

President's Corner By Dave Olsen



As I write this article, Thanksgiving is nearly here, winter will soon be upon us, the snow has begun to accumulate out West (and in Europe, I'm sure), and several Colorado resorts are already open. Many of our ski trips are full (or nearly so), but if you're still considering a trip, check the status on our website and get in touch with the trip leaders to see if you can still get on the trip(s) of your choice. The same applies to the two non-skiing trips on our schedule – our May 2016 *Grand Tour of Northern Europe* and our July/August 2016 *Baltic Cruise*. Even if we can't confirm you immediately, consider sending a deposit check to get on the wait list. There's always a chance that someone will need to cancel, and if we already have your check in-hand we can make things happen quickly. We won't deposit your check until we can confirm you on the trip and you reconfirm that you still want to go.

Looking back, we had another great July picnic! Despite a few small glitches (like the beer taps not working), a great time seemed to have been had by all. This year we had, for the first time, a welcome table, ably manned by Bob Maynes. It was a nice touch to have someone by the entrance to greet everyone as they arrived, especially new members who might not have known anyone amongst the throng of bodies. Bob estimated that we had about 170 in attendance. I believe that's the largest crowd we've ever had. A highlight of the afternoon was the 90th birthday celebration for Marli Dirksen. I snapped a lot of photos which you can view on our SmugMug photo-sharing website (psc.smugmug.com). Two of our tour operators, Effie Rubinstein of Sportours and Dan Ellis of Winter Ski and Sport, joined us for the afternoon and took the opportunity to touch base with their trip leaders. The trips themselves got off to a great start, with a couple nearly sold out and several others enjoying especially brisk early sales.

Looking ahead, we've already



*Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year from the
Staff of The Liftline*

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Goodbye Farewell and Amen

By Peter Porton

The summer of 1988 was interesting for me (well, not as interesting as this summer, but a hell of a lot more positive). In the spring I had run for council, tied for the last open seat and was not selected by council by one vote. My future ex-wife was on council and voted against me; I've never forgiven her even though I was elected the following year. But later in the spring I volunteered to take over *The Liftline* from Jo Simpson who had to take some college courses and didn't have the time for nine newsletters per season.

I didn't realize what I was getting into. Back then, the system used to create a newsletter was called "cut-and-paste." That meant we used a typewriter to write an article, and cut and pasted it onto a blank 8.5" X 11" paper. Sometimes the whole page was typed out for a long article. For pictures, spreadsheets (generally for racing results), and even maps (to get to the picnic), the same procedure was used. I changed the format starting with my first edition: because I

had access to a word processor at work, pages were given two columns (manually split by lined borders), the print font was larger and more legible than a typewriter's, and the lines were spread a little farther apart, again for legibility. Also, different and consistent fonts for headlines and bold or italics in the articles were available. Finally, I got the printer to print in magazine format instead of single

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Pentagon Ski Club

2015-2016 Council & Committees

Club Hot Line: 301-579-2749

Website:
www.pentagonskiclub.org

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

President: Dave Olsen (17)
(H: 301-579-2749) (W: 202-267-2744)
pscracer@yahoo.com

Vice-President: Peter Porton (16)
(H: 703-471-7791) psc001@verizon.net

Secretary: Susie Pumphrey (18)
(H: 703-691-3944) wachtraum@msn.com

Treasurer: Christina Anderson (16)
(H: 703-719-6714) gerakisparta@yahoo.com

Trips: Steve Peirce (17)
(H: 301-924-5173) sceirce@verizon.net

Trip Support: Steve Thompson (17)
(H: 703 435-5170) stevethompsonva@gmail.com

Membership: Cheree Peirce (18)
(H: 301-924-5173) cheree2be@yahoo.com

Meetings: Maggie Fitzgerald (18)
(H: 703-461-3027) magsfitzgerald@comcast.net

Liberty Liaison: Lucy Gruenther (18)
(H: 703-727-9287) lmandwx@hotmail.com

Membership Communications: Jim McDonough (16)
(H: 703-619-0020) jmcdono683@aol.com

