

VOLUME XLIII  
NUMBER 6

*Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.*  
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

June 2007

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

[info@pvskiers.org](mailto:info@pvskiers.org)

Greetings PVSers,

In this month's letter I'm compelled to bring up the controversial topics of Yellow Snow and Toilet Seats...issues that have profound social, political, and medical implications.

So here's the situation: us guys are out on the slopes...prostate not behaving properly, the urge to purge, and a fundamental need to alter the landscape.

*Mike, what's the purpose of this column?*

I want to get them off the snowboarder issue I brought up last month.

OK.

"You're NOT going to do that HERE, are you?" echoes off the snow. "When you gotta go, you gotta go" is our retort. But this making of yellow snow is a fundamental right of mankind...or guykind, if you will...established a bunch of millennium ago. Besides, us guys gave it up on the "toilet seat down!!!" argument long ago. Even when my better half is away from the house and I'm absolutely certain my next use does not justify it...the seat goes down. Rarely, when I forget this ritual, my subconscious nags me: I can't focus, I know that something is terribly wrong, and I have this ominous sense of dread.

On the plus side I do visualize a future where men have a new and significant abbreviation to include in the personals ads: "TST" (toilet seat trained). As in: DWM, almost 60+ seeks WDFW as retirement partner. 5'10" skier, reader, concert lover and TST. Cooking skills in partner a plus. So the bottom line is (you like that Ray?) this is a clear (or, at least, a tainted yellow) case of quid pro quo!

*Mike, you do know this is a sexist column?*

Yup, but I'm just cashing in some of my political capital received from the April election.

*So Mike, is **that** the political implication of this column?*

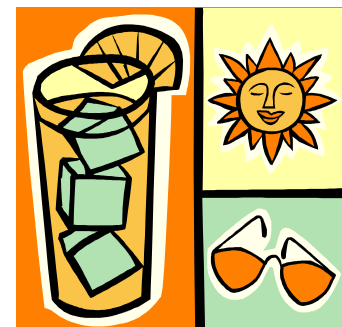
I'll leave the political interpretation to each reader's imagination.

*Mike*

Monthly Meeting



At the Callaways  
In Rockville, MD  
Tuesday, June 19  
7:30 PM





**Directions:**

Dave and Carolyn Callaway  
5 Trail House Court, Rockville, MD 20850

**From the Beltway:** take Interstate 270 North toward Rockville, take Exit 5 Falls Road, (Rt 189) toward South Potomac (the direction is back over 270). Turn right at the 2nd light onto Wootton Pkwy. At the 2nd light turn right onto Greenplace Terrace. At the 3rd court turn left which is Trail House Ct. Number 5 is on the right at the bottom of the hill. You can park on that street or at the top of hill.

(cell: 240-441-0237 tele: 301-294-2332.)



**Changes**

Sal and Lee Mahallati now have a house in Virginia. (It is right in the middle of all their daughters!)

11595 Cedar Chase Rd.

Herndon, VA 21070

Phone number is: 703-444-6697. Their e-mail remains the same ([leemahallati@msn.com](mailto:leemahallati@msn.com))

Bill and Sue Brown's e-mail address is:

[brownsuebill@verizon.net](mailto:brownsuebill@verizon.net)

Jessma Blockwick's new e-mail address is:

[jessma@earthlink.com](mailto:jessma@earthlink.com)

***We welcome a new Applicant Couple, 5-26-07***

Daniel and Jessica Wellwood

307 N. Bryan St.

Arlington VA 22201

Home Phone: 703-284-7696

E-mail: [wellwood@gmail.com](mailto:wellwood@gmail.com)

Daniel's Office Phone: 301-763-6819

Jessica's Office Phone: 301-763-7211

E-mail: [jessica.wellwood@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.wellwood@gmail.com)

## Coming Events

**NOTE:** Betty has sold the 20 tickets that she asked for. (*Great going, Betty*) However: If you would like to attend, call or e-mail NOW. She thinks she may be able to get more tickets.

703-319-1860

[lizl@verizon.net](mailto:lizl@verizon.net)

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY SPOKEN FOR TICKETS, please send Betty a check AND a self-addressed stamped envelope so that she can mail your tickets to you.

