 years involving Ray McKinley's special 13-hour chili), bike rides in numerous places including the Eastern Shore, a schooner adventure around Tahiti in the South Pacific, dancing, talent shows, hands-on Chinese dumpling-making, international dinners, Kentucky Derby parties, Wolf-Trap picnics, formal Arts Club dinners, Chesapeake Bay Bridge walks, Glühwein parties, and an active Dining Out Group. Wow!

So, get your creative juices flowing, and let Ray McKinley or a member of ExCom know about your ideas. And, don't forget to ask a friend who likes skiing and other great activities to come to a meeting to see what we're all about.

Let's make this a dynamite 50th celebration year!

--Nancy

Directions:

From Washington, DC via Chain Bridge:

Take Chain Bridge onto N. Glebe Road, crossing into Virginia. Go straight (not turning right on Chain Bridge Road). As you go up the hill to Glebe Road, do not take the turnoff to Military Road. At the top of the hill after a big curve, the first right is River Street – there is a sign there that says Chain Bridge Forest. Turn right onto River Street. Go 3 blocks on River. You go down a hill and up the next. At the top of that hill (the third left) turn left on Highwood. Go to the very end, about 4 or 5 blocks, ending in a cul-de-sac. We're at the back of the cul-de-sac.

(continued on p 2)

September General Meeting
Tuesday, 16 September 2014, 7:30 PM
At the home of John & Barbara Holt
1424 Highwood Drive
McLean, VA 22101-2519
703-534-2512
john.holt@nreca.coop

From the Beltway (I-495):

Take the Georgetown Pike exit (exit 44) east.

Turn left onto Route 123, Chain Bridge Road.

Turn right onto N. Glebe Road. Then, follow directions highlighted in yellow above on page 1.

From Virginia via the Dulles Toll Road:

Merge onto Route 123 N via exit 19B toward McLean.

Turn right onto N. Glebe Road. Then, follow directions highlighted in yellow above on page 1.

In Virginia:

Depending on where you're coming from, go to N. Glebe Road, heading toward the Potomac River and Chain Bridge. A few blocks past the light on Glebe and Chesterbrook, is River Street – turn left - there is a sign there that says Chain Bridge Forest. Go 3 blocks on River. You go down a hill and up the next. At the top of that hill (the third left) turn left on Highwood. Go to the very end.

Welcome to New Members:

A hearty welcome goes to **Kathy & Barry Lake**, our newest Applicant members sponsored by C. Eddy. We hope that you enjoy our ski club, and we look forward to socializing and skiing with you this season. The Lakes' contact information appeared in the August 1, PVS Roster.

Also, a hearty welcome goes to **John Hargreaves**, former CGS Member, who has joined his wife, Annette, as a PVS Member, 7-1-14. And, an equally hardy welcome to **Thomas & Mary Tycz**, Applicant Couple, thanks to the sponsorship of R. Parlow, 8-11-14.

Roster Changes: (notify-dwarthen@verizon.net)

-Bunny Ball (new address & phone)
901 North Monroe Street, Unit 1115
Arlington, VA 22201-2358
703-528-3603 h

-Jim Wingrove (new address)
322 Monterey Street
Kissimmee, FL 34759-3687

-Tom & Mary Tycz (new Applicant Couple)
6521 Valley Court
Falls Church, VA 22042-3130
703-534-9454 h
tstycz@cox.net, mbtycz@gmail.com

-A hearty **THANK YOU** to all former CGS members who responded with enthusiasm to renew their PVS membership, after a free year, for the second year of the 2013-2015 biennial dues period. With the influx of five new Applicant Members, PVS was able to maintain a healthy enrollment of 180 members.

TOOT Distribution to 180 Members:

-pdf: 152; Text (Att.): 1; USPS: 6

Thanks to:

-TOOT Content/Proof Editor – E. Thayer
-TOOT USPS – Volunteers

--D. Warthen – Layout Editor/Electronic TOOT

Penny Hanshaw, Ouray, CO:

Fred and Barbara Leonhardt, on a recent trip to play golf in the mountain areas of Colorado, visited the scenic old mining town of Ouray near Telluride. There, they visited with a long-time PVS member, Penny Hanshaw, who lives



there with her son and his family. She is doing well, and participates in many volunteer activities, including helping at the annual Ouray Ice Park Festival in January. The world's expert ice climbers compete in this festival by climbing man-made ice flows on the walls of a deep and very narrow gorge. Penny no longer skies, but enjoys her memories of participating in many PVS trips. She sends a big hello to those who remember sharing her joy of skiing and traveling in the US and around the world with PVS.

Interested in **Carpooling** to PVS meetings or events? Contact dwarthen@verizon.net for list of members, whom you can contact in your ZIP Code or town.

