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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

OCTOBER 2012

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President's Message: Fall is almost here, with very pleasant daytime weather and cool nights. What a relief to be finished with the blistering heat of this past summer. It's time to think about skiing again. Let's hope that we have a more skier friendly winter with plenty of fluffy, knee-deep snow in the west and cold-enough weather in the east for our local areas to make snow.



PVS has a wonderful array of ski trips planned for the 2013 season. Two of my favorite ski areas are on the list for this year – Steamboat and The Canyons (with easy access to Park City and Deer Valley). I am sure that Chamonix will also be terrific – I have only been there in the summer. All our trips are being led by experienced, ski trip leaders, and promise to be excellent and great fun. I encourage our members to join fellow PVSers on these trips.

Both Steamboat and The Canyons offer a large variety of slopes with many long intermediate runs and, as well, plenty of challenge for the black diamond set. For those of you who are comfortable with Snowmass, you will find comparable slopes at Steamboat and The Canyons. For both trips, we will be staying at excellent hotels. The Steamboat Grand is just a block walk from the lifts across a little bridge. Ski and boot storage is available at a hotel facility close to the slopes. Steamboat is a very user friendly mountain, with helpful and friendly staff. One particularly nice feature is an "Over the Hill Gang" that meets at 9 by the Gondola every morning – local skiers, who know the mountain well, serve as guides (there is no charge for this service). There are usually several groups, based on the ability of the skiers on a particular day.

At The Canyons, we will be staying at a condo hotel that is right near the Gondola. I understand that The Canyons has installed a bubble on the Gondola so that the ride up is protected. I only skied at The Canyons one day, and am looking forward to having more time there. The Canyons is a large mountain,

with a huge number of long intermediate runs. If you go on The Canyons trip, I recommend spending a day at Park City, and one at Deer Valley, not that The Canyons isn't large enough to provide variety for a week. However, each area has its distinctive character and is well worth a visit. Both Park City and Deer Valley offer morning guided ski tours for guests.

I particularly like Park City because it has a large selection of challenging bump runs. My favorite is one that was once called Ford's Country, but was renamed Fool's Gold (I believe that GM may have been a sponsor of the Olympics). This particular slope starts out relatively gently, and becomes progressively steeper. Many years ago, my husband tumbled down a good portion of the steep part of this run. That may have been his last attempt at skiing bumps. I didn't know whether to laugh or cry, but, fortunately, he picked himself up (his skis were way uphill) and was just fine. Perhaps that is why Bob prefers Deer Valley. Not to worry – there are many intermediate runs at Park City, and the area is interesting because it is located above a former silver mine, with some remaining relics of its mining days.

--continued on page 2

PVS Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, October 16, 2012, 7:30 PM

At the home of Bob & Karen Knopes

9607 Laurel Oak Place
Fairfax Station, VA 22039-2652
rknopes@cox.net or 703-690-2039



--Directions on next page



Directions

From DC - Take Route 395 south. Take the Springfield/Route 644 West (OLD KEENE MILL ROAD) exit. Keep to the right and proceed about 5 miles on Old Keene Mill, then turn LEFT onto LEE CHAPEL ROAD. Follow Lee Chapel to OX ROAD (Route 123). Turn LEFT onto Ox Road, then left onto SOUTH RUN OAKS DRIVE. (If you get to the traffic light at Silverbrook Road, you have gone 100 yards too far.) Make an immediate left onto OAK HOLLOW LANE. LAUREL OAK PLACE is the 2nd sign-posted street to the RIGHT. We are the 2nd house on the right on the private road at the end.

From MARYLAND - From 495, take BRADDOCK ROAD WEST exit. At the fifth stop light, turn left onto BURKE LAKE ROAD. Go about a quarter mile, turn left onto SOUTH RUN OAKS DRIVE. (If you get to a stop light at Silverbrook Road, you have gone too far.) From South Run Oaks Drive, make an immediate left onto OAK HOLLOW LANE. LAUREL OAK PLACE is the 2nd sign-posted street to the RIGHT. We are the 2nd house on the right on the private road at the end.

PARKING - Please park on the street before entering our cul de sac.



