

The Liftline

Pentagon Ski Club Fall, 2010

President's Corner By Peter Porton



Our September meeting was one of the biggest regular season meetings ever and our ski trip sign-ups seem to reflect that. I strongly urge you to check our trip list and call our tripleaders for the trip(s) of your choice. Even if some trips are waitlisted, people drop off all the time, so get on a waitlist if you have to. As you may (or not) have noticed, the newsletter is now a quarterly, so it doesn't present the latest, up-to-date information (kind of hard to do when depending on bulk mailing). So please check our website for updates on meetings, themes, and trip changes.

In addition, we will be sending out PSC e-mail blasts via Constant Contact; please, if you aren't receiving these, check your spam filters to ensure they're not going there. We try to keep them at a minimum, but they are important in keeping you informed as to what's happening in the club.

Meeting themes are still being organized: October will probably have a physical trainer to help you keep in shape. Again, check our website for updates.

Don't forget our Bread for the City drive in December (you never have). See more information on that to the right of this column

See you at the next meeting and/or on the slopes!

PSC Meetings Menus

Sept. 14 - Roasted Beef Tenderloin; Tortellini Pasta Bar; Fruit Tray and Tea Cookies.

Oct. 12 - Weisswurst/Bratwurst/Knockwurst; Rolls; Three bean salad; sauerkraut; Potato Pancakes/Apple Sauce; and German Chocolate Cake.

Nov. 9 - Turkey; Sage Stuffing with Gravy; Bouquitiere of Vegetables; Chocolate Fondue and fruit tray.

Dec. 14 - Steamship Round of Beef; Vegetable Tray; Potatoes; Yule Log.

Jan. 18 - Stir Fry Station with Chicken, Shrimp and Beef; Basmati Rice; Tea cookies.

Mar. 8 - Fajita Station; Whole Poached Salmon; Assorted Mini Pastries.

Apr. 12 - Omelet Station; Honey Glazed Virginia Ham; Lemon/Lime Sherbet



December's Annual Bread for the City's Holiday Helpings

By Joel Gardner

For the past sixteen years, at our December meetings, the Pentagon Ski Club has contributed generously to helping the poorest people of Washington, DC through the auspices of *Bread for the City*, a nonprofit organization that provides social, medical and legal services to the indigent. Through the use of volunteers, donors and pro bono work, *Bread for the City* consistently ranks among the highest in the percent of contributions that actually get to the needy. The *Washington Post* consistently awards them for excellence in nonprofit management.

Annually *Bread for the City* conducts their *Holiday Helpings* campaign to provide all the food and trimmings for families/households to make a holiday meal. Last year more than 8,000 households received the ingredients for a Thanksgiving or Christmas meal. It costs *Bread for the City* only \$26 to provide a full meal for an entire family. At this time of year you should see the amount of staples that pour into their two centers (on 7th St. NW and Good Hope Rd. in SE DC).

Hunger is a very real problem affecting some 60,000 people in the District, and B.C. helps more than 5,000 families each month with food, clothing and social/legal services—it isn't just a holiday effort! Our club has given generously not only to the *Holiday Helpings* campaign, but also to ongoing efforts throughout the year.

I am sure that many of you have been affected by the economic downturn this year and it is hard to ask people of good will (but finite resources) to give yet again, but let's not forget those close to home who continue their hardscrabble fight to make it from day-to-day. This year as in years past we will be collecting food (staples) and money for *Holiday Helpings* and clothing for their year-around efforts. So many of us have a surfeit of warm clothing that is in high demand this time of year, so get rid of last year's ski outfit!

If you can't be at the December meeting but would like to contribute, please send a check made out to *Bread for the City* to Joel Gardner, 40 Christopher Ln., Potomac Falls, VA 20165-6209. I will deliver our contributions of food, money and clothing after the December 14 meeting.



Pentagon Ski Club

2010-2011 Council & Committees

Club Hot Line: 703-471-7791

Website:
www.pentagonskiclub.org

Council Members & Committees
(number indicates year the term expires)

President & Editor: *Peter Porton* (13)

(H: 703-471-7791) prespsc@comcast.net

Vice-President & Racing: *Dave Olsen* (11) (H: 301-579-2749)

(W: 202-385-7207) dolsen@pentagonskiclub.org

Secretary & Trip Support: *Steve Thompson* (11)

(H: 703 435-5170) stevethompsonva@gmail.com

Treasurer: *Christina Anderson* (13)

(H: 703-719-6714) gerakisparta@yahoo.com

Trips: *Steve Peirce* (11)

(H: 301-924-5173) scpeirce@verizon.net

Special Projects: *Anne Willemann* (13) (H: 703-941-7910)

annewillemann@verizon.net

Membership: *Cheree Peirce* (12)

(H: 301-924-5173) cheree2be@yahoo.com

Publicity: *John Pratt* (12)

(H: 703-534-5759) snowsnke@aol.com

Skier Improvement: *Lucy Gruenther* (12)

(H: 703-727-9287) lmandwx@hotmail.com

Membership Communications: *Jim McDonough* (13)

(H: 703-619-0020) jmcdono683@aol.com

PSC Committee Chairpeople

Webmasters: *Laura Harley & Dave Olsen*

lharley@designinteractive.com

Welcoming & Meetings: *Maggie Fitzgerald*

Sales: *Open*

Membership Database Manager: *Pat Riggs*

pat.riggs1@verizon.net

Smugmug: *Alden Hingle*

aldenhingle@gmail.com

The Lifeline

Editor: *Peter Porton*

Copy Editor: *Dave Olsen*

The Lifeline is issued quarterly. Any articles are welcome for publication, but the editor has the right to edit for size and PSC policy.

PSC MEMBERSHIP FEES

| | 1-YEAR | 2-YEARS | 3-YEARS |
|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| SINGLE | \$30 | \$55 | \$75 |
| FAMILY | \$40 | \$75 | \$100 |

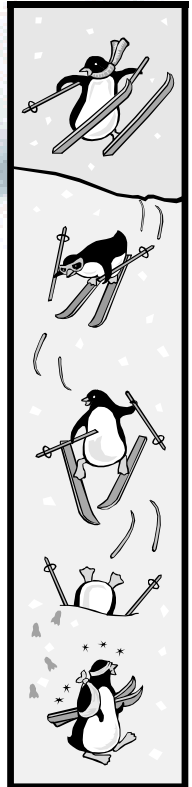
2010-2011

PSC MEETING SCHEDULE

Our meetings are held on the second or third Tuesday of the months listed below at the Officers Club at Fort Myer, VA, at 7 PM

- Tuesday, September 14
- Tuesday, October 12
- Tuesday, November 9
- Tuesday, December 14
- Tuesday, January 18
- Tuesday, March 8
- Tuesday, April 12*

(* changed to one week earlier)



Membership Benefits

To access the *Membership Benefits* area in the National Ski Council Federation website at www.skifederation.org (all PSCers are automatically members), use the following:

userid = skiclub; password = member

Membership Updates

Please take a moment to check the date on your newsletter label—it indicates the month your membership expires. If you need to renew or change your address, please see Cheree Peirce at our meetings, contact her at cheree2be@yahoo.com or send her a check (see membership fees up above).

