

President's Corner
By Dave Olsen



The snow has been accumulating at our Western resorts, with some of them already open and many more expected by Thanksgiving. I'm ready to go skiing — how about you?!

We started our fall with two well-attended membership meetings in September and October, and will have another meeting under our belts — quite literally, by the time you read this — with the complimentary Thanksgiving feast at our November 12 meeting! Trip signups have been brisk, with several of our trips either filled or nearly so and starting to build waiting lists.

We rarely advertise when a trip is wait-listed, as it tends to discourage interested members (or prospective members) from contacting our trip leaders. We'd rather have you get in touch so we can explain the trip status and encourage you to get on the wait list. If your heart is set on a particular trip, we suggest that you to send us a check to hold onto. We can then confirm you on the trip quickly if something opens up, without having to wait for your check to arrive in the mail. This is especially helpful as a trip nears departure and we're trying to replace a last-minute cancellation. We won't deposit your check until a space opens up and you confirm that you still want to go. A successful last-minute replacement is a win-win situation for both you and the skier who had to cancel.

While we're all getting ready for this-winter's trips, the club Council is already looking ahead to next winter and laying out a tentative trip schedule.

The ten-person Council is elected by the club membership for three-year terms. Each April you vote to fill the three or four positions with expiring terms, listed on Page 2 of the newsletter. We encourage you to get involved in club leadership by attending our Council meetings, which are open to all members



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

By Joel Gardner

For the past eighteen years, at our December 10 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 (see www.breadforthecity.org). Through the use of volunteers, donors and pro bono work, Bread for the City consistently ranks among the highest in the percent of contributionns that actually get to the needy. *The Washington Post* consistently awards them for their 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* less than \$30 to provide a full meal for a family of four. 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.

This year as in years past we will be collecting money for *Holiday Helpings* and clothing for their year-round 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 10 meeting but would like to contribute, please send a check made out to *Bread for the City* to me at 40 Christopher Ln., Potomac Falls, VA 20165-6209. I'll be delivering our contributions of money and clothing after the meeting.



Pentagon Ski Club

2013-2014 Council & Committees

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The Liftline is issued quarterly. All 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

2013-2014

PSC MEETING SCHEDULE

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

- *Picnic, Saturday, July 20*
- *Tuesday, September 10*
- *Tuesday, October 8*
- *Tuesday, November 12*
- *Tuesday, December 10*
- *Tuesday, January 14*
- *Tuesday, March 11*
- *Tuesday, April 8*



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



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and announced on our website. Any member interested in running for Council should contact Peter Porton (703-471-7791 or psc001@verizon.net). Peter is chairing our election committee and will announce our slate of candidates — and take nominations from the floor — at our January 14 membership meeting.

Speaking of our meetings, on December 10 our own Susie Pumphrey will tell us about altitude acclimatization and the warning signs for stroke and heart attack. We'll also hear from a new DC-based ski manufacturer, Kicker Snowsports. And we'll have our annual drive for the local Bread for the City nonprofit. Joel Gardner will collect your gently used clothing and cash donations. At our January 14 meeting, Jim Albright will give us some tips on skiing more efficiently.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Holidays, and I'll see you at our meetings and on the slopes!



By Fred Gardinier

I apologize for the delay in submitting this for the newsletter. When we returned from Durango, I was distracted and thought I had submitted this article. I did take it to Suzanne Schaeffer so she could read it before she got too sick to read. She was delighted with it.

The Durango trip is in the books. Everyone was there for the flight of the year from Denver to Durango. This is the first time I have been on a flight where the attendants explained how to avoid air sickness. Cabin service was suspended by the captain because of the anticipated rough air. I have been on rougher flights but it has been a while. No one had to use the air sickness bags, which was good. The luggage all made it fine and our transportation was waiting at the airport. The ride to the Strater was uneventful and they checked us in and sent us to our rooms very swiftly. Everyone met across the street at the Lady Falconburgh's Saloon. We had a table reserved for 5 pm and ordered several trays of hors d'oeuvres. Let me say, Hank eats more chicken than any man I've seen. When it was near Hank, you had to be careful when reaching for the chicken. Joanne loved the nachos with spinach and artichoke dip. I was barely able to lick anything off the side of the dish when she was finished with it. Robert and Jon told Mary all about their auto speed shop while Lesa and Hank tried to watch the fight on the TV, or was it a hockey game?

On Monday the bus picked up all those skiing for the day at the front door. On the bus trip to Durango, Mary kept commenting how well her new boots fit. The base lodge at Durango is very small, just slightly larger than Whitetail or Liberty. Those renting skis had decided to rent on the mountain and not bother carrying them back and forth on the bus. Mary was able to get hers and Luella's for half price. It must have been the smile she had for the rental guy. Everyone went out and skied, except the trip leader who diligently stayed at the bottom to help with any problems that might crop up. Or maybe he did not ski because of his broken knee. Everyone, except the Gardinier boys who had their own transportation, met for the return trip to the hotel at 3:45. Mary's boots were not fitting as well as she had hoped. But she had an appointment for the on-slope ski shop to work on them the next day. When we got back to the hotel John JaJack and his fiancée Joanna were there. John has gone on some of our overseas trips or joined Suzanne when she went with the

Pentagon Ski Club Invite a Friend or Relative

By Maggie Fitzgerald

It is not a secret—skiing is addictive and can provide wonderful rewards to all ages. Pentagon Ski Club membership meetings are open to all—so why not bring a guest who would enjoy our club and skiing or snowboarding? I bet all of us know of a friend or neighbor who skied and would like to get back to the slopes more often. We have room on some of our trips—let's share the joy!

We may also be aware of those folks who would love to try skiing. Perhaps you can take the time to share the joy of skiing by sponsoring a day trip for a beginner skier. Let's keep the slopes alive; your encouragement or gentle invitation may be all a young person needs to experience a life changing adventure.