National Ski Club Newsflash:

<http://marquimail.marqui.com/marqui/View.aspx?id=598337&q=767862137&qz=143b34>

2014 Washington DC Ski & Snowboard Expo Flyer:

[http://www.skicouncil.com/Paul-Weber 2014 Wash-DC-Expo-Flyer.pdf](http://www.skicouncil.com/Paul-Weber%202014%20Wash-DC-Expo-Flyer.pdf)

Coming Event:

September Wine Tasting, Saturday 27th, 2014, 4:00-6:00 p.m. (\$18 per person)
At the home of Marianne & Clare Soponis, 3513 Quebec Street NW, Washington, DC 20016

I'll tell you a story.....

While shopping at Trader Joes (a favorite spot for special food and beverage shopping), I began a discussion about my wine purchase with a gentleman who worked there. He gave me good, frank advice on my selections and even offered ideas for future purchases. I told him that he should give wine classes. He said that he did; and, when I asked, said he would do one for us!

And, so, we will have a tasting of "Value Wines" – one bubbly; two white; two red; and, one dessert wine. There will be a handout to go along with his passionate yet non-intimidating knowledge!



Michael Alsup worked as a defense contractor in the Reston, VA corridor for about 20 years. He was "burned out" and took time off to find a better way of living. After church on one Sunday, he stopped in at Trader Joe's and, because he knew and liked the staff, decided to apply for a job. And, the rest is history! By the way, Michael also was a Trappist Monk in younger years. Don't you think you just need to meet him!!

**For the best use of the space available for a tasting,
we will be able to accommodate up to 15.**

NOTE: There is street parking in the neighborhood. There is also Metro service to the Cleveland Park metro. It's about a 15 minute walk uphill. Or, a phone call, and we can pick you up in 5 minutes!

RSVP: Marianne.soponis@gmail.com, 202-363-5250 h, 301-332-3039 c

Coming Event:

When: Sunday, October 5th at 2pm. Rain or shine!

Hosted by: Louann & Bob Eadie: 2054 Eakins Court, Reston, VA 20191, [703-860-0318](tel:703-860-0318)

We provide: German sausage, homemade sauerkraut, beer-beer-beer, wine, soft drinks, paper products, and utensils. If you desire, bring your own mug!!!

You bring: An appetizer, salad/side, or dessert. We will try to balance it out so we don't have too much of a good thing!!! Please e-mail Louann at Louann50@mac.com with the following information: how many in your party AND what dish you are bringing!

Surnames A-H bring an appetizer;

J-R bring a salad/side; and

S-Z bring a dessert.

A \$5.00 fee per person will be collected at the door.



RSVP: By September 28th so we can plan for the food items and drinks!

Directions from the Beltway: Take the Dulles Toll Road (Route 267) west to the Wiehle Avenue exit. Turn left onto Wiehle Avenue. Wiehle Avenue ends in a tee at Sunrise Valley Drive. Turn right onto Sunrise Valley. Go 0.4 miles to left onto Soapstone. Take the second left onto Purple Beech (first left is Durand Drive). Take your first right onto Eakins Court. 2054 is straight ahead in the cul-de-sac. There is a green mailbox by the driveway. **NOTE:** parking is limited on Eakins Court so consider parking on Purple Beech. (Another option is taking the new Silver Line metro to the Wiehle Avenue stop and either taking a taxi or walking the two miles to our house.)

Coming Event:

**HIKE AROUND CLOPPER LAKE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2014**

Join us for a leisurely four-mile hike around Clopper Lake at Seneca Creek State Park, Gaithersburg, MD, on Thursday, October 9, starting at 10.00 am. The walk will be followed by a lunch at the Fontina Grille in Rockville. If you cannot make the hike, then please join us for the lunch so everyone can catch up on each other's summer activities. We will meet at the Fontina Grille at 12.45 pm.



Directions to the hike:

From the Beltway, exit onto 270 N and then take exit 10 toward MD-117 W, which becomes Clopper Road. The entrance to Seneca Creek State Park is to your left. Pass the gatehouse (unattended), turn right at the T intersection, and go left at the sign for the playground (with restrooms) and the boathouse. There is ample parking at the playground parking lot. Following the easy hike over rolling terrain with scenic vistas of the lake, we will head for lunch at 12:45 pm at the Fontina Grille in the King Farm Village Center.



Directions to the Fontina Grille from Clopper Lake:

From Seneca Creek State Park head back to 270 S and take the Shady Grove exit and stay right. After 0.3 mile, turn right on Gaither Road; go 0.5 mile and turn left on King Farm Blvd. After 0.1 mi, see Fontina Grille on the left at Pleasant Drive, and park on the street. 801 Pleasant Drive, Rockville, MD 20850. Telephone: 301-947-5400



The restaurant offers a nice lunch buffet or an a la carte choice. Let me know how many are coming and the restaurant will have a table ready for us.

