

VOLUME XXXIII *Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.* FEBRUARY 1998
 NUMBER 2 WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

PRESIDENT'S
SITZMARK

Is it really true that when skiers get together they talk non-stop ski-talk? To find out, I eavesdropped at a recent ski event and this is some of what I heard:

It was awful up there. I wrecked my new skies on the rocks...Why don't we have a trip to Alta?...**What's in this dip?**...If the altitude bothers you, eat a banana--it will keep you from being dizzy...How old do you think she is?...Snow boarders are out to kill...Unbelievable!...Why don't we have a trip to Sunday River?...I made this dessert and no one leaves the premises until it's all eaten...I wrecked my knee and now it won't bend...**What's in this dip?**...She gotta be in her 70's...I fell in this snow drift off the piste and it took me half an hour to get out...If you eat an apple just before you go to bed you will sleep like a baby...I wrecked my shoulder and now I can't raise my arm to brush my hair...Why don't we have a trip to Big Mountain?...I wonder **what's in this dip**...I was standing way over on the side of this slope and this moron came over the hill and straight across the slope and, honestly, missed me by an inch...I really like the parabolic skis--they make me feel like a skier...Maybe she's had a face lift...Brian Eardley says snow boarding is just a fad...Why don't we have a trip to a ski area in Russia?...I'd really like to know **what's in this dip**...

Ski talk? Hmmm...m...

Lu

Lu Beale, President

MONTHLY

Tuesday, February 17, 1998 - 7:30 p.m.

MEETING

Home of Ruth Schrider
 2014 Aquamarine Terrace, Silver Spring, Md.
 Tel: 301-989-4606

DIRECTIONS: From Virginia, take Beltway across Cabin John Bridge (Inner Loop) and take Exit 30A, Route 29 North. Stay on Rte. 29 for 4.6 miles to East Randolph, then go left. *You will cross light at Old Columbia Pike, then take the next right onto Serpentine (.4 miles). Continue on Serpentine for .5 miles,



COMING EVENTS

(cont'd) go right on Aquamarine. Ruth's townhouse is in the first group on the left at 2014. Please do not park in the numbered spaces. There is plenty of parking on Serpentine or across the street on Mica.

If you are coming from the other direction on the Outer Loop of 495, take exit 25A, Route 1 South, toward College Park. You will have two quick lights. At the second light go right onto Cherryhill. Cherryhill becomes East Randolph at Rte. 29. The distance from Rte. 1 to Rte. 29 and East Randolph is 4.5 miles. *Then follow directions above.

SKI LIBERTY, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1998

If the weather remains cold enough to snow cover most of the trails, Susan and Bill Brown will lead midweek skiing at Liberty. Lift passes are \$30 -- seniors 65+ ski for \$15.

Interested skiers should contact Bill or Susan (301-299-5187) as we will car pool from the parking lot of the Fairlanes Bowling Alley on Shady Grove Road, departing promptly at 7:30 a.m. for Ski Liberty.



WINE TASTING WITH PAT & DON COPE ON MARCH 28

This ever-popular event is limited to 20 people. Call the Copes at 703-836-5436 to see if there is still space.

L U A U
A T T H E
W A L N S

Saturday, May 16th, 6:30 p.m.

Limited to 40 people.

Please call Janet or Chris at 703-256-3543 to reserve a spot.

February 22 to March 1, 1998 join Nancy and Ray McKinley

SKI BIG SKY MONTANA

The Sky Really is Bigger

Trip participants: Be at Dulles Airport by 6:15 am on February 22. Please call us at (703) 527-7126 with any questions.

◆ PVS Goes to the Theatre ◆

to See Broadway's Biggest, Newest, Musical Hit

Hurry Only 4 Seats Left--Act Now!

RAGTIME

USA Today called it "The Best Musical of the Year!" *The London Times* raved "The Next International Hyper-Hit!" And PVS has special, group rate tickets at the National Theater for the smash hit. We're going to the matinee (2:00 pm) performance of RAGTIME on Saturday July 18. Tickets are \$68.00 each, that's 10% off the \$75.00 price (and includes \$0.50 per ticket handling). Call the McKinleys at (703) 527-7126 now. And mail your check for \$68.00 for each ticket (payable to Nancy McKinley) to the McKinleys. We are at 2326 North Upton Street, Arlington, VA 22207.

