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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.

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www.potomacvalleyskiers.org

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Greetings PVSer's,

It's March, one more PVS ski trip to go, Spring is on the way...we hope. And it is time for another puzzler.

Mike, you tried this last year and it was a complete flop.

Not completely...Judy Macaluso got an important part of it. Besides, it was too literature/linguistic-oriented. This one is different. It is LOGIC-ORIENTED. I'm confident a lot of PVSer's are going to get part or all of this one...I'd bet my Presidency on it.

But Mike, as President you only got another six weeks. What kind of risk is that?

The kind of risk I like to take! Here goes: like last year this is a two-part puzzler. But you can get one part (for part-credit), even the second part, without getting the other part.

Part I: You plan to go fishing, but have to pick up some supplies. So, you take the bus to town to the tackle shop. You buy some fresh bait, some line, and a few interesting lures. At check-out, you see a contest posted on the wall: "Pick The Right Switch." Upon query, the clerk explains: there are three light switches on the wall; numbered #1, #2, and #3; all in the "out" (or down) position; only one of the three switches works and is connected to an incandescent bulb in a light in a table lamp in the closed room upstairs. The clerk further explains that you can manipulate the switches anyway you want. Only one of the three switches really works (when you flip it up, the lamp is on), but the other two are dummies, AND, anywhere in your manipulation with the switches, you can make only **ONE** trip upstairs to inspect the lamp or any part of the lamp, its operations, and the electrical connections. You can move the lamp, unplug the lamp, do whatever you want with the lamp...but you can take only **one** trip upstairs and back.

You solve the problem, and as a reward, you get a beautiful single-unit spinning rod (80 inches long)...the type of rod you cannot disconnect into separate pieces.

Part II: With your bait and gear and brand new spinning rod, you walk back to the bus stop to head home. When entering the bus, the driver stops you: "Sorry, nothing over 6 feet long is allowed on our busses: written policy. I can see you are carrying something wrapped and about 6 1/2 feet long. As I said, nothing over 6 feet long is allowed on the bus. Off the bus! And don't try to do a funny stunt...like holding it outside a bus window."

You say: "OK, I'll go back to the shop and have it re-wrapped and catch the next bus."

Bus Driver says: "Whatever you do, make sure it is less than 6 feet long."

So, you can't cut the rod or bend the rod...it must stay straight. But, with minimal help from the tackle shop, you solve the problem and legitimately carry the spinning rod on the next bus home.

Send your solution(s) to me directly: e-mail hrdyna@aol.com or telephone at 301-881-0812. You will be recognized in the April TOOT.

Best Wishes,

Mike

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, March 17th at 7:30 PM
At the home of Sally Finan and George Welti
11311 French Horn Lane
Reston, VA
703-716-9023

Directions From the Beltway – Take the Dulles Toll Road (Rte 267) west to the Wiehle Ave. exit. Turn left onto Wiehle Ave. Wiehle Ave. ends in a tee at Sunrise Valley Drive. Turn right onto Sunrise Valley Drive. Go 0.4 miles and turn left onto Soapstone. Go 1.5 miles, and turn left onto Glade Drive (at stop sign). Go 0.2 miles to first right onto Tumbletree. Take first left onto French Horn Lane. 11311 is at the end of the cul de sac on the right.

Call for 2009-2010 Ski Trip Proposals

As most of you know, our renowned Ski Trip Chairman, Bob Marx, is taking a break from PVS this ski season to take care of medical problems. In the interim, we are forging ahead but miss his fantastic leadership. The current Ski Trip Committee (STC) is as follows:

Acting Chairman: –Rosemary Schwartzbard

Members: Eloise Strand, Shirley Rettig, Polli Brunelli, David Lerner and Sharon Mulholland

We have just completed successful Snowmass and Park City Trips, with Taos to come. Our goal now is to get proposals for the 2010 season. We need the full proposals by April 15, but would like to hear from people before then with ideas and short proposals. We urge you to come forward with your ideas and questions. The STC would be glad to answer questions and provide help. Looking forward to hearing from you. Send me an email: rosemaryphd@verizon.net

In accordance with the ***Guidelines for a PVS-Endorsed Ski Trip*** (the ***Guidelines***), the STC is issuing this "Preliminary Call for 2009-2010 **Winter** Ski Trip Proposals." (The STC also will accept preliminary proposals for **Summer** 2010 trips at the same time.) Preliminary ski trip proposals should include, at a minimum, the proposed destination, dates, and hotel location (ski-out/ski-in or not) for the ski trip. If even "guess-timated" costs are available, that information will be considered favorably by the STC.