Cheree Peirce
19701 Golden Valley Lane
Brookeville MD 20833



From Tivoli to The Hermitage: a Baltic Cruise

By *Anne Willemann*

No man is an island. And I certainly felt that way this entire trip. I could not have done this cruise without the tremendous help of everyone on the trip, supporting me, and helping out when help was needed. In particular Dick Fiske, Doug Hacket and Fred Gardinier were my key wheelchair pushers, getting me up and down the stairs of the Hermitage, Peterhof and Catherine's Summer Palace. Marli Dirksen was in particular my key sherpette when she returned early with me from Estonia on an adventure through Copenhagen, Iceland, NY and DC to get back just in time to have chemo at NIH. Thank you for all you did. You should have seen Marli pulling two large suitcases up a steep ramp at the Delta terminal as we rushed to catch (but miss) the last flight of the night out of JFK. Her one comment was – I guess my heart is still ok! And, of course, my assistant Christina Anderson did a wonderful job taking care of everyone in Berlin, Stockholm and the flight home – thanks so much.

The trip started in Copenhagen where we took a two hour tour early Saturday morning after arriving on KLM. It was a good time to see Copenhagen since the hotel wasn't ready yet to get us into our rooms anyhow and things are slow on a Saturday morning in Copenhagen – giving the bus lots of time to take us all around the city sites. It was Constitution Day and the first truly sunny day in the 80's in Copenhagen which meant everyone came out later that day and night to enjoy the fabulous weather. Daylight lasted until past 10:00pm so we got to enjoy Ny Harbor only two blocks from our centrally located hotel. The Danes had an international bike race and you could hear the celebrations going on late into the night as the sunburned Danes partied hard. I've never seen so many good looking men and women and in particular, the women were dressed very trendy. That evening, Sue, Don, Doug, Patrick and Peter headed over to Tivoli as did Suzanne and Wayne. Most of us just people watched at Ny Harbor over dinner after taking a lovely canal boat ride throughout the city.

On Sunday morning we had until 2pm to wander around town, so Dick Fiske and Liz Groszer headed over to the National Museum where Liz got to act out the part of a Seer and Dick was the Donator of the "male intestines" she had to read – hmmm. Good thing they both like to act. Luella, Marli, Helen, Christina and I headed to Thorvalsen's Museum. I've never heard of him but he apparently is an Icelandic heritage sculpture from Denmark who spent 40 years learning the trade in Rome before creating numerous large sculptures for cities throughout Europe. This past winter we had seen one of his pieces in Lucerne, Switzerland on the Engelberg trip – the one of the dying lion symbolizing the sacrifice of the Swiss Guards during the French Revolution. Helen recognized it right away!

Kathy, Patti, Marquita and Carrie headed over to the Royal Apartments for a tour with Bert and Lesa while Fred and Brenda

toured the local Botanical Gardens. That afternoon we were one of the first groups to board the ship a short distance away in the harbor. Pat and Linda were some of the most ambitious in the very beginning and got a grand tour of the ship, knowing every peephole aboard for the inside scoop. Beth Peterson knew where everything was by the time most of us got settled. Ed Anderson found the pool bar to his liking – in particular he got to hang out with Wayne, Alan and Bert at the one small smoking section in the back of the ship. I found rooms were shifted quite a bit when we found the ship wasn't full. Some got upgraded while others paid for an outside veranda. At dinner that night we were the last to finish – enjoying talking with everyone in the group. With so many of us gathered around, one of the other patrons thought one of us had to be a celebrity to get so much attention. We just enjoyed each others' company!

The first day ashore the group headed to Berlin, led by Christina. The bus driver did have a bit of trouble finding our ship, but they finally made it to Berlin and had a tour that was laden with history. A few of us, Linda Wilkinson, Elaine and Mike Serlin, Ellen and Beth Peterson, Margo London and Townsend Belser decided to take a small old fashioned train ride called the Molli train in the northern area of Germany instead. Got to see an area of Germany that was once behind the iron curtain right along the sea coast. The long bus ride back got people to the ship by 9:30, just in time to enjoy a fabulous meal. And I mean fabulous. It was incredible just how good the meals were. Every meal was a delight and a positive surprise. They even had two specialty restaurants that had even better food that you could easily upgrade to enjoy for only \$15. Meals all included free wine which was a unique and different, quality wine every night. Plus free specialty coffees, bottled water and sodas – you didn't feel like you were being nitpicked at every turn. At the end of the week, the only charges I had were the land tours I took. Not even a charge for tips since they were included.

On Tuesday we had hired a bus for our group and toured nearby Lubeck, a wonderful Hanseatic League city which was in western Germany during the cold war, right at the edge of the border. They specialize in delicious marzipan. The slow group went with me and we wound up walking further than the fast group! But, a few climbed the tall church spire – Dick, Helen, Townsend, Margo, Marylou, Luella and Suzanne. Dick even had to use the ladies toilet when his euro coin didn't work in the men's area. So, Lesa later used the men's room to even things up. The fast group hung around the large tower one hour while learning more than they could ever want to know about brick building. I guess they can show us how to rebuild Lubeck if we even have to. It was firebombed during WWII but escaped without major damage compared to Dresden. Most of us enjoyed the lovely weather by eating at outside cafes along the main street.

The day at sea – I slept until 11am and enjoyed a leisurely day – it was rainy and miserable, so everyone relaxed, played games and did laundry. Alan Wenberg is a concert pianist and we enjoyed an hour concert performance in the Library. The evening shows put on by the ship were popular as well and we got to enjoy some of the lectures about the ports of call to come. With

the intimate size of this ship, we kept running into people we knew, and that was so much fun. We had forty people there of the 500 on board! Wayne did a wonderful video of the trip that I shall cherish – he really captured the essence of the adventure.

Helsinki was a great stop. Most of us took the morning tour of the city, visiting the Orthodox Cathedral, the Lutheran Church and the impressive Rock Church. Lesa, Bert, Mike, Elaine, Linda, and Marsha took a tour of a local horse farm, visiting the family who ran it. Peter hung out with my scuba diving buddies, Carrie, Marquita and Patti while they tested the local brews of Finland. Ellen, Beth and Kathy went on a local harbor cruise of Helsinki which Marli and I did in the afternoon. At the Market Square they had some lovely booths selling local produce and jewelry which was popular. You could order local smelts dipped in batter, served with aioli sauce – you just had to watch out for the seagulls as they did dive bomb maneuvers, grabbing food from unsuspecting tourists. That night we had some dancing queens at the disco – Francine Fairfax, Becky Curran, Jeanette Crutchfield and Luella Montgomery looked awfully good out there.

We were lucky to get three days in St. Petersburg where our group stayed together with one guide – Tatiana, a history professor during the school year. She was fabulous and gave us a grand tour. Kathy, Lesa and Bert got to enjoy a different routine and flew to Moscow for one day. Getting off the boat and through customs wasn't as easy as it looks – they didn't like Sue Worden's numerous stamps on her passport – I guess Uzbekistan isn't popular in St. Petersburg. But, she finally was allowed to join us. A long ride the first day – we went out to Pushkin to Catherine's Summer Palace. We ate lunch with the other groups at a place that not only served vodka and champagne for lunch but also had dancers and local music. They grabbed some of our more active group members to participate, so Margo London danced while Christina Anderson, Townsend Belser and Luella Montgomery played with a Russian band. That afternoon we spent rushing around with thousands of others at the Hermitage to try to see some of the fantastic art work displayed there. We just hit the highlights and then stopped at Peter and Paul Fortress to see the Romanov tombs – what a full day. Unfortunately, earlier that day Margo discovered her engagement ring was missing. The ship did everything they could to search the room, even pulling apart the pipes below the sink, but to no avail. I'm sorry to say she lost the ring. I still hope somehow, someday it'll show up.

