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# Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.

MAY 1978

WASHINGTON

MARYLAND

VIRGINIA

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### HELP!

As I look back over my first year as your President, I realize that many of the accomplishments — in particular, having a greater attendance and a greater number of Events than in any previous year — could not have been possible without the help of a lot of people. And, if we are to continue to have the quality Events I believe are basic to our Club, **WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW.**

I would like to thank all of the EXCOMers and Club officers and representatives for their help in not only running the Club, but also for helping run individual Events and meetings. Without the help of our conscientious TOOT editors, my brilliant (??) words as well as other Club messages would never get to your brilliant (no question mark!) minds. I offer special thanks to those new Club Officers who took it upon themselves to volunteer their time and efforts to run the Club and Events for the Club. I also want to thank Club members who are not officers but who contribute to the success of the Club. Exemplary of this group are Kirk and Peggy Burns who went out of their way to be outstanding hosts of our Annual Meeting with its associated splendid party environment. The Burnses certainly have my personal thanks, as well as the thanks of all the Club members who attended that meeting.

To help with the Events of the coming year, I need Y O U R help. Do you have a house or a party room we can use? Would you be willing to make a few telephone calls? To write a few letters? To volunteer a few hours to help run an Event? We currently need a Club Secretary (requires taking "longhand", typing 3 or more words a minute, attendance at EXCOM meetings and an ability to write our 2 letters per year!). We need a Pennsylvania Ski Federation representative, and we may soon need another EXCOM member. We also need help in organizing our meetings and we are looking for locations to hold our September and October meetings. **CAN YOU HELP?** If so, please call me at home (790-8812) or let me know at the next earliest opportunity. We need **YOUR** help.

*Ray McKinley*

Ray McKinley  
President

May Event:

The Ninth Annual International Dinner

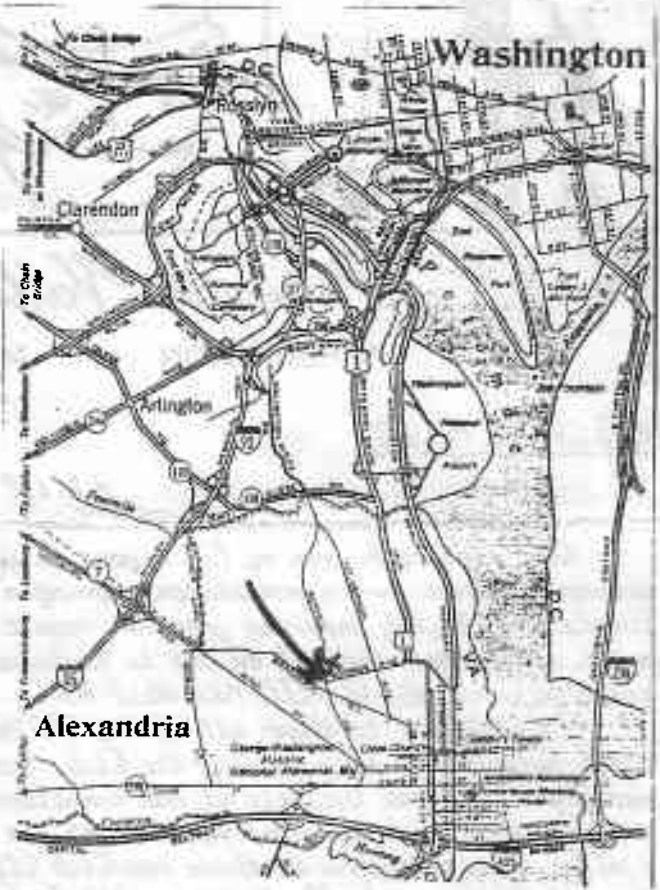
Here we go again! That delightful gathering of gourmets enjoying what they like to do best: Eating — and drinking!

**WHEN:** May 20th, Saturday at 6:30 P.M. for drinks and h'on d'oeuvres; Dinner served at 7:30 P.M.

**WHERE:** At Don and Pat Cope's home in famous Alexandria, Virginia; 117 West Monroe Avenue — just two or three houses from the intersection of Russell Road (see map to the left).