RSVP: Ruth Healey

301-530-0939

healey Ruth@gmail.com

Coming Event:

**NATIONAL HARBOR
FERRIS WHEEL RIDE AND HIKE**

Friday, October 24



The new **Capital Ferris Wheel** at National Harbor is a sight to behold. It is built at the end of a pier on the edge of the water. There are 42 enclosed, climate-controlled cabins making it a very comfortable ride. As you soar 180 feet above the Potomac River waterfront, you will marvel at the incomparable views. Sights visible include the White House and Capitol, the National Mall, Arlington Cemetery, City of Alexandria, Prince George's County, the Wilson Bridge and the lush parklands throughout the DC-Maryland-Virginia region. In addition, you see National Harbor from on high. See more at: <http://nationalharbor.com/capitalwheel/>

Join us for this exciting urban hike to National Harbor from Alexandria. We will park our cars at Jones Point under the Wilson Bridge and leave from there at 10:30am, so come a little earlier to have time to park. From there, we will proceed to the entrance of the bridge. There is a 12-foot wide pedestrian/bike path on the 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 (add another 0.2 mile from parking lot). 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 and then proceed to the Capital Ferris Wheel. After riding on the Ferris Wheel, we will go to lunch at one of the many places at National Harbor. Then we will hike back to our cars at Jones Point – another 2.5+ miles.



October 24, 2014

10:30am at Jones Point

11:30am at the Ferris Wheel

Cost: Ferris Wheel is \$15 Adult: \$13.50 Senior 65+

If you prefer to drive to National Harbor and just do the Capital Wheel and lunch, then that will work, too. We should be at the Wheel around 11:30. Each person will buy his or her own ticket for the Capital Wheel ride. You can do this online or when we arrive. Have a credit card. No cash is accepted. A lunch place will be determined when we know how many people are going.

Contact me if you want to sign up or have any questions.

--Rosemary Schwartzbard
rosemaryschw@gmail.com

SKI TALK
SEPTEMBER 2014

The year is flying by and it is time to decide what ski trips you will go on this coming season. We have three very special trips this year: **Snowmass**, Colorado, in January; **Mt. Bachelor**, Oregon, in February; and **Mayrhofen**, Austria, with possible add-ons to Slovenia and Vienna in March.



Please look over the trip fliers, select the destination(s) of your choice, and let the Trip Director know you are interested.

The full trip flyers were included in the July TOOT and you can also find them on our website – www.pvskiers.org. Access to the website is an easy way for your friends and family, who do not get the TOOT, to get information about the trips. You may also want to look at the Blue Ridge Ski Council site. Just click on the link at the top of the PVS home page or go directly to their website www.skicouncil.com. Then you can look at all of the trips of other BRSC member clubs, which are listed under “Sanctioned Trips.” Read other information under *Tips and Links and BRSC Hot News*. You will get information about insurance and general ski news.

If you want to access the TOOT or other “member only” information on the site, you will need to log in: Username = “**Member, member, or MEMBER**” and Password = “**TOOT**”. This information is also listed on the last page of the TOOT under Useful Links.

Kudos to David Warthen for supplying the trip flyers and a link to the BRSC website for our club’s website. Also, thanks to David Lerner and Mary Ward for posting this information, and putting so much work into our website.

It is also time to get in shape for skiing, if you have not been doing that all year. We have two hikes coming up in October. I will be leading an urban hike to the **National Harbor to ride the Capital Ferris Wheel** on October 24.



Ruth Healey will also be leading a hike at **Clopper Lake, Seneca Creek State Park** on October 9. See details on p. 4 in this TOOT.

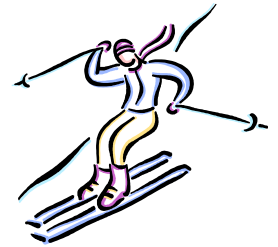


--Rosemary Schwartzbard
rosemaryschw@gmail.com

Ski Trip:

PVS Ski Trip to Snowmass, Colorado ---- January 14-21, 2015

We are happy to report that our trip is filled for our stay at the Snowmass Mountain Chalet. If you are interested in joining our trip, please check with Marianne Soponis: (Marianne.soponis@gmail.com) or 202-363-5250; cell: 301-332-3039 for possibilities. Thank you!



NOTE: Final payment for current trip participants is September 15, 2014.

We will again be staying slope-side at the Snowmass Mountain Chalet (SMC), just below the Snowmass Mall. Do check the website at <http://www.mountainchalet.com>.

The total package includes:

- United Airlines from Dulles to Denver and Denver to Aspen and return, plus the land-transfer from Aspen airport to SMC and return;
- 5-day lift ticket (good for all four ski areas in the Aspen complex, free shuttle bus) with option for a sixth ski day;
- 7 nights lodging (double occupancy);
- daily breakfasts; daily soup lunch;
- luggage handling; a welcome party, an “all guest” hotel-sponsored party, a pizza party and a farewell group dinner to celebrate our trip.

