

VOLUME XXXVIII

*Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.*

DECEMBER 2002

NUMBER 12

WASHINGTON

MARYLAND

VIRGINIA

Fellow PVS'ers:

I am pleased to announce that the PVS Ski Trip Committee has been revitalized and that Barbara Leonhardt will serve as its Chairperson. The Ski Trip Committee coordinates and monitors PVS ski trip activities to ensure that you, our members, have enjoyable, varied and best-value ski trips. We are indeed fortunate to have Barbara serving as chair of the Ski Trip Committee. She brings a wealth of experience as leader of many highly successful and widely acclaimed PVS ski trips

For those of you who want to take advantage of great early season skiing conditions, the Steamboat Springs, CO trip **STILL HAS OPENINGS**. It runs December 10th to the 17<sup>th</sup>.  
Call Sally Finan or George Welti immediately at 703-716-9023 to jump on it.

Best wishes to one and all for a great holiday and a great ski season. See you at the December meeting at the Strand's.

Reg Heitchue

**\*\*\*HOLIDAY PARTY\*\*\***



December 17 - 7:30 P.M.  
Home of Eloise and Mike Strand  
10728 Lady Slipper Terrace, Rockville, MD.  
301-468-1535

>>>

You are asked to bring an appetizer, salad or dessert.

<<<

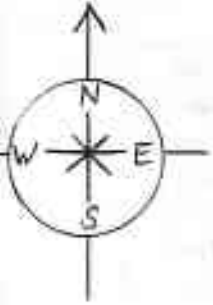
Come and enjoy each other's special holiday cooking favorites.

**Directions to the Strands' home:**

**From Virginia:** Take Beltway I-495 to I-270. Take first exit onto Democracy Blvd (East). Follow Democracy Blvd to Old Georgetown Road (left turn at light). Follow Old Georgetown Road North to 4<sup>th</sup> light, Tuckerman Lane. Turn right on Tuckerman to the first right turn on Gloxinia and enter the "Cloisters."

**From Maryland:** Take Beltway or Wisconsin Avenue to Old Georgetown Road. Turn right on Tuckerman Lane to first right turn on Gloxinia into the "Cloisters."

**The Cloisters:** After you have entered the Cloisters sub-division, cross Valerian Lane to the stop sign one block later at Valerian Lane (the Lane does a loop.) Turn right on Valerian Lane one block to first right turn on Lady Slipper Terrace. Follow Lady Slipper to its end at the cul-de-sac to 10278. **NOTE:** 5 cars can easily park in our driveway without blocking our neighbor's access. In the cul-de-sac, park headed into the curb. Before the cul-de-sac, park parallel to the curb.



## COMING EVENTS

**\*Call now if you want in on the fun.\***

**JOIN IN A PVS CHRISTMAS EVENING** with the Interact Theatre Company. Several years ago PVS went to the Interact's Christmas at the Olde Bull and Bush. This year the company is doing "The Crummles Christmas Carol." This is a "loveable band of incompetents with the grandest of theatrical pretensions" attempting to perform Dicken's classic. It promises Melodrama, music and mayhem. The incomparable Albert Coia is in the cast, as well as Kathryn Flye.

**December 14, Saturday Matinee at 2:00. Metro Stage in Alexandria.**

Dinner at a nearby restaurant will follow for those who wish to join Jessma.

Even though it is late notice, call Jessma immediately with a firm commitment.

**703-356-0717** Do NOT e-mail her. Her system is not working.



## **BICYCLING GOURMET**

**No further rides scheduled until March 2003**

**Ride Review: November 21, 2002**

**Glen Echo to Great Falls**

**Luncheon and speaker on local history**



Weather in November tends to be fickle with some beautiful sunny days. However, November 21 was not one of them. It started out foggy with occasional light rain. However, the rain had stopped by the starting time. In fact, most scheduled bicycle rides with clubs probably have been canceled under such conditions. Not so with this group who were spurred on by a reward of a post-ride luncheon at the Inn at Glen Echo. In fact, nine of the 15 riders who had indicated interest in this event actually showed up and cycled. While some light rain did develop midway through the ride, most cyclists pressed to the view the Falls, which were impressive in view of much recent precipitation.

Our group occupied a private room at the Inn at Glen Echo, which offered a number of tasty luncheon items. During the lunch, Andrew Rice, who is a resident of Cabin John and a local amateur historian enlightened us about the colorful history of this area. Space precludes us from going into describing the many interesting landmarks of the area, but the photos below (which also appear on the PVS web site in color and show up better) can whet the appetite for finding out more about this section of the Capitol area.



Cyclists on MacArthur Blvd bikepath. A little rain didn't stop our crew!



Cabin John Bridge (also known as the Union Arch - old photo). This was finished at the beginning of the Civil War for the aqueduct system bringing water to Washington from Great Falls. It is still in use today. At the time its construction, it was the largest stone arch in the world.



