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*Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.*  
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

FEBRUARY 2008

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

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

*Greetings PV'Sers,*

In February we have a special holiday: Presidents' Day. A great 3-day weekend for skiing or other relaxing activities. Of course the reason for the holiday was to recognize Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays. And both have a link to winter sports. But first, let's look at some of the other presidents. *Mike, can you REALLY link Abe and George to winter sports?* Kinda...but see later.

President Eisenhower... *Let me guess: the Eisenhower tunnel in Colorado...is that the best you can do?* No, actually, it is the Eisenhower Cup...awarded to the best ski jumpers in a New Jersey championship. Somewhat related to this activity is Richard Nixon. In a famous photo he compared his "ski nose" with Bob Hope's.

Then there is Jimmy Carter, avid with jogging, tennis, fishing and skiing. *Hey, didn't Carter cancel us with the Winter Olympics?* No, because the Ruskies misbehaved in Afghanistan, we bowed out of the Summer games in 1980. By the way, Bill Clinton was/is another skier. After a speech in S.L.C. he skied in Alta.

But the most media-friendly skier was Gerry Ford. As I recall he made all the photographed turns A-OK to the journalists' consternation...although some of the steps to and from Air Force One are another matter.

*OK Mike, what about Abe and George?* In 1856, President Lincoln had a series of debates with Stephen Douglas about slavery, human rights, and proper skiing: downhill vs. cross-country. Lincoln, it was rumored, was a cross-country proponent. *Mike that's a big stretch...lets go to George?*

The National Archives, the National Gallery, and all American history school books show clear evidence that President Washington made a heroic and daring venture by boat across the frigid waters of the Delaware River. All with ice flows floating by and Washington STANDING UP in the boat...AND on Christmas Eve to greet the Hessians in Trenton. If that's not Winter Sports I don't know what is.

*Best Wishes,*

*Mike*



Sunday, February, 24  
1:00 PM  
at Dorian Janney's home  
Gaithersburg, MD





Dorian Janney's house  
 9617 Harvest Knolls Way  
 Gaithersburg, MD 20882  
 301-414-0121

**Directions:**

- \***From Beltway**, Proceed to I-270 toward Frederick.
- \*Continue on I-270 about 11 miles past Montrose Road.
- \*At exit 16 AB, go RIGHT onto Father Hurley Boulevard (MD-27) toward Damascus.  
 After 0.4 miles road name changes to Ridge Rd (though still MD-27).
- \*Proceed 5 miles from I-270 on Ridge Rd. then,
- \*Turn RIGHT (East) onto Sweepstakes Rd.
- \*Proceed 1.1 miles on Sweepstakes Road, then,
- \*Turn RIGHT at T-junction (South) onto SR-124 [Woodfield Rd].
- \*Proceed 0.6 mi then Turn LEFT (East) onto Harvest Knolls Way to 9817 Harvest Knolls Way (is a dead end street).

[**Landmark:** School in on right side of Woodfield opposite Harvest Knolls way]

**Changes**

**Bill Anderson** - New address

(as of 2/12/2008)

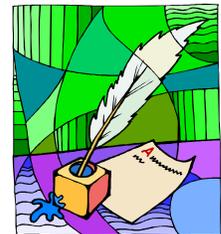
13 Bowie Ct  
 Rockville, MD 20852-1021

New home telephone number

301-762-7789

New E-mail address

jhamha@verizon.net



**Dave Phillips** - New address

509 E Randolph Rd

Silver Spring, MD 20904-3203

New telephone number

202-957-8648 (cell)



**PVS Logo Stickers**

**THEY ARE HERE !!!!**

**Size:** 1" X 2", dark blue letters and border.

**Uses:** Helmet, front, back, and/or sides, ski tips, ski tails, left ski pole, right ski pole,

2

luggage ID tag, water bottle.





## Preliminary Call for 2008-2009 Winter Ski Trip Proposals

In accordance with the **Guidelines for a PVS-Endorsed Ski Trip** (the **Guidelines**), the Ski Trip Committee (STC) is issuing this "Preliminary Call for 2008-2009 **Winter** Ski Trip Proposals." (The STC also will accept preliminary proposals for **summer** 2009 ski trips at the same time, and will continue to accept such proposals

through the end of October 2008.) Preliminary ski trip proposals should include, at a minimum, the proposed destination, dates, and hotel location (ski-out/ski-in or not) for the ski trip. If even "guess-timated" costs are available, that information will be considered favorably by the STC.

