

Volume 50
Number 5

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

May 2015

www.pvskiers.org

info@pvskiers.org

President's Message:



Hello, PVS Friends!

What an honor to be selected to lead this remarkable club during its 50th jubilee year! We are going to live it up, and celebrate all these years of fun and friendship! Rosemary Schwartzbard and her committee are off to a fine start with planning for the Nov. 1 grand jubilee event at Arlington's "Top of the Town" venue. To reserve your space at a discounted cost, send in your registration and check early. See the announcement within this month's TOOT. The view is spectacular from Top of the Town, and the fun connecting with long-time and newer friends will be special.

At the annual meeting last week (held again in Reg Heitchue's wonderful condo party room), we approved and welcomed six new members: Barry and Kathy Lake, Martha Nelson, Aaron Schwartzbard, Thomas and Mary Tycz, and four new associate members: James Gunning, Janet Hanson, Ben Hanson III, and Richard E. Lau. Welcome! We look forward to sharing more good times with you.

The annual meeting is also the time for elections and change of club officers. I am very pleased to be sharing the leadership of PVS with Bob Kramer as Vice President and our new ExCom members Herb Bennett, Marna Blanchette, Celia Chen, and Reg Heitchue (for one year to complete an unfilled term). Inge Lesjak and Ellie Thayer will continue for a second year of their terms with ExCom. When you have questions, or ideas about where the club

should be going, talk to us. Inspire us to move along with plans that meet with your hopes for activities, ski venues, social activities, concerns, or anything else. If you have a notion about a non-skiing event (or skiing) that might be fun, try it out. Things like "game night," hikes, local tours, concerts, or other events, bring us together to add to our friendships. They need not be large events.

Many thanks to our departing club officers: Nancy McKinley, John Holt, Paul Levy, Bob Knopes, Maryann Rozzell and Marianne Soponis. You have guided the club through an exciting two-year period. I want to especially thank Dick Laeser for the many years he has managed the finances for the club as Treasurer. We are in transition, with this role now transferring to Dick Schwartzbard (many many thanks to you, Dick S.). Dick, we thank you for all these years of carefully managing our treasury, and such consistent and detailed reports.

We are fortunate to have the continued support of Ray McKinley as Program and Events coordinator, our crack TOOT editorial team (Ellie Thayer, Dave Warthen, Jan Marx, and Marvin Hass), Ellie's prompt write-ups of our ExCom business meetings, Dave Warthen's detailed organization of the membership records, Sue Lyon's keeping of meeting attendance records, Dave Lerner's webmaster management of our website with Mary Ward as backup, and Rosemary Schwartzbard and her Ski Trip Committee to take us to winter wonderlands each year. Member contributions are too many to list here, so thanks to all and let's enjoy this year ahead.

Carolyn DeVilbiss

Monthly Meeting

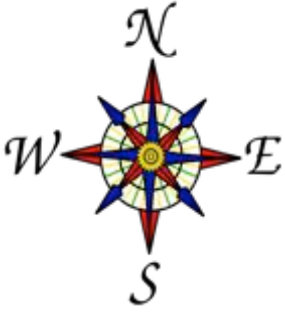
John & Gisela Storm's Home

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Alexandria, VA 22310

7:30 PM

See directions next page:



Directions to John & Gisela Storm

6145 Manchester Park Circle

Alexandria, VA 22310

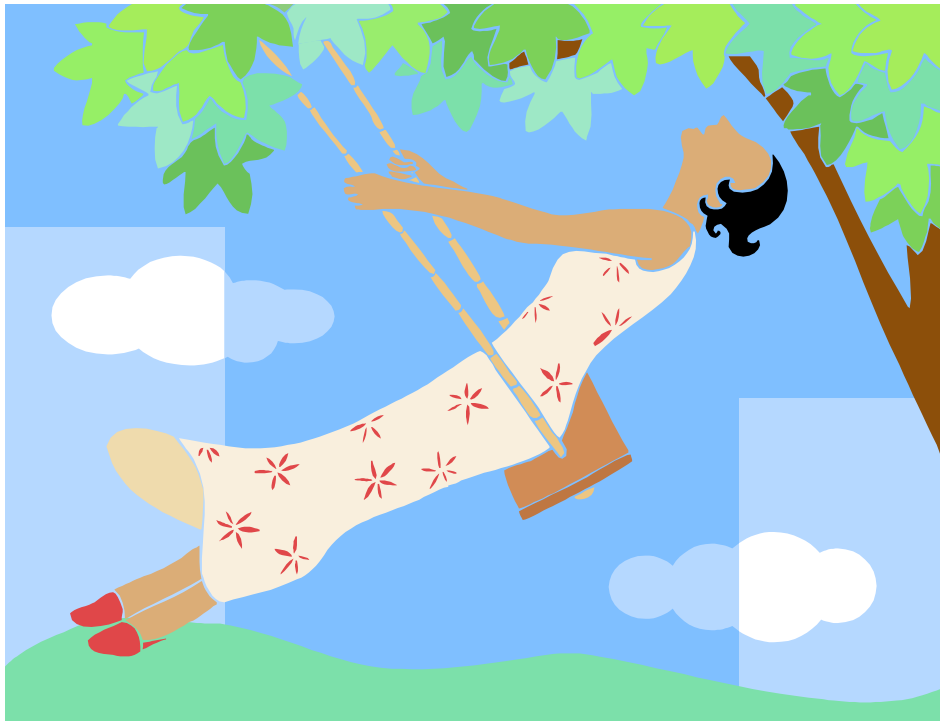
Tel: 703-924-2394 storm7900@aol.com

From the Beltway (Rte 495/95) exit onto Van Dorn Street. Drive south on Van Dorn, cross over FRANCONIA ROAD (four lights). Stay in right lane, pass by one light, and just before the second light, bear right onto KINGSTOWNE VILLAGE PARKWAY (a small lake is on the right, and shopping center on the left). At the light (intersection with KINGSTOWNE/MANCHESTER Blvd), turn right and proceed about 200 feet to a light at MANCHESTER LAKES DRIVE. Turn right, go to second right turn (MANACHESTER PARK CIRCLE), about 400 feet, and enter Townes of Manchester Park. At the intersection, bear right. The Residence of 6145 Manchester Park Circle is in third Townhouse complex on the left.

Early birds may park in driveway, others make left turn to first available parking spot around corner.

WELCOME, come in and enjoy.

Gisela & John...





Join Us!

The PVS Jubilee

50 Years of Skiing and Enjoying Life Together

Sunday, November 1, 2015

6 to 10 p.m.

At the Top of the Town

1400 14th Street North, Arlington, Virginia 22209

(Free parking is available)

The Program

Cocktail Hour followed by a Buffet Dinner,

Music and Dancing, and...

Some stories, a few speeches and fun!

The Details

- **Black Tie Optional**
- **Cost:** \$85 per person for this fabulous event!
(\$75 if paid by September 1, 2015)
- **Send payment to:** Nancy McKinley (Registration sheet attached)



PVS Jubilee Registration

Sunday, November 1, 2015

at Top of the Town

1400 14th Street North, Arlington, Virginia 22209

6 to 10 p.m.

Name (s):

Address:

Phone: _____ e-Mail: _____

Number of Reservations: _____

Check, *made out to Potomac Valley Skiers*, enclosed for: _____

(\$85 per person or \$75 if paid by September 1, 2015)

Do you need a ride? _____(yes) _____ (no)

Are you willing to "give" a ride? _____(yes) _____ (no)

NOTE: Arrangements for lodging have been made at the Holiday Inn, 1900 N. Fort Myer Drive, Arlington, VA, under the name of Potomac Valley Skiers. Guests may call 703-807-2000 to make their own arrangements. The hotel is well situated for a quick drive or taxi to the Top of the Town.

Please send registration and check to: Nancy McKinley, 1805 Crystal Drive,
Unit 813, Arlington, VA 22202-4406

Past Events

THE ECLIPSE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT



Seven PVS members attended a wonderful concert by the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra on Sunday afternoon, April 19, at the magnificent George Washington Masonic Temple in Alexandria. In attendance were Ray McKinley, John Smith, Melissa Fitzgerald, Ruth Healey, Fred Healey, Polli Brunelli, and John Brunelli. The Eclipse Chamber Orchestra, one of the nation's premiere chamber ensembles, is conducted by David Teie and is made up of 23 musicians who are members of the National Symphony Orchestra. The Eclipse Chamber Orchestra presents three concerts each season at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria.

The program consisted of the Piano Quartet in C Minor, op. 60, by Johannes Brahms. This was the world premiere of the orchestration of this piece by David Teie. The second piece was the Serenade No. 1 in D Major also by Johannes Brahms.