◆ PVS Goes to the Theatre ◆

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee, chaired by Marilyn Clark and consisting of Dick Clark, Ned Flaherty, Nancy Garrett, Jan Marx, and Aina Thomas has met and nominated Lu Beale for a second term as president and the following members for two-year terms on the Executive Committee: Bob Marx, Marty McNeill, and Jack Ragen.

Elections will be held at the Annual business meeting in April. Additional nominations may be made by the signed proposal of any five active members presented one month prior to the April meeting.

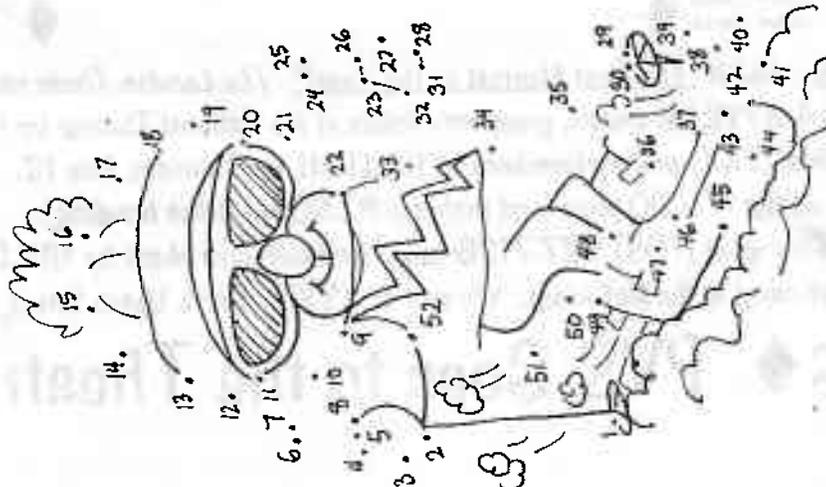
The following are requirements for membership in PVS. If you are sponsoring an applicant, you should see to it that the applicant fulfills the following:

1. Be invited and sponsored by a member in good standing.
2. Submit a written application for membership with a check.
3.
 - a. Attend at least 3 club meetings or events.
 - b. Ski at least three days with a club member.
 - c. Pass the USA Uniform Basic Ski test or display equivalent skill.
4. Be approved by vote of the membership at the Annual Meeting in April, provided however that 5 or more negative votes shall be sufficient to bar an applicant from membership in the club.

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To do puzzle,
lie on your side



Following are bio's of nominees for the Executive Committee:

Jack Ragen, an Ohio native, grew up in Toledo, not far from the restaurant made famous by Klinger of MASH, Tony Packo's Cafe. Life in Toledo was tranquil and ski slopes were nonexistent.

He has the Navy to thank for introducing him to the field of radar and electronics. After graduation from the University of Ohio, he became a research engineer with General Electric and AVCO doing everything from color television, communication and radar systems. Fairchild brought him to the Washington area to work in their design engineering division on aircraft, satellites and missiles.

Jack (at age 70) decided to try skiing after listening to three PVSers rave endlessly about the sport. Being good friends, they took him to Ski Liberty on a day when the blue ice was disguised by one inch of snow. (Bob McNeill, don't tell us this doesn't happen at Liberty). Undaunted, he tried several other slopes then headed for Steamboat in 1996, but his ticker told him "not this year." But after a few more lessons and a little gluhwein, look out!

Jack is an amateur radio enthusiast, but like most PVSers he loves the outdoors - fishing, canoeing, golf, tennis, hiking, biking and cross-country skiing.



BOB MARX - Bob was born in Chicago, IL, but was raised from the age of 11 months in Minneapolis, MN. It was there, while in high school, that he started skiing using the hills on a nearby golf course, some inherited wooden Northland skis (the kind that had a ridge along much of the top) with bear trap bindings, and hiking boots. After entering the University of Minnesota, he graduated to skiing at local ski areas (Buck Hill had a vertical drop of 186 feet, and Mount Telemark had a whopping 293 vertical feet). He also upgraded his skis by adding cable bindings (with long-thongs), metal edges (they came in about 8" interlocking sections with four screws per section -- whew!) and a plastic base (it came as a liquid in a can and was painted on) to those old Northland skis. He also got wonderful lace-up boots.