Travel Guard trip insurance is available through our tour company at <http://www.Encompasse.com>, and is highly recommended.

For additional nights at Snowmass, please make requests through the trip leader.

Air flights can be altered to accommodate resulting date changes and will be quoted on an individual basis.

<u>Costs:</u>		<u>Price</u>
Full Snowmass Package		\$2075
Land only	subtract	\$ 515
Single Supplement	add	\$ 935
Non-skiers	subtract	\$ 272
Sixth ski day*	add	\$ 79

Airline Schedule (most likely subject to changes in United schedules):

Jan. 14: United flight #403 at 8:25 AM Dulles to Denver (arrive at 10:32 AM); then flight #6320 at 11:20 AM to Aspen (arrive at 11:56 AM).

Jan. 21: United flight #6320 at 12:31 PM Aspen to Denver (arrive at 1:16 PM) then flight #452 at 1:47 PM to Dulles (arrive at 7:07 PM).

For baggage requirements and fees, check the United Airlines website (www.united.com)

If you need to pay your final payment in September: Please send your check made out to Marianne Soponis, 3513 Quebec St. NW, Washington, DC 20016 (“PVS Snowmass 2015” on the check memo line).

See you on the trip!

Ski Trip:

PVS/BRSC SKIING AND SIGHTSEEING ADVENTURE *MT. BACHELOR AND BEND, OREGON* JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 7, 2015

Mt. Bachelor is the largest ski area in central Oregon, with terrain for all levels. The mountain is an extinct volcano, and you can ski with full lift service 360 degrees off the top for 3,365 vertical feet to the base, often through light, dry powder! It has the highest skiable elevation of any resort in Oregon or Washington and is far enough inland for drier snow conditions. The resort gets an average of 462 inches of snow a year on 88 runs, served by 10 lifts. (Mt. Bachelor is adding over 400 acres of ski terrain that is scheduled for opening in 2015). In addition, the resort has more than a dozen cross-country trails, 35 miles of which are groomed. The mountain grooms 40 of the 88 runs. Volunteer Mountain Hosts will ski with you all or part of the day, at your request.



The mountain is a 30-minute bus ride from Bend where you will be staying in the newly upgraded Double Tree Hotel. There is an indoor pool and hot tub. You can walk to the historic downtown district of Bend with lots of shops and restaurants. Buses will pick you up at the hotel and take you directly to the mountain where you will store your skis. No long walks are involved. Non-skiers will have options to go to Crater Lake, the town of Three Sisters, wine tasting, dog sledding, snowshoeing and more. Included in this package are:

- 7 Nights Lodging at Double Tree Hotel
- Round Trip Air into Redmond (20 minutes from hotel)
- Transfers to and from Hotel
- 5 of 6 Day Lift Ticket (discounted rates for seniors)
- Personalized tours of the mountain by Mt. Bachelor Ski Ambassadors
- Daily Hot Breakfast
- BRSC Super Bowl Welcome Party with Dinner
- BRSC Night at the High Desert Museum with Dinner
- BRSC Hawaiian themed entertainment and Dinner
- Two PVS Apres Ski parties
- Bus Trips Directly to/from the Mountain



The cost will be approximately \$1825.00 per person. We have limited seats on the flight to Redmond. The first 16 people will get those flights. **To reserve a space send a deposit of \$300 to: Cara Jablon, 4573 Indian Rock Terrace, Washington, D. C. 20007.**

Cara can be contacted at 202-333-5332 or rcjablon@aol.com. Additional information will be provided shortly on the dates for the remaining payments, trip insurance, and the cancellation policy.

Potomac Valley Skiers present

BRSC Eurofest in Hintertux/Zillertal, Austria

7 days, March 6 – 14, 2015

*\$2,460 pp**

Including pre-trip to Bled, Slovenia

11 days, March 2 – 14, 2015

*\$2,935 pp**

Including post-trip to Vienna, Austria

10 days, March 6 – 17, 2015

*\$2,900 pp**

Including Bled and Vienna

14 days, March 2 – 17, 2015

*\$3,375 pp**

Trip Leader:

Inge Lesjak

8123 Kingsview Ct.

Springfield, VA

703-869-7248 c

ingelesjak@aol.com

Price Includes: airfare/shuttles & lodging at 4-star hotels

with daily breakfast buffet and 4-course dinner

thermal pool, sauna, spa

Internet access

ski guide/free shuttle bus to lifts

and BRSC parties & some sightseeing

Zillertal: A paradise for winter hikers & cross-country skiers.

Badhotel Kirchler: Family run hotel with daily breakfast buffet, afternoon snack and dinner; charming rooms, thermal pool, sauna, local cuisine, friendly service. Welcome party & two après ski parties Tyrolean style, plus fee-based sightseeing tours.