President's Message, continued. from page 1:

However, if you are making a choice between a day at Park City or Deer Valley, I recommend Deer Valley. This resort is a paradise for intermediate skiers, with many long, beautiful runs on a series of interconnecting peaks. Of particular note are the very attractive ski lodges, with excellent lunch choices. My husband always looks forward to lunch at Deer Valley – a little pricey, but unquestionably a cut above the other ski areas.

Speaking of food, there are many excellent options for dinner in both Steamboat and The Canyons (with many good restaurants in Park City). Here are a few options for Steamboat:

- Café Diva – an excellent continental restaurant with creative cooking; conveniently located at the base of the mountain.
- La Montana – wonderful Mexican restaurant also at the base of the mountain.
- Bistro C.V.- an attractive modern bistro with excellent food; located in town.
- Eighth Street Steakhouse – a western style steakhouse with a twist – you cook your own steak; other options besides steak are available; located downtown.
- The Ore House – a casual American-style restaurant at the bottom of the mountain road.
- The Epicurean – a cute French restaurant on a back street in downtown Steamboat Springs.
- The Cabin – the restaurant in the Grand Hotel (we have not eaten there, but others in our group liked it two years ago).

All of the downtown restaurants are easily accessible by a free shuttle bus. The Grand also has a complimentary van that can be used to go to downtown Steamboat, or to get a ride back.

Steamboat has a wide selection of activities other than downhill skiing, namely the hot springs, ice skating, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, an ice driving school, hot air balloons, horseback riding, dog sled rides, movies, and spa treatments at the hotel (and elsewhere). There is also ample shopping in town. If you are interested in cowboy boots or a hat, check out F.M. Light and Sons. There are a number of stores that sell Native American goods, e.g., Kachina dolls.

Turning to Park City, the town itself has some very interesting old Victorian buildings. The newer buildings are architecturally interesting, and blend in well with the older part of the town. In and around the ski areas, particularly Deer Valley, are many spectacular contemporary homes. Park City has many good restaurant choices. Several of our favorites are Chimayo, serving Southwestern style food; Wahso, an Asian Fusion restaurant; and Zoom, serving creative American food. We have also eaten at the Grub Steak, a good classic steak restaurant that is not in downtown Park City, but is accessible by the free bus system. Based on an internet search, I have compiled the following list of Park City restaurants that warrant further investigation and may be worth a try: Chez Betty, Nick's Greek Café, Shabu, Talisker on Main, and Purple Sage. At The Canyons, internet research indicates that The Farm is a very good choice. There is a restaurant in the Grand Summit Hotel (Red Tail Grill) that received mixed reviews.

I hope that the above whets your appetite for these trips. I look forward to seeing many PVS members on our western (and European) adventures this season.

--Cara Jablon

SKI TALK
OCTOBER 2012

There are several things you might want to do to get ready for ski season:

1. Sign up for a ski trip.
2. Get in shape.
3. Inventory your equipment and ski clothing.

If you have not already signed up for one of our ski trips (**Steamboat, Chamonix, The Canyons**), please look at the fliers in this TOOT, choose a trip or two, fill out the application and send in your deposit.



Now it is time to ask yourself if you are in shape. Are you one of those people who panic in the fall when ski season is approaching because you have not been exercising regularly? If you do not have an exercise program going all year, it would be a good idea to get one started NOW. You want to set up a program doing something most days of the week. It can be walking, running, biking, swimming, hiking, weights, etc. Mix it up. Do not do the same thing every day; exercise different muscles. Start small and build up. You can start with 15 minutes a day. Keep moving. Keep in shape.



You should also look at your equipment and clothes. If you have things you no longer use, remember you can take the items to a ski swap. This is an excellent way to clear out your clutter and benefit one of the Ski Patrols. Here are some of the upcoming ski swaps:



[Ski Swaps](#)

Ski Center, Washington, DC: Sunday October 28. <<http://www.skicenter.com>>

Ski Chalet, Chantilly, VA: Saturday-Sunday, November 10-11. Canaan Valley Ski Patrol. <<http://www.cvsp.org>>

Ski Chalet, Gaithersburg, MD: Saturday, November 3. Whitetail Ski Patrol. <<http://whitetailskipatrol.org>>

