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WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

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Hello Fellow PVSers,

Who knew that the ski season would be such a long one as we had this year? As we gear up for the much-anticipated cherry blossoms (long overdue!), we can recap our season with some numbers put together for us by Charles Huggins. This year 100 participants enjoyed our trips to Snowmass, Vail, Alyeska, and Cortina. And, 15 skiers took the ride up the road to enjoy local skiing – 10 days at Liberty Mountain and 2 days at Whitetail. Altogether a great ski (and see) season!

I want to make special mention of the work that the indefatigable John Smith did this year getting local skiers on the nearby slopes with help from Charles Huggins. John sent out weekly emails with prognostications on the weather and plans for skiers to meet up at the local areas. Great job, John!

Now that ski season is over (it is, isn't it?), PVS is getting ready to plan some warm weather activities for us all to enjoy. We have a few things in the works and I'd like to challenge you to think about the activities you'd like to do with your PVS friends. See the suggestions later in this TOOT on some fun activities you may consider getting involved in to make it happen for PVS.

See you at the Annual Meeting on April 15th!

--Nancy

Don't be shy!

You too can use your imagination to plan a PVS event! Sure, running a ski trip is a time commitment (and well worth it!) but other activities? Not so much. Here are a few great ideas that may get your creative juices flowing and that you may be interested in putting together for PVS:

- lead a small (read: not too vigorous) walk around a local park or on a route around the DC mall with maybe an optional informal lunch afterward - hot dog stand, anyone?
- gather your PVS friends for a show or concert
- host a desserts-only party
- if you're a true hiker, put together something a bit more challenging for us
 - host a talent show
 - put together a costume party – think Halloween!
 - maybe a photo contest – best vacation pictures, for example
 - plan a bowling night
 - hold Oktoberfest or St. Paddy's Day or a Kentucky Derby Day party
 - try a wine or beer tasting – always fun
 - go dancing



Many of these events require little more than picking a date and place, preparing a short notice for TOOT, taking names by email or phone, and then being at the site to lead the group.

- Or consider a non-skiing trip – in the US or abroad. We have lots of connections to vendors who can work with you on such a venture. A barge, a riverboat, a Road Scholar (formerly Elderhostel) learning adventure....

Let your imagination go wild, contact Program Chair Ray McKinley at 703 527 7126 or raymckin@gmail.com and go for it - you'll be glad you did!

PVS Annual Meeting

Tuesday, April 15, 2014, 7:30 PM
At the home of Cara & Bob Jablon
4573 Indian Rock Terrace, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20007-2575
202-333-5332, rcjablon@aol.com

Join fellow PVSers at the annual business meeting, which will involve the election of officers for the coming year, the voting process for applicant members, and the perennially favorite social hour with friends.

EVERYONE IS TO BRING an appetizer (A to R surname) or a dessert (S to Z surname) to share.

The usual \$3.00/member will be collected on entry. Beverages will be provided.

--Directions, p. 2

--Nancy McKinley

Coming Events:

Come join PVS and see the

Tony-award-winning **"25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"**



On Saturday April 26th

at 2 pm

Join us for an afternoon of musical comedy at the "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" now playing at historic Ford's Theater in DC. It's a story that follows six awkward adolescents through their daunting and hilarious championship quest. As they navigate the tournament's pressures, the eccentric coterie finds a new sense of belonging. Along the way, they learn that there is more to life than winning a trophy. Note: not for children - it's adult humor and there's some coarse language. "Spelling Bee" got rave reviews on Broadway, was nominated for 6 Tonys and won two, including Best Book.

Ford's Theater is located at 510 10th Street NW, near two METRO stops and with nearby parking. Tickets are expected to be roughly \$50 depending on our number of participants. Also possible is a joint dinner at a nearby casual restaurant. If you're interested, please contact Nancy McKinley at 703 595 8375 or by email at nancymckin@gmail.com ASAP, and no later than April 7.

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Chinese Dumplings 101 – June 21, 2014

Time: 9:30am to 2pm (parts 1 & 2) or 11:30am-2pm (part 2 only)

Can you tell the different Chinese dumplings apart? Celia is ready to let you sample: guotie, shuijiao (or jiaozi), shaomei, xiaolongbao, and give you an opportunity to learn how to make huntuen (wonton). They are all Chinese dumplings.

There are two parts to "Dumplings 101":

- 1) for four people only (the capacity of my car), we will go grocery shopping in Rockville at 10:00am - leaving from my apartment at 9:30am.
- 2) an additional six participants can join us back at my apartment at 11:30 where we will wrap wontons, then taste what we made and what was purchased.

Cost for this lunch will be divided among the participants.

Please contact Celia Chen at celiachchen@hotmail.com or 240-672-1608 for questions, directions, and registration.