Our second day in St. Petersburg we traveled in intermittent rain on a lovely canal boat ride – this is indeed the Venice of Russia. One of my favorite stops was the church of the Spilled Blood, a Russian Orthodox Church covered with mosaics. During the Communist era they used this for storage, but luckily it has been heavily restored. We visited the Yusupov Palace where Rasputin was poisoned and then travelled through the unbelievable, difficult traffic of St. Petersburg – and I thought DC was bad – to go to a specific store for shopping. The pent up shopping bug hit us all and they should have been happy with all our purchases. That night Linda and Pat enjoyed Swan Lake while we saw some more dancing from Peter, Ed, Patti and Linda. Patti, Carrie and Marquita had the special dinner/wine tasting at the

Prime Steak House on board and Patti got to sit next to Eric, the social director. He later got her to go up on the stage at the Looking Glass. We also managed this week to celebrate the 40th birthdays of both Don Worden and Dick Fiske – Happy Birthday to both of you young men!

Our third day we got to visit Peterhof – after a tour of the palace, we waited a little bit before enjoying the fantastic fountains. Glad we got there early – it was Independence Day, a three day celebration and lots of Russians were visiting their home grown sites, creating long lines. Of course no one really knew what independence they were talking about, but a holiday is a holiday. That night was the first time we tried to sit all together in the same area of the ship so we could celebrate since Marli and I were leaving the group from Estonia the next day. Thank you so much for the lovely necklace and earrings. We did manage to get them restrung when we got home and I've enjoyed wearing them!

Tallinn was a bit rainy the next day, but everyone enjoyed the Old Town and shopping in the district. There were two days in Stockholm and many said they enjoyed this stop the most. Several people took boat rides around the archipelago of islands and several said they enjoyed seeing the festivities leading up to that weekend's wedding of the crown prince of Sweden. Many caught glimpses of the couple as well. Alan and Don Budowsky got pictures of the Royal Couple on their way to church for rehearsals. One night Captain George Theodorou had a class on how to dance the "Syrtak", the Zorba the Greek dance. He got many of our group up on the floor and showed the three different stages of the dance. Take a look at the pictures on the Pentagon Ski Club web site under Smug mug, but I know Christina was thrilled to have a fellow countryman steering the ship and the group! The martini bar was also one of the favorite hangouts for our group and I have to agree – their chocolate martinis were absolutely the best!!

In April next year we plan to cruise on board the exact same ship – the Azamara Journey – this time on a seven day cruise on the Adriatic combined with six days touring through the heart of Italy. So, if you haven't signed up, contact Christina or me. We had a fabulous time on the Baltic Cruise and I know it was a highlight for one and all.





LUCK

By Peter Porton

It's said it's better to be lucky than good. Tripleleaders can plan a trip to the nth degree, give all out all the information, arrange every aspect of the trip, ensure all information is accurate, and be in constant communications with everyone; but they can't control weather and transportation. On the Monday before the Thursday that marked our departure for Valle Nevado, I received a phone call from an SCWDCer who had just returned from VN and told me (I'm paraphrasing), "I know the PSC is going to Valle Nevado, I just wanted to let you know that there is no snow there so you might want to make other arrangements, if possible. You'll be skiing mostly mud and morning ice." I thanked her, called our tour operator, was put in contact with our tour guide, and received a list of optional trips we could take. Unfortunately, they ranged from \$100-200 extra per day and, since the resort was still "open," we couldn't go elsewhere. I let the group know; it was too late to make any sort of changes, so we just went to see what would happen.

Luck struck. Between Wednesday and Thursday, Valle Nevado got a meter of snow (that's 39 inches to us 'Muricans). Our flights were on time, our guide met us and got us to the bus, and Carmen Mendez and Jean-Yves Maillat arrived on their own a half-hour later as expected (they would stay longer in Santiago and then continue on to Buenos Aires and perhaps Montevideo after our trip; however, Carmen came down with something and we all hope that trip went well for them). With the group together, the bus took us up some forty turns in the mountains to get to the resort which, at some 9,500 feet, is the highest we've ever stayed at. Only Portillo and Alped'Huez have climbs like that that I've ever seen. The resort itself has a 3,000-foot vertical, peaking at 12,000 feet.

Check-in was, however, a goat-rope. Unlike Portillo, many of the staff at VN lack fluid English and it took us quite a while to get the paperwork done. We didn't know that Friday was changeover day at VN; all the Santiagans were



coming in or going home. The lack of some communication skills was an issue that we would face the rest of the week; but, that said, the staff tried and we used a lot of sign language.

The next morning we hit the slopes, which were open from 9 AM until 5 PM; VN is high in the Andes, facing west. This makes for a long day (it gets light not long after 7 AM and stayed so for about 11-12 hours); all the days were bluebird days, with temperatures easily in the thirties. The first two to three days were glory skiing; after that, the higher temperatures started to create slush which turned to ice overnight. After a while, getting onto the lifts early was counterproductive; too much ice and death cookies.

We learned that bluebird days are nice, but at 10,000+ feet, they can also induce a reddening and deadening of the skin. I thought I had a bad sunburn after the first day, but Frank Gregg turned into a leper and gets the award for reddest face of the trip. Luckily, Pat was handing out pocket size SPF 40 tubes that saved us from certain death. Despit that I looked like a kabuki dancer one morning, thanks Pat!

Despite the great conditions, SCWDC's Tom Spiers had a minor fall after his sixth morning run and broke his wrist. That ended his skiing and he departed via a shuttle for our hotel in Santiago on Tuesday to have more to do (VN is a pure ski resort; there aren't many other things to do beside sit by the hot tub, watch TV, eat, drink, or read).

Poor Brigitta Gregg suffered from both altitude and stomach problems early in the week but made a great comeback. Husband Frank, skinning with bad knees, waited for the snow to soften and got a couple of hours in every day. Way to go!

On Sunday afternoon and Monday, we noted that the mountain was deserted; all the Santiagans had gone home and we had the resort to ourselves. No 20 minute waits at the poma lift in the back bowl; no waits whatsoever. I skied mostly with the affinity twins, Nina Litton and Pat Hobitz, and were joined periodically by SCWDC's Charisse Kasser and Gerry Smith and Diane and Tim Murtha. We went over to La Parva (a next door resort; the other, lower, resort at La Coronado was closed) and despite finding out that we had to pay \$28 to ski there, had a great time. Part of La Parva's runs were closed early since the Russian men's downhill team was practicing on the early morning ice. Yow, they skied fast. But after an hour or so they were done and we had La

Parva's great long runs to ourselves; it was worth the extra money to ski new runs. So much, that we did it again on Thursday. Charley Mamonas joined us, but nearly died on the way back home when his poma lift turned upside down and couldn't be straightened out. Larry Haun was mostly a solitary skier, but joined us when he felt. Group skiing is a lot like brownian motion, you never know who is with you or not, who joins you or leaves you at lunch (though both mountains had only one real restau-

rant, they weren't crowded after Sunday).

Speaking of food, we had group dinners at the three hotels' four restaurants the first four nights (part of the dinner plan); the restaurants were decent (well, except the fancy French food at Hotel VN, some of which was sent back; the best restaurant was our own buffet style and the restaurant at the cheapest hotel). The problem was that these restaurants couldn't handle 14 at a time – later, when we split up into 4-ish person groups, average dinners went from 3 hours to half that. We also had problems with reservations (which needed to be made the night before), some of which got lost or the restaurant wouldn't open at US dinner time because the Canadian men's ski team occupied it.

We left on Friday at 10 AM and headed towards Santiago. Our first stop was at the artisan crafts village of Los Dominicos which proved so popular that Nina and Pat took the subway there to complete their contribution to reinvigorating the Chilean economy.