UPDATE! As of 25 August, 22 PVSers and friends are participating and there is room for more... Especially for 1 single female and 1 single male roommate. 16 PVSers plus 11 members from other BRSC ski clubs are joining the pre-trip to Bled, Slovenia and 13 PVSers are ending the Eurofest in Vienna. **Looking forward to skiing with you, Inge**

Payment Schedule

1 July \$200

10 Sep \$500

10 Oct \$800

10 Nov \$500

10 Dec Final

You must be a current member of any club belonging to the Blue Ridge Ski Council or become one to participate.

*Price subject to change due to airline surcharges, exchange rates, fuel charges or other unforeseen factors. Airline baggage fees are not included and are the responsibility of the trip participants at check-in to and from Munich or Vienna.

Ask for Pre- and Post-trip itineraries!

Members' Corner



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

Passage to Eastern Europe River Cruise -

by Carolyn and David DeVilbiss

We have indulged our new passion for river cruises for yet a third summer. Since this did not seem a propitious year for our planned river cruise to the Ukraine, we switched itineraries and opted for a Viking River Cruise from Budapest to Bucharest. Last summer we went the other way: from Budapest to Amsterdam on the Danube, the Main-Danube Canal with its amazing series of locks, to the Rhine.

But first we flew to Prague, for a three-night pre-trip. David had not been to Prague, and Carolyn was delighted with the changes since her visit there in the early 1990s, shortly after the end of the Soviet occupation. The economy has greatly improved, with a very active tourism, food on the shelves in the bustling grocery stores, and most of the old buildings beautifully painted and restored. Our hotel was in walking distance of Old Town, the Jewish quarter, and Charles Bridge. After a guided walking tour in the morning, we were bused to the other side of the river to the Prague Castle complex, where we were hosted for a private lunch, lecture, concert, and tour of the art works at Lobkowicz Palace. The palace was reopened to the public in 2007 as a private family museum housing a permanent exhibit drawn from the extensive Lobkowicz Collections. Subsequent to the restitution laws of the 1990s, both the palace and most of the confiscated art works have been returned to the family. Before leaving Prague, Carolyn



achieved her goal of climbing all 186 steps of the famous "Powder Tower" with her new knee. No problem!!! David, too.

We bused overland to Budapest, and were installed in another fine riverfront hotel. There we met up with our British friends Martin and Julie (we met them two years ago on the Russia cruise, and have traveled with them since). They had found a delightful outdoor restaurant



nearby with roving Gypsy musicians, which we enjoyed for the next two nights, while we caught up on the year's events. After more touring in Budapest, we boarded the Viking Rinda for our cruise down the Danube. We passed through the plains of Hungary, through Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Romania, with stops every day for land excursions. Our first landing in Kalocsa, Hungary, included a wonderful **horsemanship performance at the Bakodpuszta** Equestrian Center. On later stops we toured many

medieval and more recent historical sights and learned about the very complicated history of this region. We



especially enjoyed an afternoon bus trip to Kovacica, Serbia, where we visited a **violin maker's** shop and a "naive art" gallery, with work from local folk artists. The most scenic part of the cruise was through the "Iron Gates", which resembles fjord territory, but the view was somewhat muted due to the foggy weather--nonetheless spectacular. We were entertained by several different groups of folk dancers and musicians, including a Bulgarian Children's Folk Performance troupe.

Local and on-board guides provided a variety of interpretations from both old and recent history. We heard their stories about growing up under communism, wars and the redrawing of boundaries with the disassembling of Yugoslavia, the differences of opinion between older and younger generations, and their hopes for the future. The economy in these countries is clearly struggling more than those we visited farther up the Danube.

Our last night was spent in a hotel in Bucharest, after transport by bus. There we visited the outdoor Village Museum, a park with authentic dwellings brought from all regions of the country, most with wonderful thatched roof construction. After a final dinner with our good friends, we flew home to our "real world." Next year's tour will be to the South of France, and we can't wait!



The Iron Gate



Sun Peaks (2007)

**In Memory of
Robert Clyde Harmon (84)
1930 – August 10, 2014**

Bob Harmon was an active member of PVS from 1990 until he was unable to participate any longer after 2011. Those of us who knew Bob will miss his low-key charm. Bob was born in Auburn, Maine in 1930 and carried the unmistakable “down-east” accent all of his life, responding with good grace when chided about it.

Bob grew up in Bridgton, Maine, graduating from Bridgton High School in the class of 1948. He received his BA degree from the University of Maine in 1952, and his MA from the University of Maine in 1961.

Welcome to Bridgton, Maine

"The Maine Place for All Seasons"



He served in the US Army from 1952 to 1954. Bob worked for the Refugee Relief Program in Germany from 1955 to 1957 and for the National Security Agency from 1958 to 1961. He worked as a civilian in Military Intelligence in Paris from 1961 to 1965.