PSC Committee Chairpeople/Tripleaders

Webmasters: Laura Harley & Dave Olsen
lharley@designninteractive.com

Membership Database Manager: Pat Riggs
pat.riggs1@verizon.net

Tripleader: Fred Gardinier
skiwithfred@gmail.com

Tripleader: Jean Esteve
jesteve@comcast.net

Tripleader: John Condia
jcskis@hotmail.com

Smugmug: Alden Hingle
aldenhingle@gmail.com

The Lifeline

Editor: Peter Porton

Copy Editor: Dave Olsen

The Lifeline is issued three times per year. 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

2015-2016

PSC MEETING SCHEDULE

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

- Picnic, Saturday, July 18*
- 3rd Tuesday, September 15*
- 2nd Tuesday, October 13
- 2nd Tuesday, November 10
- 2nd Tuesday, December 8
- 2nd Tuesday, January 12
- 2nd Tuesday, March 8
- 3rd Tuesday, April 19

* At Spates Community Club (where we have the picnic), Fort Myer

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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pulled together a straw-man schedule for next-winter's trips. We'll soon be sending it to our tour operators, reviewing their proposals, and selecting the best-value trips. The two Blue Ridge Ski Council trips are firm, with the Western Carnival going to Breckenridge, Colorado, February 4-11, and the Eurofest going to Grindelwald, Switzerland, March 3-11.

As Peter explains in his article, we've decided that this will be our final club newsletter. Publishing *The Lifeline* over the many years has given us a tremendous sense of pride and accomplishment, but we now depend primarily on our website and our email "blasts" to get the word out to all of you in a much more timely manner than we could ever do with the newsletter.

We wish you all happy and healthy holidays and hope to see you at our club meetings and on the slopes this winter.



By Fred Gardinier

The last chance to sign up for the PSC trip to Winter Park is fast approaching. This will be a great trip at a very affordable price. The trip is during the last week in January, the 24th-30th.

Winter Park is on the Denver side of the continental divide. It is one of the closest resorts to the Denver airport, and is a weekend resort. This is mainly due to the fact that there are so many destination resorts on the other side of the divide and WP is overlooked. But it is a large resort with over 3,000 acres and seven different ski areas. There is skiing for every ability level from beginner to expert and it's a haven for tree skiers and mogul hounds. And when there's powder, watch out!

For more information and details see the PSC web page. Or contact me at 301-739-5097 or skiwithfred@gmailcom



By Jim McDonough

With all Taos has to offer, why not finish your season with the Pentagon Ski Club at the enchanted ski area called Taos Ski Valley. We'll be going the week of March 12-19, 2016. We have a few spaces left, but don't wait or they'll be gone.

Taos offers great skiing and boarding, outstanding instruc-

tions, beautiful scenery, and an ambiance unsurpassed by any other ski area. For added inducement, this winter is predicted to be one of the strongest El Niño's in the past 50 years (the National Weather Service has dubbed it "Godzilla"). The historic El Niño weather pattern indicates this should be an epic ski season at Taos with well in excess of the annual average 300 in of snowfall Taos Ski Valley normally gets. In fact they have already had two major snowstorms. You want more? There is now a triple chairlift on Kachina Peak: no more looking at that vast expanse of skiing and asking yourself if it's worth the hour-and-a-half climb to get only one run on some of the finest terrain in North America. The Ernie Blake Snowsports School is offering its world class Snowsports week (two hours of lessons every day, video, and a NASTAR Race) for \$140. Other resorts charge almost that much for one lesson and they don't have a martini tree. If you want steep chutes, big bumps, cornices, and glades, it is all here. If heart-stopping terrain is not your thing, you will find miles of well-manicured slopes and gradual groomers to carve up all season long. This is a real ski mountain, pioneered by people who put skiing first and all else second; and it's one of my favorite places to ski.