An hour later, we dropped off our luggage at the 4-Points Sheraton, got our luggage secured (with chains and locks, since there was no luggage room), dropped off Charlie (who has been to Santiago six times or so), picked up Tom and continued with our tour. We saw most of historic downtown Santiago, had lunch at Mercado Central, a specifically built 19th century food market surrounded by many restaurants, and then returned to our lodgings. The tour was a bit shortened, but I figure that was because the driver, who had been up since 0-dark thirty had probably hit his hourly maximum.

The following day everyone was on their own. My room was rented for another day to store all our luggage in; this worked out well with the hotel as we kept the key at the front desk if anyone came back early. We gave the room to Carmen and JY after we left; why make them pay extra if there was a free room available?

The flight home was unremarkable (coming down, the plane had been 1/3 empty and we had great seats), we went through customs at Atlanta and made it home before noon.

A lucky trip, indeed.



Whistler/Blackcomb: A Peak2Peak Experience

By Steve Peirce

The Pentagon Ski Club is going to Whistler/Blackcomb January 8th-15th 2011. Almost everyone in the PSC has been on a trip to Whistler at least once, because we've been going back to this mega resort about ever other year. Therefore many PSCers know that these two mountains have over 200 trails, 3 glaciers, and 12 bowls in their 8,000 skiable acres with a mile of vertical elevation and 400 inch annual snowfall.

The new cherry on top of these two mountains is the Peak to Peak Gondola which opened in December of 2008. You can now change mountains in eleven minutes instead of the hours it previously took to ski down and ride the lifts back up. Now you can stay on the upper slopes of both mountains in pursuit of the best snow and sun orientation, or just stay away from the lower slope's occasional Pacific fog and mist. Our early January trip should have some of the best new snow of the season due to shorter days and colder nights.

We are staying at the Delta Whistler Suites and are selling 3 different accommodations:

2 bedroom condo suites, 1 bedroom condo suites, or hotel rooms. Our lodging is in the premier upper village, a 7 minute walk or short hotel shuttle ride to the Gondola, surrounded by the trendiest shopping and best restaurants. The property features a 24 hour front desk, pool, hot tub, exercise room, restaurant, bar and full-service spa.

Our trip includes round-trip airfare and bus transportation, 7 nights lodging, and a 6-day lift ticket. We have great flights on Delta Airlines from Reagan National airport through Minneapolis to Vancouver. So dig out your passport and send your trip reservation & \$500 deposit to Steve Peirce, 19701 Golden Valley Lane, Brookeville, MD 20833 while there is still space left.



Steamboat: The Oasis of Champagne Powder™

By Lesa Scott

Three years ago at the 2008 Western Carnival in Steamboat, we had fresh powder every day. It was amazing. While I can't guarantee those conditions for the trip January 22-29, 2010, it is worth mentioning that last year was the beginning of a weather cycle that set "a new all-time snowfall record and registering a "four-wire winter", the resort hit three key milestones within just a month of each other: surpassing the 300-inch mark on 2/1/08; six days later surpassing the 350-inch mark on 2/7/08; and on March 2nd surpassing the 400-inch mark. Furthermore, Steamboat—Ski Town, U.S.A.—received more than 100 inches of snow for three months (December, January & February) for the first time in resort history." (Cited from <http://steamboat.com>.)

At this link, you can see several years' of data on the record snowfalls at Steamboat. These wonderful record results from Steamboat's location in the Park Range, the first barrier Pacific storms must cross on their way east.

Steamboat's unique location has resulted in the trademark term "champagne powder." A local rancher coined this term in the 1950s to describe the light, dry quality of the snow in the Park Range. Those of us from the Western Carnival trip can vouch for this!

This January, we will be staying at the LaCasa Condominiums on Ski Trail Lane, just 100 yards from the lifts. A private guest shuttle will take us to the lifts or to the town of Steamboat Springs for dining, shopping, or just wandering around. Our 2BR/2BA condos have a fireplace, private balcony, washer/dryer, and access to two outdoor hot tubs for relaxing after a long day of skiing. We also have 4BR/4BA units available for a larger group of family or friends who want to be together.

We will fly from Dulles on United Airlines at 10:00 AM on Saturday, January 22, and arrive in Denver at 12:00 PM where a luxury coach will pick us up. After a brief stop for groceries, we will depart for the slopes with beverages and snacks for the ride. Taking a coach to/from the airport ensures that we can make our departing flights. As we learned on the Western Carnival trip, the luxury coach can get us to the airport even when the mountain passes are closed with all the wonderful snow on which we have so joyously skied for the week!



Big Sky

By Christina Anderson and Maureen Levy

Experience the Biggest Skiing in America in Big Sky & Moonlight Basin. The time is here. You're getting away to the mountains. You've already pictured it in your mind, but you haven't decided which mountains. They have to be grand, awe-inspiring, wide-open and glistening under a big blue sky. Does it sound like Big Sky and Moonlight Basin, Montana? Well, it is. They're one of the last places in the West Rocky Mountains that remain uncrowded and surrounded by vast regions of unspoiled wild lands. Can you picture it? Maureen, my assistant and I can and we're ready to get there. The scenic community of Big Sky rests high in the Gallatin National Forest. The resort is spread across three interconnected mountains with many acres of playground, and 4,000 vertical feet of fun, two terrain parks and a half pipe. It's home to the #1 Nordic Ski center in North America, with 50 miles of groomed ski trails for cross country skiing.



18 lifts now transport skiers to breathtaking terrain that ranges from the tame wide beginner slopes of Southern Comfort to the steep chutes, narrow couloirs and wide-open powder fields of Lone Peak—and plenty of intermediate terrain in between. They offer plenty of other winter activities like snowmobiling, snowshoeing, sleigh rides, ice skating and wildlife viewing in Yellowstone Park and the surrounding area. Big Sky has many restaurants and eateries for us to enjoy, and lots of shops selling everything from groceries to books and art.

Big Sky, which also took overall favorite honors for the Rocky Mountains Region, was consistently praised by skiing magazine readers for its terrain, size and uncrowded conditions. Some samples: "What a friendly place, and I'm sure you're tired of hearing it, but, no lift lines!"; "Very family friendly, courteous lift operators and resort staff made it a great experience."; "I've never seen so much snow in my life!"; "Big Sky is the bomb!! Sweet riding and much powder!!"

We're staying at The Lodge, located in the heart of the resort within easy walking distance to the lifts, restaurants, and shops. Amenities include an exercise room, indoor swimming pool, indoor & outdoor Jacuzzis, Spa with yoga room and massage available, full-service bar & lounge, and free Mountain Village shuttle service. Our suites have mini-fridges & microwave

(Continued Next Page)

ovens.

Mountain Facts

- Lone Peak Summit Elevation: 11,166 feet
- Mountain Village Elevation: 7,500 feet
- Big Sky Ski Terrain: 3,600 acres - 150 named runs covering over 85 miles on three separate mountains
- Slope Difficulty: 21% expert, 37% advanced, 25% intermediate, 17% beginner
- Skiable Vertical: 4,350 feet
- Longest Run: Liberty Bowl to Mountain Mall - 6 miles
- Lift Capacity: 20,000 skiers per hour
- Moonlight Basin Ski Terrain: 1,500 acres - 264 acres of groomed trails, 350 acres of In-bounds Hike-to terrain
- Average Winter Daytime Temperature: 20 degrees F
- Average Annual Snowfall: 400+ inches of light dry powder
- Average Ski Season: Thanksgiving to mid-April

We're scheduled to depart Washington Reagan National Airport on Delta at 8:34 AM Saturday, February 19, and arrive in Bozeman at 1:14 PM after a plane change in Minneapolis. We return the following Saturday with a nice afternoon 2:40 pm departure and a 10:18 PM arrival, also through Minneapolis. Flight numbers & times may of course change by the time of our trip; the current schedule is always available on the Trip Details page on the club website.