In 1971, Bob received his PhD from George Washington University. He was Professor of German at Gallaudet College for the Deaf from 1967 to 1986, retiring from Gallaudet in 1986.



Bob was an avid skier, and those who skied with him appreciated his seemingly effortless form on the slopes. He traveled to many countries and took part in PVS ski trips both domestic and foreign. He skied with PVS in Argentina and enjoyed a PVS trip to Chile to ski (at least, until his back-pack was sliced open surreptitiously in Santiago, and his camera removed by the thieves). On one of his last overseas ski trips, Bob joined PVS in Norway, Sweden and Estonia.

Bob spoke other languages as well as German, but was never one to boast of his ability. His wide-range of interests included hiking and tennis, which he claimed kept him in shape.

His particular love and talent, however, lay in his painting. He was a skilled artist and held a show of his beautiful work at a gallery for his friends. Bob is remembered as a gentle soul, always polite and soft-spoken; he was a gentleman and friend to many in PVS, and we're sorry to lose such an accomplished, distinguished friend.

--compiled by D. Warthen and Ray & Nancy McKinley

Past Event:

Summerfest

July 26, 2014

The PVS July meeting – Summerfest – was held in the party room of Reg Heitchue’s condo in Reston, Virginia, on July 26. The hors d’oeuvres, pizza, and desserts were delicious. There were 33 members and two guests in attendance. President, Nancy McKinley, called the meeting to order at 4:05. Ray McKinley gave a report on upcoming events. Ray reported that on August 2 there is a cruise out of Annapolis followed by a barbeque (Red, Hot and Blue) at Reg Heitchue’s house in Annapolis. To date, 33 have signed up for the events. On August 16, there is the “almost annual” Steak and Swim party hosted by the Hines at their home in Delaplane, VA.



Three winter ski trips were discussed. Marianne Sophonis is the leader for the Snowmass, Colorado, trip from January 14 to 21, 2015. The trip attendees will fly from Dulles to Denver and then from Denver to Aspen. They will be staying at a chalet right on the slopes with ski-in and ski-out advantages. The price is \$2075 per person. Currently, 20 have signed up for the trip and there are still 12 vacancies. Cara and Bob Jablon are leading the Mt Bachelor, Oregon, trip from January 31 to February 7. This trip is in conjunction with the Blue Ridge Ski Council. Total cost of the trip is \$1875 per person. Bob has guaranteed excellent food and accommodations. The last trip, Zillertal/Mayrhofen, Austria, is also in conjunction with the Blue Ridge Ski Council. Inge Lesjak is the trip leader and the base dates are

March 6 to 14. The trip can be extended with side trips to Vienna and Bled, Slovenia. Cost of the base trip is \$2460 per person.

--John Holt

Ski Trips:

-PVS Aspen/Snowmass, CO

<http://pvskiers.org/Trips/Snowmass2015.pdf>

-PVS/BRSC Mt Bachelor and Bend, OR

<http://pvskiers.org/Trips/Bachelor2015.pdf>

-PVS/BRSC Eurofest, Austria

http://pvskiers.org/Trips/2015%20Eurofest%20flyer_5JunRev-comp.pdf



Past Event:

PVS' Awesome Annapolis Adventure



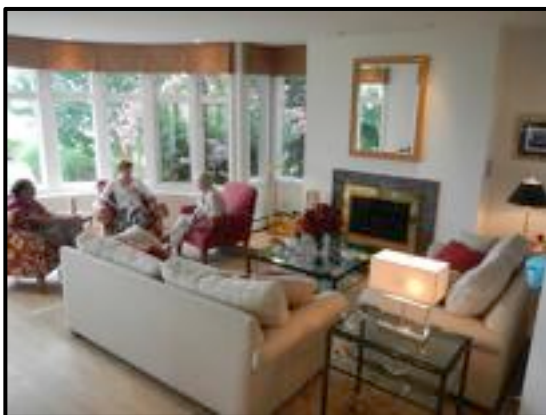
What could be better than a day in historic Annapolis? How about a cruise arranged by Barb Leonhardt followed by dinner at Reg Heitchue's gorgeous waterfront home?

At noon on Saturday, August 2, thirty-five PVSers and friends gathered on the dock in Annapolis harbor under Barb's guidance. PVS friends from far away, David and Susan Payne now living in Florida, and Marilyn Clark from Williamsburg, VA, all came a long way to join us in our Maryland adventure. It was great to see them!

We were anticipating an excellent water tour of the harbor and Severn River on the cruise ship Cabaret II run by Watermark, and we were not disappointed. All aboard – and then with an anxious

moment or two wondering if Suzanne Boisclair would complete her waterfowl-feeding detail nearby in time to join us, (of course she did!) - off we went through the waves.