Betty Lawrence 10,000 Woodrow St. Vienna, VA 22181

Under the Distinguished Patronage of Lady Manning, Wife of the British Ambassador to the United States

### *The British Players*

Present Their Forty-Third Annual

### **OLD TIME MUSIC HALL**

Mr. Chairman  
MALCOLM EDWARDS

Queen of Comedy  
JUNE ANDERSON  
and the

The Cheeky Cappie  
ALBERT COIA

PALACE VARIETY ORCHESTRA

at the

### **KENSINGTON PALACE OF VARIETY**

**Kensington Town Hall, 3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington, MD 20895**

**Wednesday, June 27, 2007**

**8:00 pm Curtain, Doors open at 7:30 pm.**

**\$27.50** – includes beer, wine, soda, snacks, and souvenir programme.



## Strathmore (FREE) Outdoor Summer Concerts

Strathmore (Bethesda/Rockville) is again providing free outdoor summer concerts on the lawn most Wednesdays at 7:00 PM. Take the Metro (Grosvenor/Strathmore station) or park at the Metro garage (need \$4 on your SmarTrip card to pay to exit the garage) or park on the street nearby. Bring food, drink or buy at the concert. Bring your blanket or low chair...and enjoy summer sounds. Contact

Strathmore for performance details at or [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org)

Here's the upcoming outdoor concert schedule through early July:

June 13: -Jennifer Cutting's Ocean Orchestra

June 20: -Hungry for Music: Peter Chase and Sam Baker

June 27: -Milkshake

July 11: -Washington Symphonic Brass: Milt Stevens conductor



Other Wednesday performances run through August 8 and will be announced in the July TOOT.

*Mike Strand*

## Past Event



Monthly Meeting

-----At Ufholz'

Drinks and delightful goodies were available. There was (among other items) the always-enjoyable layered taco dip, veggies, dips, cheeses, and cookies for dessert. Eugenia had sausages very similar to the ones her grandfather made when they emigrated from Greece. It is an old family recipe that was used until recently.



Everyone had good visits with their fellow skiers before Veep, Dick Comerford called the meeting to order. The meeting was relatively short with event and ski trip announcements. The May ExCom meeting was held in an adjacent room following the close of the main meeting.

A super THANK YOU



## In Memorium

### Bob Grasley -- 1915 to 2007

Bob Grasley, a long time member of PVS, passed away May 7 after battling long illnesses and a final massive heart attack. Bob and wife Mary Lee (who passed away in 1983) led a number of PVS European and Western ski trips. A memorable one for Suzanne Boisclair was to Spain and Morocco in 1982. (The McKinleys did the trip again more recently.) The Grasleys led PVS's first wine tour. Bob also was active in SCWDC. Myron Marquardt tells of when he and Fumiko moved into their Silver Spring home, just a couple of doors away from the Grasley's. They got Myron and family on skies.

There was a simple memorial service at the grave site in Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Silver Spring on May 15<sup>th</sup>. It was attended by Bob's second cousin, Jane, from Toronto, eight PVSers, plus several SCWDC friends and former neighbors who live near Myron. Bob (and Mary Lee) were remembered for their enthusiasm, kindness, and being good neighbors and friends.



# SNOWMASS

SNOWMASS 2008

January 17 through 24

*Hurry! This may be a last chance to stay at our much loved Snowmass Mountain Chalet. Recent purchase by a large developer will make major changes with new construction and concept within the next two years.*

- Join us for this perennial favorite-- slopeside skiing at Snowmass with interchangeable lift tickets and free bus service to Aspen Highlands, Ajax Mountain, and Buttermilk ski areas, more than 5,000 acres of skiing. Direct access to 3,100 acres of Snowmass slopes is just outside the door.
- We will stay once again at the charming and friendly Snowmass Mountain Chalet to enjoy the convenience of slopeside lodging served by the welcoming Mountain Chalet staff. Lodging includes a daily family-style breakfast and daily soup lunch, greatly appreciated by trip participants and other guests, many of whom return year after year.
- The trip will include group dinners, après-ski parties, and other activities available in the Aspen environs.
- Approximate trip cost is \$1,900, details to be announced when air transport is arranged.

For more information:

Contact trip leaders Carolyn Maurer and David DeVilbiss at 703-370-4865  
or by e-mail at [Carolyn.maurer@verizon.net](mailto:Carolyn.maurer@verizon.net).