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

- One firm proposal for the 2009-2010 ski season has been received by the STC already, and is wending its way through the approval process – a return trip to Snowmass, CO in Jan. 2010.
- There are two planned Blue Ridge Ski Council (BRSC)-sponsored ski trips planned in 2010:
 - The annual BRSC Western Carnival at Heavenly (Lake Tahoe), CA from February 20-27, 2010;
 - The BRSC 2010 EuroFest scheduled in Bormeo, Italy March 6-14 2010; probably with both pre- and post-skiing extensions.

Submitted by Rosemary Schwartzbard

Makoto (Mike) Hatanaka

April 1, 1929 – February 18, 2009

Around 4:30 PM on Saturday, January 31, Mike was walking Sailor (a neighbor's dog) in his driveway. Mike slipped and fell on the ice. Sailor began barking, which summoned a neighbor. Mike was taken to Suburban Hospital, where the medical staff determined that he suffered a skull fracture and a severe concussion with intracranial bleeding. Mike remained at Suburban until February 17, when it was obvious that his injuries were beyond recovery. He was transferred to Casey House, Montgomery Hospice, and died the following evening.

All of us are deeply saddened by Mike's passing. He was a gentleman, who was kind, courteous, and always considerate of others. This refrain was heard repeatedly from PVS members before, during and after his ordeal. Mike will be dearly missed by his fellow skiers.

Mike's memorial service was held on February 21 at Joseph Gawler's Sons in Washington, DC, where close friend, Alan Gelb, gave the eulogy, and many shared their remembrances of Mike. We are deeply indebted to Alan and Caroline Gelb for their faithfulness and love for Mike, which were evident in their actions. As friends and neighbors, they were part of his extended family.

Mike came to the U.S. in 1953, he attended St. Francis College Loretto and George Washington University, and worked for many years at the Population Reference Bureau (PRB), as well as with his close friend, Donald Zuchelli, at ZHA, Inc.

Mike was sponsored by John Matthews, and joined PVS in 1999.



He frequently went on PVS ski trips to Steamboat, Beaver Creek, Whistler, and many to Snowmass. He was a member of the PVS Trip Committee for several years, and served on the Nominating Committee in 2005.

On the 2008 Snowmass trip, Mike said to Dave Warthen, "When we first started to ski, I would lead you down the trails. Now, I follow you." Mike was a great skier, but in his later years, his doctors had difficulty balancing his medications, and the results affected his skiing. He compensated with humor.

However, on this same ski trip, the doctors had balanced Mike's medications perfectly, and his skiing reflected it. Mike, Dave, and Dottie Villers tackled a black diamond with success. On another run, Dave was skiing down the Bear Bottom slope and saw Mike passing by like a bullet, as if he were 50 years younger. As he flew down the trail, Dave said, "Go Mike! Go!" What a great day for Mike!

Mike's friend, Marvin Hass, related that he would borrow a friend's dog (Andy), and Mike would borrow a neighbor's dog (Sailor), and all four would walk through Glen Echo every Sunday morning for the last several years. After walking the dogs, Mike would join Marvin, Charles Stewart, and Allen Greenberg (Andy's owner) for coffee at Starbucks.



Another friend, Jean van der Tak, met Mike as a colleague at PRB. A mutual love of skiing was apparent. After their retirements, Mike and Jean often skied mid-week at Ski Liberty or Whitetail. Once, Mike had to take Jean home with a hairline, pelvic fracture. Mike sponsored Jean for PVS membership. Jean misses Mike as a dear friend and challenging ski mate.