SKI TALK

April 2014

Another ski season is coming to a close. We had four very different and very popular ski trips: Snowmass, Vail, Alaska, and Cortina. All were very successful and received rave reviews. Even local skiing was popular and successful. John Smith, who coordinated our local skiing, says the snow at local resorts was better than he remembers it has been in decades. Many members joined the weekly informal trips. John said some of them had not been skiing for a few years and this was a good way to get back into the sport gently.

We are now looking for proposals for 2015. Two trips are on the table: **Snowmass** for January and the BRSC **Mayrhofen, Austria**, trip for early March. We are looking for a trip for February. Please send proposals, questions or recommendations to me. We are hoping to have something set up by early May.

One way to get ideas for trips is to attend the **Ski Travel Show** scheduled for Friday evening, May 2, at the Marriott in Tysons. See the ad below. Vendors from most of the major resorts come to this event with brochures, pins, maps and lots of information. It is a fun evening with a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres. If you stick around to the end, you may even win a ski trip or at least a cap or a t-shirt. Let me know if you want to attend and I will register you. Even if you don't pre-register, you can go and sign up at the door.

While we loved all the snow this year, I am sure we will appreciate the spring.

---**Rosemary Schwartzbard**
rosemaryschw@gmail.com

WASHINGTON, DC SKI TRAVEL SHOW

FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 2, 2014



6:30-9:30
Hors d'oeuvres
Cash Bar
Prize Drawing
9:30



MARRIOTT HOTEL – TYSONS CORNER
8028 LEESBURG PIKE
TYSONS CORNER, VIRGINIA 22182

HOTEL PARKING \$6.00
FREE PARKING DOWN THE STREET IN THE BLOOMINGDALES PARKING DECK 7

PLEASE EMAIL ME IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND. IT IS USUALLY A FUN AND INFORMATIVE EVENING AND YOU MAY WIN A SKI TRIP.

EXPERTS FROM SOME OF THE WORLD'S LEADING SKI RESORTS WILL BE THERE.

[**rosemaryschw@gmail.com**](mailto:rosemaryschw@gmail.com)

Snowmass 2015

Wednesday to Wednesday, January 14-21, 2015

We're going back to Snowmass!! Consider joining us for a trip to this "Old Faithful" ski resort. Once again, we plan to stay at our wonderful slope side Snowmass Mountain Chalet. Reserve your space now for this PVS favorite!

- Snowmass offers direct access to 3,100 acres of slope-side skiing just outside the door.
- The skiing terrain totals more than 5,000 acres with interchangeable lift tickets and free bus service to Aspen Highlands, Ajax Mountain, and Buttermilk ski areas.
- Lodging at the Snowmass Mountain Chalet 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. This small hotel, with its welcoming staff, is unique for its convenience and friendly ambiance.
- The trip will include airfare (or land only), van to and from the airport, ski passes (at a great rate), and events before and during the trip.



Although it is early, we are in discussion with our tour operator and will need to make deposits soon to reserve spaces. Those interested can now register by sending **\$300 payable to Marianne Sponis** at 3513 Quebec Street NW, Washington, DC 20016. (*Indicate "PVS-Snowmass 2015" on the memo line.*) For more information, contact Marianne at Marianne.sponis@gmail.com or at 202-363-5250; cell: 301-332-3039. Marianne is a former member of the Capital Golden Skiers who recently joined PVS and also enjoyed the 2014 trip to Snowmass led by Carolyn DeVilbiss and Louann Eadie. More detailed information will be available in the May TOOT.

We hope to see you there!

PVS/Blue Ridge Ski Council Eurofest - Mayrhofen/Zillertal, Austria ***March 6 -14, 2015***

A week of skiing and touring – or just skiing or just touring – it's your choice!

Join us for a fun trip to Austria's most attractive and unique year-round winter sports region with 4 big ski areas: Mayrhofen, Finkenstein, Gerlos and the Hintertuxer Glacier at an elevation of 3,250 m with great snow from October to May.

- Ski in pleasant Tyrolean surroundings.
- Stay slope side in one of the charming family run hotels with daily breakfast and dinner included and free bus service.
- Enjoy charming rooms, thermal pools, Finnish sauna, Turkish steam bath and BRSC parties with live Tyrolean music.
- Experience sightseeing tours planned to Salzburg, Munich and the Bavarian Castles.
- Extend your European trip to Vienna, Austria and/or Bled, Slovenia.



The bustling town of Mayrhofen is some two hours south of the Munich Franz Joseph Strauss Airport and is full of shops, bars, cafes, and restaurants, and is famous for fun-packed après-ski, nightlife and live music.

The trip will include airfare (or land only), bus transfers, area ski passes and more.

For reservations, contact trip leader Inge Lesjak, 703-869-7248 (c) or ingelesjak@aol.com. Remember, early-birds get the best rooms!