To reserve: \* Send deposit of \$250 per person to:

Carolyn Maurer at 4508 Peacock Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304

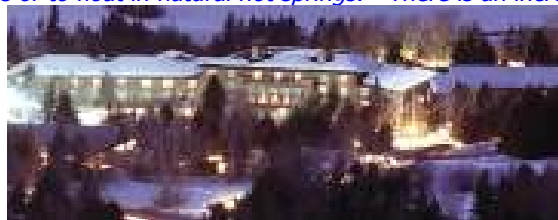
\* Note "PVS-Snowmass 2008" on the memo line.

*WOW! Feb 9-16, 2008, join Nancy and Ray McKinley to Ski World-Renowned*



*If Sun Valley were a person, it would be a Renaissance man – worldly but capable of being down to earth, equally accomplished in sports and culture, broad in interests, sophisticated in tastes. But, Sun Valley is America's original destination ski resort, an enduringly beloved Idaho enclave that's "as classy as any mountain out there, and without the Bogner bling." Known for its long steady-pitched groomers (perfect for raising World Cupper Picabo Street), its lack of crowds ("forgot what a lift line was!"), its opulent on-mountain lodges and its celebrity-studded history, Sun Valley has won over skiing's well-traveled visitors for decades. It has sunshine and a top-flight lift network, an authentic Old West town with metro-quality cuisine, sagebrush vistas and a friendly and easygoing vibe. The resort's facilities are appropriate for couples, aspiring starlets and global financiers.*

*Sun Valley's expansive slopes work for virtually everyone except cliff-jumpers and terrain-park fanatics. "All the skiing you can handle in a vacation," says one fan. In fact, Sun Valley and adjacent Ketchum draw people back again and again. They return to sit in the sun over lunch at the Round House, to dance down funnel-shaped bowls and ride the mountain as surfers ride big waves. Some come back to glide through their turns and take it easy. Others return to bend in to the mountain and feel the burn. They come back for free cookies after breakfast at the Kneadery and for après at divey Apples. They come back to eat fresh trout amid the rosy chintz and fine china of Gretchen;s at the Sun Valley Lodge or to rough it in the vast back country, to buy big-name art for big second-home walls or to float in natural hot springs. "There is an incredible amount to do other than ski."*



*The World Famous Sun*

*The Sun Valley Lodge was built with every amenity a skier could imagine. Complete with a outdoor pool and Sun Valley's famous outdoor ice rink and Terrace. Guests enjoy Gretchen's Restaurant, the elegant Lodge Dining Room, the Eddie Duchin Lounge, Spa, Exercise Room, bowling alley and game room. Re-live the luxurious accommodations enjoyed by Clark Gable, Erol Flynn and Lucile Ball, with the incomparable service of a bygone era.*

*Our complete trip cost is \$2,157. This includes pre and post trip parties, 3 dinners, lodging, air fare and lift tickets. Land only cost is \$1,681, the single supplement is \$856. Non-skiers cost \$1,896.*

*We have only limited space. To reserve a spot on this memorable trip, send your check for \$250 per person payable to Ray McKinley and send to 2326 N Upton Street, Arlington, VA 22207-4045. Please call us for lots more information at (703) 527-7126.*

# Ski and See the Balkans

Sunday, March 2 through Thursday, March 13, 2008

This trip offers the opportunity to ski in two countries (Bulgaria and Slovenia), tour two capital cities (Sofia and Ljubljana), and experience the unique culture of this region where eastern and western cultures merge.

**TRIP OVERVIEW** -- We depart Washington/Dulles at 5:20 pm, transfer in Munich, Germany, for Sofia, Bulgaria, and overnight in a 4-star hotel in Sofia (breakfast included). The next day we tour Sofia before transferring late in the afternoon by bus (about a 2-hour trip) to a 5-star hotel in Bansko at the gondola station (breakfast and dinner included). After four nights and three days skiing (elective day tours are possible to Rila Monastery, Sofia, the town of Bansko, and other sites of interest), we return to Sofia and fly to Ljubljana, Slovenia. We overnight in Ljubljana in a 4-star hotel (breakfast included), then tour the Slovenian capital city the following day. Late in the afternoon we transfer by bus to Kranjska Gora (about 1.5 hours) to a slopeside 4-star hotel (breakfast and lunch included). After four nights/three days skiing (elective day tours are possible to Lake Bled, Ljubljana, and other local sites), we return by bus to Ljubljana for the flight home. Transferring in Munich, we arrive back at Washington/Dulles at 6:30 pm. All flights are on Lufthansa.