**COST:** Same as last year! (How's that for controlling inflation? Probably the BEST bargain left in the old U.S. of A!) \$6.00. Those bring entrees will deduct their entree cost from the entry cost.  
**NOTICE:** Those who have not yet contacted coordinator Marilyn Clark to determine what to bring should DO SO IMMEDIATELY!

**NOTE:** Please do not park in the Cope's circular drive — use it for drop-off only. Call Don (836-5436) if you need further instruction on how to get there.



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APRIL MEETING REPORT

This Was IT! Our Annual Meeting with the annual election of Officers. And, this year, a special add-on of a dance party set up by our genial hosts, Kirk and Peggy Burns. (NOTE: EXCOM voted a special expression of THANKS to the Burnses for their excellent effort hosting this meeting.) Some thirty members and one guest showed up to vote and then partake of the great selection of food and drinks that Kirk and Peggy had prepared. The official business of the Club was taken care of in something less than short order by our exuberant outgoing (and candidate for incoming) President. As outgoing President, he expressed his sincere thanks to those members who had worked during the year to keep the Club active with special thanks to the outgoing EXCOM members who had served to keep up the management of the Club. As a candidate for incoming President (and the only one!), he spoke optimistically of future activities and success of P.V.S. And, sure enuff, when the vote was held, he was re-elected! Congratulations, Ray. We will all continue to provide the support you need to make this Club of skiers a success. Also voted into office were three new members of EXCOM: Gail Gell, Geoff' Wadey and Mary Ward. Following the elections, Kirk Kranked up the Krystal on his Kronograph and the dance was underway! Stimulated by good socialability, excellent food and drink, the members carried on in good fashion to make this evening a great deal of fun. We all thank our host and hostess for their excellent effort on behalf of the Club.

EXCOM REPORT

The first meeting of the new 1978-1979 Executive Committee was held April 25th hosted by Dick and Julie King. Julie prepared tasty snacks and had selected liquid refreshment to satisfy those attending. ALL MEMBERS of EXCOM were present. Those there were: newly elected President Ray McKinley, Vice President Marilyn Clark, EXCOMers Gail Gell, Bill Hager, Bob Marx, Julie King, Geoff' Wadey and Mary Ward; TOOT editor Dick King. Various business matters were taken care of and are reported as follows:

1. Ray asked for and received EXCOM approval for his appointments to Vice President (Marilyn Clark) and Treasurer (Margaret Wychoff). Ray wants to fill the Secretary position (see his Message this month) and one EXCOM position (Bill Hager announced his unexpected resignation due to imminent reassignment out of the Washington area).

2. Roy and Malda Elrod have again offered to host the Steak and Swim Event at their home in July. The date of July 15th has been selected with the 16th as a rain date. The Washington area coordinator is Julie King (530-4966).

3. P V S will have ample representation at the annual USSA-Eastern Convention May 5-7. Ex President Art Topping planned to attend along with Bill Anderson; also Jim Pinkham and Eloise Newdorp planned to be there. We should have a full report for P V S members in the next TOOT.

4. Trip Leader Bob Grasley applied for P V S sponsorship of a 1979 ski trip back to Spain. EXCOM voted approval of his application with the standing provisos that the trip be self-sustaining financially and that trip members be members of P V S or other Blue Ridge Ski Council clubs.

5. Our President and EXCOM are enthusiastic about "new Events". We are all always interested in new adventures. Do you have a good idea for a P V S Event? Call Ray or any EXCOM member and pass along your idea. Who knows, it may become one of those outstanding annual Events. Keep the ideas coming in.

6. Have you read "The Red Book" at Club meetings? If not, why not? You are missing an important link with skiing if you haven't.

7. The May EXCOM meeting will be hosted by new EXCOMer, Mary Ward. The date is May 23rd and the time is 7:30. Call Mary or Ray for direction.

8. The June EXCOM meeting will be at Ray McKinley's home June 20th at 7:30.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

IMPORTANT NOTICE #1

P V S is in the process of obtaining some Club T-shirts. What we need is a design to put on the T-shirts. Any artists in the Club? EXCOM decided to sponsor a competition to obtain a good design for this purpose. Get your thoughts - and design pencils - going! The deadline for entries is May 20th, at the May Event. Best original design gets his or her T-shirt free of charge!