Though the ship's captain regaled us with details of the sites on shore as we passed by, we must admit that more than a few of us simply relaxed on the warm day on the deck and enjoyed the company of friends while observing the gorgeous homes along the river. When the captain announced that the bartender on board made a "mean mojito" with proliferating mint from his own garden, there were a few hardy sailors in our group who took up the challenge and quaffed one of the minty beverages. On our way back to the harbor, some lucky PVSers were given the opportunity to drive the boat. (Only one of them was a minty mojito drinker, though.) Louann Eadie, June Read, and Margaret Wyckoff came away with captain badges marking them as having taken our lives in their hands at the wheel of the ship. We're sure we were always completely safe!



Not only had Barb made a great choice by booking us on this water tour, but she even managed to keep the clouds from dampening our day. Not a drop of the wet stuff came down as we passed out of the harbor and into the Severn River. An hour and a half later, our group trooped off the ship and headed to our cars toward the second half of a spectacular day.

When we arrived outside Reg Heitchue's lovely home by the bay, we were greeted by Reg's tenant/helper, Teresa, who cheerfully jumped in our cars and parked them for us in what we're told were "legal" parking places on nearby streets. Inside, Reg, with yeoman's work by friend Susan Sinclair, had prepared all kinds of hors d'oeuvres, followed by a catered dinner from Red Hot

and Blue. Barb Leonhardt didn't stop at handling the logistics for the boat trip, though. She also brought numerous goodies for her PVS and E (Eaters) friends. What a treat for us all – and the view of the bay from Reg's home is phenomenal! We had a tour of the house and happily enjoyed more conversation and food both inside and out.

Altogether we had a terrific day on the river and bay. Many thanks to Barb and to Reg for putting together two great events, all on the same day!

--Nancy McKinley



Past Event:

Steak and Swim 2014



On Saturday, August 16, eighteen PVSers and one guest enjoyed gorgeous weather, fabulous food, and excellent camaraderie at the beautiful home of Marianne and Kerry Hines in Delaplane, Virginia. Attendees were Betty Byrne, Marvin Hass, George Birnbaum, Celia Chen, Bob Jablon, Cara Jablon, Marianne Jacobs, Joe Jevcak, Joe's friend Linda, Inge Lesjak, Sam Lesjak, Nancy McKinley, Ray McKinley, Shirley Rettig, Maryann Rozzell, Margaret Wyckoff, and Blanca Hotaling.

The group enjoyed deviled eggs, hummus, spinach and cheese tart, tomatoes and mozzarella, prosciutto and melon, and cheese. After appetizers, there were excellent steaks (cooked to order by Kerry), baked potatoes, cucumber salad, and several other types of salad. For dessert, there was a selection of cakes and fruit salad. In addition to sampling the local red wine made right across the road from the Hines' home, attendees chose from pinot noir, malbec, chardonnay, and sauvignon blanc.

A few brave souls (Cara Jablon, George Birnbaum, and Joe Jevcak) ventured into the crisp, clean, refreshing swimming pool, and everyone enjoyed the beautiful mountain-view, the Hines' flower garden, their spacious property, and a very significant large white accent rock. Speaking of rocks, Kerry has an impressive rock collection with samples from all over the world. We also learned that Kerry grows hay on his property to feed the livestock of a local farmer, and we marveled at the many large rolls of hay on the Hines' property.



Dog lovers had a chance to pet the Hines' lovely Weimaraners, Ashby and Gunner; as well as to become acquainted with their son's visiting Rottweiler, Louis (large but sweet). Kudos to Marianne and Kerry for their dog training – the dogs sat patiently and quietly in the basement for the duration of the event.



Many thanks go to Marianne and Kerry Hines for their hard work in graciously hosting this very successful event.

--Cara Jablon

For other pictures by M. Hass, see:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/100866026078363849768/PVSSteakSwim2014?authkey=Gv1sRgCJbGxLPa8efhJg>



THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley

RaysKnee@gmail.com

Caveats! The world is loaded with them. So let me start with one. The **Knee** is back from having a minor heart outpatient procedure, so some things have been ignored. And, although there hasn't been an official announcement, the **Knee** is again contemplating a run for President. (Lord knows everyone else is.) Thus, attention to PVS goings-on has been less than normal. So if this column isn't up/down (pick one) to its normal level, I'm sorr**knee**. (I should have written the preceding as a footnote, but it would have been interpreted as a **kneenote** and my copy of "Strunk and White" simply doesn't tell where **kneenotes** are correctly placed, although it's likely above the fibula.)

Still big in the Tea Party agenda are Faith-Based Initiatives to oversee religious organizations running social welfare. The **Knee** can "kick that up a notch." Herewith my new program for Faith-Based Learn to Ski. One starts on skis down the straight and narrow, leaning only slightly to the right or left. And you pray to God you don't fall!