We'll be staying in the Snakedance condos right next to lift one. Roger the manager will provide a welcome reception and a not-to-be-forgotten group dinner at his beautiful house. If that's not enough, you can partake of lunch or dinner at the gourmet St. Bernard restaurant or the authentic German cuisine at the Bavarian Lodge. For those who wish, the Snakedance offers a shuttle service to the historic and art-filled town of Taos 20 miles down the road.

Details: The group will depart from Baltimore Washington Airport (BWI) on Saturday, March 12, 2016 on Southwest Airlines Flight 4140, at 10:50 AM, non-stop to Albuquerque (ABQ) New Mexico arriving at 1:15 PM. The Snakedance will provide bus transfer from the Airport to the condos, with a grocery stop included. The first night we'll have a welcome reception at the Snakedance and a group dinner at Roger's house either Monday or Tuesday night. We will spend the week skiing/boarding, eating, drinking, partying and generally enjoying the amenities offered by Taos. After this fantastic week, we'll return home on March 19th (don't forget to say happy birthday to Ernie Blake on your way out), non-stop on Southwest Airlines Flight 2761 from ABQ to BWI departing at 2:40 PM and arriving at 8:15 PM. Don't forget you get two free bags on Southwest (a savings of up to \$120).

The cost of this trip is \$1,900; add \$140 for the snow sports week. Add \$56 for a sixth day of skiing (sixth day of lessons included). Deduct \$20 for a senior (65-79) discount on the lift tickets. Sixth day senior ticket is \$50. Deduct \$274 for a non-skier. Eighty and older ski free.

To confirm your place on the trip, sign up online and send your deposit (payable to the Pentagon Ski Club) to me at 916 DeWolfe Dr., Alexandria VA 22308. Since we've already had two interim payments due, a \$1500 deposit is required to ensure you are on the trip. The final payment of \$400 will be due at our January 12 meeting.

pages stapled at the top left corner.

I was proud of my first product until I got it back from the printer. I had put the wrong year on the date! It stated 1987 instead of 1988. Luckily, a 7 can be changed to an 8, so I had to take all 200-something copies and manually change the date (our club was smaller in the late '80's). Then the copy had to be labeled, stamped, and dropped off at the post office. I did this for a year.

The last issue of the year also had my first April Fool's article: the council got a free trip to Whistler/Blackcomb. I made it sound just like a regular trip report; realistic enough that a council member told me he never got the notification. I kept this up for a decade, one of which included a trip to N.Z.'s brand new four-mountain resort: Valhalla. This newsletter was coincidentally also sent to Nancy Green (with a PSC pin, she collects pins) because it contained our article on the great trip we took to Sun Peaks at her Cahilty Lodge. She wrote me back saying I really had her believing until she talked to her son, in NZ, with the Canadian ski team. I can't find that letter! But the best one ever was when I stated that shaped skis were banned from NASTAR because regular skiers would beat the pacesetters since real racers weren't allowed to use them. This came up at a BRSC meeting, with someone upset because he'd just bought shaped skis. Dave Olsen tried to explain the April Fool's joke, but the man insisted he'd read it in a newspaper. Never found out which one. The article almost made it into the National Ski Club Newsletter, but its editor checked with NASTAR and found out the truth. Dang, I coulda been somebody!

Luck and skill intervened after the first year. Former PSC member Brad Dawkins, a Mac teacher at his work, volunteered to print the master copy. His 300 MB Macintosh II was connected to a laser printer, he had CD ROM discs for graphics, and an optical character recognition scanner that could scan articles I had and convert it into the desktop printing program, which was Pagemaker - just as it is now. So, in the middle of 1989, the Lifeline was computerized. One thing we had done back then, even before I began, was use different colored pages for newsletter issues. I kept that up until the middle of the last decade, at least for a green Christmas issue.