Ski Trip Report:

AN ALASKAN ADVENTURE: February 25-March 4, 2014

“If you look like this before your ski trip, what will you look like after,” said the gate agent, referring to two members of our group with broken arms and one using a crutch. Fortunately, our group of PVS members, joined by members of a number of other ski clubs and relatives of PVS member Shirley Rettig, returned not too much worse for the wear from a unique week-long Alaskan adventure. Kerry and Marianne Hines ably and expertly led the group to test out skiing at Alyeska Ski Resort and learn first-hand about the culture of Alaska.

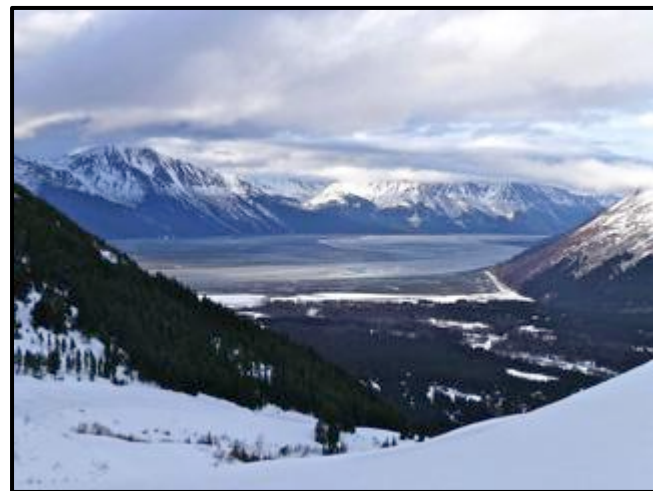


PVS members on the trip included Mike and Eloise Strand, Cara and Bob Jablon, Louann and Bob Eadie, Mary Ellena Ward and Jim Slack, and Shirley Rettig (joined by relatives, Beverly Morris, Beverly Rettig, and Margaret Rettig). Other participants were Catherine Moncure, Lois Rose, Connie Wiley and Heidi Hamrick (all from the Fredericksburg, Virginia Ski Club), Domi Hajdo, Cherr’ie Arkuszski, Stacy Hickman, and Bernie and Steffi Liberman.

We arrived at the Alyeska Resort at 1:45 in the morning on Wednesday after a 2-hour delay in our Denver connection due to snow in Denver – effectively at 5:45 D.C. time, given the 4-hour time difference. Most of the skiers in the group did get up in time on Wednesday for a

complimentary hotel breakfast and orientation talk and were on the slopes for a 10:30 mountain tour (the lifts do not open at Alyeska until 10:30; the mountain is open until 5:30 and also has some night skiing). We discovered that we had come to Alyeska in a very warm year, with the worst snow in recent history – only half of the mountain was open due to the scarcity of snow. The first-day skiers braved the rain and heavy, wet snow, and quit by 1:40 when all the ski gear was soaked through.

The second day proved somewhat better with only a few raindrops. By the third day, we were feeling more comfortable with the wet snow conditions. However, the last two days of skiing brought sunny, colder weather, and Eastern-style ice on the mountain – a chance to practice ice



survival techniques. Despite the challenges of the conditions, the skiers in the group were able to do their fair share of skiing, particularly given the minimal cost of the ski tickets (about \$10/day for the over 70 skiers).

Both skiers and non-skiers alike enjoyed the rooms and facilities of the Alyeska resort. The hotel had a large indoor saltwater pool and spacious hot tub, and there were several restaurants in the hotel, including an excellent Japanese restaurant. The décor of the hotel had a somewhat Japanese flair – the original owners of the hotel were from Japan. Many of us enjoyed the excellent breakfast buffet with made-to-order omelets, good croissants, bran muffins, assorted breakfast cakes, and wonderful bacon, as well as a large variety of other choices

each day. Some members of our group tried the reindeer sausage, probably only available in Alaska. According to the report of one member, who stored some reindeer sausage in the room refrigerator, the intense, pungent aroma the next day was quite overwhelming.

The highlight of our trip was our day in Anchorage to see the ceremonial start of the Iditarod, the annual Alaskan 1000-mile dog sled race that goes from Willow to Nome. Mountain views were spectacular on the bus ride to Anchorage and our bus driver regaled us with a font of knowledge about the Iditarod, Anchorage, and the state of Alaska. We learned, for example, that there are 700,000 people in Alaska, half of them in Anchorage, and 100,000 bear; in the Anchorage city limits, there are moose, fox, coyote, wolves, lynx, and beavers; and reindeer are simply domesticated caribou.

We braved a cold day and a sizeable crowd to see the 69 dog sled teams move up to the ceremonial start of the Iditarod in the center of the city. The word “Iditarod” means “distant place” in the language of the native people of Northwest Alaska; there is an abandoned



Iditarod Start



Mush You Huskies!

mining town named “Iditarod” on the Iditarod trail. The first thousand mile race was started in 1973 in order to try to preserve the tradition of dog sledding in Alaska – dog sleds were used historically to deliver food, mail, furs, and supplies to the coal and gold miners who came to the interior of Alaska in the late 1880s through the mid 1920s. The race also commemorates the 1925 event in which teams of dog sleds traversed 674 miles to deliver serum to Nome to save the city’s children from a diphtheria epidemic. The lead dog of the sled that delivered the serum to Nome was named Balto, an Alaskan hero, who is also memorialized by a statue in New York City’s Central Park.