If you would like more information or wish to discuss special lodging or travel arrangements, please contact Christina at (703) 719-6714 (h); (703) 489-6171 (c) or gerakisparta@yahoo.com.



Valle d'Aosta

By Peter Porton

A year ago, few of you had ever heard of the Aosta Valley (it's in northwest Italy, between Courmayeur and Zermatt/Cervinia) and all the resorts that we would be skiing that (add on Pila, La Thuille, and Monterosa) or all the day trips (castles, Turin, wineries) that would be added onto the trip.

I could go on for a lot of pages, but time and column inches are money.

What I do need to say is that the trip is sold out and wait-listed, although that often changes. So if you are interested in the Aosta Valley and London as an add-on trip, contact me at 703-471-7791 or prespsc@comcast.net. Check the back pages for more details.



BRECKENRIDGE SKI RESORT

Breckenridge The Perfect Mountain

By Dave Olsen

Four huge peaks —2,358 acres of pure snow sports bliss—the highest chairlift in North America—a historic mining town with a friendly, laid-back vibe—the ultimate après-ski scene—all combine to make Breckenridge the perfect mountain with the perfect mountain town.

Big changes have happened at the resort in recent years including the addition of the Independence SuperChair which serves the resort's newest terrain on Peak 7, the Peak 8 SuperConnect which makes it a snap to get from Peak 9 to Peak 8, and the Imperial Express Superchair which reaches 12,840 feet. Mountain facts include: a 3,398 ft. vertical drop from the 12,998 ft. summit to the 9,600 ft. base; 155 trails - 14% rated beginner, 31% intermediate, 19% advanced and 36% expert; 300 annual inches of snowfall supplemented by 540 acres of snowmaking; impeccable grooming and 30 strategically placed lifts.

Breck's website offers further enticement: *Breck's four interconnected peaks offer amazing variety for every skill level. Peak 8 is home to some of the best (and longest) learning terrain in the world, keeping beginners on their toes and glowing with accomplishment. The south side of Peak 10 boasts big fat bumps, hidden kickers, legendary glades and enough fresh tracks to make expert riders and skiers salivate. With wide-open bowls, gentle rolling groomers, steep and deep runs, and arguably the best terrain parks in North America, Breckenridge offers almost endless terrain for non-stop skiing and riding.*

Breckenridge has as much to offer off the mountain as it does on any of its 155 trails. As the largest historic district in Colorado, the Town of Breckenridge features a wide variety of shops, activities, culture and attractions to entertain. Enjoy more than 30 local bars, pubs and restaurants that fill the streets. From quaint coffee shops to bustling breweries, you're sure to have a taste of the perfect mountain lifestyle. This authentic mining town is full of history and character.

The website goes on to add: *The Town of Breckenridge is celebrating it's 150th birthday this year, so its hard to forget that before Breckenridge was a ski resort, it was a town. And over the past 150 years, the spirit of the town has 'nt shifted much. Breckies around the world are passionate about spending days or years in 'Breck because of the history, heritage and characters that have made this Victorian mining town what it is today and why visi-*

tors and locals agree it is the *Perfect Mountain Town*.

Our trip includes a 5-day interchangeable lift ticket that may also be used at Keystone and Arapahoe Basin (free transportation available). Up to 2 days may be used at Vail or Beaver Creek (transportation not included but can be arranged). A 6th-day lift ticket may be pre-purchased for \$50 (add to your final payment). Non-skiers or cross-country skiers may deduct \$250 from the trip cost for the package without lift tickets.

Our 7-night deluxe accommodations will be in hotel rooms at the Great Divide Lodge, just 50 yards from the lifts at Peak 9 and two short blocks from historic Main Street. With a stop on the town's free shuttle route and complimentary hotel shuttle service, all of Breckenridge is within easy access. Amenities include a fitness center & sauna, indoor pool, indoor & outdoor hot tubs, a sports/rental shop, grill/restaurant, and a business center with complimentary computers and printers. Our rooms have mini-refrigerators and complimentary WiFi. All units are non-smoking.

We're scheduled to depart Dulles Airport on United Airlines at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, March 5, and arrive nonstop in Denver at 10:30 a.m. We return the following Saturday, March 12, with a 12:55 p.m. departure from Denver and a 6:12 p.m. non-stop arrival at Dulles. Flight times often change a bit over the months preceding our trips, so check the Trip Details page on the club website for the current schedule.

To confirm your place, see me at a club meeting or sign up online and send me your deposit (\$500 per person, payable to the Pentagon Ski Club). If you're not yet a club member or if you need to renew, please include a separate check and a membership application. A \$500 interim payment will be due at our October 12 club meeting, and final payments (\$600) will be due at our December 14 club meeting. If you would like more information or wish to discuss special lodging or travel arrangements, please contact me at (202) 385-7207 (day); (301) 579-2749 (home); or dolsen@pentagonskiclub.org.



Red Mountain Where, What, Why & When?

By Steve Peirce

Red Mountain has been named one of the Top Ten Resorts of North America by Forbes Magazine, and might just be the greatest secret place you have never skied. The Pentagon Ski Club will be making our second ski trip



to Red Mountain, British Columbia, March 12-19, 2011. If you were not lucky enough to be on our first 2007 trip, read on.

Red Mountain is two and one-half hours north of Spokane, Washington, and just ten minutes across the Canadian border, and five minutes from the quaint town of Rossland. Since we are not flying to Canada you will need your valid passport when the bus crosses the border. Once you are there, you'll be treated to a mountain with a 2900 foot vertical, with 88 trails serviced by 6 lifts, abundant snow and no lift lines. For the advanced, Red Mountain's trees, steeps, and powder are amongst the best in Canada. There are also plenty of wide open groomed runs for beginner and intermediate skiers and boarders in the Silverlode and Paradise areas. We will be lodging in brand new 2-bedroom slopeside condos with shuttle service bus access to Rossland. Besides our 4 days of skiing at Red Mountain, we will ski at Whitewater Mountain Resort one day and have the option to ski with Big Red Cats one day.

Whitewater has a reputation for epic powder, receiving 40 feet annually. Powder Magazine says that Whitewater is "One of the best powder mountains on the continent." This horseshoe canyon has over 2000 feet of vertical, 13,000 skiable acres, 3 lifts, and 52 runs with plenty of open bowls, glades, chutes and tree skiing. We are expecting to have a great powder day at Whitewater on Tuesday.

On Thursday we have a \$320 option to go powder cat skiing with Big Red Cats, for a full day of untracked powder. Big Red Cats is located just minutes from Red Mountain and has access to 18,000 acres of bowls, old growth forest with some of the most amazing gladed powder skiing in the world.

While we have good flights on Air Alaska from Reagan National airport to Seattle/Spokane, we are limited to 24 air seats on the smaller Seattle/Spokane flight.

There is still one slope side condo vacant at the moment, so send your trip reservation & \$500 deposit to Steve Peirce, 19701 Golden Valley Lane, Brookeville, MD 20833 while the space is still available.

Taos Ski Valley

By Jim McDonough

Join the Pentagon Ski Club for its last trip of the season to the legendary Taos Ski Valley. Rich Reinecke and I will be leading this modestly priced (\$1340) trip departing on March 19, 2011 from National Airport and returning on March 26, 2011. The price includes transportation on American Airlines; transfers from Albuquerque to Taos; seven nights lodging at the slopeside Snakedance condominiums with continental breakfast; a 5-of-6 Day Lift Pass; and so much more.