With Brad, I was able to get more done with formats. I preferred justified columns; they look cleaner and contain more words. I went to three columns later for a short while, but it reduces data on the page and extra pages cost money so I dropped it. Brad lasted a year. I don't blame him. We worked together two nights or weekends per month - 10 hours total - and had never asked anything for all his work. I also had to drive to his house in Maryland, a 90-minute round trip. So, what to do? Well, I bit the bullet and bought my own equipment (no the club didn't compensate me, we didn't have any money back then). I became the proud owner of a Gateway 386SX (2 MB RAM, 65 MB hard drive) and a HP Laser III printer plus Pagemaker 3.0. Running on Windows 2.11, it was the absolutely lowest OS that could run Pagemaker (which started as an Apple program and had just been made available for Windows). The whole cost of

this was over \$4K, more than I spent on skiing for two years (but western trips cost \$800-900 back then and I got to lead one trip). That meant I had to amortize this investment.

The newsletter format stayed the same, but improved as I got better and tripleaders wrote more articles on their trips (and the PSC got bigger, ran more trips, needed more tripleaders, who had to advertise their trips). I also wrote a lot and I admit that I did enjoy it. Newsletters got bigger and anything over 12 pages cost two stamps (based on paper weights and - ah forget it, it's boring). So I learned how to do bulk mailing, but that added onto my workload as I had to sort and label the newsletter in boxes based on zip codes. But it saved the club a lot of money and we could increase newsletter size (I once sent out a spring copy that was 24 pages long: lots of good trips to talk about that year!).

The early nineties were different than now. We just started to get e-mail (lots easier to get an e-mailed article than me retyping an article that was sent in by the tripleader); luckily, I was able to put Pagemaker on my work computer and do it during, ah, lunch and break time, yeah, that's right. The Internet became available slowly and helped me enormously: I was able to download graphics, resort logos, etc., to use in our articles. It made the newsletter look more professional. Resorts were helpful sending these because, hey, we were coming to ski there!

E-mail was the biggest help. Writers could send me their articles directly. At first, the e-mail itself was the article, but all I had to do was cut and paste electronically. Later, articles became attachments. Before that, articles had been mailed or handed to me. I then retyped them; that was a lot of work and the main reason I had to use my work computer as well (and copy it to a disc). Some writers did put their articles on a disc before we had e-mail, but I had never been able to get everyone to remember to do that. This newsletter thing was a lot more work than I had expected and then suddenly required more driving to the printer and post office (few post offices do bulk mail) once I moved to Reston, but the product was worth it. It gave the club double access to send information to the membership: nine meetings and nine bigger, better newsletters.

In the late nineties, we started our website - a multiyear process that was, at first, just informational but later became interactive. As the new millennium came, I reduced the issues. There were a number of reasons for this. The articles we used to write giving information on skiing, exercising, eating healthy or the resort itself was now available on the Internet. Tripleaders started to not write post-trip articles, which was too bad as I thought that good trips might make people want to come back the next time. Though it was a requirement for tripleaders to write these, we couldn't really enforce the concept and there was no real feedback from our members. So by the end of that decade we had gone from a bi-monthly to a quarterly, which we are at right now. (Not having an April issue also did away with the Fool's article.) Kudos and thanks to those who still helped fill the pages, but the world is changing. We live with computers and handheld devices and social media that we had never even thought of in 1988. We can look up any trip any BRSC club has available while having lunch or driving (please don't) a car. A newsletter, like a newspa-

per, gives you yesterday's news in an age of CNN and instant communications.

Also, I'm burned out. 27 years of newsletters is enough. Why not have me instruct someone else to take over? Well, aside from the above, the truth is I've never been a computer person and the last OS that supported Pagemaker was Windows XP; the program does not even exist anymore. We tried putting my Pagemaker on Dave Olsen's old XP, but I think it needed access to Internet data that doesn't exist and that failed. My computer takes 10 minutes to open and locks up at least once per hour (save, save, save!). There are other more interactive, web-oriented programs available for my laptop, but I'd have to learn how to use one and that would take a long time. And to be truthful, the club doesn't need *The Lifeline* anymore and no-one else wants to create a new one.

Speaking of Dave, a big thanks to him for editing the newsletter for more than a decade. Even if only the two of us were aware of an error (and plenty still got through us), we both wanted the best product possible.