Following the concert there was a nice reception for the audience and the musicians in the Masonic Temple. Five of us then went to the nearby Joe Theismann Restaurant for a very pleasant and relaxing dinner.

submitted by John Smith

ANNUAL MEETING – APRIL 21, 2015



The Potomac Valley Skiers Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 in Reg Heitchue's party room. Well, actually, it was the party room in the building where our hosts, Reg Heitchue and Susan Sinclair live! There were thirty-eight members, four applicant members, and three guests enjoying delicious appetizers, beverages and desserts, before and after the meeting.

Nancy McKinley, in her last appearance as President, welcomed all and stressed the enjoyment and satisfaction she has received in her role over the past two

years. She encouraged all to attend the PVS Jubilee "celebrating fifty years of skiing and enjoying life together" on Sunday, November 1, 2015 at the Top of the Town in Arlington, Virginia. It will be a great celebration of our history!

A quick contest was held to find the person who skied the latest in the season. Dick Parlow, who last skied on April 17, was the skis-up winner! It was announced that Dick Laeser was turning over his Treasurer duties, after seven years of service, to Dick Schwartzbard. Both gentlemen were thanked heartily.





Ray McKinley announced upcoming meetings and events: Tuesday, April 28, ExCom meeting at the home of Carolyn DeVilbiss; May meeting at Gisela and John Storm's in Alexandria; June meeting at Julie Perlman's in Potomac; the annual "Steak and Swim" in August at the home of Marianne and Kerry Hines in Delaplane. More details to follow.

Rosemary Schwartzbard noted that the Ski Travel Show on May 1 at the Tyson's Corner Marriott is a place to learn more about vendors, resorts, activities, etc. and to potentially be a

raffle winner. All were invited to attend. Ski trips are "in the works" for Snowmass in January; Snowbird, Utah, in February; and the Dolomites at the end of February/early March. The Best of Times Ski Club is planning for a December trip. More information to follow soon!

The main purpose of the meeting was to thank outgoing members of ExCom and to vote new ones in; to approve applicant members; and, to vote on the President and Vice President positions. This was done in timely manner with applause and welcomes following!

See the notice elsewhere in this TOOT noting the new members and ExCom members. Our new President, Carolyn DeVilbiss, gave the customary certificate to our outgoing President and a special thanks to Nancy and Ray McKinley for their contributions over the years. She closed with thanks and appreciation to all who contributed to the success of Potomac Valley Skiers.



by Marianne Soponis



Snowmass, Colorado 2016

Wednesday to Wednesday

January 13-20, 2016

Greeting, Skiers!

Yes, it's hard for me to believe too. It's time to talk about skiing plans for 2016.

To get the season off to a good start, we will be going back to the Snowmass Mountain Chalet, our favorite, slope-side "home away from home." Prices are in discussion and I anticipate the cost being similar to last year's package, about \$2000.

We are working with our tour operator and will need to make deposits soon to reserve spaces. Those interested can now register by sending a check in the amount of \$300, payable to Marianne Soponis, with PVS Snowmass 2016 written on the memo line. Send to Marianne Soponis, 3513 Quebec Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20016. Reserve a space now!

- *Snowmass offers direct access to 3,100 acres of 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 Chalet includes a daily buffet breakfast and soup lunch, greatly appreciated and served by a friendly, welcoming staff.*
- *The trip will include air fare (or land only), van to and from the airport, ski prices at a great rate, a pre-trip meeting, and events during the trip.*

For information, please contact me at Marianne.soponis@gmail.com or 202-363-5250.



Hope to see you there!



SNOWBIRD, UTAH
BRSC WESTERN CARNIVAL
January 30 – February 6,
2016



Join us for the BRSC Western Carnival and stay at the beautiful CLIFF LODGE in Snowbird, Utah. This is a hotel with all amenities: swimming pools, multiple hot tubs, the renowned Cliff Spa and, most important, ski-in, ski-out. It has 2,500 skiable acres, 3,240' vertical drop, and usually 500" of annual snowfall. Tucked away in Utah's Little Cottonwood Canyon, Snowbird has won awards for Best Overall Resort. Famous for its abundance of dry Utah powder, Snowbird offers a wide variety of terrain (27% beginner, 38% intermediate, 35% advanced) that caters to all ability levels. Its 125-person Aerial Tram whisks visitors an impressive 2,900 vertical feet from base to summit in only seven minutes. Off the slopes, there are plenty of dining and nightlife opportunities.