Much to our surprise, the dogs were not Siberian huskies – they were smaller dogs called Alaskan huskies – in reality, mixed breed dogs bred for endurance, speed, tough feet (although they wear booties to protect their feet), and a love for running. The dogs were so anxious to get moving that they had to be held back by the teams’ support staff before their turn to start the race. The duration of the Iditarod is about 9-15 days (with three mandatory rest stops) with 25 checkpoints along the way. Food and supplies are flown in advance to these checkpoints. Volunteer veterinarians check the dogs before the beginning of the race and at the checkpoints, where they care for dogs that cannot continue the race.

After seeing the dogs and the mushers (a musher is the person who drives the dog sled), we had an excellent lunch at the Glacier Brew House, which had a large selection of local beer, and then went to the Alaska Native Heritage Center, where we took a very informative guided walking tour of model native Alaskan buildings. Some of these wooden buildings were built underground, and were entered by a narrow tunnel to keep the heat in and protect against the polar



Cherr’ie, Louann, Marianne, Cara, & Domi

bear, one of the few animal species that will eat people. We completed our trip by returning to downtown Anchorage, where many members of the group watched the running of the reindeer, an annual event in which local people dress in costume (or at least a headdress with reindeer “antlers”) and run in the street with domesticated reindeer.



Non-skiing members of the group enjoyed a visit to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, where they had the opportunity to have a close encounter and petting opportunity with a moose and other animals. Some members of our group also went on a dog sled ride, which, although short, was apparently enjoyable. Those participants who explored the “town” of Girdwood, where Alyeska is located, reported that the center of town contained a supermarket, three restaurants, a post office, and a “laundromall,” where one could not only wash clothes, but also rent a computer or take a hot shower.

We enjoyed the almost daily après-ski parties hosted by Kerry and Marianne Hines, and ate extremely well at the local restaurants, including the “Double Musky,” a rustic, eclectically decorated place, where we enjoyed excellent steaks and other fare; the Seven Glaciers, an elegant restaurant with a fabulous view at the top of the Alyeska tram; and Jack Spratt, a restaurant in Girdwood.

Our return flight (three segments for the group flight, starting with a red-eye flight from Anchorage) was uneventful, and fortunately took place a day after Washington experienced yet another snowstorm. Our thanks to Kerry and Marianne Hines for planning and shepherding us through a memorable Alaskan adventure.

--Cara Jablon

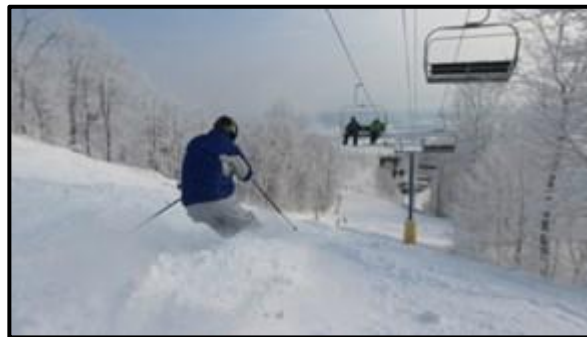
An additional narrative of the trip by Mary Ward can be seen at:
http://www.termineigh.com/album_pages/2014/02_alaska/0_intro.html

Ski Report:

SUMMARY OF LOCAL SKIING SEASON, 2013-2014

For those of us who are limited to only skiing one day at a time and who cannot get away to go on wonderful PVS week-long trips, we enjoyed the best local skiing conditions in decades. With the frequent cold temperatures from mid-December to mid-March, it was possible to make good snow so that the base at both Liberty Mountain and Whitetail was more than four feet for much of the season.

Fifteen different people joined us for skiing this season on twelve different ski days. We usually had four or five people each time and were able to ski one or two days a week. The real challenge was



Liberty Mountain, PA

trying to skip the days when we had our weekly freezing rain and/or rainstorms.



Whitetail, PA

For midweek skiing there was rarely any crowd or any lift lines so it was usually possible to do 20 to 30 runs in four hours. That seemed to be sufficient to use up what energy most of us had. A few people who joined us had not skied recently so the midweek local skiing was a good way for them to get back into skiing and prepare for next year’s trips.