The STC consists of five (5) PVS members plus the chair -- Bob Marx (Chair), Polli Brunelli, Mike Hatanaka, Shirley Rettig, Rosemary Schwartzbard, and Eloise Strand. The STC would like to receive preliminary proposals for 2008-2009 **winter** ski trips (those planned during the period December 2008 through March 2009) by close-of-business **Friday, April 4, 2008**.

Preliminary proposals should be sent, via e-mail, to all five members of the STC. Based on responses to the question about desired destinations on the PVS Membership Renewal Application, the STC is especially interested in receiving proposals for ski trips to Telluride, Utah, and Vail in 2009.

For planning purposes, potential Ski Trip Leaders (STLs) should be aware of the following:

- One firm proposal for the 2008-2009 ski season has been received by the STC already and is wending its way through the approval process – a return trip to Snowmass, CO from Thursday Jan. 15 through Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009.
- There are two planned Blue Ridge Ski Council (BRSC)-sponsored ski trips planned in 2009:
  - The annual BRSC Western Carnival at Keystone, CO from February 7-14, 2009, and
  - The annual BRSC EuroFest at Davos, Switzerland from March 6-14, 2009; the latter trip is likely to offer both pre- and post-skiing extensions.

Any STL interested in leading a PVS contingent as part of the Keystone or Davos BRSC-sponsored ski trips should submit her/his preliminary proposal accordingly, for full consideration with all other preliminary ski trip proposals received.

In accordance with the **Guidelines**, only PVS-led contingents for BRSC-sponsored ski trip(s) will be considered among the array of other ski trip proposals received. (For very long range planning purposes, the 2010 Western Carnival will be held in Heavenly, CA-NV and the 2010 EuroFest will be held either in Bormeo, Italy or in Trois Vallées, France.)

Also in accordance with the **Guidelines**, the STC is announcing its intent to meet to discuss the preliminary proposals it receives by the April 4, 2008 deadline stated above; the exact time and location of the meeting will be announced in the April 2008 issue of the **Toot** and specific details will be sent, via e-mail, to all members of the STC and to each potential STL who submits a preliminary ski trip proposal.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Marx  
Chair, PVS STC



## ExCom Slate

The **Nominating Committee** places the following candidates in nomination:

### PRESIDENT:

Mike Strand

### VICE PRESIDENT:

Dottie Villers

### EXCOM:

Kerry Hines

David Callaway

Sue Lyon



**THANKS** to Rosemary Schwartzbard and her committee:

Sharon Mulholland, Bob McNeill, Nancy McKinley, John Brunelli, and Dottie Villers

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## PVS Board - 2007-2008

### Board Members, Officers, and Chairpersons

President – *Mike Strand*

Vice President – *Dick Comerford*

Secretary – *Mary Beale*

Treasurer – *Dick Laeser*

Membership Records – *Dave Warthen*

Membership PR Rep – *Dave DeVilbiss*

Events – *Ray McKinley*

Non-ski Activities – *Mike Strand*

Ski Trip Cmte Chair – *Bob Marx*

TOOT Editor – *Jan Marx*

TOOT Proofreader – *Bob Marx*

TOOT Mailer

Webmaster – *Dave Lerner*

Meeting Records – *Carolyn Maurer-DeVilbiss*

Historian – *Jan Marx*

EXCOM:

First Term:

*Carolyn Maurer-DeVilbiss*

*Ruth Powers*

*Dave Warthen*

Second Term:

*Bob Knopes*

*Dick Laeser*

*David Lerner*

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## In Memory of Maryse Delevaux

*Ray McKinley writes:*

According to her brother, Nestor, Maryse Delevaux a long time PVSer passed away on Jan 30. Maryse loved PVS and truly enjoyed skiing with our group. She left the area for Denver several years ago, but remained an absentee member, going on several PVS ski trips. Most recently she was on the PVS trip to Spain and Morocco. Maryse had brain tumors last year, which strong chemo put into remission. Unfortunately, they came back in the fall. She died peacefully, in her sleep, and she was not in pain.

Maryse is survived by her brother, Nestor Delevaux of Santa Clara, California."

## Past Events

# January Meeting in Reston

by Rosemary Schwartzbard



We had our first ever PVS Sunday afternoon meeting. It was held at Melissa FitzGerald's house in Reston. Dottie Villers and Sally Finan organized and hosted the meeting as Melissa was out of town. The split level house was spacious and easily accommodated the 23 members and one applicant. It was decorated with beautiful art and furniture from around the world collected from Melissa's Foreign Service days. Dottie and Sally provided an abundance of food: quiche, a variety of cheeses, hummus, artichoke toast, Swedish meatballs and other tasty morsels. Of course, there was a variety of wine and desserts, including many baked by Dottie. The brownies and chocolate chip cookies were outstanding. There was a fire burning in the fireplace making the meeting room warm and cozy.



