

VOLUME XLIV *Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.* DECEMBER 2008
NUMBER 12 WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

www.potomacvalleyskiers.org

info@pvskiers.org

YES WE CAN!

Yes, November was a momentous month. Some might say “landmark”, “unprecedented”, even “exhilarating”. I’m referring, of course, to the publication of the November Toot. It seems like forever that the Toot has been very ably put together each and every month by Jan Marx or Marvin Haas. The November Toot was quite a different enterprise. Details:

The Players: Dottie Villers: Editor/Layout;
Dave Warthen: Electronic Translation/Distribution;
Barb Leonhardt: Print Distribution/Mailing;
with Marvin Haas: Expert Resource

The Dialogue: “I won’t try to be a perfectionist...just let the chips fall where they may. The pdf suddenly jumped to 2.6 MB. Marvin, I’ve made a tremendous discovery. If one opens that 2.6 MB pdf in Preview one can compress the pdf file via a ‘Save As’ by selecting the ‘Quartz Filter’ pop-up and designating ‘Reduce File Size.’ The resultant pdf file was 616 KB and opened perfectly in Preview or Adobe Reader. Yea for me! Never a dull moment! I’m going to be bald by the time this is done. There seems to be differences in the same file as far as spacing and positioning of graphics. I just don’t want to mess up. We will get it together eventually. Barb ran into a glitch: the copy that Staples produced had a bunch of ‘P’s all though the President’s letter. Do not use Calibri font...it produces weird results at Staples when there is an electronic transmission to the copier. Thanks for running to Staples too many times. All the other versions are a pain. Glad that first time is over. Thanks to Marvin for his experience, expertise, and patience as we reinvented the wheel.”

And thanks to Dottie, Dave and Barb who did the November (and December) Toot. Yes We Can!

Best Wishes,

Mike



Holiday Meeting



December 16, 7:30 PM at the
home of Louann and Bob Eadie
2054 Eakins Court
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 860-0318



Join us for the holiday spirit and taste of baked wonders prepared by your fellow skiers.

Bring: One of your favorite appetizers, dessert, or holiday goodie to share. Beverages will be provided, and the usual fee will be collected when you sign in.

Directions: From the Beltway (495)

Take the Toll Road (Rte. 267) towards Dulles Airport (West) (.75 toll at Tyson's Corner to get onto toll road).

Take Exit 13 Wiehle Avenue (exit after Hunter Mill Rd) (.25 exit toll) and go up to the exit ramp light in the middle lane.

Turn LEFT onto Wiehle Avenue and get into the right lane.

Wiehle Ave. ends at Sunrise Valley Drive. Turn RIGHT onto Sunrise Valley Drive and get into the left lane.

At the next light, turn LEFT onto Soapstone Drive. Go up 2 streets on the left (first is Durand and the second is Purple Beech Drive).

Turn LEFT onto Purple Beech Drive. The first right is Eakins Court (Eadie's on Eakins), but it is a cul de sac and there isn't much parking. Please park along Purple Beech.

Our house is straight ahead with the green mailbox and candles in the windows.....2054.

Looking forward to seeing you all at this special time of year!

MEMBERS' CORNER



Roster Changes: (Submit changes to dwarthen@verizon.net or (301) 774-2653.)

Reg & Jean **Heitchue** new e-mail address: heitchu@yahoo.com

All PVS members with e-mail addresses receive color-coded, quarterly updated PVS rosters on the first of February, May, August, and November. Those PVS members without e-mail addresses receive a B&W PVS roster once a year with the November B&W USPS TOOT. (Only the pdf version of the roster is color-coded.)

TOOT Format & Distribution: (Submit changes to dwarthen@verizon.net or (301) 774-2653.)

If you have an e-mail address, you can receive your monthly TOOT as an attached pdf file, which can be read and printed in living color, via Adobe Acrobat Reader (a free downloadable application on the internet at

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>).

The pdf TOOT version is **recommended** as the most accurate electronic image of the TOOT.

The advantages of receiving the electronic pdf TOOT rather than USPS TOOT are as follows: -the quickest way to get your TOOT, saving PVS printing and postage costs;

-in living color as compared to the B&W USPS TOOT; and

-the most accurate TOOT reproduction as compared to the MS-Word version.

You can also access TOOT Issues (2005 - present) on the PVS website at <http://www.potomacvalleyskiers.org/>, by clicking the Newsletter link, and entering your Username & Password - contact Dave Lerner if you need help with access, dslearner@ieee.org.

News: (Submit news to dwarthen@verizon.net or (301) 774-2653.)

It was great to see the **Marx's** at the McKinley's Lake Anna home on 8 Nov., enjoying the lake excursion & fellowship and fielding questions from those who are temporarily filling in for all that the Marx's quietly do for PVS behind the scenes. Thoughts and prayers are with you both.