But, the function of a newsletter is to get the latest club and skiing information to our members. That we still do and now we do it faster than before. Between our website and our use of Constant Contact, we feel we can get you the information you need in real time. So to all of you, thanks for being a great audience and I hope I've done a decent job. It was fun. But I'm still around, leading trips and having fun with the PSC. That's the most important thing.

Northern Europe

By Peter Porton

Join us on our visit to Northern Europe, more specifically Holland, Belgium and France, from May 3-15, 2016, for \$2900. We'll be taking Icelandair from Dulles to Reykjavik, Iceland, for a quick stop and then on to Amsterdam and come back the same way from Paris. We'll spend the first four nights in Amsterdam. Yours Truly speaks Dutch and Flemish (same language) in case we run into problems, but everyone in Holland speaks English anyway. Once we leave Amsterdam, we'll have Lee from Red Roses in England (many of you remember him and his wife) drive us throughout the rest of the trip until he drops us off in Paris. The trip is customized for us and we've reduced bus rides and transfers as much as possible while still seeing all the sights you want.



Our Itinerary:

■ May 3. Depart the US.



■ May 4. Arrive at Schiphol, Amsterdam, and transfer to the Hotel Couture. Explore Amsterdam. I will try to set up an Indonesian dinner for our group

■ May 5. Optional Day trip 8am-2pm for \$50 (I'll send out a blast to all participants to pre-pay for this; if we don't get enough, we might cancel) to the world famous Kuykenhof tulip and lily Gardens

■ May 6. Visit the Alkmaar cheese market, the old port city of Hoorn and classic Haarlem with guide

■ May 7. Spend the day seeing the many sights of Amsterdam on your own

■ May 8. Depart Amsterdam and arrive at the Hotel NH Gent Belfort in Ghent, Belgium

■ May 9. Day trip to Bruges, Belgium

■ May 10. Day trip to Brussels and Waterloo, Belgium

■ May 11. Depart Ghent and arrive at the Hotel Mercure Reims Centre Cathedral in the "Champagne Country" of Reims, France

■ May 12. Tour and taste the best of the region.

■ May 13. Depart Reims for the 90-minute ride to Paris at the Hotel Ibis Tour Eiffel Cambronne and spend the rest of the day exploring

■ May 14. Full day in Paris

■ May 15. Fly home from Paris to Washington

Northern Europe is very different from the Mediterranean area: cooler, beer over wine (well, anything for tourists), Protestants over Catholics; check the difference in cathedrals between Holland/Belgium (which was part of the Netherlands until 1830) and France. But that's what makes travel interesting. It's what you look for when you travel. So, join us. We still have some space left.

Contact me at 703-471-7791 or psc001@verizon.net.





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

By Joel Gardner

For the past twenty 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 (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 contributions 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 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 food, money and clothing after the meeting.

As I mentioned at the November meeting, I will be moving to New Jersey next year so this is the last year I will be doing Bread for the City. But the PSC is very lucky that Jim McDonough has stepped up to continue this tradition. To Jim, thanks, and to all of you, thanks as well. You've proven that the PSC has a generous heart towards those not as fortunate as us.



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.

PSC 2015-2016 Ski Trip Schedule

Prices may change due to fuel or surcharge increases. Insurance for N. America trips available, see trip insurance page on web. Check website for further trip details.