Cabin John Bridge Hotel (old photo) built in late 19<sup>th</sup> century and in operation until 1924. Burned down in 1931.



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

Photos of some PVS events which took place during November have been posted on the PVS web site. These include the Chile Hike & Dinner (hike rained out; dinner took place) and the Bicycling Gourmet photos shown above.

With ski season now upon us, continue to send your photos of PVS events to [info@potomacvalleyskiers.org](mailto:info@potomacvalleyskiers.org) for posting on the (password protected) web site.

Editors Note:

For those of you familiar with **Aspen**, or for those who would like to be, Marvin noted the following upcoming TV special:

Tall Pony Productions announced that Aspen has been chosen to host a network television special, scheduled for holiday programming. The hour-long "ABC's Christmas in Aspen," was filmed on location in Aspen in November.

It is scheduled to air on Sunday, Dec. 8, at 7:00 P.M. on our ABC station, channel 7.

<http://www.aspentimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?Site=AT&Date=20021104&Category=NEWS&ArticleNo=211030013&Ref=AR>

## PAST EVENTS



*Nancy at the stove.*

*Ray in his Chilean serape.*



### Chili Dinner

Well, for the first time in the 17 or 18 years (Ray wasn't quite sure which) since PVS has been holding the always popular chili hike, the weather god Zeus (or some insist it is actually Thor) saw fit not to favor us with weather suitable for hiking on November 16. Two and a half inches of rain had accumulated in Ray's rain gauge, and the amount was increasing rapidly as the day went along. Of course that meant that for once we didn't have to work for the reward of the main event, the chili dinner, which has always followed the hike. There were 26 PVSers and guests in attendance. The chili, as always, was superb -- at least I can vouch for the "not hot" chili, and I have no doubt that the hot chili was equally good. And the accompanying salads, desserts, and appetizers complemented the chili admirably. Ray had a ristré of chimayo red peppers (I've already learned two new words just in this one sentence!) mounted on the door, and told me that he and Nancy had ground some of the peppers into both the hot and not hot chili. Maybe that is why it was so good. Anyway, I know we all enjoyed the event, and many thanks to Nancy and Ray for hosting it once again.

Bob Harmon

## **November Meeting**

## **What's new, Brian?**

-by Jan & Jessma

Ski Center's Brian Eardley brought expertise and learned opinions along with the newest ski equipment. He enlightened us on the latest styles of skis and boots and revealed a pair of goggles with a photochromatic lense; i.e., it adjusts to the light changes by itself.

There was one shaped pair for powder skiing that Brian insisted would make any intermediate skier feel like the best skier around. A high priced ski has a micro chip in it that senses the condition of the snow and how aggressively you are skiing, then, automatically adjusts the stiffness of itself. Midfat skis are still best for powder; haven't changed in 20 years. Some skies and bindings are "systems" and come as a package. Overall, there are many good performance skies on the market. Most of the new skis have a slight platform in the middle. Apparently the shaped skis do better when the ski boot is slightly raised off the ski. Again, skis are much shorter than they were even in the last couple of years. Amazing: One pair was delicately colored and with flower designs, trying to appeal to a young female cohort. One pair of skies were curved up at both ends in hopes they could do most of the things a snowboard can do, to bring snowboarders back into the fold. Mostly due to the economy, no skis are made in the US anymore

Some boots have various changes. One has a built in heater. Another is a soft boot made of plastic and leather (leather is back) which makes it easier to get on and off. Brian thinks this boot was designed just for PVS. Also, technology has revised the method of custom molding the inner boot to your foot.

A lovely table was laid with ham, meatballs, and various dips and spreads. Dessert was apple cake and Persian Dream Bars, which had cocoanut in them.

There were 55 plus members at this popular meeting and we thank Ruth and co-hostess, Jessma, for graciously hosting us.

---

Charlotte Kline's father died on November 13<sup>th</sup> at the age of 97 ½.  
Many of us remember him as he welcomed us to numerous meetings held  
at the Kline home.

Our thoughts and sympathies are with Charlotte and Jim and their  
families.

---

**ExComers:** Please note that December's meeting at Clark's is on a **FRIDAY**, not  
Christmas Eve.

## Calling All Potential Trip Leaders for the 2003/2004 Ski Season !!!

### “PVS Needs You”

Although the first PVS trip has not left yet for the 2002/2003 ski season, it is already time to start planning for 2003/2004 ski trips. Anyone who has even a possible interest in leading or co-leading a PVS trip in the 2003/2004 ski season is invited and urged to attend a planning meeting with the PVS Ski Trip Committee (STC), probably Jan. 6, 7, 13, or 14, 2003. This invitation is extended to all of those who might be interested in putting together a trip from scratch as well as those interested in leading a BRSC trip. It is NOT necessary for attendees to have a specific destination in mind for their trip. The meeting is intended to discuss possible destinations, schedules, etc. and to ask questions or seek assistance in becoming a trip leader. The STC will provide mentoring services to new leaders. Please call Barbara Leonhardt, STC Chair, at 301-963-8111: to express your interest in attending; to obtain the date, time and place of the meeting; and to receive a copy of the PVS Ski Trip Guidelines.