According to Bob **McNeill**, Marty had major surgery for metastatic ovarian cancer on 23 Oct., and began a series of chemotherapy treatments on 19 Nov. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.



PREVIOUS EVENTS

Frank Shelburne Hike – October 29

Five PVSers showed up for the annual hike with the temperature at 40 degrees. All of them put on their ski hats, gloves, and jackets. The wind blew up to 40 mph, and it was a cold 4 mile hike around Clopper Lake in Great Seneca Park. A lot of the trail was covered with leaves, and Ruth Powers guided the hikers around the lake following the blue rectangle markings on the trees. The lake had only a few geese and ducks as most had migrated south. Our leader, Sally Finan, provided us with high energy candy bars. Shirley Rettig and Charles Huggins discussed what an avid hiker and skier Frank Shelburne was. Frank was 86 when he died, and he skied and hiked until the end. When he was 80, he purchased new skis, boots and poles. After the hike, everybody but Mary Beale went to Café Mileto in Germantown for the lunch buffet. The cold hike worked up a healthy appetite for the hikers. **Thanks to Sally for leading this annual midweek activity.**

By Charles Huggins



Sally Finan, Charles Huggins, Ruth Powers

McKinleys' Open House at Lake Anna

On November 8 fourteen PVSers joined other McKinley friends at Ray and Nancy's beautiful Lake Anna home. Bob and Jan Marx were in the group, and it was a real treat to see them again and get an update on Bob's progress. We all miss seeing both of them and wish them well. The McKinley's house is named Miradoro, which Nancy said is Portugese for "beautiful view", and indeed the view from the large windows was quite impressive. The house sits up on a hill and is located on one of the many fingers off Lake Anna called Plentiful Creek. (I'm not sure what is supposed to be plentiful.) The weather was most cooperative, and it was a spectacular fall day – sunny and relatively warm.

Nancy provided quite an array of delicious beverages, appetizers and desserts, but the piece de resistance (sorry but I can't add the appropriate French accent marks) was her hearty chicken and white bean chili. Yummy! Ray provided a tour of their lovely new

home, which features a long deck overlooking the lake and an outdoor screened room adjacent to the master bedroom. Unfortunately no one could go into the screened room because an unnoticed wasp's nest had just hatched a crop of wasps that morning. Despite Ray's best efforts at getting rid of them, a few of the critters were still flying around. Ray graciously also gave scenic boat trips on Lake Anna on his brand new high-speed pontoon boat, which seated up to 10 people. We really enjoyed the scenic lakeside views and wildlife on such a lovely day. Many thanks Ray and Nancy for your warm hospitality and for providing such a delightful and relaxing getaway afternoon.

By Dottie Villers



Cap'n Ray, June Read-Martin, ??, Sue Lyon, Jan Marx, Dottie Villers



View of Miradoro from the dock

Monthly Meeting at the Washington Ski Center

Twenty-five PVS members, applicant members and two guests met at the Washington Ski Center for our annual ski equipment info meeting. For the second year in a row the meeting was held at the Ski Center instead of in someone's home. Our president, Mike Strand, conducted the meeting with dispatch and then turned it over to Brian Eardley who did his usual "show and tell" about the latest in ski equipment. Skis are getting fatter and boots are getting more upright (easier on the knees). Brian's comments were informative and his perspective on trends insightful. There was also quite a bit of interest in the photographic displays on the bottom of one set of skis.

The meeting was hosted by the Strands, who provided liquid refreshments and the usual table of snacks. Eloise Strand's cherry tomatoes stuffed with smoked oysters were a special treat. The meeting ended over dessert of fabulous pumpkin tarts and coffee. Thanks Mike and Eloise.

By Dottie Villers



2009 SKI TRIPS/TAHITI TRIP

Ski Chalet Ski Appreciation Days

Following are dates for Ski Chalet appreciation days at local ski resorts. Vouchers can be picked up at any Ski Chalet store (Chantilly, Columbia Pike, Muddy Branch Road) for the following dates:

Thursday, Jan. 15 - \$2.00 - Timberline, West Va.

Thursday, Jan. 22 - \$10.00 - Wisp, MD.*

Thursday, Feb. 5 - \$15.00 - Liberty, PA.

Thursday, Feb. 12 - \$15.00 - Whitetail, PA.

* 70+ ski free at Wisp.

Charles Huggins



PVS Snowmass 2009 – January 15-22

Single male needed to share room. Trip is full otherwise. However, space might still be available at the Snowmass Mountain Chalet on special inquiry. **Contact Dave DeVilbiss by telephone/email (703-370-4865 or devilbid@verizon.net).**

Park City Mountain Resort – February 22-28

This is an Elderhostel ski program. They make all land arrangements. You will have to register through Elderhostel. Elderhostel allows participants to invite any adult companion to attend this program with them even if they do not meet the 55 year-old age requirement.