The Taos Ski Valley is one of the gems of North American skiing with a stunning mountain setting in Northern New Mexico. The mountain offers solitude, remarkable natural beauty and bone dry powder in abundance. The ski area was founded by Ernie Blake, and blends the Swiss/French/Austrian founders' roots with the traditions and customs of the local Hispanic and Pueblo Indian cultures to produce something almost magical, and since 2009 this experience has been available to snowboarders too. For those into statistics, there are 12 lifts serving 1294 acres of skiing. The base elevation is 9,207 feet, the peak is at 11,819 feet; giving a lift served vertical of 2,612 feet with plenty more double-black-diamond skiing available with a short climb along the ridge. Average snow fall is 305 inches. Beginner Terrain: 24% // Intermediate Terrain: 25% // Expert Terrain: 51%. Although it has a reputation as an experts-only destination, Taos is an ideal choice for any skier serious about improving technique. Not only is there at least one green and blue run from the top of every lift, you can add the famous Taos Learn to Ski (or Snowboard) Better Ski Week from the #1 ski school in North America for \$200. This package provides five days of morning lessons for two+ hours each day. A 6th day upgrade is available for \$52 and includes lift ticket and lessons for the sixth day of skiing. Senior discounts for skiers Age 65 - 69 is \$30, and for skiers 70+ the discount is \$150.

Our stay at the Snakedance condos includes a group welcome party upon arrival, a group dinner hosted by the general manager at his house on Monday night, at least two scheduled evening trips to the town of Taos and a fleece vest from The Inn at Snakedance. Each condo has a gas fireplace, French doors & balcony, a built-in entertainment center, granite tile countertops, stone tile floors, and high-speed internet access. Additional on-site amenities include a grocery/convenience/package store and deli; a completely remodeled restaurant and bar; a remodeled spa & fitness facility; a guest lounge; and ski storage with boot dryers. The single supplement for this trip is \$380 per individual. There are other condo configurations (2BR/loft, 3BR, and 1BR) possibly available; if you're interested, speak to the trip leader.

If that's not enough to convince you to join us on this trip

consider the ambience of the town of Taos, about 30 minutes away, with more than 85 restaurants and bars, and many one-of-a-kind retail shops and galleries. Then, on mountain, there are the venerable charms of the Hotel St. Bernard's bar or Tim's Stray Dog Cantina at the end of the day and the opportunity to have lunch at the Bavarian Inn, providing an experience that will transport you to a gasthaus on the slopes of Austria.

If you are interested, medical trip insurance is available through our broker.

To secure your place on this trip, sign up online and send your deposit (\$500 per person, payable to the Pentagon Ski Club) to Jim McDonough, 916 DeWolfe Dr, Alexandria VA, 22308. An interim payment of \$440 will be due at the November meeting and the final \$400 will be due at the January 2011 meeting. If you would like more information or wish to discuss special lodging or travel arrangements, please call me at (703) 619-0020 or Rich at (703)509-5604, or e-mail me at psctaos2011@gmail.com.



Racing by Dave Olsen

2010 National Nastar Competition

As I mentioned at our April awards ceremony and in the Summer *Liftline*, 32 of our members registered and raced Nastar as members of the Pentagon Ski Club team, racing a total of 90 times.

Under Nastar rules, ski club teams are scored based on a Team Point Average. Team members score points based on the single best handicap they earned during the season: 1 point for finishing a race out of the medals, up to 4 points for a Bronze-medal run, up to 7 points for Silver, up to 9 points for Gold, and up to 10 points for earning a Platinum medal in your age/gender category. The number of medal points earned by the top fifteen team members are added together and averaged to get the team score.

Our top fifteen racers earned a Team Point Average of 6.673

that placed us 137th out of the 1,954 registered teams—the top 7 percent!

Individual Nastar Rankings

Nineteen of the 32 members that raced Nastar for the PSC last winter qualified for either the state or national rankings by having raced at least twice during the season. Skiers are ranked in their state of residence based on their second best handicap of the season. Two Nastar races on different days are required to qualify for the state rankings. To be ranked nationally, skiers must race in at least five Nastar races. The lowest (best) of a participant's handicaps is dropped and the best three remaining handicaps are averaged to determine a national ranking in their age and gender category.

Nastar ranks each racer based on the Division they're in—Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze. If you have two to four race days, your State Ranking handicap will determine which Division you're placed in. If you have five or more race days, your National Ranking handicap will determine which Division you're placed in.

Our results are listed in the table below. Nastar also ranks racers by age-group at each resort they raced at throughout the winter, and many of our racers placed well at the resorts where they raced—too much information to repeat here.

Nastar National Championships

The fastest recreational skiers and snowboarders in North America descended on Winter Park, Colorado March 25-28 to compete in the Nastar National Championships. More than 4,000 starts were recorded on Friday and Saturday to determine the National Champions in age, gender and divisional groups. Every National Champion was invited to a follow-on Race of Champions competition on Sunday, where the two fastest racers won

trips to South America to train with the US Ski Team.

To earn an invitation to the Nastar Nationals you had to rank in the top three in your age category at a Nastar resort. Ten of our racers did just that, although no one actually made the trek to Winter Park for the event. Nine of our invitees are identified in the table. The other was Townsend Belser who, with just one day raced, did not qualify for a state ranking. Winter Park will also host this-winter's competition on March 24-27, 2011.

2010-2011 Club Racing Venues

We expect to have Nastar available on seven of our trips this winter. Here's the lineup, including the days that Nastar is normally operated (subject to change) based on the schedule posted at Nastar.com:

- Our holiday trip to Jackson Hole. Nastar is available daily.
- Our mid-January trip to Copper Mountain. Nastar is available...
- Our late-January trip to Steamboat. Nastar is available daily.
- Our early February trip to Park City. Nastar is available daily at both Park City and Deer Valley. The Blue Ridge Ski Council Nastar race against all the other clubs will be on Wednesday at Park City.
- Our mid-February trip to Winter Park. Nastar is available daily.
- Our early-March trip to Breckenridge. Nastar is available daily at Breckenridge. Our lift tickets are also good at Vail (Nastar Wed-Sun), Beaver Creek (daily), and Keystone (Wed-Sun).
- Our late March trip to Taos. Nastar is available Wednesday through Sunday.

2010 Nastar State and National Rankings

| Name | Days Raced | State | Division | State Hcp. | State Rank | ...of | State Percentile | National Handicap | National Rank | ...of | National Percentile | Nat'l's Invite? |
|--------------------|------------|-------|----------|------------|------------|-------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Christina Anderson | 3 | VA | Silver | 48.08 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| Pat Berry | 2 | VA | Bronze | 59.44 | 2 | 6 | 17 | | | | | |
| Jerry Bennis | 2 | VA | Bronze | 63.91 | 3 | 3 | 67 | | | | | Yes |
| Don Blasl | 2 | VA | Bronze | 65.60 | 5 | 7 | 57 | | | | | |
| Dick Fiske | 3 | VA | Silver | 34.03 | 1 | 4 | 1 | | | | | |
| Evan Garrison * | 5 | VA | Silver | 38.68 | 4 | 4 | 75 | | | | | |
| Lee Hagenstad | 3 | CO | Silver | 62.98 | 3 | 3 | 67 | | | | | Yes |
| Roger Hanneman | 3 | VA | Silver | 42.50 | 2 | 4 | 25 | | | | | |
| Pat Hobitz | 2 | MA | Silver | 55.95 | 9 | 10 | 80 | | | | | |
| Randy Knack | 2 | VA | Silver | 33.86 | 4 | 7 | 43 | | | | | Yes |
| Nina Litton | 3 | VA | Gold | 42.62 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| Dave Olsen | 3 | MD | Gold | 23.08 | 2 | 2 | 50 | | | | | |
| Steve Peirce | 3 | MD | Bronze | 44.91 | 1 | 4 | 1 | | | | | |
| Lesla Scott | 2 | VA | Bronze | 59.00 | 1 | 6 | 1 | | | | | Yes |
| Jo Simpson | 4 | NV | Silver | 49.33 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | Yes |
| Ken Simpson | 3 | NV | Silver | 44.76 | 2 | 2 | 50 | | | | | Yes |
| Tom Strawbridge | 5 | MD | Bronze | 47.36 | 2 | 4 | 25 | 53.61 | 62 | 101 | 60 | Yes |
| Jay Weides | 15 | CO | Gold | 21.67 | 2 | 11 | 9 | 22.46 | 2 | 72 | 1 | Yes |
| Linda Wilkinson | 3 | VA | Bronze | 56.70 | 2 | 9 | 11 | | | | | Yes |

All rankings are within each skier's Nastar age-gender category.