The trip will include:

- Round trip airfare (or just land package); transportation to and from hotel;
- 7 nights lodging double occupancy at Cliff Lodge;
- Hotel welcome party;
- BRSC events, including a dinner dance;
- PVS dinner and après ski events;
- Option to go to Salt Lake City to see Mormon Tabernacle Choir; and
- Snowbird lift tickets, with possible Alta ticket upgrades (no snow boarders at Alta).

Price will be under \$2,000 (including air). More information will be in the June TOOT. Eloise and Mike Strand will be our trip leaders. To sign up for this trip, send a deposit of \$250.00 made out to:

Michael Strand and send to:

5225 Pooks Hill Road, #1412N

Bethesda, MD 20814

For more information contact Mike and Eloise at -- hrdyna@aol.com

Members' Corner



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

Congratulations to Ten Fully Active Members:

At the Annual Meeting on 21 April, 10 Applicant Members were unanimously approved by the membership for fully active status. They are:

James **Gunning**
Janet & Ben **Hanson III**
Barry & Kathy **Lake**
Aaron **Schwartzbard** & Martha **Nelson**
Thomas & Mary **Tycz**
Richard E. **Lau**

In this issue and future issues of TOOT, profiles of these members will appear as space allows.

Profile of –

Aaron Schwartzbard & Martha Nelson:



As a young child, Aaron was enrolled in ski school, and ski school was never the same. After the tantrums subsided, his parents, Dick and Rosemary Schwartzbard, decided that it would be more prudent just to point Aaron down the hill, and trust his ability to steer clear of innocent bystanders and large, immovable objects. It was a strategy that bore success. Since then, Aaron has been an avid downhill skier, cross country skier, and snowshoer. In the past decade he has joined PVS on trips to Europe, the western US, and Canada. He now works as a software developer for a small company that develops fitness programming.

Martha, too, was raised by a pack of skiers. After many childhood trips to the northeast and the Rocky

Mountains, she took a hiatus from skiing during college and grad school. When Aaron explained that skiing would be a non-negotiable aspect of their relationship, she was ready and willing to return to the slopes. In short order, she regained her bump legs, and now she'll seek out whatever mogul might be hiding on any given mountain. Martha has traveled to Andorra and Snowmass with PVS. To support her skiing habit, Martha studies viral dynamics and molecular epidemiology at The Fogarty International Center at the National Institutes of Health.

When the snow is gone, Aaron and Martha are long distance runners, competing in road and trail marathons and ultramarathons.

Profile of –

James Gunning:

I only belong to the highest rated ski organizations, so I cherish adding the Potomac Valley Skiers to this highly rated list. This list includes the 70+ Club with a national membership, the Best of Times Ski Club (centered around the NY-NJ area) but with members from other areas (mainly in the Eastern part of the country), and other honorary memberships over the years.

Going on 82 years of age, I value connections with these clubs and having the opportunity to ski with the other members of these clubs, as I have enjoyed skiing with members of PVS in recent years.

Let's continue this connection for many more years.
Cheers!

More Profiles to come in future TOOTs!

See Archive of Profiles:

< http://pvskiers.org/jdwjr/toot_index_links.html >

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Thanks to:

-TOOT Coordinator – E. **Thayer**

-TOOT Layout Editor – J. **Marx**

-TOOT USPS – Volunteers

-Electronic TOOT – D. **Warthen**

Roster Changes:

(notify-dwarthen@verizon.net) -

See new updated PVS Roster, May 1, 2015



THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley
RaysKnee@gmail.com

Outside, the blossoms on the dogwood tree are an almost iridescent white. And the azaleas are opening into their almost garish pinks and red. You know what this means? Sadly, we have to accept that ski season is over.

For the new term Mike Strand will be teaching at Catholic University. He is teaching Human Resources and he has two three-hour lectures per week. Unfortunately, both are on Tuesdays. So don't expect to see Mike at many PVS Tuesday meetings

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 sorr**knee**. (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.)

Trivia: The Wall Street Journal reports that about 40% of skiers skiing in Colorado last season developed some sort of altitude sickness. And the Post says that 6% of the people in the D.C. area ski. Therefore, 2.4% of DCers develop altitude sickness.

Going to China? They are building the first "endless ski run." The slope will revolve beneath the skiers permitting continuous turns

Marianne and Clare Sponis recently attended a local Lithuanian festival. They bought a handmade specialty cake and shared it at our Annual Meeting. Yummy.

In the old days, after the snow melted at ski resorts, all that remained was grass, a gondola and the occasional alpine slide. The summer isn't really considered the off-season anymore. There's a big push to take advantage of the terrain and create four-season resorts.