If you were at Steak and Swim at Marianne and Kerry Hines', you drove in through the beautiful new stone gate that Kerry designed and built. Its purpose is to keep people who are trying to get to the winery next door away from their house. So far, it's working fine. **Kneet!**

With PVS's 50th An**knee**versary coming next year, looking at our own history is worthwhile. Until fairly recently—OK, it was 1978--PVS used to have our February meeting with nighttime skiing at the Charnita ski area (now Ski Liberty). The official name is now Liberty Mountain. But my "Strunk and White," won't let me lie and call an 800 ft. pimple a "Mountain." Their ice there appears to have been left over from the seventies!

Going back a bit further, 80 years ago, on Jan. 14, 1934, the first ski lift in America went into operation at Woodstock, Vermont. It was a 150-foot long rope tow powered by the rear axle of a Ford Model A truck. Well, we've made some progress. Liberty now uses a 1981 Datsun!!

Some things the **Knee** doesn't make up. My gmail account is free, but based on content of the text, they add advertisements at the margins. I

finally clicked on an ad titled "Rent a **Knee** Walker." This is legit. *In lieu* of crutches, you can rent this 4-wheeled contraption with handlebars and a pad to set your **Knee** on. You can then scoot along. **Kneet**.

We had a ball at Annapolis. Barbara Leonhardt, Reg Heitchue and Susan Sinclair are all to be congratulated. Several attendees asked how Reg's lawn was so soft. He uses 6 inches of foam padding under the sod.



It's not too early to think about this year's ski trips

This will really floor you. Betty and Dick Comerford have finished reflooring their Leesburg abode. Just the hardwood was nearly \$8,000. Yoiks!

Carolyn and Dave DeVilbiss cancelled a trip to Ukraine just before all of the problems started. Rather, their son is visiting from Japan.

According to Marvin Hass and the New York Times, Park City may not be open this winter for skiing due to a lease dispute. For years, the Park City Corp had a lease that would make a rent-controlled Manhattanite jealous. They leased ski slopes, for \$155,000 a year for 2,800 acres of prime downhill terrain--a real bargain in a town where an unfinished lot goes for \$1.9 million. But in 2011 Park City Corp made "one of the most monumental blunders in Utah history": It failed to renew its lease on time.

Enter Vail Resorts. In 2013, Vail signed a lease to run the nearby Canyons Resort. It also gave Vail the right to lease the 2,800 acres of disputed ski slopes. But Park City Corp. won't go quietly. If forced to leave, the ski resort said it would take its snow-making equipment, the ski lifts and anything else not fixed to the ground. Further, Park City Corp. still owns the entrance to the mountain. They also own water rights critical for early-season snow-making.

Hotel bookings for this winter have not suffered yet but restaurateurs are getting edgy. "It's damaging to real estate values. We've never faced anything like this." Stay tuned...

PVS Calendar 2014:

- Sep 16 Tue Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM, Holts, McLean, VA
- Sep 23 Tue ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM, Schwartzbards, Arlington, VA
- Sep 27 Sat Wine Tasting, 4:00-6:00 PM, M. Sponis, Washington, DC
- Oct 05 Sun Oktoberfest, 2:00 PM, Eadies, Reston, VA
- Oct 09 Thu Hike/Walk (3.7 miles), 10:00 AM, R. Healey, Clopper Lake, Seneca Creek State Park, MD
- Oct 21 Tue Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM, Leonhardts, Gaithersburg, MD
- Oct 24 Fri Hike/National Harbor-Capital Ferris Wheel, MD, 10:30 AM, R. Schwartzbard, Jones Point, Alexandria, VA
- Oct 28 Tue ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM, TBA
- Nov 03 Mon 2014 Washington DC Ski & Snowboard Expo & BRSC Raffles, 6:30-9:30 PM, Marriott – Tysons Corner, VA



PVS Ski Trips 2015:



- January 14-21, 2015: PVS Snowmass, CO (Marianne Sponis)
- January 31-February 7, 2015: PVS/BRSC Mt. Bachelor and Bend, OR (Cara & Bob Jablon)
- March 6-14, 2015: PVS/BRSC Eurofest to Hintertux/Zillertal, Austria (Inge Lesjak)

Useful Ski "Links"

- Potomac Valley Skiers..... potomacvalleyski.org
PVS Website login: Username = Member, member, or MEMBER; Password = TOOT
- BRSC Sanctioned Trips..... skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm
- DC Ski Online News..... dcski.com
- Best of Times Ski Club bestoftimeskiclub.org
BOT Ski Trips:
http://bestoftimeskiclub.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=5186&module_id=32832

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TOOT (E-Distribution) – <i>Dave Warthen</i>	Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</i>
TOOT (USPS Distribution) – <i>Volunteers</i>	Historian – <i>Jan Marx</i>

PVS' 50th Anniversary is Coming Up in 2015!

Want to be involved in planning for the big event?
 Suggestions are welcomed for a venue, which will accommodate up to 200 partygoers.
 Contact Nancy McKinley, 703-595-8375 or nancymckin@gmail.com.