Ray McKinley ran the meeting in the absence of both the President and Vice President, both of whom were away at ski areas. Carolyn Maurer-DeVilbiss reported that the Snowmass trip went smoothly and the conditions were excellent. Charlie Huggins said the snow was good at WISP last week for the Demo Day trip run by Pat Vagonis. We thank Dottie, Sally, and Melissa for hosting this first meeting in the new year.



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## A Bit of History



### ***Impromptu*** lunch with long-time PVSers.

Peg Lacey Manella, Bob Marx, Aina Hertelis Thomas, Jan Marx, Carol Parmenter, and Rosemary Soler.

***Tidbit*** – In the late 1960's, this group along with Pat Calef Cope, would ride in Charlie Gordon's and Brook Armatt's station wagons to ski the weekend in New England. We left after work on Friday, drove most of the night, slept a little in the car, change into ski clothes, skied all day Saturday, found a place to stay that night, skied Sunday and drove home. Went to work on Monday. Actually, Tuesday was the killer day. *J. Marx*

# WISP Demo Day



Most of us arrived Wednesday and hit the slopes for some good snow, and too many snow guns - but, hey, make hay.....! It was clear and cold, and all slopes had snow.

Pat Vagonis' friend, Val, offered her condo at Red Run Inn to our group. Shirley Rettig, and Bob and Jan Marx moved in but Charles Huggins couldn't cancel his reservation so stayed at the Hotel. Thanks to the magic of cell phones, we contacted Charter PVSer Larry Pease and all rendezvoused at Val's for Happy Hour. What a spread it was!! We told

*Larry, Pat, Shirley, Charlie, Jan, Bob* stories of Red Run Inn including past PVS groups who stayed in the Barn above the restaurant. Bob and Jan told of renting one of the units for a season with the Peases and Ward/Slacks. Larry told of him and two other men simultaneously "rock climbing" the fireplace in Val's unit...before her family bought the place.

Dinner was at Uno's where we exercised our senior club cards and Charlie had coupons for the two young folk.



*Kimmy won back her favorite spot on the couch. Sorry, Larry.*

Demo day was cloudy with a promise of snow. It came in the afternoon. Larry joined us to ski after lunch. We repeated Pat and Val's elaborate après ski spread. The roads were getting covered with snow so we decided to have supper take-out. Three ventured to the end of the road and brought back a tasty variety from the Arrowhead store. We settled in to eat, and watched the fire and Val's 3 legged Husky, Kimmy, watch us eat. Val's neighbor, Edna, joined us. She and Larry found they had common friends, and told local stories.



*Val*

Everyone decided to stay an extra night. Some skied Friday, and the rest of us continued on to new adventures.

*A SUPER thanks to Pat and Val for being such generous, organized, and warm hosts.*



# Snowmass 2008

by Sharon Mulholland



Dave & Sharon

1/17/08, Thursday: It's was wonderful light snowy evening at the Snowmass Mountain Chalet on the day that most PVS trip attendees arrived, having made it out of DC just before the snow storm started. The après ski put on that evening for PVS by the Chalet was terrific. Trip co-leader, Carolyn Maurer-DeVilbiss, updated us on the many scheduled activities for the week, and Cate, from the Chalet, spoke about the other offerings available at the Chalet and Snowmass Village. Everyone was happy and anxiously awaiting the first day's skiing adventure, although some early birds, David Lerner and Cara Jablon, couldn't wait and had hit the moguls upon arrival. Some very early arrivals, Barbara and Fred Leonhardt, Sharon Mulholland and Dave Leonard, and Liz and Serge Triaou, were hoping that the temperature would climb to 20 degrees, having skied in a high of 0 degrees 2 days earlier. By the way, Serge Triaou promised to be careful to lock up ONLY his and Liz's skis at the mountain pit stops for the remainder of the week—ask him why, when you see him.