--John H. Smith

VENICE - As part of the BRSC 2014 Eurofest, twelve travelers in the PVS contingent embarked on a touring, skiing and culinary adventure led by Dick and Betty Comerford. Also on the trip were former member Sylvia Lukens, her guest Grace Costa, Nancy and Ray McKinley, Polli and John Brunelli, Dick and Rosemary Schwartzbard, Celia Chen, and former member Pat Cricenti. We were welcomed at the Venice airport with sunny skies and a balmy 55 degrees. Our



first adventure was a water taxi ride from the airport through the Grand Canal directly to the water entrance steps of our hotel. The Hotel Bonvecchiati was a five-minute walk to either St. Mark's Square in one direction or to the Rialto Bridge in the other. Venice was lively with tourists and gondolas wherever you looked. In the evening we explored the Rialto Bridge area, had dinner, and tasted the famous pasta with black sauce. The next day we had a three-hour guided tour of the Doge's Palace, St Mark's Basilica, and the Square. After the tour some of us went to Harry's Bar for a Bellini. The afternoon was spent wandering the alleys and getting lost. Pat and Celia went to Murano

and bought beads. In the evening the Schwartzbards went to a Vivaldi Concerto where the musicians dressed in period attire. As part of our culinary adventure, we visited a bacara (neighborhood bar) where you can eat cicchette (tapas) and wash it down with a 2-euro glass of wine. Betty discovered that she liked Prosecco and Aporel Spritz. The next day we took the water taxi to the airport where we reclaimed our ski gear and heavy bags. The excitement was palpable as the PVS group converged with friends and members from the Columbia Ski Club and the Ski Club of Washington. We boarded a bus and headed to charming Cortina nestled in the picturesque Dolomites.



CORTINA - All were set to enjoy socializing, skiing, and touring the area. The PVS group stayed at the Hotel Ancora, a four-star hotel in the heart of the village that offered commanding views of the mountains. Upon arrival we quickly checked into our rooms and were transported by bus and the Col Druscie Gondola to a welcome reception at the Rifugio Restaurant. Prosecco, Campari, wine, beer and delicious appetizers were in abundance on the terrace and indoors. Those on the terrace braved the very cold mountain air; some wrapped in ersatz fur blankets, taking in spectacular, sunny, up-close views of the mountain. There were briefings on the resort, ski conditions, and lessons, and a welcome reception door prize drawing. John Brunelli was one of the drawing's winners---the prize, a trophy Cortina inscribed thermos.

Subsequent days began with a hearty hotel breakfast where individuals planned their day's agenda. The weather was bright, sunny and warm, encouraging those who did not ski on a given day to dine al fresco for lunch, shop in the upscale shops, and join in the town's passeggiata. On Tuesday and Friday mornings, Cortina held an open-air market where vendors sold a variety of clothing, shoes, linens, fresh seafood, fruits, vegetables, and wine. Grace, Betty, Ray, Nancy, Dick Schwartzbard, Polli and John strolled through the market. Betty and Polli bought several attractive scarves as gifts.



The evenings were fun-filled with social gatherings in Betty and Dick Comerford's suite, where wine and cheese fueled skiers' stories of the days' adventures. And, those not skiing shared Cortina and side-tour experiences. Solo Betty, Betty and Grace, Betty and Celia frequently shopped at the Cortina Cooperativo for wine and appetizers for the evening get-togethers. It was at one of these gatherings that we discovered Celia had not brought a lightweight pair of trousers, so she bought fabric, and over the course of a few days, sewed (by hand) a new pair. All of us marveled at the impressive end result. We also discovered that Betty was becoming a connoisseur of Prosecco after taking a wine country tour.

On Tuesday, Rosemary, Dick S., Pat, Polli, John, and Dick C. met at a local bar for drinks and snacks. Dick C. introduced us to a new, local drink---a Bombardino. It consisted of vodka, rum, & egg custard arriving warm with a generous dollop of whipped cream in a clear coffee mug. It was a delightful looking concoction.

On Wednesday, BRSC sponsored an Après Ski Party at the Janbo Cortina Pub and Disco Bar, less than a ten-minute walk from the Hotel Ancora. We enjoyed hospitable service, mixed drinks, wine, local appetizers; and, watched in awe as

Dick Comerford simultaneously drank a Bombardino and beer. The Bombardino became the trend of the evening as more and more PVSers ordered the drink and exhibited the telltale whipped cream on noses, upper lips, and men's mustaches. It was great fun as evidenced by the din and camaraderie.



Evening dinners at the Hotel Ancora offered soup, salads, a variety of pastas, risotto, veal, chicken, beef, and an impressive array of desserts. The Thursday dinner culminated in the BRSC farewell



party at the Hotel Ancora with waiters presenting in unison the various courses under silver-covered dome servers. It was the highlight of the evening dinners, bringing into mind Sylvia's previous ski trip with Wally at the Hotel Ancora and the flourish of the dinner presentation. Then, there was DJ entertainment where ski club members jumped to the music. Rosemary and Dick C., Ray and Nancy, Polli and John joined the crowded dance floor. Later that night, the owner of the Hotel Ancora danced the swing with Ray and Nancy, much to everyone's delight. The wait staff was posed on the sidelines, moving to the music. Nancy said the staff eventually joined the fun on the dance floor.