There are good deals for local outings. For example, Liberty Mountain Ski Resort, www.libertymountainresort.com offers the *Advantage Family Card* allowing a spouse and child to ski free for the season for only \$199. Deals are available for singles, as well.

If you have a military connection, inexpensive rental equipment is available with Recreation Services at Joint Bolling Air Force Base.

There is a national program geared to expanding the skier base called *Bring a Friend*. Check their website at www.skiandsnowboardmonth.org and take the challenge to win prizes and rewards for introducing a new person to the slopes.

Better yet—recruit a member to the Pentagon Ski Club!

club both overseas and in the states. Glenn, another friend of Suzanne's also had driven up from AZ to ski with her. Like John, Glenn has also taken a PSC trip or met us to ski with Suzanne. What a popular lady!

The club members split up into two or three groups for dinner. I went with my boys, Hank, John, and Joanna. The bus drivers recommended the hamburger special at the Olde Timers Café. There the burgers were reasonably priced but not as awesome as anticipated. Don't get me wrong they were great burgers, just not best I've ever eaten. After leaving the café we checked to see if Lesa's group was finished eating. Hank went into their restaurant and was able to determine they were still there by hearing Lesa's voice and laugh. We then proceeded back to our hotel only to be stopped by an ad at the Irish Embassy Pub. Inside, our waitress Page was most attentive, and the drinks were good. Page invited us back for dinner and a trivia game on Wednesday. So Hank took her up on the suggestion, and arrangements were made for 6 spaces at her table on Wednesday. Hank was really excited about the trivia game and the prospect of a sound check with Page. Meanwhile Mary, Luella, and Joanne ate at the hotel where they met a handsome young cowboy. They all danced after dinner and had some drinks. At the end of the evening Luella and Joanne left Mary and the cowboy in the bar. Certainly nothing happened, but it should be noted Mary had the only single accommodation room.

Having been bored to tears the first day waiting for those skiing to return, I opted to stay in Durango the rest of the week. I sent the skiers off every day at the kiss and go bus stop in front of the Strater. For those who have not been to Durango, I have some news. The town is small but has many restaurants and shops within walking distance, even a yarn shop that Lesa can direct you to. There is a free trolley stop across the street that allows you to access the majority of the town. If you are fortunate enough to know someone in town or rent a car, there are several sightseeing places near by. John JaJack's fiancée, Joanna, came with John so she could crutch around with me. She had planned on skiing but broke her foot just before their trip. So Tuesday we drove to Mesa Verde and crutched around the various sites. We even crutched down to the Spruce Tree House dwelling site. However, Joanna would not allow me to climb down the ladder to the underground portion of the site. We failed to start early enough in the day and did not take into account our slow "walking." So we were able to see only 25% of the sites and exhibits at Mesa Verde. But what we saw left me wanting to go back to explore more of this great national park. We made it back to the Strater in time to welcome the PSC ski bus back. Everyone had a good time skiing their second day. They commented that the snow was hard in the morning but softened in the afternoon, almost like spring skiing in the East.

Wednesday, several PSC members noted that Joanne lost her sole at Purgatory. It happened at the end of the day of skiing before she made it to the bus. But with lots of prayers and help from Mike she was able to mend her ways, er sole, with shoe GOO purchased from a local hardware store. Suzanne met with

her friends from Durango and visited with them after skiing part of the day. Lesa also met up with friends from the town and together with Mary took a tour of the town. After skiing Hank, Luella, my boys and I went for the dinner and trivia contest at the Irish Embassy Pub. Page had called in sick but she had made arrangements for us to have another waitress. Hank was disappointed he was unable to get a sound check with Page, but we were all sorry to hear the trivia contest did not start until 8 pm. After dinner everyone left but Hank. Luella went off to find the cowboy and some dancing, only to return later to join Hank and Lesa for the trivia contest. I am told the PSC crew came in second. One of the questions was to name the 7th and 12th presidents of the US and also the first black woman to run for office of the president. Our crew got this but so did some of the other college kids in the crowd. I will let you look up the names or you can ask Hank, Lesa, and Luella who did not have to look it up to get the names. A tough trivia game to be sure.

By Thursday there were only two on the bus to ski. Pat and Joanne skied Durango alone, but made arrangements to meet the bus earlier for the return to town. Robert, Jon, and John JaJack spent Wednesday night in Silverton so they could ski the Silverton ski area. This is an advanced/experts only area and required a guide. Everyone had to carry a shovel, probe, and avalanche beacon. The lift rose 2,000 feet and then you had to hike a small distance to ski from 13,000 feet. My boys had been exercising 4-5 days a week to get in shape for this. Afterwards they said they were not in good enough shape, especially for exercise at this altitude. Mike, Mary, and Lesa joined her friend in Durango and drove to Mesa Verde to see the sites. Hank and Don stayed in town for the day. Suzanne, Joanna and I drove to Pagosa Springs to soak in the hot springs. The spa we visited had many in-ground hot tub pools with water from 99 to 110 degrees. We even soaked in the adults-only area. What a view, of the surrounding area, not the other bathers. Clothing is optional in the adults-only area and there are no kids splashing around or making noise.

Our last day for skiing in Durango saw many of us taking the narrow gauge train trip towards Silverton. Because of the snow the train does not go all the way to Silverton in the winter, but stops in Cascade Canyon about half way there. The train trip was excellent. When you go on the train ride, opt for the deluxe or first class tickets. They both have great seating and only differ in that first class provides a free mug and tote bag. There is an attendant in both coaches but the first class also has a bar, although you can order drinks from your attendant in either class. This train was featured in Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid and has been in many other films.

I can only say that for my first time as a trip leader this was a great trip. I am sure everyone had a great time, and no one came back on crutches, except me.