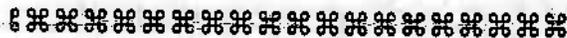
With these upgrades complete, he made his first trip to Colorado (1962) with the University ski club (in which he later met Janet). After an all night drive from Minneapolis, he and the crew emerged in the Loveland parking lot at about 8:15 a.m., got into their ski gear, and had a delightful day skiing above 10,000 feet. What a difference from those Minnesota mole-hills! The rest is history. He made several more Colorado, Utah, and Canada ski trips, graduated (with a degree in Geography), married Janet, moved to the Washington, DC area (1966) to work for the Census Bureau, and joined PVS (1968) -- sponsored by Pat Calef (Cope), Carol Parmenter, and Aina Hertelis (Thomas) -- after passing the USEASA Basic Test at Wisp, as administered by Larry Pease. He has served the club as co-meeting host, co-trip leader, corporation rep, Ex Com member, Vice President, President, and Past President.

P A S T E V E N T S

WONDERFUL WISPY WEEKEND

Forever looking for an escape from the work-a-day world, the Garretts headed to Wisp on Monday, Jan. 12, to get ready for the on-slaught of millions on Ski Chalet's Demo Day including 9 PVS'ers. Tuesday brought showers - both rain and snow - and temperatures low enough that Wisp could make snow day and night. By Wednesday, there was a good snow cover, groomed well, with sunny skies - skiing was terrific. Wednesday afternoon, Shirley Rettig, June and Frank Shelbourn arrived first. Walns came next and Marxes arrived around dinner time. Lift ticket passes were distributed and all descended to the demos bright and early on Thursday. The weather was not quite as cooperative as on Wednesday, but rain/snow/sleet was minimal enough that everybody got to demo a few skis. Those who tried the wide-cuts think they make the turns easier and cause less knee work. Thursday night, Apres Ski provided by the Marxes was excellent, as always, and the unanimous decision on dinner was Soup and Salad Bar. Several turned in early, but the more adventurous of the group (Walns and Marxes) tried Virtual Skiing. All picked a different level and type. Janet Waln reported that she is as troubled by others skiing close by in "Virtual" as she is in "Real". Understand that Bob Marx went over a virtual cliff, but managed to get right back on the trail with no broken bones. Maybe that kind of skiing is going to become more popular. Cost may, however, be prohibitive - \$1.00 for 3 minutes. Even this budget person cannot compute quickly the cost for a day. All had a great time and we missed those who had to cancel at the last minute. Thank you, Bob and Janet, for AGAIN hosting this fun mid-week event.

Nancy and Ray Garrett



JANUARY MEETING AT THE MARXES

As usual, those who arrived for the meeting at 7:32 found the Marx home well-populated with PVS members who had already found the wine and the many delicious goodies, an astonishing array in view of the fact that Jan and Bob had so recently returned from leading the ski trip to WISP.

Jan had thoughtfully provided a number of fat-free dishes nicely labeled which enabled those virtuous but weak to divide their food intake with a clear conscience.

The new sound system enabled the president to issue stern warnings to those talking in the next room so the meeting was conducted quietly and expeditiously. In particular, Ski Committee chair Glade Flake asks all PVSers to give their suggestions for next year to the committee ASAP.

Jan and Bob deserve particular thanks for stepping in to do the January meeting with little notice, so a triple huzzah for them!



THE KNEE

by

Ray McKinley

So you opened your TOOT last month.

And there I was, right in front of you. There were no directions to the meeting, no Presidents Message, Presidents Corner or whatever. The Knee made page 1!

Here's what happened. TOOT editor Jessma Blockwick prepared TOOT as usual, paginated it and sent it to be printed. But then Jessma realized she had forgotten to include the Knee! Heresy. This was worse than Clinton's latest caper, which I call Fornigate. Ankneeway, the Knee was separately printed and stapled atop the remainder of TOOT. Jessma phoned with a huge, unnecessary *kneea culpa*. I loved it on page 1.