**Bansko** is Bulgaria's # 1 ski resort: It has benefited from a multi-million Euros investment, has the best snow record and the longest ski season (15 Dec - 15 May) of all Bulgarian ski resorts, and snowmaking covers many of the slopes. Bansko is located 3,025 feet above sea level. The two main ski areas are between 3,600 and 8,510 feet elevation, and are accessible on the new gondola, which starts from Bansko. The area caters to all levels of skiers and is the best resort in Bulgaria for advanced skiers. More information is available at [www.Bulgariaski.com/bansko/index.shtml](http://www.Bulgariaski.com/bansko/index.shtml)

**Kranjska Gora** is the longest operating ski resort in Slovenia and is in northwestern Slovenia near the borders with Austria and Italy. The slopes are suitable for all skiing levels. The best skiers in the world compete annually on the Podkoren run in World Cup men's giant slalom and slalom races. Kranjska Gora has 90 days guaranteed snow with 175 acres of artificial snow making and night skiing capability. The ski area is at an altitude ranging from 2,650-5,140 feet. More information is available at [www.slovenia.info/?smucanje=58](http://www.slovenia.info/?smucanje=58)

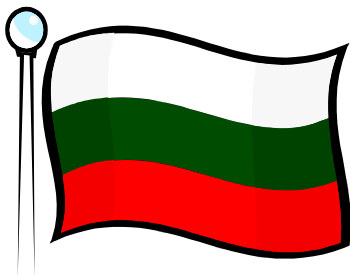
**INCLUDED IN PRICE** -- Total Price \$2,800 (double occupancy) includes all air and bus transportation, hotels with meals as indicated above, two city tours, plus pre-trip party, portage of baggage, and post-trip party. (Price based on exchange rate of \$1.33 US to Euro). Single supplement \$306 based on single room availability. Land-only price, approximately \$1,950.

**NOT INCLUDED:** -- Medical Insurance and Trip Cancellation / Interruption Insurance, lunches, lift tickets, ski equipment rental, elective tours

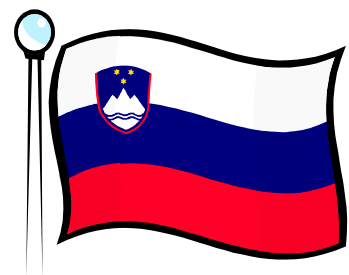
## **IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING US OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS:**

Contact Marianne or Kerry Hines at 540-364-4810 or by e-mail at [mchines@erols.com](mailto:mchines@erols.com) or [klhines@erols.com](mailto:klhines@erols.com).

**TO RESERVE:** Trip is limited to 25 participants. Send the trip application form and a deposit check for \$250 per person to: Marianne or Kerry Hines, 11019 John Marshall Highway, Delaplane, VA 20144. Note "PVS-Balkans 2008" on the memo line.



Bulgaria



Slovenia





## BRSC Meeting May 19, 2007

The meeting was held at Homewood Suites by Hilton near Baltimore's BWI Airport. Peter Porton passed out Flyers of the sanctioned Pentagon trip to Bariloche and Buenos Aires in Argentina August 11–24 priced at \$2,770. The trip is available to all clubs who are members of BRSC. Any PVSers interested in the trip should contact Peter Porton - 703 471-7791.

Review of Big Sky and Schladming showed that both trips went well. Both could have used more snow. The race course at Big Sky (Moonlight Basin) was very thin with snow cover. The buffet breakfast at the Huntley Lodge was reported to be slightly better than the buffet breakfast at the Summit Hotel. Lodging on both trips was reported as excellent. Travel was difficult into and out of the Bozeman, Montana airport. With 387 people, some long wait times resulted on commuter flights.

Judy Miller (GTU) gave an excellent presentation on the upcoming trip Feb. 23 – March 2, 2008 to Interlaken, Switzerland priced at \$1,605. The trip will include lodging in the four star Royal St. George Hotel, daily breakfast and dinner, seven nights lodging, and medical insurance. Either Istanbul or Prague can be added on for \$475 with three days of lodging available at Hilton Hotels. PVS had no leader for this trip, but interested PVSers can join the Capital Golden Skiers (contact Inge Lesjak, 703 918-0759) or some other BRSC club.