IMPORTANT NOTICE #2

P V S member Mike Rysavy has invited biking enthusiasts to join him and other friends on a beautiful bike trip on the Eastern Shore. The course is in the vicinity of St. Michaels east of Easton, Maryland and could include a beautiful ferry ride across the Tred Avon River to or from Oxford, Maryland. The date of July 8th has been chosen. Anyone (or two, or more) interested call Mike (656-3380) for further details.

IMPORTANT NOTICE #3

TENNIS EVERYONE! NOW is the time to get your act together (and your game tuned up) for the Blue Ridge Ski Council Third Annual Tennis Tournament at White Marsh Racquet and Country Club in Bowie, Maryland on June 24th, 1978. That is a Saturday. The affair will include a tennis mixer/tennis tournament/picnic with beer and soft drinks, and, if enough people are interested, professional instruction. Pete Peterson and Mike Santoro are both looking for female partners for the mixed doubles tournament. If any gals are interested, please contact Bob Grasley immediately. Bob is the coordinator for P V S and for the whole Event (P V S is the host Club). Bob needs players for the tournament; and he needs P V S workers to help with the overall management. Anyone interested in playing, instructing, helping manage or just plain picnicing, call Bob, Phone (301) 953-7100, Ext. 7577. Best time to call is between 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M.

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SPECIAL NOTICE

For those members who were not here then, TOOT is reproducing this month a two page article on P V S. It was published by Eastern Ski Association in its monthly magazine, The Skier, in JANUARY, 1968! It is an interesting historical report of our Club, the SKI CLUB OF THE MONTH!

5/6/78

PVS WELL REPRESENTED AT SPRING BLUE RIDGE SKI COUNCIL MEETING by Bob Wyckoff

The BRSC Spring Meeting was held on April 16 at Laurel, Maryland with 8 members of PVS in attendance -- Pres. Ray McKinley, Ex-Pres. Geoff Wadey, Ex. Pres. Art Topping, Bob Wyckoff, Larry Pease, Jim Pinkham, Eloise Newdorp, and Bob Grasley. To some extent these day-long meetings, this one with 27 agenda items, are boring; but if you're interested in skiing at all you would find parts very interesting, and I know of no better way to get a "feel" for what is going on in skiing in our area, not to mention seeing many old friends.

Relax! I'm not going to try to cover all 27 agenda items here -- just a few highlights. If any of you are interested in items not covered here, just contact me.

Election of officers -- Den Drumwright of SCWDC was elected president for a 2-year term, succeeding Whiting K. Willauer of Bryce Mountain Ski Racing Club.

Flights -- Bob Wyckoff and Bob Grasley were each asked to give a report of their respective trips to the French Riviera and to Spain. These were the only two officially sanctioned BRSC flights last season. There was considerable interest and discussion about trips in general. One interesting side light is that Richmond has two flights (charters) planned for western U. S. and Canada next year and are already 100% overbooked on one and two-thirds full on the other. SCWDC was looking for clubs to cooperate in running a series of back-to-back charters to the west. The consensus was that this would be very risky, even if the rates would be low if no club broke the chain. SCWDC indicated they plan no more charters to Europe after their unfortunate experiences the past three years, but that they were considering a group flight on scheduled airlines, such as PVS has been doing. The BRSC proceeded to sanction the two proposed PVS European trips for the coming season (covered elsewhere in this issue of TOOT.) No other sanctions were officially requested.

BRSC -- Page 2 (for TOOT)

Club Reports -- Geoff Wadey prepared a written report summarizing PVS' activities for the year. This was presented at the meeting. It was interesting to hear of all of the other clubs activities.

Tennis -- PVS is hosting the annual BRSC Tennis Outing this year. Bob Grasley has accepted chairmanship of the event and can use some volunteers to help run the all-day pic nic, <sup>open</sup> tennis, and tournament tennis, scheduled for June 24th. He got several volunteers from other clubs there, but still needs some from PVS. PVS rs Werner Koch and Connie Worley won this event last year.