--Rosemary Schwartzbard
rosemaryschw@gmail.com





Steamboat Springs

Trip lead by John Lyon and John Holt

February 2 - 9, 2013

The [Potomac Valley Skiers](#) in conjunction with BRSC invite you to attend a week of skiing in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. [Steamboat Springs, Ski Town USA](#) has a base elevation of 6,900 feet, ideal for anyone who has difficulty adapting to high altitude (sleeping below 7,500 feet keeps the headaches away). Besides offering 2,965 acres of trails and glades with a large variety for all levels of downhill skiers, Steamboat has a wealth of other activities. These activities include cross-country skiing, snowshoe tours, snowmobile tours, ice skating, soaking in the natural mineral hot springs, winter fly fishing, the winter driving school center, hot balloon rides, winter horseback riding, dinner sleigh rides, day spas and shopping in Steamboat Springs. In addition, this is the 100th anniversary of Steamboat Springs and there will be lots of additional festivities.

ACCOMMODATIONS: The **STEAMBOAT GRAND** is a premier hotel a short 100-yard walk from the high-speed gondola with complimentary ski storage slope side. It has an outdoor heated pool and two hot tubs, sauna, full service spa and fitness center, in-room coffee makers and flat screen TVs, and wireless internet. Restaurants/cafes in the hotel: The Cabin Restaurant and Bar specializes in organic, natural and local fare; Grand Café is a casual Western theme like country store for grabbing a snack or coffee; and Bistro Bar is open pool side.

THE COST IS \$2,045 PER PERSON, based on double occupancy. The price includes:

Lodging at the Steamboat Grand for Seven Nights
Daily Breakfasts
BRSC Welcome Party
One PVS Group Dinner
BRSC Dinner Dance
Après Ski Parties Including One on Top of Mountain
Pre-trip Party
Five-day Lift Ticket
Round Trip Air from Reagan National to Hayden
Round Trip Ground Transfers and Tips

A single supplement is \$685. Non-skiers deduct \$236. If airfare is not included, deduct \$466. Add \$32 to buy a 6-day lift ticket (5-day lift ticket is included).

To reserve a place: Please send a deposit of \$200 per person to John Lyon. See details below.

Cancellation Policy: There is no penalty for airline cancellation up to 95 days before the trip. There is no penalty for lodging cancellation up to 90 days before the trip. The trip leaders are continuing to work out further details regarding cancellation penalties.

Trip Insurance: \$140/person (group rate).

Payment Schedule: **A payment of \$750 should be sent immediately. A payment of \$550 is due October 30. Final payment is due November 30.**

For more information: contact trip leaders John Lyon at jslhiker@verizon.net (703-590-2913) or John Holt john.holt@nreca.coop (703-915-6258). Also, see July '12 TOOT.



PVS & BRSC Eurofest 2013 **Chamonix, France**

February 22 – March 2, 2013

Chamonix is the birthplace of modern winter sports since it hosted the first Olympic Winter Games in 1924, and Mont Blanc is the tallest mountain in Europe west of the Urals.

Chamonix is simply one of Europe's premier ski and snowboard areas. On this trip size matters; please note the size of the Mont Blanc ski area – over 700 km of ski trails that surround our hotel that is located right in the center of Chamonix.

Chamonix is a huge winter paradise surrounded by seven superb ski areas and the most complete and varied terrain we'll visit this ski season. We will ski at Mont Blanc with 24 cable cars and 175 lifts. These cover 300 km of blue runs, 300 km of red runs, and 100 km of black runs. There are more than 42 km of cross country ski trails. Skiers can enjoy the easier slopes of Le Tour and the varied slopes of La Flegere, Le Brevent and Argentiere. Particularly famous is the 20 km run down the Vallee Blanche glacier from the Aiguille du Midi (3840 m) to Italy. This day long ski run requires advance booking with a guide, but is an experience you'll never forget.

Chamonix is also a bustling town which is full of atmosphere, with cobbled streets and squares, beautiful old buildings, a fast running river, and pavement cafes crowded with shoppers and tourists sipping drinks and staring at the glaciers above. Wander through the town and outlying villages and you will discover baroque churches and protestant chapels dating from several hundred years, hotels and palaces from the golden age, Art Deco facades, traditional farmhouses, colossal villas and chalets contrasting with modern constructions. It is this architectural diversity that contributes to Chamonix's unique and indefinable charm. If you like your snow and scenery on the wild side, give Chamonix a try.