Bob Knopes, Fred L, Serge & Liz Triaou Yes, it

1/18/08, Friday: PVSers bundled up with their latest technologically - appropriate cold weather attire and headed out for a frigid day of skiing, with temps no higher than 5 degrees and no sign of the sun. However, with lots of foot warming and hot chocolate breaks, those who made the effort had a great ski day, as there was plenty of delightful snow cover. Liz Triaou, however, was not happy that her skis, which had just been waxed the night before, were hardly moving across the frozen flats. Sharon Mulholland demo'd and thoroughly enjoyed her new fatter and longer skis. Dinner at the Steak House that evening satiated everyone's appetite.



Dave Warthen, Mike H. Dottie

lift, at which point David then realized that it was NOT Barbara. However, he and new found "ski buddy" proceeded to ski down three slopes, and it was all David could do to keep up. Just goes to show that you have to be careful who you pick up on the slopes. With free time that evening, PVSers took off for places like The Crystal Palace (Jean, Dottie, Cara and Bob, Dick and Sandy Laeser) and other Aspen eateries, The Margarita Grill and lots of shopping opportunities.

1/19/08, Saturday: With conditions being as perfect as the 6 years this PVSer has been coming to our Snowmass trip could remember, Saturday was another wonderful ski day, and temps were up to a "balmy" 15 degrees. With a dusting of snow falling on and off all day, there was always a great surface for any ski style or ability. Towards the end of the ski day, David Abraham met up with a skier whom he thought was Barbara Leonhardt. He casually asked the lady, "Is there enough left in you for another run"? She looked at him and said "Just one more." So away they went skiing down to the 6-pack



Cara, Bob, David

1/20/08: On Sunday, the sun came out for the whole day, temps were up to 20 degrees, and PVSers ripped up the slopes. Unfortunately Ruth Powers fell and broke her arm due to a snowboarder's indiscretions as she was heading back to lunch via Adam's



**Sue Lyon, Ruth's roomy**



**Barb, Dave W, Dave D, Serge, RUTH WITH SLING, Liz, Carolyn**

Avenue. After a quick toboggan ride down the mountain, she was patched up at the clinic while roommate/nurse Sue Lyon gave comfort. Ruth never lost her smile for the rest of the trip, including the PVS après ski party that evening.

1/21/08, Monday: Some PVSers took the complimentary bus to Aspen Highlands (Two Davids - Lerner and Abraham, Aaron Schwartzbard, Cara and Bob Jablon) for the day. Although it was snowy, with flat light creating a challenging ski day, the crew enjoyed the day's adventure. Others took the day off from skiing and went to Aspen for some window and consignment shopping. Liz and Serge took a ride and a dip in the hot springs of Glenwood Springs. Never missing a party, however, everyone magically appeared that evening in the reception room for the weekly Mountain Chalet après ski party. Many PVSers were seen socializing with other guests who come yearly at the same time as PVS.



**The hot tub of many a-story-Serge, Fred, Barb**

1/22/08: After our hot breakfast Tuesday morning, we all gathered outside the dining room for our group photo, for which the sun managed to peak out after yet another evening of powdery snowfall. With so much great skiing for the 5<sup>th</sup> day in a row, the heated pool and hot tub were once

again a welcome respite at the end of the ski day. Another PVS après ski party that evening was thoroughly enjoyed. Unfortunately, after her "fight" with a ski pole earlier in the week, Maryann Rozzell had hand surgery that day and joined Ruth with a matching sling.

1/23/08: On the last ski day of our trip, David Lerner led a group to Ajax Mt in Aspen, promising to ski the blue slopes in the morning so all could enjoy. The group included David A, the tree Schwartzbards, the Jablons, Eloise Strand, and applicant members Bonnie and Russel Sweeney. A challenging afternoon on the steeps led to Aaron Schwartzbard's rescue of Cara at the end of the ski day. A hearty skier, she had gotten off the beaten path from the rest of the group and needed some assistance to climb back up to the desired trail; it helps to have youth around. Thank you Aaron!



**Dick, & Aaron – our Knight in Shining Armor**

Cocktail hour, followed by a buffet dinner at the Stonebridge Inn, consummated a beautiful ski week at Snowmass Village. To top the evening off, our trip leaders were presented with a beautiful serving plate purchased in Aspen.

All in all, we couldn't have asked for a better ski trip. With an excellent variety of great ski conditions, a wonderful group of PVSers, terrific parties and dinners, and great trip leaders, Carolyn Maurer-DeVilbiss and Dave DeVilbiss, this was as good as it gets.