Safety and Ski Patrol -- PVSer Larry Pease who is also head of the Ski Patrol for Maryland, Virginia & the District of Columbia gave one of his excellent talks on these two items, bound to be of interest to all skiers. Currently there are 200 patrolers in his Southern Appalachian Region. They require CPR training and a day of lift evacuation training as well as all of the first aid and on-the-hill training for all patrolers. This is real fine insurance for all of us. I can vouch from first hand experience how reassuring it is to have a well qualified patrolman there with a tobaggon when you need one. Larry reported they handled 1,000 injuries in our area this year. Also that skiing is getting safer, with an average of one accident per 1200 ski-days now as compared to one to 1000 not long ago. Part of this they attribute to better boots and bindings. The patrol averaged checking bindings free on the hill at 2 or 3 areas a week. This proved very popular. The patrol trained 38 new candidates and qualified 25 of them this year. A personal suggestion from your author -- how about PVS making a donation to the Ski Patrol to aid in carrying on this worthwhile volunteer work?

SKI TRIPS

1-18 Feb 79 — AUSTRIA AGAIN! Bob and Margaret Wyckoff think last year's trip to the Riviera will be hard to top; but they plan to try! They are leading a trip with thirteen and one-half days of Austrian skiing. Departure is Thursday, February 1st via Air France to Munich with return February 18th via Swissair from Zurich. Included are:

- o 1 day in Munich at the Platzl Hotel (the Hofbrau House next door is a great place to adjust to the time change)
- o 1 week in Charming Historic Olympic "Fun-Town", Innsbruck
- o 1 week in Zurs - at the Alpenrose, of course - our absolute European favorite.

More details will be available in June.

End of Feb 79 — SKI SPAIN! The 1978 P V S Spanish Ski Safari was an eminently successful trip and adventure with excellent snow/food/scenery/and what have you. Another trip to Spain, with a different itinerary, is now in the planning stages. It will be in the latter part of February 1979. If you are interested in Spain, or would like to be put on distribution for trip newsletters, Call Bob Grasley. His phone number is: (301) 953-7100, Ext 7577. The best time to call is 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.

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CLUB OFFICERS

- President . . . . . Ray McKinley
- Vice President . . . . Marilyn Clark
- Secretary . . . . . Vacant
- Treasurer . . . . . Margaret Wyckoff

EXCOM:

- Second Term. . . . . Julie King  
Bob Marx  
Vacant
- First Term. . . . . Gail Gell  
Geoff' Wadey  
Mary Ward

- Membership . . . . . Gail Gell
- TOOT Editors . . . . . Dick and Julie King
- USSA-Eastern rep . . . . Art Topping
- BRSC rep . . . . . Bob Wyckoff
- PSF rep . . . . . Vacant
- Answering Service. . . . Bob and Jan Marx

COMING EVENTS

- May 20 - May Event, 9th International Dinner (See page 2 for details)
- May 23 - EXCOM meeting. At Mary Ward's home, 2519 Pennyrole Lane, Reston, Virginia. Call Mary (860-0011) for directions.
- June 17 - The Second Annual visit to Jack Hadler's cottage on Kent Island. Just cross the Bay Bridge, turn right at the first light (Route 8) and go five miles south to Kentmorr Airpark; turn right and follow road to a left turn, then the Cottage is the fourth Cottage on the right. Time: anytime after 10:00 A.M. 'til ?? Bring your bathing suits, for sure! Coordinator: Gail Gell (949-9036).
- June 20 - EXCOM meeting at Ray McKinley's. Time: 7:30.
- June 24 - Blue Ridge Ski Council Third Annual Tennis Tournament. P V S is the host Club. See IMPORTANT NOTICE #3 in this issue of TOOT.
- July 8 - A bicycle trip on the Eastern Shore. See IMPORTANT NOTICE #2, this issue of TOOT.
- July 15 - Our annual Steak and Swim at the Elrod's home in Triangle, Virginia. Get your reservation in early for this popular Event. Coordinator is Julie King (530-4966). Rain date is July 16th.
- July 25 - EXCOM meeting. Meeting site to be selected.
- August - Canoe trip on the Shenandoah. Time and date to be selected. This has been a fun trip in past years; but variety is the spice of life. If anyone out there has any bright ideas to offer, please call trip leader Gerry Deighton, 424-5707.
- Sept 23 - Hike in the Shenandoah, with Jenks and Dot Mason. More on this new Event later.