Effie Rubinstein (Sportours) gave a presentation of the Steamboat trip from Feb. 2 – 9, 2008. The price of the trip will be about \$1,400 depending on the type of lodging selected by the trip leader. PVS had no leader for this trip, but interested PVSers wishing to go to Steamboat can join the Capital Golden Skiers (contact Inge Lesjak, 703 918-0759) or some other BRSC club. We were assured the race course at Steamboat would have gobs of snow as extensive snow making is in the race area.

Mike Agnew gave a long presentation on Lake Tahoe skiing. BRSC will be going to Lake Tahoe in 2010. Heavenly at Tahoe is owned by Vail, and is the second largest ski area in U.S. Andre Gupta gave another long presentation on skiing in France. He mentioned how global warming is affecting skiing conditions in the Alps. Snow is coming much later, and glaciers are disappearing. Tropical fish are now in the Mediterranean Sea.

There were 54 sanctioned trips posted on the BRSC web site for 2007. There are two fall trips to Europe. PVSers interested in a fall trip to Europe should look at the BRSC web site. One of the trips is being run by the Baltimore Ski Club, and will visit Spain and Portugal.

The fall meeting will be hosted by the Baltimore Ski Club, and will be held on Sept 29, 2007.

*Charles Huggins*

## This 'n That



## Pondering the Toot Logo

OK, the alpenhorn is obvious - the Alps, thus, skiing. But what about that other horn? A quote from one of the articles by our own Ron Fett to the Washington Post, "(Toot) is an official bugle that trumpets the doings of the membership." Aina says that Mike Rura first brought red party horns for everyone!! When Mike came up with the name, Toot, he teamed with Hank Thomas who drew the masthead for our newsletter. The first issue of Toot to carry this new design was April 1970.

This is a picture from the 7/28/70 article by Ron. PVS was on a canoe trip down the South Fork of the Shenandoah River, approaching Front Royal. It shows Jim Key calling all to lunch. (Dick remembers that this bugle was a loaner from Jim's Boy Scout troop. Dick Harsh (who attended April's annual meeting), wife and 2 daughters, Hank, Aina, and Murray & Jane Lyon, among others (some women in skirts) enjoyed this campout weekend.

*Historian*

*JM-*

## Some Notes from Bing



A contingent from Ski Liberty was at Snowbird, UT through last Friday (April 27<sup>th</sup>).

The Chickadee Lift next to the Cliff Hotel closed last Saturday, April, 28 but most of the other lifts were open.

The new-this-year Peruvian lift terminates near the top of the mountain close to the top of the tram. There is a moving belt that takes skiers uphill through a tunnel to Mineral Basin. Thus, skiers can elect the tram or the lift to go to Mineral Basin on the other side of the mountain.

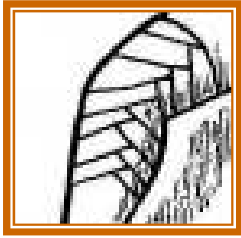


In Salt Lake City, the Sunday Buffet Brunch at The Grand America is superb and equals or exceeds expectations for any in the DC area. The TRAX stops within a half city block of the entrance to the hotel, which is just across from The Little America. With possession of The Grand America, The Little America, Snow Basin, and Sinclair Oil, I suspect the owner, can put out an elaborate buffet for his customers. Rigid attention to customer service was evident. Thinking that three types of polenta already were prepared, with three samples displayed (volume as in an ice cream scoop) I asked for three, tablespoon-sized portions. He proceeded to prepare three, prepared-to-order, samples. I was highly impressed with his display of professional talent. There are many other praises for their buffet that can be better described orally.



The Roof Garden at The JB Smith Building adjacent to Temple Square has a nice buffet weekdays, good, but not as superb as that at The Grand America.





# THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley

Ankneeone living in the DC area knows that winter is over. The end of May seems like July—hot and humid. If, however, you are still rarin' to ski, there is hope. Mammoth Mountain in California currently plans to be open until mid July. And Killington and Arapaho Basin are also usually available until the cows come home—which is typically in June.

Soon, according to [Marvin Hass](#) we will be able to ski outdoors all year in Northern Texas. A group of investors is planning a new resort including ice rinks, misters, turbo-fans, and a 25-story artificial mountain with 650,000 square feet of ski surface. The "snow" will be an artificially produced substance akin to "wet, white Astroturf with bristles." Golly, skiing in August, with 100+ deg temps, on "wet, white Astroturf with bristles," sounds like such fun.