Next time Durango comes up as a destination I would highly recommend this area, be it in winter, spring or fall. There are lots of things to do and see in and around the area. The skiing can be as challenging as you like with Durango, Silverton and Wolf Creek ski areas near by.



Winter Park

By Susie Pumphrey

Come ski with PSC at Winter Park January 12-18, 2014. Enjoy the expansive terrain and legendary snow. There are 143 trails, 3,081 skiable acres, and an average snowfall of 326" over the past 10 years. 26 lifts with a total uphill capacity of 38,000 riders per hour will keep you out of the line and up on the snow. The vertical drop is 3,060 feet with longest run being 4.6 miles. We will be staying at the newly updated (2012) Vintage Hotel in studio rooms with 2 queens and a kitchenette with 2 burner stove, microwave, sink and refrigerator for each unit. This Winter Park classic is the perfect place to soak in the heated outdoor pool under the stars. Dine onsite at the Five Mountain tavern or chill out in the Churchill Bar (once tarnished by the ashes of Winston's cigar). There are eight restaurant and après ski establishments on the mountain and 11 more in the Village.

The Village Cabriolet, an open-air gondola takes us from the hotel to the base of the Village at Winter Park. There is also a free, local shuttle service called The Lift that runs from Winter Park Resort to Winter Park and Fraser where more restaurants and shops are hoping you will visit. The new Coca-Cola Tubing area features four lanes of tubing, conveyer lift access, and a state-of-the-art warming building with restrooms and hot chocolate service. Ice skating is free on the Village pond. The NASTAR public race arena is open Friday-Monday from 11am-3pm on Lower Cranmer. You can also go snowmobiling, dog-sledding, ski biking, snowshoeing and snowcatting. And, yes, there is a spa. For more info, go to: www.winterparkresort.com.

Winter Park Resort was originally a construction camp at the west entrance of the Moffat Tunnel and named, appropriately, West Portal, hence West Portal Station, the base area's main building. Many of the ski runs at Winter Park are named after people. Cranmer was manager of the parks for the City of Denver in the late 1930's and recommended that the city develop a winter park for the city. The run that now houses the half pipe was named for Allan Phipps who once owned the Denver Broncos. It is said that the Mary Jane placer mine was named for the popular proprietress of a local sporting house. Ski hats off to Sterling Way who was a railroad engineer. After an avalanche on Corona Pass, he rode down the mountain to safety on a coal shovel to wire for help. A legendary crew of French-Canadian loggers cut Mary Jane's trails by day and drank by night. And so the name—Drunken Frenchman. The Moffat Tunnel, visible from

the base of Winter Park Resort was named after David Moffat, an important financier and railroad builder. The tunnel is 6.2 miles long.

This is a kid-friendly resort with child care, lessons, camps and daily free family activities in the village. Kids stay free if they are the 3rd or 4th person in the room with their parents.

Trip cost: \$1100. This includes round trip air to Denver on United 427 leaving at 10:00 AM, arriving Denver at 11:59 AM. Depart Denver United 794 at 12:45 PM, arrive Dulles 6:05 PM, round trip ground transfers with grocery and beverage stop, 6 nights lodging, 5-day lift ticket and a welcome function from our mountain host. A single supplement is \$356. A non-skier deduction is \$205. For a 4-day lift ticket deduct \$42.

To reserve your spot, sign up online at www.pentagonskiclub.org and send in your \$500 deposit. If you need any more information you can call me at 703-691-3944 or e-mail me at wachtraum@msn.com.



By Dave Olsen and Christina Anderson

The eight internationally renowned resorts of Les Trois Vallées (The Three Valleys)—Courchevel, La Tania, Méribel, Brides les Bains, Les Menuires, Saint Martin, Val Thorens and Orelle — together comprise the largest ski area in the world. Linked together by more than 300 ski runs from 1,300 to 3,230 meters altitude and nearly 200 ski lifts, the resorts boast 600 km of interconnected trails. The area is blessed with good natural snow cover, but they also have some 1,500 snow guns to help cover the slopes.

We're staying in the heart of the region, Méribel, which is probably the prettiest of the Three Valleys towns with its wooden chalet buildings, and which hosted the women's Alpine skiing events of the 1992 Winter Olympics. Our 3-star Le Mérilys Hotel is situated conveniently at Rond Point, close to shops and restaurants and right next to the slopes for a rare ski-in/ski-out experience in Europe. This is the same friendly hotel where the club stayed on our 2009 trip, and is the best place to start each day without going through the main base area: Less waiting and more skiing! And it's right by a stop on the free shuttle to downtown Méribel, about a 10-minute ride away. Hotel amenities include a bar, a lounge with a fireplace, a game room and a sauna.

Our \$2750 trip package includes daily breakfast at the hotel and five dinners at the nearby La Cava restaurant; lift tickets are extra. We depart Dulles on United Airlines Friday evening, January 17, and arrive nonstop in Geneva the next morning for our bus ride to Méribel. We fly home, nonstop on United from Geneva to Dulles, on Saturday, January 25.