1. Dec 27 – Jan 2. **Steamboat.** John Condia (703-335-5004). 6 nights (Sun – Sat) at Ptarmigan Inn (hotel rooms) with welcome party & daily breakfast. 4-day lift tickets. Nonstop on SW, Dulles – Denver. \$1780
2. Jan 3 – 10. **Vail.** Pat Riggs (703-615-2709) & Lesa Scott (703-250-3211). 7 nights (Sun – Sun) in Evergreen Lodge (hotel rooms) with daily breakfast and one-day lunch voucher. 5-day lift tickets. Nonstop RT on Southwest, Dulles – Denver. \$1700
3. Jan 9 – 16. **Whistler, Canada.** Maggie Fitzgerald (703-461-3027). 7 nights (Sat – Sat) at Fairmont Chateau Whistler, welcome reception, one breakfast in hotel, & one Fresh Tracks mountaintop breakfast. 5-day lift tickets. RT on United, Dulles – Vancouver via SF out; Chicago back. \$1900
4. Jan 15 – 23. **Morzine, France.** Christina Anderson (703-719-6714) & Dave Olsen (301-579-2749). 7 nights (Sat – Sat), at Fleur de Neige Hotel, welcome party, daily breakfasts and dinners. Nonstop RT on United, Dulles – Geneva. Emergency medical and repatriation (not cancellation) insurance included; lift tickets extra. \$2400. Optional 4-night trip to London (\$720) afterwards returns to Dulles Jan 27.
5. Jan 24 – 30. **Winter Park.** Fred Gardinier (301-739-5097). 6 nights (Sun – Sat) at Vintage Hotel with complimentary apres ski party. 5-day lift tickets. RT on Southwest, Dulles – Denver via Midway. A super bargain at \$1175
6. Jan 30 – Feb 6. **Snowbird.** Christina Anderson (703-719-6714). BRSC Western Carnival. 7 nights, (Sat – Sat) in Cliff Lodge (hotel), three dinners, multi-club race. 6-day lift tickets. RT on Southwest from Dulles – SLC via Denver. \$1925
7. Feb 13 – 20. **Sun Valley.** Steve Thompson (703-435-5170). 7 nights, (Sat – Sat) in Sun Valley Lodge. RT on Southwest or United from Dulles. 5-day lift tickets. \$1985
8. Feb 20 – 27. **Banff/Lake Louise, Canada.** Susie Pumphrey (703-691-3944). 7 nights (Sat – Sat) split between Chateau Lake Louise & Banff Springs Hotel, welcome reception & 1-day breakfast. RT on Delta, Reagan – Calgary via Minneapolis. 5-day lift tickets. \$1740
9. Feb 26 – Mar 6. **Madonna di Campiglio, Italy.** BRSC Eurofest. Dave Olsen (301-579-2749). 7 nights in Carlo Magno Hotel Spa Resort with three parties, daily breakfasts and dinners, plus 1 night in Mestre (across from Venice) at Hotel Bologna with breakfast. RT on Air France, Dulles – Venice via Paris. Emergency medical and repatriation (not cancellation) insurance included; lift tickets extra. \$2625. Optional 3-night trip to Florence (\$600) before Madonna departs Dulles Feb 23.
10. Mar 5 – 12. **Keystone.** Jean Esteve (301-352-5336). 7 nights (Sat – Sat) at The Inn at Keystone with welcome reception, daily breakfast & \$15/day lunch voucher. Nonstop RT on Southwest Dulles – Denver. 5-day lift tickets. \$1595
11. Mar 12 – 19. **Taos.** Jim McDonough (703-619-0020). 7 nights (Sat – Sat) at Snakedance Condos with welcome reception. RT on Southwest, Baltimore – Albuquerque. Custom fleece vest included. 5-day lift tickets. \$1900
12. Mar 20 – 27. **Red Mountain, Br. Col., Canada.** Steve Peirce (301-924-5173). 7 nights (Sun – Sun) in Slalom Creek Condos with welcome breakfast. RT on Alaska Airlines Reagan – Spokane via Seattle. 4-day lifts at Red, 1-day at Whitewater. \$1570

Pentagon Ski Club

The Liftline

Peter Porton, Editor

11918 Moss Point Lane

Reston, VA 20194

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CLUB HOTLINE: 301-579-2749

CLUB WEBSITE: WWW.PENTAGONSKICLUB.ORG

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



Our Tuesday, December 8 meeting will feature Jim Albright, a Level 2 instructor at Liberty, who will go over the ABC's of what you need to know that first time of the season you head down the slopes. We will also be collecting warm, used clothing as well as good ole' cash for our Bread for the City drive (see article on Page 6).

Our trips are selling well and some of them have to close because of contract requirements, so call the tripleaders or see them at the meeting for the trips you are interested in.

Our meetings start at 7 PM but you can be there earlier. Just remember to not celebrate too much, as the MP's are watching.