The skiing: just getting from the village to the slopes in Cortina is an adventure. Looking at the rugged peaks on the Dolomites, it is hard to believe that you can actually ski there. We were transported by large gondolas, where about 50 skiers were packed like sardines and whisked to the top. Once at the top, we were greeted by a huge expanse of snow-covered terrain with perfectly carved slopes. Often, to get to the very top, we took another chair or gondola. Cortina has several ski venues and we explored the various areas. Some were interconnected with a series of lifts. We

rode a series of gondolas, chairs (old and new), and pomas. One of the most beautiful areas was Cinque Torri. Dick C. and Pat took a tour of



the Sella Ronda, an all day skiing experience around the mountain. It was comforting to have our own private tour leader/ski instructor (Dick C.) who could talk us through some of the more difficult skiing adventures. One of the joys of skiing in Europe are the restaurants on the mountain where we had outstanding lunch experiences. One perfectly sunny day, we sat on the deck of a four-star restaurant and partook of the local fare. At Cinque Torri, we visited the Rifugia Averau and sampled the local pasta. While Cortina



had record snow fall this year and still had a twelve-foot base, the conditions were spring-like. Temperatures were in the 30s and 40s each day with beautiful sun. We never needed gators, heavy sweaters or even goggles; just sun tan lotion and sunglasses!

The side trips from Cortina included day tours to Innsbruck, Bolzano, and a wine tour to Conegliano.

FLORENCE - Eight of us proceeded to Florence by bus from Cortina: Comerfords, Schwartzbards, Brunellis, Pat and



Celia. The five-hour ride included a stop in Bologna for lunch and sightseeing. It was an added bonus to enjoy tortellini and bolognese sauce at its origin. We arrived in the evening in Florence and had three full days to explore its pleasures. The first morning we had a guided walking tour which covered many major sights: the Uffizi, the Duomo, the Baptistery, endless Piazzas, the Ponte Vecchio and ending at the Pitti Palace.



Celia and Pat spent the rest of the day exploring the Pitti and the Boboli Gardens. Others explored the churches, restaurants and unending shopping. The following day some of the group went on a full day tour of Tuscany including Siena, Pisa, and San Gimignano. They had a memorable lunch at a winery and, of course, the Prosecco flowed. While Florence had an abundance of tourists, it was off-season so getting tickets to the museums was not difficult. Many of us visited the Uffizi, and it took several hours to do it justice. The Schwartzbards walked up the 463 steps to the top of the Duomo to see stunning views of Florence and to get up close to the ceiling murals. While the bacara were popular in Venice, aperitivo bars were similar in Florence. Quite by accident we discovered that if you buy a drink for 8-12 euros in many bars between 7-9pm, then plates of food are put out to enjoy at no extra cost. It's a long happy hour and can suffice as



dinner. Pat and Celia bonded to a restaurant across the street from our hotel and were getting free limoncello by the time we left. Dick and Betty found the Irish pubs in the neighborhood and established a presence. The weather was perfect (sunny and 60s), the sights were stunning and the camaraderie of the group was special.



We thank Dick and Betty for running a perfect trip and for all the special things they did trying to look after us, having happy hour most evenings in Cortina, making sure everyone in the group was taken care of and even giving ski tips.

--Polli Brunelli & Rosemary Schwartzbard



Members' Corner



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

Getting to Know Herb Bennett (Applicant Active Member), Sponsor-John Holt:

Herbert Bennett's first encounters with skis prior to graduate school were on water.

After a battery of exams during his first year in graduate school, he left Cambridge on a bright sunny day in January 1961 and skied on snow for the first time at the Dartmouth Skiway. Because going up the mountain (hill) on a poma lift (Do poma lifts exist anywhere now?) was similar to being towed behind a boat on water skis, he had no problem going up. But, going down being pulled by gravity was a completely different story. The next year he bought ski equipment, and the rest is history. He has skied primarily in the Northeast U.S., Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, and Utah and skied once each in Austria and Norway.



In addition, he has been hiking and sightseeing at other ski areas such as Chamonix, Telluride, Arapaho Basin, and Alyeska. After discovering deep powder snow in Utah, he skied mostly at Alta with a few excursions to Snowbird and Park City. During his first powder lesson in the back bowls of Vail, he realized one key to skiing – conserve angular momentum!!! Most skiers fall when they do not conserve angular momentum.

He was a member of the Ski Club of Washington DC during the 1970s, won a NASTAR Silver Medal in slalom racing at Sun Valley, and met his beloved wife Barbara (Bobbi) on a SCWDC

Labor Day Weekend trip to Nags Head. After Bobbi died suddenly in 2012, he re-established contact with two lost friends, Barbara and John Holt, who introduced him to the PVS last year.

Between college and graduate school, he served in the U.S. Navy and had command of a large steel desk in a research lab.