Lake Tahoe The Complete Package

By Jean Esteve

Join us for a “complete package” skiing event as we are heading to South Lake Tahoe February 8-15, 2014. This Blue Ridge Ski Council-sponsored trip offers it all: great and varied skiing, fabulous accommodations, and lots to do day and night! In terms of skiing, the mountain (or more accurately, the mountains), and proximity to the slopes; we will be one block from the gondola at the foot of Heavenly Mountain. Heavenly alone spans 4,800 acres in California and Nevada, with 97 plus runs, 30 lifts and a vertical drop of 3,500 feet. Our package includes a 5-out-of-6 day lift ticket for Heavenly that is also good at Northstar and Kirkwood resorts, which greatly expands the variety of skiing available. Transportation to Northstar and Kirkwood is available at a nominal additional cost. And if the group wants even more variety, we can collectively change our ski lift package to add Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows resorts for a small additional fee which includes transportation. Regarding available skiing, it doesn’t get much better and ski lift reductions are available for seniors and for Epic Pass holders. Skiing is not the only part of this phenomenal package. We will be staying seven nights in the Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel, formerly Embassy Suites. Ownership is unchanged, but rather than paying Hilton for the Embassy Suites name, ownership is reinvesting in the property with no reduction or change in any of the great services at the property, including a full daily buffet breakfast and daily afternoon manager’s reception with drinks and après-ski snacks. Guests will enjoy a two room suite including one king or two queen beds, a separate sitting area/living room, mini-kitchen, refrigerator, microwave, two TV’s, and free WIFI; all making for very comfortable lodging. For those wishing their own suite, a \$697 single supplement is available. As for other-than-skiing activities and “après ski” fun, Tahoe has plenty of the both. Visitors can enjoy sleigh rides and ice skating, or



snowmobiling along the crest of the Sierra Mountains with spectacular views of pristine of Lake Tahoe below. After hours, South Lake Tahoe’s nightlife is limitless, with casinos and associated entertainment, as well a large variety of restaurants, bars, and nightclubs. We are scheduled to depart for Tahoe from National Airport on Delta at 10:30 A.M. Saturday, February 8th, with a connection in Salt Lake City, and arrive in Reno around noon. A scenic one hour bus ride will have us at Lake Tahoe in the early afternoon. Our return flight departs Reno at 10:55 A.M. on Saturday, February 15th, with stops in Salt Lake City and Minneapolis, and arriving National at 10:39 P.M. Having two connections on our return, instead of just a single connection, allowed us to lower the trip by \$200. So, if you are looking for great skiing, exquisite accommodations, and fun off the slopes; join us and sign-up online. If you have any questions, please contact Jean Estève at jesteve@comcast.net. See you in Tahoe!



Presidents Snow-Week In Crested Butte

By Joel Gardner

Spend Presidents Week, 16-22 February, in the last real cowboy town left in Colorado. A small group of lucky and plucky PSC skiers will get to spend six days at an amazing ski area tucked away in the remote southwest corner of Colorado. It’s far enough away from the crowds hitting the Interstate ski areas near Denver to give us relatively uncrowded conditions even on a holiday week. Crested Butte is still a small town well off the radar of the chic crowds that have spoiled Telluride and other great little ski towns. How small is it? Crested Butte is so small that Oprah doesn’t even have a mansion there! With a permanent population of only 2,395 people, 30,713 cows and 385 dogs, they don’t yet have their first stop light; but they do have a monster mountain! And it definitely is a skiers’ mountain with a peak of 12,162 feet and a skiing vertical drop of 2,775 feet (longest run 2.6 miles). Despite having the best extreme skiing terrain of black and double black diamonds in all Colorado, 57% of the ski trails are intermediate and groomed, so there is plenty of skiing for every level of skier.

People in Colorado may consider Crested Butte too difficult to get to, but for us it will be a piece of cake. We fly out of Reagan National on American Airlines to Denver with connections to Gunnison Airport. That leaves us just a short 28-mile ride by private motor coach to Crested Butte. Our accommodations are at the Grand Lodge, a full-service hotel, in Mt. Crested Butte Village at the base of the mountain and only 200 yards from the main lift. Our rooms are spacious hotel suites with twin king beds and a kitchenette (refrigerator, microwave and small

cook-top). The hotel (a former Sheraton) also offers a bar and restaurant (the Woodstone Grill), the Wildflower spa (with massages), a year-around heated indoor/outdoor pool, a fitness center and a business center (for those who just can't leave it all behind), and its own ski shop. There are no meals included on this trip (other than a pizza party/mixer the night we arrive), but there are 10 places to eat and drink within a short walk of the hotel in the compact base area. We will also be making a grocery stop enroute to Crested Butte for people to stock up with food and drink for their rooms. The main town of Crested Butte is just a quick shuttle-ride away (buses run every 15 minutes – free!) and offers some of the finest restaurants of every price range to be found anywhere in Colorado. For those interested in the nightlife, it all begins in the friendly bars in the base area and later moves into Crested Butte for those hearty enough to party hearty after a full day of hard skiing.

Skiing is, ostensibly, the reason for the trip. Our trip includes a 4-out-of-5 day lift pass (a fifth day can be added for \$35 in advance). Our lift pass also includes one free entry into the new Adventure Park located in the base area with bungee trampolines, a rock climbing tower, tubing, “flying gopher” mini-golf and a new AirBag jump. This trip has been deliberately planned as a smaller trip so we will all be able to spend more individual time with each other. When you put all these things together, this is going to be a super trip to a really great ski area. Sign up online at the Pentagon Ski Club website or contact me at pu2u2army@yahoo.com for more information.



Fernie, British Columbia, Last Call For Limited Space

By Steve Peirce

Our thirty airline seats for the Fernie, British Columbia ski trip are almost all sold out. The \$1620 trip price is based on double occupancy in each bedroom; single supplement upgrades are available for an extra \$320. We're scheduled to depart Reagan National Airport on Delta at 8:30 AM Saturday, March 22, with an arrival in Kalispell, Montana at 1:37 PM.

Half way thru our two hour bus ride to Fernie we will easily pass thru customs at the border, without the usual hassle we experience at Canadian airports. We return the following Saturday, March 29, with a 2:25 PM departure from Kalispell and

10:39 PM arrival at Reagan National.

Our trip includes a 5-day Fernie lift ticket that is also good for our day trip to Kimberly, BC and can be upgraded to a 6-day lift ticket if pre-purchased for \$60. Our 7-night hotel lodging at the Fernie Slopeside Lodge is conveniently located on the mountain, just a few steps away from the Village Plaza. The lodge features two indoor Jacuzzis, ski/board storage lockers, and laundry facilities. The rooms have two double beds, flat screen TVs, mini-fridges, coffee makers and daily housekeeping.