The U.S. Forest Service, which authorizes permits to 122 ski areas, from Wildcat in New Hampshire to Snowbird in Utah, has encouraged resorts to expand summer activities including zip lines, bike parks, disc golf and Segway tours. Summer activity drives people to the resort. Plus, many of these activities are cheaper than skiing.

MOUNTAIN BIKING: Many ski areas allow summer cyclists to attach bikes to a gondola car, and then glide down along routes that loosely zigzag on and off ski trails. Some ski towns are marketing their off-the-mountain cycling trails — Steamboat Springs calls itself Bike Town USA, and Winter Park is Mountain Bike Capital USA. And Steamboat Springs' historic ski jump allows mountain-bikers to fly through the air as easily as skiers do.

GONDOLA RIDES: In Telluride, tourists can ride the scenic gondola between downtown and the Mountain Village. Other great rides: Aspen's Silver Queen, Snowmass' Elk Camp, and Breckenridge's BreckConnect.

DISC GOLF: Just about every resort offers some version of this newish sport. Winter Park's 20-hole course intersects with ski trails and overlooks the Continental Divide. The resorts rent discs and equipment.

ZIPLINES: Colorado now has a plethora of these activities. They include death-defying flights in harnesses attached to thick overhead wires; one stretches over the Royal Gorge, near Colorado Springs, some 1,700 feet in the air.

ALPINE SLIDE: Here's how a reporter described a Colorado alpine slide in 1990: "Take the chairlift to the top, squat into a sled with a control lever and descend a curving fiberglass track at rates of speed that are up to you."

ROPES COURSES: Crossing from one side of Vail's High Mountain Ropes Course to the other involves stepping onto logs suspended in the air and grabbing onto ropes hanging from wooden beams. Telluride's course is all cables, barrels, platforms and climbing-wall fragments.

Melissa Fitzgerald spent a lot of time this spring refurbishing her upstate NY family home. She now has it rented. Right on.

We all wish June Read a quick recovery from major heart problems. In mid-April, she had a new aortic valve installed. A few days later, she had a permanent pacemaker implanted, and then she had to have a cardiac ablation. She is definitely now on the upswing. Her spirits are high, and her steps are stronger every day.

PVS Calendar 2015:



- May 01 Fri Washington, DC Ski Travel Show, 6:30 PM-9 PM,
prwtravelshows.com/DC.htm
Marriott Hotel – Tysons Corner, VA
- May 19 Tue May Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM, Storm, Alexandria, VA
- June 16 Tue Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM, Julie Perlman, Potomac, MD
- Aug 15 Sat Steak & Swim at Kerry & Marianne Hines, Delaplane, VA
- Nov 01 Sun PVS Golden Jubilee at Top of the Town, Arlington, VA
topofthetown.net



PVS Ski Trips 2016:



- January 13-20, 2016: PVS Snowmass, CO (Marianne Soponis)
- January 30-February 6, 2016: PVS/BRSC Western Carnival - Snowbird, UT (Strands)

Useful Ski "Links"

- Potomac Valley Skiers.....potomacvalleyski.org
 PVS Website login: Username = Member, member, or MEMBER; Password = TOOT
- BRSC Sanctioned Trips.....skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm
- DC Ski Online Newsdcski.com
- Best of Times Ski Clubbestoftimeskiclub.org >Ski Trips

ExCom Officers, Board Members, & Chairpersons

President – <i>Carolyn DeVilbiss</i> Vice President – <i>Bob Kramer</i> Secretary – <i>Ellie Thayer</i> Treasurer – <i>Dick Schwartzbard</i> Ex Officio - <i>Nancy McKinley</i> Ski Trip Committee – <i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i> Events – <i>Ray McKinley</i> Membership Records – <i>Dave Warthen</i> Membership PR Rep – <i>Carolyn DeVilbiss</i> TOOT Coordinator – <i>Ellie Thayer</i> TOOT Layout Editors – <i>Jan Marx, Marvin Hass, & Dave Warthen</i> TOOT (E-Distribution) – <i>Dave Warthen</i> TOOT (USPS Distribution) – <i>Volunteers</i>	EXCOM: First Term: <i>Herb Bennett</i> <i>Marna Blanchette</i> <i>Celia Chen</i> Second Term: <i>Reg Heitchue (1-year only)</i> <i>Inge Lesjak</i> <i>Ellie Thayer</i> Webmaster – <i>Dave Lerner,</i> <i>Mary Ward (Backup)</i> Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</i> Historian – <i>Jan Marx</i>
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