Please consider attending.

MID-WEEK SKI



### WISP DEMO DAY---JANUARY 8, 9, 10, 2003

Call WISP now to reserve your room  
Ask for the Ski Chalet Demo Day Rate

Room per night (single or double)	\$59 plus tax
Voucher for Thursday lift ticket	\$2 (free over 70 years)
Apres Ski supplies per person	\$5 (approximate)

- \*\*Let Sue Lyon (703-455-4294) know if you are going so she can plan Apres Ski on Wednesday and Thursday nights and buy your vouchers from Ski Chalet.
- \*\* Rooms paid individually. For each room call Wisp Hotel (1-800-462-9477) to reserve a room and pay a deposit for one night with credit card or mail a check. With a roommate, individual cost drops to about \$30 per night. Sue will try to match you with a roommate if you need one.
- \*\*Lift tickets are obtained individually at the area with your voucher which Sue can obtain for you ahead of time. Friday tickets are \$35 and \$25 for half day from Noon to 5. Weekend tickets are more.
- \*\*Meals are paid individually.
- \*\*Additional plans: Some people may want to drive up and ski Wednesday and/or stay more night than Wednesday and Thursday. The individual needs to work with the hotel for any additional nights.

# SKI TRIPS



## **SKI TRIPS – 2002 – 2003**

### Steamboat Springs, CO

Leaders: Sally Finan & George Welti  
Dec. 10 to 17, 2002  
703-716-9023

### Whistler, BC

Leaders: Nancy & Ray McKinley  
Mar. 1 to Mar 9, 2003  
703-527-7126

### Snowmass, CO

Leaders: Barbara & Fred Leonhardt  
Jan. 16 to 23, 2003  
301-963-8111

### Crested Butte, CO

Leaders: David Lerner & Bob Marx  
Mar 19 to 26, 2003  
703-281-6923

\*\*\*\*\*

## **STEAMBOAT SPRINGS**

**Tues Dec. 10 – Tue Dec. 17, 2002**

There is still time to go to **ALL THAT SNOW** in Colorado.  
Price varies from \$1135 to \$1295.

Call Sally and George NOW. **703 – 716 – 9023**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Snowmass Jan. 16 - 23, 2002**



The snow is still falling in Colorado and we are set for skiing at Snowmass. By now, all trip participants should have a mailing with lots of information. Just as a reminder, the final payment was due November 15th. We also request that participants return their emergency medical form and the sign-up form for rental skis and Krabloonik activities. Save Saturday, January 11 for the pre-trip party. We have a very short waiting list and often there are last minute cancellations. Please call if you would like to be added to the waiting list - no deposit or firm commitment is needed. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Barbara or Fred at **301-963-8111** or email at **fbleonhardt@starpower.net**.



The Trip You've Been Asking for--March 1-9, 2003, join Nancy and Ray McKinley to Ski

# PVS Whistler/Blackcomb 2003

**2 SPACES LEFT—CALL US TODAY**

Imagine a ski trip with **PVS friends** that includes North America's largest ski area: **7000+ acres** of skiing, **200+ trails**, **3 high-speed gondolas**, **12 high-speed quads** and 18 other lifts. A trip that includes North America's **longest vertical (5,280 feet)**. The 4 star **luxury Le Chamois is at the base of the lifts** with 2 people per 1 BR 2 full bath suite. A leisurely day and evening in arguably North America's most beautiful city (Vancouver) at the 5-star Fairmont Waterfront. This great trip to Whistler/Blackcomb includes 5 of 6 Day lift passes good at both mountains, airfare, 3 group dinners at Whistler's top restaurants, happy hours, pre & post trip parties, and gratuities.

**GREAT PRICES - \$1,694; 65+ \$1,669; LAND ONLY \$1,299**

To reserve a space, send your check for \$1,000 per person payable to Ray McKinley and send it to the McKinleys at 2326 North Upton Street, Arlington, VA 22207-4045. Please call us for a copy of our flyer or for more information at (703) 527-7126.