Check with me regarding the last available spaces at (301) 924-5173.



Copper Mountain: An Adventure Waiting For You!

By Lucy G

Copper opened for the season on November 1st and is reporting 3 lifts, 6 trails, and 73 skiable acres open. Not much compared to the 23 lifts, 140+ marked trails, 2,465 skiable acres it boasts, but ya have to start somewhere! There is plenty of time for Copper to build a nice base for our March trip.

Have fun riding the trails, and learn about Copper and the surrounding area at the same time! Two of the ways to do this at Copper are the mountain ambassador tours and the Ski With a Ranger program. Both opportunities are free and are open to riders of intermediate ability (i.e., can comfortably ski/ride blue runs). You may already be familiar with mountain ambassador tours, as many ski resorts offer them. The mountain ambassadors have a wealth of information about the area, history and wildlife and provide twice-daily on-the-snow orientations of the mountain and can also provide other useful information, such as restaurant recommendations and favorite trails to ride. The Ski With a Ranger program is an on-mountain nature tour led by volunteer park rangers, where you will learn about the natural and cultural history of Summit County and the White River National Forest. During our visit, we will have the opportunity to participate in one of these ranger-guided tours on Friday, March 21st.

The trip package price is \$1300 and includes round-trip airfare from Dulles to Denver, airport transfers, Copper Mountain Silver-level slope-side condos and a 5-day Copper Mountain Secret!Pass lift ticket, that allows access to a dedicated liftline at 7 of the most popular lifts. The Secret!Pass also allows for a 15 minute head start every morning on the American Eagle lift. Fresh tracks, here we come! Our units have full kitchens, fireplaces

(with complimentary firewood), and free WiFi. We'll enjoy free use of the Copper Mountain Athletic Club with its full-size pool, hot tubs, saunas, steam room, and exercise equipment. Add \$50 for a 6th day Copper lift ticket. Add \$469 for the single supplement if you prefer a room (not a condo) to yourself.

Copper is located in the White River National Forest in Summit County, Colorado, just 75 miles west of Denver. Average annual snowfall is about 280 inches. According to Copper's website, March is typically the snowiest month, with the average March snowfall being approximately 50 inches. The base elevation is 9,712 feet; summit elevation is 12,313 feet . . . and 2,465 skiable acres in between! Mother Nature set up Copper's terrain so that the west side has the green runs, the center has predominately blue runs, and the eastern side has the black runs. The 140+ marked trails are rated 21% beginner, 25% intermediate, 36% advanced, 18% expert. On selected days, there is free first come/first served snowcat access to Tucker Mountain. Copper's base area, with many dining, shopping and après ski options, is actually 3 separate "village" areas, all within walking distance/free bus service of each other.

There are plenty of alternate activities besides skiing/boarding, including snow tubing, ice skating, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, sleigh rides, snowmobile, snowcat, dogsled and zip line tours. The Alpine Rush Zip Line was added in 2012 and provides a thrilling ride 30 feet above Copper's West Lake ice skating area. The Racquet and Athletic Club is conveniently located in the Center Village. The Woodward at Copper facility is a year-round snowboard and ski training camp dedicated to park and pipe progression for all levels of park and pipe riders and includes a state of the art 19,400 square foot indoor training facility. The Summit Stage provides free bus service throughout Summit County, including to Breckenridge, Frisco, Dillon, Keystone, Copper, and the Outlet Stores in Silverthorne.

Copper truly has lots to offer for everybody. For more information, and if you'd like to sign up to the trip, please go to the PSC website, review the information, complete the online Ski Trip Signup Form, and send me a \$500 deposit. Check <http://www.pentagonskiclub.org/currentTrips.php> for more information. If you have any questions, you can contact me at Lmandwx@hotmail.com.

Portillo, Chile September 5-14, 2014

By Steve Peirce

At our summer picnic, lots of PSCers expressed their desire to go on our (estimated \$3400) trip to Portillo, Chile. We are holding United Airlines' reservations for thirty and are expecting the final lodging prices to be released any day now. As soon as that happens, we will send E-mails to those who already expressed their interest and put the trip up for sale on the website and in the next *Lifeline*.

However, I will be taking deposits now (\$800). Send them (made out to the PSC) to me at 19701 Golden Valley Lane, Brookville, MD 20833. If you have any questions, e-mail me at scpeirce@verizon.net.

Why Portillo? First, it's the best and most famous resort in South America; as a matter of fact, it's the only place in the Southern Hemisphere where they have ever held the FIFA World Championships. Second, it's a high resort, located on the windward side of the Andes so it gets all the great, fluffy snow. It peaks out at 10,204 feet with a 2,665 foot vertical. Third, the Hotel Portillo, where we will stay, is in the middle of the resort at 9,350 feet, making access to any part of the resort very easy.

The last time we were there, in 2003, we raved about the hotel: three great meals a day, served on linen with silverware, plus tea at 5 PM. They have a pool, hot tub, ski storage room, exercise room, bar with band, and a disco in the basement. They know how to party! And if you party too much, they have a doctor and nurse on staff with their own office.

How's the skiing? Fantastic! There are steeps that only mountain goats can access and there are great blue and green cruisers. They have the world's only four- and five-person T-bars (that's a Warren Miller movie right there). Even though it was sunny and warm there (mid-30's) every day, the moisture sublimates so there is no slush nor ice in the morning. Go figure.

The surroundings are incredible, from the azure blue of Lake of the Incas to nearby Mt. Aconcagua, the highest mountain outside the Himalayas (take a helicopter flight, either to see the mountain or to go skiing).