There was a lot of press about Pres [Mike Strand](#) missing the first two meetings after being elected. The Washington Post's two-column Style write up was particularly kneet. BTW, Veep [Dick Comerford](#) did an interesting job subbing for [Mike](#). Chaos reigned at the ExCom meeting. Indeed, the club has now been dissolved, making the upcoming membership drive moot. So this will be your last issue of TOOT. (It's so much more fun for the Knee to make up the news than merely report it!)

Notwithstanding, earlier, in April 1989, the selfsame [Dick Comerford](#) had just been elected President. He was away on business and missed the May meeting, held at [Adele Waggaman's](#) Chevy Chase digs. At that point in our history, PVS had no Veep. So [Jan Marx](#) the previous President was asked. But [Jan](#) had to go to Minkneesota (which is a very small Pepsi.) Several others were also out of town, so it fell to [Marilyn Clark](#) the ex ex ex ex President (that's 4 ex as in sugar) successfully ran the meeting. FYI, had [Marilyn](#) not been there, running the meeting would have fallen on the 5 ex President, a guy known pseudonymously as [The Knee](#).

Now that he is finished with being acting President, [Dick Comerford](#) and [Betty](#) will soon be

off to Prague for a vacation. [Dick](#) has no plans to drink any of that horrible Czech beer! It is also possible that the reason for the [Comerford's](#) trip is to escape the consequences of, as mentioned above, PVS being dissolved.

Last month I reported on the marriage of [Carolyn Maurer and Dave DeVilbiss](#). They are now off to France for their honeymoon. But they are going with another couple. Kneet??

Last ski season, [Ingrid Monaghan](#) skied in Europe in an area called Volkenstein. While unknown to most of us, it boasts over 700 lifts! That'll give you a rise.

A tip of the ol' Knee Cap goes to [Eloise Strand](#). She was one of 5 individuals who received the Montgomery County "2007 Path of Achievement Award" from County Executive Ike Leggett. [Eloise](#) was recognized for "Community Service," specifically for her many meaningful volunteer activities. Right on!

As far as I've been able to tell, our most frequent skier last season was [Dave Lerner](#). [Dave](#) skied 35 days at 8 different resorts or 4.625 days per resort. If someone beat these numbers, please let the Knee know.

As you will read elsewhere in TOOT, long-time PVSer, [Bob Grasley](#) passed away last month. At the funeral, it was a pleasure to see former club member [Carol Drohan](#) who came back early from Florida to be there. [Bing Poon](#) also came down from Pennsylvania where he still skis but has given up on snowboarding, "Too hard to carry." [Bob Grasley](#) had been a member of QASI, the Qualified Amateur Ski Instructors. And [Barbara Leonhardt](#), in pre-PVS days, had Bob as her instructor for the QASI course..

Time flies: [Gail Pease's](#) daughter [Angie](#) and hubby now have a 6 month old child! [Angie](#), who lives on a 5 acre farm not far from [Gail and Larry](#), has been a veterinarian with a thriving practice for over 5 years. Otherwise she would be a civilian-airian. [Gail's](#) son [Greg](#) now lives in Oregon where he is a ski patroller. Cool!

[Dick and Marilyn Clark](#) are now sporting a newer Jaguar, which they bought from Dallas.

[Bob Knopes](#) is off to Taiwan and Hong Kong to visit friends. He is brushing up on his Chinese and was reminded that the word for hello is Knee-hama. OK, so it's spelled *ni-hama*.

The job of Membership Chairman will now be jointly held by "the Daves." [Dave Warthen and Dave Devilbiss](#) will share the duties. I'm not quite certain why it takes two, since the club has now been dissolved.

## Calendar

June 19	Tue	Monthly Meeting at Callaway's
June 26	Tue	ExCom at Laeser's
June 27	Wed	British Hall Players
July 21	Sat	All Trips Party at Hines 4:00 PM

## Ski Trips -- 2008

Snowmass - January 17-24 -- Carolyn Maurer  
Sun Valley - February 9-16 - Nancy and Ray McKinley  
Balkans - March 2-13 - Marianne and Kerry Hines



Jan and Bob Marx  
8312 Oakford Dr.  
Springfield, VA 22152