Here, it's the beginning of February, 1998, the year *el nino* was to destroy our ski season. Everything is being blamed on *el nino*. A friend claimed an *el nino* flat tire. It has certainly provided the DC environs with a mild winter. However, while it's probably not the greatest ski season ever, it ain't too shabby. Europe is encrusted with snow. And the fluffy white stuff is floating down light and plentifully all over the West. Right on.

Let me pass along a great suggestion from Dr. John Newdorp. Buy yourself a ski helmet--and wear it. Several years ago, John was instrumental in writing USEASA's requirement for helmets in races. At ten miles per hour, hitting a tree can kill you. Ski helmets could have saved several lives this season. John always skis with his--and it's warm!

Another safety item--for skiboarders. L. L. Bean (which is Spanish for The The *frijoles*) now offers boarders foam padded briefs!

Perhaps you would like to try my idea for those who are afraid to stand up on skis. Kneeskis.

Congrats to Phil Uffolz, who is now a half century old. He celebrated his 50th golfing at Dorado Beach, Puerto Rico--a gift from wife Eugenia. Phil golfed there because the skiing conditions were "sparse." Likely due to *el nino*.

Janet Marx loves her new shaped skis. They

are the new Snow Ranger Lites. Right on--and left on. Other skiers, the Knee supposes, must ski on Snow Ranger Darques.

We've just passed the 25th ankneeverary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. On that day Jessma Blockwick received a standing ovation from her church congregation. Jessma was cited as one of the founding "mothers" of the Pro Choice movement. The honor brought tears to her eyes, so if this TOOT seems a bit blurry, you'll know why.

Which reminds the Knee that Colorado is debating a bill to provide canoers the right to portage their canoes over marshy land. The bill has caused quite a land rights controversy. It's now known as Row v. Wade.

Helen Price was a late sign-up for the trip to Big Sky Montana. She was really excited to get onto the trip, as this will make her third consecutive year of skiing at Big Sky. Right on!

And you think parking is expensive around here. At Vail, for \$50,000 and \$1,350 in yearly dues you can join the "Passport Club." This gets you a guaranteed underground parking space at the base of Chair 6. (For that price it ought to be Sofa 6.) Lest you think it a total rip off, you also get a small, maple trimmed locker.

Note to Ski Trip Chairman Glade Flake: Ned Flaherty wants to run a New Years Eve trip to Crested Butte. There, the ladies ski nude to bring in the Knee Year. Right on--or is it right off?

From my How's That Again Department: Charles Taylor and Dina Taylor are both scheduled to go on Pat Tengel and John Smith's Swiss Ski Trip. Meanwhile, Dina's husband, Charles, remains at home. Go figure.

We are back from a ski week in *Val d'Isere*, France. Everything there is ski oriented. In our hotel room, the toilet tissue dispenser was made by Rossignol. Really. Can't you just picture the ski-bum who finally graduated as an engineer. He lands the plum job working for Rossignol. First day on the job he is told, sorry, it's the toilet paper division.

In next month's Knee, an expose. Ski Liberty Patroller Jim Wingrove on "Skiing with No Snow."

CALENDAR

- Feb. 11 ... Ski Liberty, p. 2
- Feb. 17 ... Monthly Meeting at Ruth Schrider's, p. 1 & 2
- Feb. 22 ... to March 1, Trip to Big Sky, p. 3
- Feb. 26 ... ExCom at Big Sky
- Mar. 17 ... Monthly Meeting at the Ufholzes'
- Mar. 24 ... ExCom at the Clarks'
- Mar. 28 ... Wine Tasting at the Copes', p. 2
- Apr. 4 ... Post-Big-Sky Party
- Apr. 21 ... Monthly meeting at the Klines'
- Apr. 25 ... Spring Fling at the U of Md to benefit
handicapped skiers. Call Serge Triau
if interested. 301-840-1128
- May 2 ... Annual Spring Dinner at Bette Walker's.
Call Marilyn Clark to make a reservation.
703-978-9435.
- May 16 ... Luau at the Walns'. Limited, so call to
reserve a place, p. 2.
- July 18 ... Drama day at Ragtime, p. 3.
- Dec. 31 ... 1999, the MILLENIUM Party at the Klines.
Sue Walsh will be planning. Call her if you
want to help. 301-589-7159.

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