The Americans, Austrians and other national teams train there during our summer, so you know the skiing is great. You might even see them. Join us for the experience of a lifetime.





Ski Helmet Update

By John Pratt

Most of us fly on airplanes to go on our club trips to destinations near and far. Now the question is: what would you do, as you settle into your seat and notice that the seat belt you're supposed to use, is worn, frayed, cut, or otherwise looks unserviceable and it might not work properly when you really need it? I think most of us would ask to be reseated or at a minimum ask for a new seat belt. Now take out that helmet you've used for the last several years and examine it. Have you taken a real hard fall wearing it? Is it dinged up pretty good? Is the Styrofoam, in the helmet liner, full of gouges and scrapes from using it as a pail to carry your ski gloves, goggles, etc. in? All of these things are to ski helmets what that frayed airplane seat belt is to your safety in that airplane. They render it as marginally useful in performing its intended purpose of keeping your brain from being damaged. In the military they call it Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). It is normally caused by explosions in combat zones, but the same type of TBI can occur when you brain meets a hard object on the ski slopes at 20 MPH. Bottom line is, inspect your helmet and see if it's time for a new one. After all, you get new boots and skis when they wear out.

Now that I've got you thinking that using a properly functioning helmet might not be too bad an idea, PSC has an easy, inexpensive way to make that helmet thing happen. For the price of a lunch on the slopes you can have your own new personal "Brain Bucket." PSC is offering ASTM 2040 certified ski helmets. The ASTM certification process for ski helmets is explained in <http://www.telemarktips.com/Helmets.html>.

Because of an increase in shipping costs and the desire to provide the helmets to our club members at the lowest cost, we have instituted a change. Your club will now only make one helmet order a year to our supplier. Orders for new helmets will be taken at all Ski Club meetings throughout the year, but the order will not be placed until after the November Meeting. The new model helmets have an adjustable nape of the neck strap, with turn ring, for custom snugness. For those of you who are really fashion conscious, at \$28 each, you can have one that matches all your ski outfits. That is the price for ordering at any meeting and delivery of the helmet at the December club meeting. If you want it delivered to your home, the price goes up to \$46.45 regardless of when or where you order it. They come in Blue (as shown, unfortunately without showing the nape strap), Red, Black, and Silver. The new manufacturer also provides X-Small and X-

Large helmets, for those of you who've had a problem with the normal S, M, & L. You can order them at club meetings and have them by the December meeting at \$28 each. If you can't make the meetings, but want me to order one for you, send me an e-mail snowsnke@aol.com and I'll e-mail you back a packet with: the size charts; the website to choose your color(s); along with an order form. As soon as I get your order form and check, I'll place your helmet(s) order on the list for the November order and when they arrive in December, I will let you know, so we can make arrangements to get you your helmet. If you want it delivered directly to your home the cost will be \$46.45 each. If you chose the home delivery method, I will order your helmet as soon as I receive your paperwork, and that way you don't have to wait till the December delivery.



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 items 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 accessible on the PSC website as a link to Jill's site. 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.



Wales and South England

By Peter Porton

Off we go to complete our trips to Great Britain next year. We've had great times in England, Scotland, Ulster (northern Ireland, three hours, but it counts), and now we are adding the last and wildest part of the kingdom: Wales. The Celts of Wales were conquered by the Normans under Edward I in the late 1200's (which is why Wales has so many castles; Edward had to build them to keep rebellions down). Despite periodic fighting, Wales was unified with England under Henry VIII by 1543. Today, like Scotland, it has its own assembly and is rebuilding its national identity.

We are changing our trip a little from last year's Scotland/Ireland trips: less driving, staying in only four hotels, and one more day in length (thus 12 nights in Britain and one on the plane): so those green thumbs amongst you can go to the Chelsea Flower Show in London, one of the biggest in the world. But most importantly, what are we going to see?

May 9 Day 0 We will depart Dulles for a direct flight on Friday at 6:15 PM to Manchester, England, via United Airlines flight 100.

May 10 Day 1 We arrive Manchester at 6:55 AM and drive 45 minutes to Chester. We can meander through Chester and its Cathedral. Because of our early arrival, we'll probably visit Chester first (you can eat, sit somewhere, go touring, stretch your legs). Our guide will let us know where to meet the bus to go to the hotel to sign in. All this time, luggage will stay on the bus for security. (We'll stay at the Holiday Inn Chester.) Chester is in England, on the border with Wales. It's over 2,000 years old, has the most complete medieval walls (only two miles long, so easily walkable) in Britain, and an old Roman amphitheater. Take it easy that day; it's a delightful small city with a lot to see.

May 11 Day 2 After breakfast we'll drive (yes, Sarah/Lee will be our driver/guide) one hour to Conwy in Wales to visit Conwy Castle, the ancient town and walk the city wall. Then we'll take the road through the Conwy Valley to the base of Snowdonia Park and to Caernarvon Castle, home to the Prince of Wales. Or we may go vice-versa, we'll figure it out. (Hotel in Chester that night.)



May 12 Day 3 Visit Liverpool, the home of the Beatles, once a vast seaport, and now a center of culture. We'll also have a chance to do a Beatles Tour. (Hotel in Chester.)

May 13 Day 4 We will visit Chatsworth House, one of the grandest country houses in England. We'll be touring the Derby Dales, with some very rugged and beautiful landscape to enjoy. There are a lot of places to see there, so it's hard to exactly know what we'll see that day. (Hotel in Chester.)

May 14 Day 5 We depart Chester for Cardiff, in southern Wales and its capital city, and enjoy the beautiful countryside, making stops along the way (as you can tell we haven't got every site figured out yet). We'll stay at The Parc Hotel, by Thistle. This is a Victorian hotel in the center of Cardiff.