Crested Butte is a jewel of a ski area just a few miles west of Aspen. We will be headed there on **March 19, 2003** with return on **March 26**. We'll leave from **Dulles airport** and fly into **Gunnison Colorado**. Crested Butte is a 30 minute van ride from there. We will stay at the **Sheraton Resort Hotel** at the base of the mountain. Cost is **\$1000**; it includes transportation, lodging, two group dinners, after-ski and pre-trip parties, as well as lift tickets. Those over 70 can deduct the **\$129** cost of the lift tickets. Crested Butte is a mid-sized ski area with an excellent selection of slopes for skiers of all abilities. The town of Crested Butte is probably the most charming in all of Colorado. Your trip leaders will be **David Lerner and Bob Marx**. Call **Dave at 703-281-6923** or **Bob at 703-451-9158** for more information.

A complete flier, trip application, and useful trip-related web links are available on line at:  
<http://members.cox.net/dlerner1/PVSCBtrip.html>.





# THE KNEE

by

Ray McKinley

Happknee Holidays and Merrknee Christmas! I bet you are thinking "Why does he keep up those corny jokes?" The answer is simple. You expect it of the Knee. This is why, in all the polls, the Knee remains the highest rated TOOT column which has appeared regularly for 10 or more years. Why, without my "corknee jokes," the Knee would be...well... shorter.

After decades of trying, Lu Beale has made it to the Amazon—or at least the Amazon.com. Look under Lu Beale on their website and you will find all three of Lu's wonderfully nostalgic Christmas stories—including her latest, "Santa and the White Bunny." These stories, were serialized and ran in over 500 newspapers half a century ago. The newest, like the previous two, is absolutely charming and a great stocking stuffer! And, if you asked her very nicely, I bet you could get Lu to sign it for you. I did.

A tip of the ol' Knee Cap to Barbara Leonhardt. She did an unreal amount of work to create our new ski trip guidelines.

The Knee had a 2 hour layover in Salt Lake City. Shops had lots of ski news: Park City currently has real competition from Les Otten's the Canyons, now the largest ski area in Utah. (Previously known under many other names including *Bryce Mountain*.)

Aside from the Canyons, Les Otten has now hired long time presidential lawyer Robert Bennett to lobby to change the state's name from "Utah" to "Otten." Sounds rOtten. Would I kid you??

A tip of the 'ol Knee Cap also goes to Jack Peoples. He was recently feted by the Lions Club for his generous work for the Eye Bank. He was responsible for raising \$118K to buy a new Mobile Health Unit. Eye see.

The ski industry going downhill? Marvin Hass reports that Vail will cut 100 jobs this season to save money. Vail's single day lift passes are \$72 (not a typo) and to make up for it, offers less service. Whoopie!

But skiing isn't more expensive everywhere. Jessma Blockwick reports that if purchased early, *season passes* at nearby Arapaho Basin were a mere \$139! A bit less than 2 days at Vail!!

The answer to last month's question was c). Bette Walker was a pom pom girl and Lu Beale a majorette (i.e. a small major).

Delaware is a small state. Now full time residents, Don and Kathy Dillion have attended the state's biggest cultural event—the Annual Pumpkin Chunkin' contest. Seems many residents create elaborate mechanisms—including cannons—to hurl their leftover Halloween Pumpkins several thousand feet. It's true. "But seeing it once is more than enough," to quote Don.

Condolences to Charlotte Kline whose father, Merrill, just passed away.

Rachel Abraham is home from the hospital two days early and chipper with a new titanium hip. Her surgery was by the same surgeon that replaced Bob McNeill's hip and knee almost a decade ago.

Applicant, and January hostess, Ilse Keel will be trying skiing on her kneat knew knee! She had a knee replaced last year and has yet to ski. Ilse, if you doubt you can come back, see Bob McNeill!!!

Lots of PVSers escaped from the DC area around the Thanksgiving Holidays. Serge and Liz Triaui left to play golf on the Outer Banks (not far from Riggs Banks—and Ernie Banks, but not Tyra Banks). Barbara and Fred Leonhardt off to St Maarten (not far from St Louis) in the Caribbean.

Karen and Knox Felker spent Turkey Day skiing in Austria. They also visited Germany and Slovenia. (But not Romenia!) Mike and Eloise Strand spent the Holiday at their home in Wintergreen—although at this time of year it should be called Fallgreen. And Margaret Wyckoff is off with friends for a week in Vienna (Sure beats two or three days in Annandale).



CALENDAR

- Dec. 17...Monthly Meeting at the Strands'
- Dec. 27...ExCom Meeting, Clark ----- NOTE - THIS IS A FRIDAY
- Jan. 8, 9, 10...WISP Demo Day
- Jan. 21...Monthly Meeting at the Keel's
- Jan. 28...ExCom, Beale
- Feb. 18...Monthly Meeting at the Schwartzbard's
- Feb. 25...Ex Com Meeting, tbd

*Editor's Note:*

*Thank you, Dave Learner, for the gold star and our holiday cover.*

Bette Walker  
#806  
2801 New Mexico Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20007