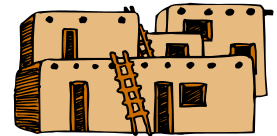
The trip is filled but you can get on the Wait List. The trip is first-come, first served. There will be other people besides PVSers on the trip. Last year there were 55 attendees and a waiting list. If you are interested in the trip, please call Elderhostel 1-800-454-5768 or visit their web site: <http://elderhostel.org>. The program number is 7573RJ and listed under winter sports. Tell Elderhostel that you are part of the PVS ski group. **Trip Leaders: Rosemary Schwartzbard (rosemaryphd@verizon.net 703-598-6150 and Ellie Thayer (ellie.thayer@comcast 703-534-3061).**

Taos, New Mexico

March 13 to 21, 2009

Join us for a fun week in Taos Ski Valley -- skiing for everyone with dry desert air, radiant sunshine and lots of snow. Pre and post trip parties and welcome supper.

The trip will begin on Friday morning from Reagan National Airport to Albuquerque then a short bus ride to Santa Fe. Explore Santa Fe that afternoon and evening. Overnight in Santa Fe's downtown Plaza at the historic La Fonda hotel known for its award-winning architecture, décor, and artwork.



Stay at the slopeside Inn at Snakedance in two-unit condos with private bath and all conveniences. Opportunities for fine dining include the marvelous St. Bernard Hotel.

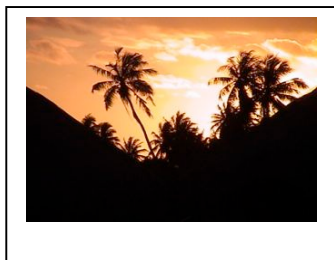
Enjoy an afternoon/evening in the town of Taos for shopping and dinner. Taos has a unique blend of natural beauty, American Indian culture, old west history, and world-class art galleries and museums.

Price per person, \$1,650 (including airfare) Single supplement: \$380 Land-only: \$1222 Special ski rates for those over 70 and 80 years old. Space still available!

For more information, contact trip leaders Liz Warren-Boulton and Joe Jevcak at elizawb@starpower.net or 202 244-5717 or 202 447-0250 (Joe daytime). Make checks payable to Liz at 3049 Porter St, NW, Washington, DC 20008.

May 28 - June 12 2009 Join Reg Heitchue and Nancy & Ray McKinley on a South Seas Cruise

They're the most alluring and beautiful destination on earth--Tahiti and French Polynesia, the legendary isles of the South Pacific. Now home of the 360' Star Flyer - the consummate mega-yacht sailing experience for a mere 170 passengers. Below is just a bit of what we'll see as we sail in quiet luxury to such legendary locations as Bora Bora, Moorea, Tahaa, Raiate and 5 other spectacular South Pacific Isles. Star Flyer is as fleet as the wind, a true clipper ship, yet a modern cruise ship in every way, created for comfort-loving passengers who also love the traditions and romance of the legendary era of sailing ships. Star Flyer is 360 feet long and carries just 170 guests in pampered comfort. Life aboard is blissfully relaxed, like traveling on a private yacht. You'll never feel confined, as our ship offers pleasingly spacious cabins gourmet meals and expansive teak decks with ample space for relaxing and play. Our Fabulous 14 Day Cruise Vacation Includes g4R/T Airfare, Wash DC to Tahiti g43 Days with breakfast in Tahiti, double occupancy g411 Day Sail Cruise on the Star Flyer including all meals g4baggage handling g4bus gratuities g4pre trip party. Space is limited. Please send your check for \$400 per person payable to Reg Heitchue, 11990 Market Street, Unit 1015, Reston, VA 20190. Please call for more information 703-437-7611 heitchu@yahoo.com.



Prices: **\$5957 per person Double,**

\$7939 single Based on airfare of \$1804.

Land only \$4153

NOTE: THIS PRICE INCLUDES A \$1000 PER PERSON EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT...!





THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley

Happknee Holidays and Merrknee Christmas! I bet you are thinking "Why does he keep up those corny jokes?" The answer is simple. You expect it of the **Knee**. This is why, in all the polls, and even after court-mandated recounts, the **Knee** remains the highest-rated TOOT column which has appeared for 25 or more years. Why, without my "corknee jokes," the **Knee** would be...well... shorter.

A special tip of the ol' **Knee** Cap goes to Jan and Bob Marx. They provided the **Knee** with a photo, turned into a refrigerator magnet. It's from an Alaskan McDonalds. It said "the Alaskan Big Mac is as big as McKinley!"