- **Price: \$2,355 double occupancy. (Single Supplement + \$400; Trip W/O Air - \$900)**
- **Transportation – Very Simple (Easier than a trip to Vail):**
 - **Airfare: Round trip airfare direct to Geneva from Dulles Airport on United.**
 - **Ground: Round trip charter bus from Geneva airport to hotel in Chamonix (1 Hr).**
- **Lodging: Seven nights lodging, double occupancy at the centrally located (3 star) Hotel Alpina.**
- **Food: Full buffet breakfast and dinner included daily.**
- **Insurance: Emergency Medical and repatriation insurance provided at no extra cost.**
- **Sightseeing Day Trip Options**
- **Pre and Post trip extension are available.**
- **3 Blue Ridge parties with 6 drink coupons. Friday night party includes DJ for dancing.**
- **2 Wine and cheese gatherings with the PVS trip leader, plus ski tips from Mount Liberty.**

Ski Day Trips outside of Chamonix:

- **Courmayeur:** Through the Mont Blanc Tunnel to Italy.
- **Verbier, Switzerland:** One day out of the six-day Mont Blanc ticket may be used at Verbier. Although there is enough skiing in the region to ski two weeks without skiing the same run twice, this could be a once in a lifetime chance to ski the prestigious Verbier. Charter buses will be provided for the day for those who are interested.

For more information: Dick.Comerford@verizon.net, (H) 703 777-9374, (C) 571 426-3098. For further information, see July '12 TOOT.

Potomac Valley Skiers Trip to the Canyons Resort in Utah

Sunday to Sunday, March 17-24, 2013

Trip leaders: Liz Warren-Boulton and Reg Heitchue

We will stay at the elegant Canyons Grand Summit Hotel (<http://www.canyonsresort.com/grandhome.html>) with ski-in and ski-out access located in the center of the Canyons Resort in Utah. The hotel's condominium suites provide complete kitchen and living room amenities with two bedrooms that accommodate two people in each.



Package price of \$1,980 (based on a group size of 20 to 24 people) includes:

Roundtrip air from Dulles on United Airlines (subject to change)

Roundtrip group charter bus Salt Lake City to the hotel

7 nights lodging in double occupancy bedroom suites

Welcome party provided by the hotel; private mountain tour

Pre- and post-trip party; après ski parties

(Land package only \$1,388; single supplement \$1,259)

Discounted group lift tickets are additional and will be available at great prices.

The Canyons Ski Resort:

The Canyons (40 minutes from the Salt Lake Airport) has recently been described as “the new big kid in Park City.” Since 1997 the Canyons has developed and expanded into Utah's largest ski and snowboard resort and the 5th largest resort in the United States. The resort encompasses eight separate peaks over a span of 3.5 miles and provides a 3,190 foot vertical drop; peak altitude 9,990 feet; and base altitude 6,800 feet. There is plenty of superb skiing for everyone at all levels. Start the day on the Orange Bubble Express, a high-speed quad with enclosed cabins and heated seats – what a treat. We also plan a ski day in fabulous Deer Valley (7 miles away) and another in Park City (4 miles).

A few paces from the hotel are fun après ski venues as well as a group of fine restaurants including award winning “The Farm” as well as several great on-mountain lunch cafeterias and restaurants. For those who don't ski (and those who do) the Canyons Spa and Health Club located in our hotel offers a wide range of rejuvenating therapies. The historic and charming mountain town of Park City is a short complimentary bus or van ride away where many beautiful art galleries, boutiques, and fine cafes and restaurants await your attention.

Contact Liz at elizawb@gmail.com or Reg at heitchu@yahoo.com .

For further information, see July '12 TOOT.

Members' Corner



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

Ray and Nancy down Costa Rica way...