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HAVE YOU READ:

THE RED BOOK

lately??



# POTOMAC VALLEY SKIERS

by Anne S. Cooper

WHERE is a ski club as it approaches its second anniversary?

Having at one time been associated with a ski club at its inception, and having seen it fold after less than one year of operation, I was frankly curious to learn the secrets, if any, of the apparent success of an almost brand-new club. Potomac Valley Skiers is a one hundred per cent USEASA club, incorporated in November, 1965 in the District of Columbia. It is devoted to "educational, social and athletic pursuits with particular reference to the sport of skiing." And, as one member has said "We wish to further our knowledge and interest in all sports, and skiing in particular, and to do this in the company of people who have similar interests."

Dick King and Bill Stecher gave birth to the idea of Potomac Valley Skiers at the 1965 USEASA convention in Atlantic City. While they felt that the Ski Club of Washington, D.C. filled a great need providing, as it does, primarily a social outlet and place to meet for the Washington area's vast young adult population who are virtual strangers to the city (club membership numbers around 3,000), they felt also there was room for another club in the area—one devoted wholly to skiing and skiers—indeed, that there was a real need for such an organization. Thus was born the idea of Potomac Valley Skiers—an addition to, not in place of, nor in competition with the Ski Club of Washington, D.C.

It is interesting to note, as a matter of fact, that 95 per cent of the Potomac Valley Skiers are also members of the SCWDC indicating, perhaps, that most of us like to participate on a "grand scale" as well.

The original Potomac Valley Skiers *ad interim* (prior to the first annual meeting in April of 1966) Executive Committee consisted of Dick King, Bill Stecher, Packard Anderson, Hank Thomas, Penny Sayre, Brooke Armat and Mike Rura. Doris Hege acted as the recording secretary during the months when this group was laying the foundations of PVS and taking the steps necessary for incorporation.

Hardship and bad luck often create great camaraderie between the persons who have the misfortune to share it, and this is certainly true of the beginnings of the Potomac Valley Skiers. Many of

the persons who formed the base of PVS membership during the fall and winter of 1965 were part of a luckless group of skiers who found themselves in Europe for a ski vacation without hotel or other land reservations. Twenty-five persons had included the land package in arrangements for a European Ski Flight through Air India back in 1963. However, when the travel agency handling these reservations heard that the Air India plane had not and would not depart, it took it upon itself to cancel all land reservations in Europe. The agency did not reckon with the determination of a group of skiers planning and paid up to go to Europe. Those in charge of the flight made arrangements to have Air France take over the charter, and, thus, we end our story with a hardy group of skiers arriving in Europe to discover they have no place to stay—anywhere. Fourteen of these twenty-five persons became members of PVS during its first year of operation.

PVS states in its by-laws that active membership shall not exceed 200. By the end of the first year there were 60 members, and membership now totals approximately 80. Persons interested in membership must be invited and sponsored by an active member in good standing; they must attend at least two meetings by invitation; they must take no less than three ski trips in the company of members; they must pass the Basic Proficiency Test. The membership votes on each application and five negative votes will deny membership to the applicant.

The Executive Committee is an elective body consisting of the president and six members of the board of directors (three of these are elected for two-year terms.) The ExCom appoints the vice president, secretary and treasurer upon recommendation of the president (the secretary and treasurer need not be members of the Executive Committee). Any vacancy on the ExCom is filled by appointment by two-thirds majority vote of the remaining members. The president or any member of the ExCom may be recalled through a proposal of either the majority of the ExCom or by a petition signed by twenty members of the club, and passage of such proposal or petition is accomplished by a three-quarters majority vote of the members of the club present and voting at a regular or special meeting of the club.

The first PVS president was co-founder



Club members Pat Calef, Peggy Lacey and Aina Hertelis at Alta, Utah.

Dick King, followed last year by Bill Stecher, the other co-founder. This year's president is Brooke Armat. The club has outstanding proven and potential leaders as seen in the fact that its membership includes three past presidents of the Ski Club of Washington, D.C.: Jewell Blankenship, Packard Anderson and Jack Fox. The membership turnover rate is extremely low at less than five per cent. By the same token, its growth rate is also very low. It would appear that PVS has no interest in growth for its own sake, but carefully screens all interested persons and makes no effort to solicit members.