You may not have heard this, but the US has had an election. Barack Obama is our new President. The first poll to select him to win the election in a landslide was the PVS poll. This was done on the Sun Valley trip in February. He won 21 of the 28 votes cast.

Everyone knows that Obama is a basketball fan. But you perhaps didn't know that he is also a skier. His home state of Illinois ranks 31st in the US as to the total number of ski areas and 39th in terms of total vertical. Next to the ranks of Alberto Tomba, LaBomba, we will have to add LaObama. Barack's favorite ski area is Ski Liberty, which actually has a larger vertical than any ski area in Illinois.

Sarah Palin is also, apparently, a skier. According to Marvin Hass, when she was mayor of Wasila, Palin gathered \$15 million in subsidies from Washington, for a railroad from her town, not to Anchorage, some 40 miles south, but to Girdwood. Girdwood is the home of the ski resort Alyeska, and of the now convicted Senator Ted Stevens. Hmmm.

Thanks to Dick and Marilyn Clark for giving me a photo of the rear of an MG Midget with the Virginia license plate "TYKNEE."

PVS is a ukneeque group. So it's fitting that we have a gaggle (a technical term) of members with sufficiently ukneeque first names to identify them. Cases in point: Gorman, Adele, Serge, Aina, Rosy, Burr, Nat, Bing, Shahrsad, Fumiko, Myron, (which my computer's spell check always wants to correct to Moron!), Marty, Jacques (now residing in New England), Glade, Knox, Irene, Sheldon, Marianne,

Genee, Jessma, and Aase (now in South Carolina). We're certainly a unique group.

Hank Greenberg, the former chairman of troubled insurer, American International Group, and an avid skier, is thinking of buying the Stowe Mountain Resort in Vermont's picturesque Green Mountains. Stowe, and its parent Mt Mansfield Co, are currently owned by, ahem, AIG. And now partially by you and me as taxpayers! Where's my free lift pass??

Bob and Cara Jablon are back from a fall trip to **Knee** Orleans. While there they added to their wonderful art collection, by bringing back some wonderful bronzes. My favorite is a four foot whimsical cgreen dragon, now on their front entry. According to Bob people will now be draggin' coming in.

Congrats' to Mary Ward. She is just back from Louisiana. Mary spent several weeks there helping build a home for Hurricane Katrina victims. Right on!

According to hubby Bob, Marty McNeill is now back at home after ovarian cancer surgery at the end of October. A softball sized tumor was removed. Marty is recovering and has just started 18 weeks of chemo. Thereafter, both her surgeon and her chemotherapist expect the cancer will be in 100% remission. All of PVS certainly hopes that will be the case.

Mike Hatanaka is back from 2 weeks in Japan visiting relatives. It was a bit too early to visit the crowded Japaknees ski slopes.

On a recent trip from Reagan Airport, John Smith stopped in for a beer while awaiting the flight. He was carded! And they wouldn't take his Medicare Card as proof that he was over 21!! [And the **Knee** isn't making this up. I was also carded at an airport in Charlotte, NC]

PVS now has a new officer. Ruth Powers is now our Deputy Webmaster. I believe it has something to do with spiders. And according to Barbara Leonhardt, Ruth is also a speed demon on a Segway

It was a pleasure to chat with Rachel Abraham at the meeting at Mike and Eloise Strand's. Rachel is so busy she can't keep track. She's keeping up with her delightful granddaughter and all manner of other events

Breaking news (as they say on the news networks): PVS, after being told by the BRSC powers-that-be that we weren't kneeded, will host the Spring BRSC meeting. If you didn't know, BRSC stands for Cold in South Carolina.

Calendar and Information

Local Event Calendar				Ski Trip Calendar	
Dec	9	Tues	ExCom Meeting (Nov/Dec) (Sue Lyon's)	Jan 15-22	09 Snowmass (C.Maurer/D.DeVilbiss)
Dec	16	Tues	Monthly Meeting (Eadie's)	Feb 22-28	09 Park City (PVS/Elderhostel) (R .Schwartzbard/E.Thayer)
Jan	25	Sun	Monthly Mtg in afternoon (Villers)	Mar 13-21	09 Taos, New Mexico Liz Warren-Boulton/ Joe Jevcak
Feb	15	Sun	Monthly Mtg in afternoon		
Feb	24	Tues	ExCom Meeting		
				Sailing Trip	
				May 28 – June 12, 09 Tahiti and French Polynesia. (Reg Heitchue)	

PVS Roster information updates

Change of postal or e-mail address, telephone numbers, TOOT email format, etc.

Call David Warthen (301) 774-2653 or send e-mail message to dwarthen@verizon.net