State rankings require two races and are based on a skier's second-best result during the season.

National rankings require five races and are based on the average of the best three remaining results after throwing out a racer's season-best result.

* One of Evan's 5 results was on a snowboard, thus no National ranking

Update On Ski Helmets

By John B. Pratt II

(From Martin Forstenzer, contributor, *Ski* magazine)

Last season's death of actress Natasha Richardson revived the debate about making helmets mandatory on the slopes. Should there even be a debate?

The long-running helmet debate has expanded into serious discussions of requiring helmets for everyone on the snow. Vail Resorts, the largest ski operator in the country, recently mandated that all employees wear helmets while skiing or riding on the job, becoming the first company to do so.

Richardson remains the lightning rod for helmet proponents. She wasn't wearing a helmet when she fell in soft snow on a beginner slope. She seemed fine afterward, joking about the mishap, but her condition quickly worsened, and she died the next day from internal bleeding caused by a "blunt impact to the head," according to the New York City medical examiner's office. As it happens, the Association of Quebec Emergency Room Doctors had called for ski helmets to be made mandatory about a month before. After the highly publicized accident, the Quebec legislature began debating a law to make helmets mandatory for all skiers.

Two months before Richardson's death, the helmet debate had been stirred in Europe by another high-profile skiing fatality. Dieter Althaus, a prominent ally of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, collided with a 41-year-old woman at the Riesneralm resort in Austria. The woman, who was not wearing a helmet, died while being transported to medical care, while the helmeted Althaus was hospitalized with severe brain trauma. He recovered and was later convicted of manslaughter and fined approximately \$50,000.

Some industry officials view helmets as the seatbelts of our time: A generation ago few people used seatbelts; now they are universally accepted as standard safety gear, and to not use them while driving is considered reckless. For now, helmets remain a personal decision.

Colorado resident Shawn Carlson, 44, is a lifelong skier and has been wearing a helmet for more than a decade, a decision partly prompted by his love of skiing fast. "Any other sport in which you're going 30 miles per hour, you would wear a helmet," Carlson says. "So it seems logical I should wear one."

Now with all that said, how much is your brain worth? Or put another way, how much is it worth to you to be able to control all your body functions? That's a question from one of my Masters of Science in Safety professors at USC. There is an excellent article on the subject of ski helmets at <http://www.telemarktips.com/Helmets.html>. After you read it, you'll realize that through PSC you no longer have an excuse to ski without wearing a helmet. On the subject of safety it dawned on me one day that I would never think of driving my car without the seat belts fastened. That same epiphany also occurred to me on the subject of helmets. As a helicopter pilot, I would never dream of starting a helicopter without a helmet on, even if I wasn't flying it anywhere. Nor would the Arlington County Chief of Police ever think of riding his bike again without wear-

ing a helmet. But the thought of spending \$100+ for a helmet kind of held me back for a while, (God knows why, considering the price of skiing).

Now for the price of a lunch on the slopes you can have your own personal "Brain Bucket." The PSC is offering ASTM 2040 certified ski helmets. The ASTM certification process for ski helmets is explained in the above link. I will also have a copy of it with me at club meetings. For those of you who are really fashion conscious, at \$23 each, you can have one that matches all your ski outfits. That is the price for ordering and delivery a helmet at the next club meeting. If you want it delivered to your home, the price goes up to \$41.45 regardless of where you order it. They come in Black (as pictured here), Red, Blue, Silver, and Hot Pink. You can order them at club meetings and have them by the next meeting at \$23 each. If you can't make the meetings, but want me to order one for you, send me an e-mail and I'll send you back the size charts and the website to choose your color(s) along with an order form. As soon as I get your check, I'll order the helmet(s) and when they come in I will let you know so we can make arrangements to get you your helmet, unless you want it delivered direct to you home at \$41.45 ea.



PSC Logo Items

Want to get extra Ski Lotto tickets or just some great clothing? At all ski club meetings except the picnic we have Ski Lotto, and if you are wearing something with the PSC logo on it, you are entitled to an extra ticket. Even if you don't attend the meetings or play Ski Lotto, the logo items are a great way to show off your club while you are on the slopes. We have all of the following in stock: automobile license plate holders, baseball caps, and cloisonné ski pins.

For clothing and others item such as tote bags, our supplier is Jill Lee of *Jill's Designs*. Jill has set up a web site at www.jillsembroidery.com.

It's also on the PSC website as a link. At the website you can pick the item you want from the pictures shown there, but if you don't see it listed don't hesitate to contact Jill directly. Just pick out what you want, print out the order form, mail it to Jill, and she'll get back to you when it's ready.

In addition to picking out the basic color of the item you want, you also get to pick out the colors on the logo: the skier; the pentagon diagram; and the words can be all the same color or whatever colors you want them to be.



Italy and the Adriatic

By Christina Anderson

Our summer vacation trips have proven so successful over the last several years that the PSC decided to keep doing it. At our summer picnic and our September membership meeting, we introduced our proposed trip to Italy and the Adriatic, which got a lot of immediate response. This will be a two week, April 14-28 trip (to beat the summer Mediterranean heat) for \$3900/person

Our adventurous and luxurious trip includes a 7-day Cruise on the fabulous Azamara Journey (the same ship we cruised on in the Baltic) and a 6-day land excursion of Italy. We'll have a nonstop flight from Dulles to Rome and spend Friday and Saturday in the Eternal City before embarking on our 7-day/7-night cruise. After leaving the ship and Venice, we'll spend 3 nights in Florence, the beautiful city of Renaissance. We will have plenty of time to shop for fantastic treasures while in Florence and also visit the Tuscan hill towns and have a chance to taste wonderful Chianti and Barolla (and other) wines. Our last day in Italy will be spent in the splendor of Bologna, the heart of gastronomic Italy. The price includes roundtrip airfare, lodging, transfers, a world class cruise with all meals and wine with lunch and dinner; breakfast daily with the land tour in Italy and medical and evacuation insurance. Trip cancellation insurance is additional.