Fellow skier, Bob Knopes, shared that Mike and he were meal buddies. In Aspen, Mike and Bob always ate at the Japanese restaurant, Matsuhisa, where Mike enjoyed placing the order, as much as eating the meal. Mike always insisted on picking up the check. Only once or twice was Bob able to pay before Mike could react. On those rare occasions, the expression on Mike's face indicated Bob had done something wrong, that Bob had assumed a duty that was rightfully Mike's. When Mike paid, Bob always got him to promise that the next meal would be on him. When the next check arrived, Mike had forgotten their agreement, and Bob had to argue with him again. On their last trip to Matsuhisa, Bob reached for the bill, but Mike said it would be bad form for Bob to pay for a Japanese meal. Mike said that Bob could pay the next time.

May all of Mike's ski trails be freshly groomed, and may the sky above be clear and blue. Ski like the wind, Mike!
Farewell, dear friend!

Inauguration 2009



In late December, we went to Wintergreen, VA for two months to allow Eloise the maximum amount of time to ski, since the slopes are just one mile away from our place. However, we did return to Rockville for the 20 January Inauguration. . . a wonderful event, which was not to be missed. We were downtown by 6:30 AM, and made our way to the Mall location we had targeted: the WW II Memorial, just west of the Washington Monument. There were three JumboTrons and places to sit on Jersey Barriers. The temperature was in the high teens, and the sun only warmed things to the high 20's. However, we dressed well (as if we were going to stand in a lift line all day) and remained comfortable. The JumboTrons began transmission at 8:00 AM with a replay of the Lincoln Memorial Concert, followed by live VIP arrivals. We electronically connected with Rosemary Schwartzbard...but never met face-to-face. By ceremony time, our street was packed with many attendees who apparently walked over bridges from Virginia. The crowd was wonderful with lots of spirit. . . especially during and after the ceremony. We never heard a cross or unkind word. After the ceremony, it was slow-going leaving the Mall, but we were ahead of 95% of the crowd. It was a spectacular sight to be among tens of thousands of people walking up 18th Street. Eventually, we got to the Farragut North Metro station. Remarkably, there was no crowd, and we got on a car right away, which even had a seat for Eloise. Apparently our exit strategy worked. We were out in the cold for seven hours, but the experience was well worth every minute. The next day we returned to Wintergreen.

Mike & Eloise Strand



Rosemary Schwartzbard was on the Mall too, but as a volunteer for the American Red Cross, because she is part of the American Psychological Association's Disaster Response Network helping with the Inauguration. Her assignment lasted from sunrise to sunset. As one of the volunteers, she was to be the extra eyes and ears for law enforcement; to monitor visitors for any medical problems; and to provide support and assistance to families who may be experiencing a problem. Rosemary and her co-worker assisted people who were experiencing panic, cold, and medical problems. They also watched for suspicious packages, while enjoying the Inauguration. For more detailed information, contact Rosemary for her Report to the American Red Cross on her experiences. rosemaryphd@verizon.net.

Members Corner



Roster Corrections:

Alice Swalm corrected address & phone
7406 Spring Valley Drive
Springfield, VA 22150
(703) 451-1012

Mary Beale, new e-mail address
marybeale1@verizon.net

Dave Phillips, new work phone
(301) 210-1125

Toot Distribution to 175 PVS Members:

pdf: 78; USPS: 42; MS-Word: 31;
Emb. Text: 3; and Text (Att.): 2.

Applicant Members – Getting to Know You:

Angie Hale - Originally a native of Jamestown, New York, Angie has been a resident of Reston, VA since 1979. She has been an avid outdoor enthusiast all her life. She taught tennis in Reston for six years to children and adults. She continues to play tennis three days a week with women's and senior leagues. Angie learned to ski in New York where she was fortunate to practice daily for 10 years! She has held positions as a volunteer for the Office of the First Lady and as an illustrator. Other interests include fine arts, photography, and gardening. Angie loves to spend any free time with her friends, two daughters, and three grandchildren.