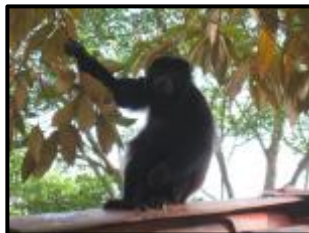
Our 12-day Road Scholar tour promised a taste of all of Costa Rica's famous biodiversity and it delivered just



that: sloths hanging lazily upside down in trees, tiny red and blue frogs hiding under leaves in wet jungles, howler monkeys sounding like

hoarse dogs barking out their displeasure, 15-foot long crocodiles raising their craggy heads next to our boat and much more. Having pined to see Costa Rica for some time, we took the plunge and toured most of the country in an effort to see all it had to offer: 6 hotels and lodges, 7 boat rides, too many treks in the forest to count, hanging bridges over spectacular foliage and one volcano up-close and personal.

Every day in Costa Rica represented a new adventure - and the opportunity for yet another 6 am (optional!) bird watch. All-told we spotted more than 32 new species of bird - many colorful specimens including Chestnut-Mandible Toucans hovering in the trees, a practically-unprecedented sighting of 7 pairs of the endangered Giant Scarlet Macaws in one leafy bower, and a large group of Roseate Spoonbills posing for us as we drifted by on a boat. There were enough exotic avian creatures to make a bird-watcher out of even the most disinterested among us.



Other highlights included Nancy's high above-the-canopy zip-line with 13 lines on the slopes of the smoking



Arenal Volcano. Perhaps the most unusual and magical part of the tour was the opportunity to sneak onto the beach by just the light of the stars to witness a giant 400-pound

mama Green Sea Turtle drop her eggs in the nest she'd just crawled out of the sea to dig.

The locals call out "Pura Vida" in greeting in Costa Rica. It means "pure life" and that's the aim of this small country. Short 4-year single terms for government officials mean that long-range planning can be tricky. And teaching old-timers the practice of recycling is taking some time. Nonetheless, Costa Ricans are friendly and the only crime is petty. Fresh fruits and vegetables are diet staples and schooling is mandatory and free. They're rightfully proud of their success in ecotourism and welcome visitors with open arms.

Our tour took us from the Central Valley to the Caribbean coast and back across the country to the Pacific. Along the way we saw acres of bananas and palm oil trees and visited a coffee plantation. Costa Rica's coffee is spectacular and it's the drink of choice for everyone. We were surprised to see acres and acres of decorative house plants growing in the fields for eventual export to your living room.

Costa Rica is only a few decades away from its pioneer days and going in the right direction. We actually got to meet with a couple of the octogenarian pioneers who were still going strong. Many American expats make their home in Costa Rica in beautiful spots overlooking the sea among these delightful people who call themselves Ticos and who have spurned the idea of having their own army.

Ours was an educational and magical tour of this little country which sets an example to the rest of the world through the preservation of its amazing biodiversity.



--Nancy McKinley
Pura Vida!

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Roster Changes: (notify dwarthen@verizon.net)

-Ellen Burgess ([new e-mail address](mailto:ellenburgess@yahoo.com))

ellenburgess@yahoo.com

Thanks go to:

-TOOT Content/Proof Editor - E. Thayer

-TOOT USPS - B. Leonhardt

--D. Warthen - Layout Editor & Electronic TOOT

Past Events:

BIKE OVER WILSON BRIDGE TO NATIONAL HARBOR

Friday, September 14

Rescheduled from our first attempt in June, our biking day was perfect this time. The weather was mild, the sun was shining, and there was no torrential rain, wind, or even a derecho. Rosemary and Dick Schwarzbard led a small group of six PVS bikers, starting at Roosevelt Island, and picking up joiners at Daingerfield Island Sailing Marina and at the bridge. After Dick repaired Carolyn's bike chain, we rode along the Mt. Vernon bike path, through Old Town, and under the Wilson Bridge through a newly re-opened segment at Jones Point. The park has been redesigned with a canoe and kayak launch, fishing pier, playground and basketball courts, restored ship rudder, rest rooms, and historical interpretive markers. Restorations have been made to the lighthouse, and a new glass top covers the original boundary stone of the District of Columbia. Dick pointed out that, depending on where you stand on the Alexandria shore, you may actually be in either Maryland or Virginia. Carolyn was delighted to see the improvements to the park



Liz W.-B., Dave D., Rosemary S., & Carolyn D.