**Dave and Carolyn**





# THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley

A huge Knee Sock goes to all stupid people. In particular to the incredibly dumb person who creamed Ruth Powers from behind on the Snowmass trip in January. He went over the backs of Ruth's skis causing her to fall and break her left arm in two places. This turkknee (a euphemism) was going about 2 million miles per hour. (If I told you once, I've told you a million times, don't exaggerate.) And the jerk was completely out of control. Kneedless to say, the perpetrator was a snowboarder.

I still have oodles of new information for you. The Knee loves the word oodles. He also enjoys most other words beginning with "oo." However, most of these "oo" words, such as oology, only come up once in a bird's age.

Dave DeVilbiss' new e-mail moniker is DevilbiD. However without the Capital letters it comes out "devil bid." The Knee just thought you kneeded to know.

A Happy Ankneiversary to Larry Pease. It was 15 years ago this month that Larry tore his Achilles tendon whilst skiing at Wisp. So he went back to Wisp (where he is a ski patroller) and skied again—this time safely .

There is an old Buddhist saying: Wherever you go, there you are. But your luggage and skis are another story.

January was a bell-weather meeting. It was PVS's first-ever meeting during the day. But there were certain "logistics" problems in having the meeting. Shortly after the January TOOT came out, Jan Marx the TOOT editor received an e-mail from Dorian Janney who was to host the meeting. Dorian said "Whoops, I forgot the meeting was on Sunday—I'll be in Barrow, Alaska." Whoops indeed. TOOT was out and we had no place to hold the meeting. Dorian volunteered to leave her house open, and her friend Sharon Mulholland could run the meeting. But Sharon had a prior commitment.

After several frantic calls, Dottie Villers, ably assisted by Sally Finan, was magnanimous enough to host the meeting. Jan Marx was able to send out an e-mail message, and a hardcopy. The February PVS meeting, also on a Sunday, will be at Dorian Janney's

According to Marvin Hass, a man who skied nearly 200ft down the longest escalator on the London Underground has been condemned by police. "This is a dangerous, stupid and irresponsible act that could have resulted in serious injury or death." A video, filmed from the skier's head-mounted camera, shows him going up the escalator, fitting his skis on and launching himself down at high speed. I think it was cute!

As most PVS skiers know, Cara Jablon loves to ski the bumps. On the Snowmass trip, while skiing at Aspen Highlands at the end of the day, she got into trouble. Towards the bottom, Cara ended up on a cliff—stuck. Dick and Rosemary Schwartzbard's son, Aaron, helped. He got her skis off, and Cara was able to clamber up the cliff in her ski boots. Right on!

Our last (January) ExCom meeting was our second ever telephonic conference call meeting. But this time the food was better! Through the wonders of technology, several called in from Snowmass. And Veep Dick Comerford called in from Vail. All reported excellent Colorado powder. Club treasurer, Dick Laeser, didn't call in. He was attending a multi-day seminar aptly titled "How to Embezzle."

Now this is a ski report: Clear skies, no wind, sweet slopes and deep powder that won't melt for at least five billion years. Grab your poles and pack your bags. Just don't forget your spacesuit, because you're on the moon.

The moon's dust-covered mountains reminded more than one Apollo astronaut of a winter wonderland: "My snowsuit's ready," joked Apollo 14 pilot Ed Mitchell after donning his spacesuit for a walk. Commander Al Shepard agreed, "You're ready to go out and play in the snow." No one had the bug worse than Apollo 17 geologist Harrison "Jack" Schmitt. "Too bad I don't have my skis!" Jack makes repeated sounds of skis gliding: "Shhh. Shhh. Shhh.. Whoop! Can't keep my edges. "In the moon's low gravity, you can ski above the moondust -- and I did. With each push of your toe, your body glides forward above ground. The only marks you leave in the moondust are the toe-pushes."

Sadly, at the last minute, Jacques Hadler and Alice Swalm had to cancel Snowmass. Jacques was having a recurring, quite painful back problem. Boooo

Ubiquitous PVS: A few weeks before Snowmass, Dave DeVilbiss and Alice Swalm ran into each other at Borders Books. The Knee won't divulge the details, but apparently a law suit is about to be filed.

## Calendar 2008

Feb 24 **Sun** Monthly Meeting - 1:00 PM at Dorian Janney's in Gaithersburg  
March 18 Tue Monthly Meeting - 7:30  
April 15 Tue **Annual Meeting** at Heithcue's Party Room  
April 20 Sun Sun Valley Post-Trip Party

## Ski Trips -- 2008

Sun Valley - February 9-16 - Nancy and Ray McKinley  
Balkans - March 2-13 - Marianne and Kerry Hines



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