He has many years experience in measurements and international standards for electronic, magnetic, and optical devices and has held research and management positions at the U.S. Departments of Defense and Commerce and the National Science Foundation. He currently works at the National Institute of Standards and Technology as a NIST Fellow and Executive Advisor. When not working on measurements and standards to improve smartphones and other mobile devices, his current interests include ballroom dancing, hiking, bicycling, model railroading, and photography.

Getting to Know Jon Wechsler (Applicant Associate Member), Sponsor-Rosemary & Dick Schwartzbard: Requested profile not provided.

My Recent Vail Ski Adventure – Bob Kramer

On March 19, I just returned from a month of actually skiing 30 consecutive days at Vail, Colorado. What a fantastic time on my new VOKL Mantras. The snow and powder conditions could not have been better...the best in many years. There were a few beautiful sunny days as well.

My schedule overlapped for a few days with the PVS/BRSC trip. There was no room at the inn (Cascades), due to my last minute planning but Inge tried. We did stay at a convenient Lionshead condo. Julie Perlman was with me. She left Vail early though, to go on a week's Caribbean cruise with her family.

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to arrange meeting some PVS'ers for some joint skiing. But my daughter Ellen and husband, and other friends did join me.

"Kneedless" to say (see the Knee, p. 15), one week of daily skiing is not enough, and I found that even a month is not too long for my 76 years.

And Vail is THE go to ski mountain.

TOOT Distribution to 181 Members:

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Thanks to:

-TOOT Content/Proof Editor – E. Thayer

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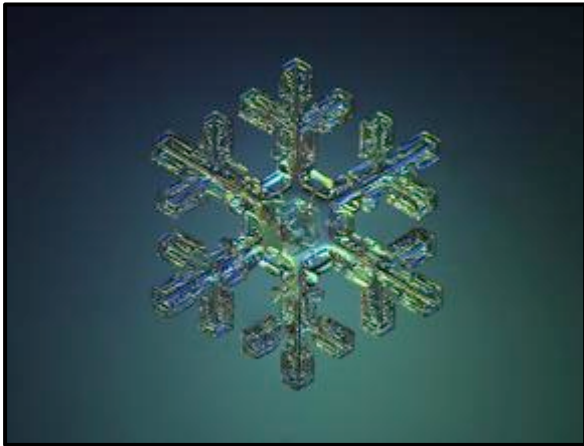
--D. Warthen – Layout Editor, Electronic TOOT

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

Yahoo News 2/15/13

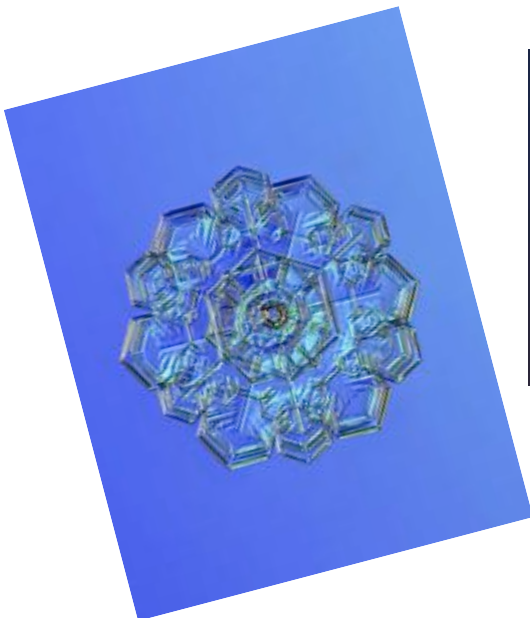
Amazing macro views of snowflakes

An amazing macro snowflake, shot using a special macro camera lens, the incredible geometric



Valeriya Zvereva

patterns reveal what really lies beneath the fluffy white powder. Photographed beneath colored reflectors, the intricate icicles look more like man made jewels than frosted flakes. Russian photographer, Valeriya Zvereva, used very little high tech equipment during the photography process and braved minus temperatures to achieve the impressive results. (CATERS NEWS)



--J D Warthen

March Meeting Review

Sunday Afternoon

March 23, 2014



This meeting took place at the home of Maryann Rozzell, which is only a few miles west of the beltway, though surrounded by many tall trees. This bucolic setting, coupled with clear weather and a gracious hostess, provided a relaxing and informative afternoon for the approximately thirty members of PVS.



The meeting was conducted by Carolyn Maurer DeVilbiss in the absence of President Nancy McKinley and Program Chair Ray McKinley. Participants who went to Snowmass, Vail, Cortina, and Alaska reported about their trips. On the Alaska trip, Shirley Rettig was able to view the opening ceremony of the Iditarod dog race in Anchorage. The ceremony was notable for the

lack of natural snow, so that the white stuff had to be trucked in, and the actual start of the race was transferred 50 miles north of the city. Lack of snow also made conditions more difficult during the actual race to Nome. However, conditions were different for local area skiers at Whitetail and Liberty who experienced one of the best seasons in several years, due to the colder weather and more snow than usual in this area.