The club meets monthly with about 60 per cent of the membership in attendance. During the summer months, these monthly meetings usually take the form of lawn parties at members' homes, and during the fall and winter months, the meetings are normally preceded by Dutch Treat cocktails and dinner. The official club bulletin has a name worth mentioning, I believe, since it seems to say a great deal about the spirit and attitude of the membership. As one member puts it, TOOT is the official bugle which sounds off every now and then to trumpet doings in the club and outside skiing world.

Potomac Valley Skiers is definitely what it claims to be—a club of skiing enthusiasts. The club celebrated its founding by a two-day ski and get-acquainted trip to Seven Springs, Pennsylvania, which included inter-ski club racing events with a ski club in Baltimore. (By the way . . . the ski club in Baltimore was creamed, and 'tis the same ski club mentioned earlier which folded prior to the end of its first year of operation . . . do you suppose there is any correlation?) The first PVS on-the-hill program to get started was its competition program, and the club aims high with its relatively small membership, encouraging participation in local and regional races as competitors as well as officials. In 1966 PVS took a New England ski trip and scheduled the Basic Proficiency Test for all those on the trip. All but one person took and passed the test.

One member of PVS is this year's chairman of the USEASA Amateur Instructors Committee—Packard Anderson—and the club can also boast six Qualified Amateur Instructors (that means they could conduct classes for the ENTIRE membership and still have only about ten persons in a class). Another member, Glade Flake, is chairman of



# POTOMAC VALLEY SKIERS



the USEASA Avalanche Committee, and four members are qualified to wear the Circle A avalanche patch with two members being also qualified instructors.

Approximately 30 per cent of the PVS members are active registered ski patrolmen. There are 18 Senior Patrolmen, eight locals and four National Ski Patrolmen (Glade Flake, Jewell Blankenship and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Pease). In addition, Potomac Valley Skiers boasts the following: Regional Chairman, Southern Appalachian Region—Larry Pease; Section Chief, Mason-Dixon Section — his wife, Billie Pease; Section Chief, Potomac Section—Dick Harsh; Advisor for Testing and Training—Al Fleig; Advisor for Administration—Glade Flake; Advisor for Public Relations—Bill Jarrett. And would you believe . . . Patrol Leader of Skyline Ski Patrol—Jewell Blankenship; Assistant Patrol Leader of Washington Ski Patrol—Jack Fox; former patrol leader—Bill Stecher; former section chief—Bob Broad. This club does a lot of skiing!

I believe you can always separate the social, party-minded person from skiing, but I have yet to discover any way to separate the enthusiastic, hard-core skier from a good party. Potomac Valley Skiers is no exception. Stretch your imagination and figure out how 55 members and guests consumed, in one sitting, 72 lobsters, 350 steamer clams, 10 pounds of butter, the usual assortment of salads and desserts, and inevitable malt and hops! PVS "carried on" at monthly summer meetings at various member homes.

They spent a good bit of their summer together — sailing on a regular basis, camping and hiking, water skiing and golf. They organized regular weekly tennis matches on Sunday-mornings during the summer and even participated in a weekly rock-climbing clinic conducted by member Dick Harsh.

The Potomac Valley Skiers may not be growing at a fast rate numerically, but the spirit and enthusiasm of its membership, which began at such a high level, continues to grow and strengthen in its integrity. My favorite story, which illustrates the willingness of each member to participate to the fullest with spirit and imagination, involves Past President Bill Stecher and his family. At the October meeting last year, Bill informed those present that he might not be at the November 16 meeting because of his wife Elke's pending delivery. Their baby daughter, in good PVS fashion, arrived conveniently on the *morning* of November 16, and Bill was present at the meeting that evening where he informed one and all that his daughter was to be named Penelope Virginia Stecher and called PVS for short. Bill later admitted that that was carrying loyalty, commitment and participation a little too far and that the new Stecher was really to be called Barbi!

*(Author's note: it's still the same old writer . . . just a new name . . . which is also my explanation for no October or December article. Sorry, but SOME things DO come before skiing!—Anne Schaefer Cooper.)*