Schedule:

- Thu, Apr 14 Depart US
- Fri, Apr 15 Check into 4-star Hotel Universo in Rome.
- Sat, Apr 16 Rome
- Sun, Apr 17 Departs Rome 1 PM to board the Azamara Journey. In Rome (Civitavecchia). Departs 6 PM
- Mon, Apr 18 Sorrento, Italy; tenders 7 AM; departs 7 PM. Visit Capri, and/or Pompei
- Tue, Apr 19 Taormina, Sicily; tenders 8 AM; departs 11 PM
- Wed, Apr 20 Corfu, Greece; docks 6 PM
- Thu, Apr 21 Corfu, Greece; departs 2 PM
- Fri, Apr 22 Dubrovnik, Croatia; docks 7 AM; departs 5 PM
- Sat, Apr 23 Venice; docks 2 PM
- Sun, Apr 24 Venice; depart ship in the AM. We transfer by private charter bus from the pier to the Santa Lucia high speed train station, for the 2+ hour train ride to

- Mon, Apr 25
- Tue, Apr 26

Florence's Santa Maria Novella station. Transfer to the 4-star Hotel Rivoli.

Florence: free time on your own. We'll have a day trip by bus to three Tuscan hill towns in "Chianti Country." We will perhaps visit Siena, San Gimignano, among others. We'll be in Florence overnight.

- Wed, Apr 27

We check out of hotel after breakfast and head onto a 90-minute drive to the magnificent City of Bologna for an overnight stay.

- Thu, Apr 28

Depart early for the 15-minute drive to the international airport in Bologna. Arrive at Dulles via Frankfurt

Flight Information:

Nonstop Dulles to Rome on United with return from Bologna on Lufthansa connecting to United in Frankfurt:

Depart IAD UA #966 6:02 PM April 14

Arrive FCO 8:30 AM on April 15

Depart BLQ LH #291 6:35 AM April 28;

Arrive FRA 8:05 AM April 28

Depart FRA UA #953 11:00 AM April 28

Arrive IAD 1:56 PM April 28

Payment Schedule:

Deposit: \$500; Dec. 8: \$1000; Jan. 12: \$1000;

Feb. 9: \$1400;

Although we are currently wait-listed, all trips change, so if you are interested, contact Christina Anderson at 703-719-6714 or gerakisparta@yahoo.com; or assistant tripleader Anne Willemann at 703-941-7910.

In addition, don't forget that we have an October trip planned for the north and south islands of New Zealand (this is during their spring; it's not a ski trip) with a return beach stopover on the Cook Islands. More information will be coming soon, but you can contact Anne Willemann if you are interested in visiting the jewel of the Antipodes.



Corfu



Dubrovnik



Venice

**December 26
- January 1
\$1490**



6 nights in 49er Inn (hotel rooms) with Elk BBQ dinner & daily continental breakfast. 4-day lift ticket at Jackson Hole plus one day at Grand Targhee. NASTAR available for racing enthusiasts. RT on American from Reagan National to Jackson through Chicago.

Contact Maggie Fitzgerald at 703-461-3027 or magsfitzgerald@comcast.net.

**January 8-15
\$1615**



7 nights in 2BR/2BA condos at Delta Whistler Village Suites at Blackcomb base. 6-day lift ticket. RT on Delta from Reagan National to Vancouver through Minneapolis.

Contact Steve Peirce at 301-924-5173 or sypeirce@verizon.net.

**January 12-17
\$970**



MLK-weekend trip, Wednesday-to-Monday. 5 nights in 2BR/2BA condos at Copper Mountain Lodging (Silver-level units). 4-day lift ticket. NASTAR available for racing enthusiasts. RT nonstop on United from Dulles to Denver.

Contact Lucy Gruenther at 703-927-9287 or Lmandwx@hotmail.com.

**January 22-
29
\$1270**



7 nights in 2BR/2BA LaCasa Condos. 5-day lift ticket. NASTAR available daily for racing enthusiasts. RT nonstop on United from Dulles to Denver.

Contact Linda Wilkinson at 571-312-6190 or ljwilkins@cox.net/or Lesa Scott at 703-250-3211 or lesa.scott@navy.mil.

**January 28 -
February 6/10
\$2500**



7 nights in 3-Star+ Hotel Bristol with daily breakfast & 5 dinners. RT nonstop on United from Dulles to Geneva. RT train to Zermatt. Extra night on the 5th in Geneva's Hotel Edelweiss with buffet breakfast. Optional post-trip extension to French Riviera (\$780) returns Feb 10. Emergency medical & repatriation insurance (not cancellation insurance) included. Lift tickets not included

Contact Joel Gardner at 703-430-5963 or pu2u2army@yahoo.com.

**February 5-12
\$1590**



BRSC Western Carnival! 7 nights in the Yarrow Resort Hotel with daily buffet breakfast. 5-day lifts including 2 at Park City, 2 at Deer Valley, & 1 at The Canyons. NASTAR race, welcome party, apres ski party, & farewell dinner/dance. RT nonstop on Delta from Dulles to Salt Lake City.

Contact John Pratt at 703-534-5759 or snowsnke@aol.com.

February 13-19

\$1130



Budget-saving Sunday-to-Saturday trip. 6 nights lodging at baseside Vintage Hotel with daily breakfast. 5-day lift ticket. NASTAR available for racing enthusiasts. RT nonstop on United from Dulles to Denver.

Contact Steve Thompson at 703-435-5170 or stevethompsonva@gmail.com

February 19-26

\$1460



Presidents Week - 7 nights in hotel-room suites at The Lodge at Big Sky with daily breakfast buffet. 5-day lift ticket - 3 at Big Sky & 2 at neighboring Moonlight Basin. RT on Delta from Reagan National to Bozeman through Minneapolis.

Contact Christina Anderson at 703-719-6714 or gerakisparta@yahoo.com.

February 25-

March 5/9

\$2040



BRSC Eurofest! 7 nights in 4-Star Hotel Cheval Blanc with daily breakfast & 4 dinners, welcome party, apres-ski party & farewell dinner/dance. RT nonstop on United from Dulles to Geneva. Optional post-trip extension to London (\$685) returns March 9. Emergency medical & repatriation insurance (not cancellation insurance) included. Lift tickets not included.

Contact Peter Porton at 703-471-7791 or prespsc@comcast.net.

March 5- 12

\$1600



7 nights in the Great Divide Lodge (hotel rooms), just 50 yards from the lifts at Peak 9 and two short blocks from historic Main Street. 5-day lift ticket good also at 4 other resorts. NASTAR available for racing enthusiasts. RT nonstop on United from Dulles to Denver. Resort is hosting a welcome reception!

Contact Dave Olsen at 301-579-2749 or dolsen@pentagonskiclub.org

March 12-19

\$1550



7 nights in 2BR/2BA deluxe on-mountain Red Mountain Condos with welcome reception. 4-day lift tickets at Red Mountain and 1-day (with bus) at Whitewater Resort. RT from Reagan National to Spokane on Alaska Airlines through Seattle.

Contact Steve Peirce at 301-924-5173 or scpeirce@verizon.net.

March 19-26

\$1340



7 nights in slopeside 2BR/2BA Snakedance Condos with welcome reception & daily continental breakfast. 5-day lift ticket. NASTAR available for racing enthusiasts. RT on Delta from Reagan National to Albuquerque through Atlanta. Custom fleece vest for each participant.

Contact Jim McDonough at 703-619-0020 or psctaos2011@gmail.com

Pentagon Ski Club

The Liftline

Peter Porton, Editor

11918 Moss Point Lane

Reston, VA 20194

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Fall 2010



CLUB HOTLINE: 703-471-7791

CLUB WEBSITE: WWW.PENTAGONSKICLUB.ORG

MEETING DIRECTIONS: WWW.PENTAGONSKICLUB.ORG/DIRECTIONS.PHP



The next membership meetings of this ski season are on October 12, November 9 and December 14. Check Page 2 for our full season schedule.

Our trips are selling very well so be sure to call your tripleaders before they are sold out! The schedule is listed inside.

Our meetings start at 7 PM, or earlier for some of the old-timers. But remember, don't drink and drive!