Shirley R., Dick S., & Carolyn D.

where her children had their first soccer practices back in the '70's. She also reminisced about helping to spread gravel at the marina for the first Mt. Vernon bike path along with her children and neighbors. The City and the Park Service agreed to support this "experiment" if citizens would help, and could demonstrate that it would be used. The next year they dragged more trail and spread tarmac, for a trail system that has grown dramatically since that time.

Rosemary then led us onto the wide pedestrian/bike path that crosses the Wilson Bridge to National Harbor. Opened in 2009, the trail offers three attractive "bump-out" areas for stopping to rest, telescopes for viewing, and informational markers as well as an attractively landscaped "flyover" segment as you cross into National

Harbor. We stopped at the elegant Gaylord Hotel for coffee refreshment, and visited "the Awakening" sculpture, which has been relocated to National Harbor from its previous home at Haines Point. Once more back across the bridge, we returned to our various starting points.

Rosemary says that the complete round trip, from Roosevelt Island to National Harbor, is about 25 miles. Or you can shorten the trip by starting at the Marina (good parking), or even at the base of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge (parking by Hunting Towers). So do try it (or walk across the bridge). It is beautiful architecturally, and very "user-friendly" to bikers and walkers. Many thanks go to Rosemary and Dick for leading us on this very enjoyable outing. Let's do it again!



Dave D., Carolyn D., Shirley R., Liz W.-B., & Dick S.



--Carolyn DeVilbiss

PVS September Monthly Meeting

September 18, 2012



Melissa F. - Hostess

The thunderstorms with possible tornados did not keep 17 PVSers away from our September meeting. Never mind that the weather radar showed the storm cells were already over Philadelphia at the time one should leave home. A number of people commented about the light traffic. Yes!!

Melissa graciously welcomed each of us as we came through the door. An array of drinks was readily available and the dining room table displayed a

wonderful variety of goodies; a selection of 4 cheeses, a bowl of various fruits, deviled eggs, dips, veggies, and sweet breads with spreads. Melissa made rolls filled with hamburger and mozzarella, and spinach rolls: both warmed in the oven.



Melissa F. & Prez Cara J.



Seven Candles for Ray

Another Septagenarian

Cara lead a brief meeting with upcoming meetings and events mentioned. The various ski trips were described and talked about among the group.

The highlight of the evening was the fact that it was the actual day of Ray's 70th birthday. Nancy brought a beautifully decorated cake with 7 (0) candles. We each were served with a most generous piece. Yum.



Thanks Melissa, for hosting us on an iffy-weather evening.



--Jan Marx



THE KNEE

by Ray
McKinley

RaysKnee@gmail.com

It's in the thick of another election year. So it's time for the **Knee's** quadrenkneecal PVS and Politics column. This is where the **Knee** ties in the major political issues of the day with major PVS issues. In 1992, there was "Read my quips." But in 2012, there's scant in the way of amusing ongoing issues.

For **Knee** pundits there is only one option—Romknee! And I'm not pleased with that because the "knee" portion of the spelling is actually on the far right. Rather, let's bring back the halcyon days of Kenkneedy or Kneexon or Ronknee and his program for "the truly kneedy." I was even able to expand to Dukaknees.

From a PVS standpoint, our unemployment rate is at an all-time high; and it's rising (assuming retirees are unemployed). The **Knee** has an employment plan that will help with snow. All unemployed PVSers can grind up their ice cubes and send the resultant snow to Liberty. Human snow making—it's a truly revolutionary new idea. However, I know what you are saying, "That's snow plan." My answer to that criticism is this is MY column.

In answer to the ongoing politics, perhaps we'll change this column to be called the Kn. That's about 47% of the full Knee and there are no taxes paid on it! **Kneenuf!**

A tip of the ol' **Knee** cap goes to Eloise Strand. She'll be an active participant in the election. She has taken all of the course work and testing and will be an election official.

It's great to have Janet Marx back from her summer in Minkneesota. Now that she has returned, Jan is spending a lot of time with grandchildren in the Richmond area. **Kneet.**

Many of the rest of us are also traveling - and back from traveling. The Knee and Nancy have returned from 15 days touring all around Costa Rica, including a sighting of the rare, camera-toting Japanknees tourist. And more recently back from sunning at Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic.