However, PVS members do encounter bumps along the trail of life, but seem to handle them well -- perhaps due to the fact that they continue to lead

active lives. Carolyn appears to be recovering so well from her total knee replacement only two months ago that one would not be aware of it by observation. Shirley Rettig experienced a fall on the slopes in Utah resulting in an injury not completely diagnosable. However, this did not stop Shirley from getting around Alaska and viewing the timely opening ceremony of the Iditarod. Finally the attitude of 101 year old Marianne Cook was glowingly described by Margaret Wyckoff. Many PVSers (including the author of this article) recall seeing Marianne on the slopes two decades ago, entertaining us at the piano, and singing original songs at après ski. While Marianne is now in the hospital for a respiratory condition, Margaret reported that Marianne is still in pretty sharp mental condition and recalls incidents from ski trips as long as 50 years ago and that she looks forward to resuming musical endeavors.

The meeting concluded with mention of ski trips for the forthcoming season, which are covered elsewhere in this newsletter, and with an appeal for PVS



members to volunteer to lead additional trips to ski areas as well as to local events. Finally, a note of appreciation for hostess Maryann Rozzell was greeted with great enthusiasm.

Submitted by Marvin Hass



THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley

E-mail: Raysknee@gmail.com

Although it doesn't seem so in the Washington DC area, the 2014 ski season is now virtually over. So it's time to go back to reporting your foibles. It will be difficult to top last year's brilliance, but I'll try. It's just so difficult making puns both zanknee and withknee (in California - the tallest mountain in the United States, except for Mt McKin-knee!!).

Caveats! The world is loaded with them. So let me start with one. The Knee is back from two overseas vacations to Cortina and Vietnam and a trip to Knee Jersey to see family. 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 sorrknee. (The preceding should have been written 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 placed, although it's likely above the fibula.)

When he came to office, Pres. Bush created an Office of 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!

It's the right place but the wrong time. Celia Chen is soon off to Aspen. She's not going to ski. Rather Celia plans to spend two weeks at the Aspen Music Festival. Several decades ago, the Knee spent a week there, listening to wonderful music, including some played by NSO Principal musicians. And the Maroon Bells are spectacular in summer.

Up 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). Bringing back those "good times," this year several plan to ski at 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." Notwithstanding, the ice there appears to have been left over from the seventies! Please note that in 40 years, this is the first time that "Strunk and White" has appeared more than once.

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!! (Late news: Charles Huggins says that the '81 Datsun has been replaced. Liberty now uses not one, but two horses!)

Speaking of Liberty, a tip of the Ol' Knee Cap goes to Jim Wingrove. He has been very good for the ski area. This year marks Jim's 40th year on the Liberty Ski Patrol. Right on!

Too much snow? Marianne Sponis skied at the eponymous Mt Snow at the end of March. At the same time Barb and Fred Leonhardt were visiting her family in Buffalo.

Bob McNeill skied at Bretton Woods this winter. Bretton Woods is notable as it was where the World Bank was chartered in 1945. Bob skied there with Adam Kahane of the Ski Center, one of few people older than McNeill!

From Utah, Dave Lerner reports that moose have the right of way at the Canyons. The ski school at the Canyons teaches that



moose always have the right of way. This mama was in no mood to let skiers pass. Just take off your skis and walk back up the hill.

Just returned from 30 consecutive days of skiing at Vail, Bob Kramer waxes philosophic. "What a fantastic time on my new VOKL Mantras. The snow and powder conditions could not have been better...the best in many years." Julie Perlman was with Bob for one week. One week of daily skiing is not enough, and even a month is not too long. More in May.

PVS Calendar 2014:

- Apr 15 Tue PVS Annual Meeting, 7:30 PM, Jablons, Washington, DC
- Apr 22 Tue ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM, McKinleys, Arlington, VA
- Apr 26 Sat "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee", 2:00 PM,
Nancy McKinley, Ford's Theater, DC
- May 02 Fri DC Ski Travel Show, 6:30-9:30 PM, Marriott Hotel,
Tysons Corner, VA
- May 20 Tue PVS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM, Kramer, Potomac, MD
- Jun 21 Sat Chinese Dumplings 101, Chen, Silver Spring, MD (p. 3)
- Oct 09 Thu Hike/Walk (3.7 Miles) around Clopper Lake in Great Seneca Park, 10:30 AM,
Ruth Healey



Ski Trips 2015:



PVS

- January 14-21, 2015: PVS Snowmass, CO (Marianne Soponis)
- March 6-14, 2015: PVS/BRSC Eurofest to Mayrhofen, Austria (Inge Lesjak)

Useful Ski "Links"

- Potomac Valley Skiers.....potomacvalleyski.org
- BRSC Sanctioned Trips.....skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm
- DC Ski Online News.....dcski.com
- Best of Times Ski Club.....bestoftimeskiclub.org

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