May 15 Day 6 We will be in Cardiff on our own. We can visit the castle, the National Museum and Gallery (with a great Impressionist collection), Cathays Park, and try the local comfort food. (Hotel in Cardiff.)

May 16 Day 7 We will be sightseeing along the southern Welsh coast from the Severn River to the Bristol Channel. (Hotel in Cardiff.)

May 17 Day 8 We will depart Cardiff and arrive in Winchester, England, in the early afternoon. We'll visit the Cathedral. We'll stay at the Mercure Winchester Wessex Hotel.

May 18 Day 9 From Winchester go for a day at the Isle of Wight where we can visit Queen Victoria's Osborne House and see the other sites on Lee's favorite place in Britain. (Hotel in Winchester.)

May 19 Day 10 We depart Winchester and head two hours east to our hotel in central London. We'll be staying at The Strand Palace Hotel in the heart of the West End theatre area. Check the web, maybe you can catch a play.

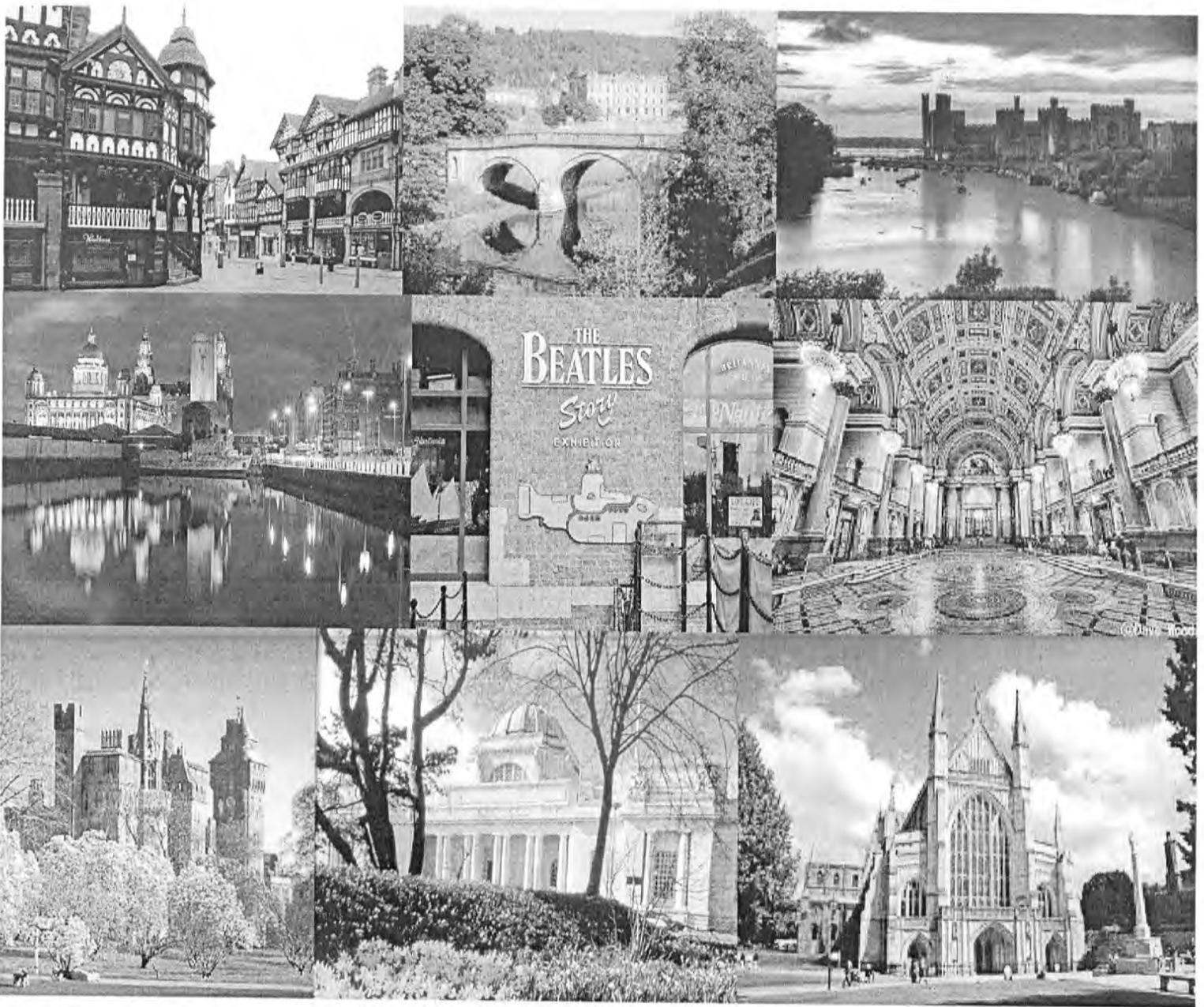
May 20 Day 11 London on your own. There are a thousand things to see, so do some research. (Hotel in London.)

May 21 Day 12 London on your own. This would be the Chelsea Flower Show day.* (Hotel in London.)

May 22 Day 13 We fly home non-stop on United 925 on Thursday from Heathrow at 4:20 PM (giving you the morning to play with). So, a 13 night trip - 12 nights in just four hotels and one night on the plane.

*Tickets and membership in the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) are not included to the 2014 Chelsea Flower Show. Membership will give you first dibs for the May 21 members-only day tickets. Go to <http://www.rhs.org.uk/Promotions/Pre-register-for-Chelsea-tickets-2014>.

The cost of the trip is \$3340 (remember, it's one more day than last year and airline flight prices have increased). If you are interested, sign up on the web and send me an \$800 deposit, made out to the PSC, at 11918 Moss Point Lane, Reston, VA 20194. If you have any questions, call me at 703-471-7791 or contact me at psc001@verizon.net. More details are available on our website.