Melissa FitzGerald has returned from visiting family in Portland. And Rachel Abraham is back home after a lengthy European cruise.

Finally, we found something older than PVS. This winter will mark Steamboat Springs' 100th Ankneeversary. And our PVS trip, run by John Holt and John Lyon, will be there at the start of the month-long event. Right on.

Former PVS Pres, Dottie Villers, has made the transition to life in laid back North Carolina. Dottie ain't! She's now hyperactive—VEEP of her ski club, civic affairs, etc. Right on!

PVS' Indianapolis contingent, Bill and Bonnie Sweeney, is temporarily back home on a break from boating the "Great Loop." This is a circumnavigation of the Eastern half of the US. They completed the portion from Lake Michigan by Chicago, down the Mississippi, up the Ohio to Kentucky - total of some 1,100 miles. In mid-October, they will take off for Alabama.

After overwintering, Bill and Bonnie will motor down the coast of Florida, perhaps visit the Bahamas for three weeks, turn around and head north through the intercoastal waterway. After visiting relatives near the Chesapeake Bay, they will continue to New York City and then, in 2014, north to the St. Lawrence, Quebec and back to Michigan. The total will approach 3,000 miles by boat. Sounds like a great trip, guys. When asked why they would boat 3,000 miles, Bill responded, "The air fare was too expensive!"

A tip of the ol' **Knee** cap also goes to David and Carolyn DeVilbiss. They went on a tour of Russia, and they are now sponsoring several Russian children. **Kneet.**

Taking a break from skiing this winter is Maryann Rozzell. Instead, she will water ski on the island of St Lucia. Sounds warm!

Joe Jevcak hopes to be PVS' first skier this winter. He already has an early December trip booked to ski at Big Mountain (not Liberty Mt!) Montana. Sounds cool!

Mark Schwartzbard, son of Rosemary and Dick, has plans for a spring, barefoot wedding in the desert. At the reception, perhaps they'll serve sand-wiches. Prior to that, Dick and Rosemary will fly to Belgium, where they will go on a Bike and Barge tour. Rather than barge, they do plan to return by plane.

Speaking of planes, earlier this year the FAA announced new anti-hijacking rules. Flyers must fly nude. This caused a huge increase in sales. But (or perhaps butt), there was still the baggage problem. The FAA now has the ultimate solution to stop hijackings - effective next year, passengers will simply no longer be permitted on airplanes.

2012 PVS Calendar:

- Oct 16 Tue Monthly Meeting: 7:30 PM (Bob & Karen Knopes, Fairfax Station, VA)
- Oct 23 Tue ExCom: 7:30 PM (Conference Call)
- Nov 27 Tue Monthly Meeting: 7:30 PM (Ski Center, Washington, DC)
- Dec 04 Tue ExCom: 7:30 PM (Rosemary & Dick Schwartzbard, Arlington, VA)
- Dec 18 Tue Monthly Meeting: 7:30 PM (TBA)



Ski Trips:



- Feb 02-09, 2013: PVS & BRSC *Steamboat Springs*, CO (John Lyon & John Holt)
- Feb 22-Mar 02, 2013: PVS & BRSC Eurofest, *Chamonix*, France (Dick Comerford)
- Mar 17-24, 2013: *The Canyons*, UT (Liz Warren-Boulton & Reg Heitchue)

Capital Golden Skiers:

PVS and CGS have enjoyed participating in several of each others' events. They are a fun group. This is a list of CGS upcoming events. More information is available at capitalgoldenskiers.com.

- Oct 09 Tue An Evening of Bridge (VA)
- Oct 16 Tue Planning Meeting (VA)
- Oct 20 Sat Luncheon at Clyde's Tower Oaks (MD)
- Oct 25 Thu Hike to Mary's Rock (VA)
- Oct 28 Sun Special Exhibits at the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), DC

Useful Ski "Links"

- Potomac Valley Skiers..... potomacvalleyskiers.org
- Capital Golden Skiers..... capitalgoldenskiers.com
- BRSC Sanctioned Trips..... skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm
- DC Ski Online News..... dcski.com

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TOOT (USPS Distribution) – <i>Barb Leonhardt</i>	Historian – <i>Jan Marx</i>