2013-2014 Schedule

Next is our ski season's schedule. Please be aware that prices may change due to taxes and fuel surcharges. Airline schedules may change because that's what airlines do.

Even if a trip is sold out, we suggest you get on the wait-list; quite often people have to drop out and this way you get on your trip, saving the other person money as well. It's a win-win proposition.

If you have any questions, the best thing to do is call or e-mail the tripleaders; they have the latest information and will respond as quickly as possible. Enjoy your season!

Mt Bachelor

**December 26 -
January 1
\$1460**

Thur-Wed, six nights at Phoenix Inn and Suites (hotel). 4-out-of-5 day lift ticket. Daily breakfast and a welcome reception. RT Dulles to Portland via San Francisco.

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



January 4-11
\$1625



Sat-Sat, 7 nights in ski-in/ski-out Cliff Lodge at Snowbird. 6-day lift ticket good at both resorts. RT nonstop on Delta from Reagan to Salt Lake City.

Contact Jim McDonough at 703-619-0020 or jmcdono683@aol.com.



WINTER PARK

January 12-18
\$1100

Sun-Sat, budget saving trip; 6 nights at the Vintage Hotel. 5-out-of-6 day lift ticket. RT nonstop on Delta from Dulles to Denver.

Contact Susie Pumphrey at 703-691-3944 or wachtraum@msn.com.



January 17-25
\$2750

Fri-Sat, 7 nights in ski-in/ski-out Hotel Merilys. Daily breakfasts and 5 dinners. RT nonstop on United, Dulles to Geneva. Medical and repatriation (not cancellation) insurance included. Lift tickets extra. Optional 3-night pre-ski excursion to Paris, departs Jan 14.

Contact Dave Olsen at 301-579-2749 or pscracer@yahoo.com; or Christina Anderson at 703-719-6714 or gerakisparta@yahoo.com.



January 25 - February 1
\$1565

Sat-Sat, 7 nights in slopeside Snakedance Condos with welcome reception. 5-out-of-6 day lift ticket. RT on Delta from Reagan to Albuquerque via Atlanta. Custom embroidered fleece vest included.

Contact Fred Gardinier at 301-739-5097 or skiwithfred@gmail.com.



February 1-8
\$2025

BRSC Western Carnival. Sat-Sat, 7 nights at premier Vail Cascade Resort and Spa (hotel rooms) with welcome reception, 5-out-of-6 day lifts, welcome party, apres-ski party and farewell dinner/dance. RT nonstop on United from Dulles to Denver.

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



February 3-14
\$3500

10 nights, 5-days of skiing w. lift tickets at Niseko and Rusutsu, Japan. 6 nights at ski-in/ski-out Hilton Niseko Hotel; 1 night Keio Pl. City Hotel in Sapporo; 3 nights in Kyoto Tokyo Hotel. Daily breakfasts. Flight on ANA, Dulles to Sapporo via Tokyo; return same but from Kyoto. Emergency medical and repatriation (not cancellation) insurance included.

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



February 8-15
\$1625

Sat-Sat, 7 nights at Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel w. daily breakfast and reception. 5-out-of-6 day lift ticket for Heavenly, also good at Northstar and Kirkwood (transport available but not included). RT on Delta from Reagan to Reno via SLC out, via SLC and Minneapolis back.

Contact Jean Esteve at 301-352-5336 or jesteve@comcast.net.



February 16-22
\$1460

Presidents Week, Sun-Sat, 6 nights in the Grande Lodge Crested Butte (suites). 5-out-of-6 day lift ticket. RT on American, Reagan to Gunnison via Dallas. A visit to the resort's Adventure Park is included.

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



February 21 -
March 1
\$2550

Fri-Sat, 7 nights at Hotel Olympia in Arabba, Heart of the Dolomites, Italy. All breakfasts and dinners included, lift tickets are extra. RT nonstop, Dulles to Munich. Emergency med. and repatriation (not cancellation) insurance included. Optional 4-night post-trip to Italian Riviera (\$600) available, return to Dulles via Milan and Newark (customs). Contact Peter Porton at 703-471-7791 or psc001@verizon.net; or Susie Pumphrey at 703-691-3944 or wachtraum@msn.com.



March 8-15
\$1625

Sat-Sat, 7 nights in 2br/2ba & 3br/3ba, ski-in, ski-out Top of the Village Condos at Snowmass. 5-out-of-6 day, 4-mountain lift ticket. Free shuttle to Aspen, Aspen Highlands, & Buttermilk. RT nonstop on United, Dulles to Denver. Contact Maggie Fitzgerald at 703-461-3027 or magsfitzgerald@comcast.net.



March 15 - 22
\$1300

Sat-Sat, 7 nights in 2br/2ba silver-level condos. 5-out-of-6 day lift tickets. Free use of athletic club. RT nonstop on United from Dulles to Denver.

Contact Lucy at 703-727-9287 or Lmandwx@hotmail.com.



March 22-29
\$1620

Sat-Sat, 7 nights at ski-in/ski-out Fernie Slopeside Lodge (hotel rooms). 5-out-of-6day lift tickets, including 1 day at Kimberly. RT on Delta from Reagan to Kalispell, MT, via Minneapolis. Emergency medical and repatriation (not cancellation) insurance included. Contact Steve Peirce at 301-924-5173 or scpeirce@verizon.net.

Pentagon Ski Club

The Liftline

Peter Porton, Editor

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CLUB WEBSITE: WWW.PENTAGONSKICLUB.ORG

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



The next three membership meetings of this ski season are on December 10, January 14 and March 11. Check Page 2 for our full season meeting schedule.

Our trips are selling out, so be sure to call your tripleaders before they start dropping rooms and seats. Or space may have just opened for you. The schedule is listed inside.

We also have information on the first of next year's non-ski trips: Wales and southern England.

Our meetings start at 7 PM, or earlier for some of the old-timers.