Louann, Dottie, Angie & Bob E. at Snowmass 2009

Ingrid Dallaire – Ingrid hails from Bristol, CT. After completing two years of college at the University of Connecticut, she married and later completed her undergraduate degree in Consumer Economics Education from the University of Washington. Before settling down in Chevy Chase, MD, in 1982, Ingrid had the opportunity to live in Oklahoma, Alabama, Germany, and

Massachusetts. While living in Germany, she earned an MBA through Boston University.

Ingrid's two daughters were born in Chevy Chase. Michelle is 24, married, teaching, and lives in Wilmington, DE with her husband Kendall. Jacqueline is 20 and a business major at the University of Delaware. Most of Ingrid's professional life has been in business-marketing, sales, and new business development. Since 2002, she has enjoyed applying her business and negotiating skills, as well as her love of home and family, to working as a full time Realtor with Long and Foster.

Ingrid enjoys an active lifestyle that is shared with family and friends. She is now single, and has time to pursue her many interests. In addition to skiing, Ingrid enjoys hiking, biking, walking, dancing, tennis, traveling, exploring the arts, golf, participating in a book group, and volunteer work at her church.

Ingrid says that getting to know PVS skiers has been a wonderful experience, and the trip to Snowmass was a blast!



Ingrid at Aspen Highlands 2009

ExCom Slate

In last month's TOOT we provided the slate of candidates from the Nominating Committee for the April 21 annual meeting elections. We also included the profiles of Dottie Villers and Kerry Hines. Here are the profiles of Cara Jablon, John Seabold and Ellie Thayer.

PRESIDENT (1 Yr Term): Dottie Villers

VICE PRESIDENT (1 Yr Term): Kerry Hines

EXCOM (2 Yr Terms): Cara Jablon, John Seabold, Ellie Thayer

Profiles of the Slate of Officers chosen by the Nominating Committee



Cara Jablon, a retired lawyer, is currently spending much of her time making jewelry and selling her work at local craft shows. She received her undergraduate degree in Chemistry from Mount Holyoke College in 1965, and then obtained a doctorate in Biochemistry from Columbia University and a law degree from George Washington University. Over a 25 year period, she practiced environmental law at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and at several law firms.

Cara and her husband Bob have three children. Their oldest child, Stephen, is currently living in Israel. Lara, their daughter, an advocate of a sustainable and minimalist life style, was an organic farmer for a number of years, and is currently teaching at an environmental boarding school in Nevada City, CA. Joel, the youngest, is living in Portland, Oregon, and also plans to be a teacher.

Cara has been skiing for over 45 years, and still enjoys playing on the moguls. Her other activities include swimming, dance aerobics, and walking her two small dogs, Dante and Princess Leia. She is also active in a Toastmasters Speaking Club, and enjoys opera, classical music, and theatre.

John Seabold and his wife Donna Hambric are new members to the ski club, becoming official members in April 2008. John is originally from Louisville Kentucky, which is not known for its powder. As a result John did not start skiing until 1998. It was prerequisite to Donna accepting his marriage proposal. They live in Arlington, VA with their 2 dogs: Mattie (a Belgian Malinois) and Quincy (a German Shepherd). John and Donna both work for the U.S. Census Bureau. Their biggest non-ski related hobby is fixing up their 1927 Sears home, with occasional trips to the Outer Banks.

Ellie Thayer: I was born many years ago on a farm in northwest Iowa, with nary a ski slope in sight. After graduating from an Iowa Women's College, I worked as a historian for the Division of Naval History in Washington, DC. Soon, I married a Naval Officer, became a full-time mom with two children, and lived in Rota, Spain; again with nary a ski slope in sight. After six years in Virginia Beach, I moved myself and my two children to Arlington to start law school in 1978.

The latter part of my legal career was spent at the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit where I served as the Senior Staff Attorney until my retirement in 2006. Early in this period, I married a skier (Jack Chapman) and learned to ski as a forty-plus year old. Everyone in our blended family skies, all better than I.

Many thanks to the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Eloise Strand and to the members: Glade Flake, Jan Marx, Marty Rine, Rosemary Schwartzbard and Ellie Thayer.

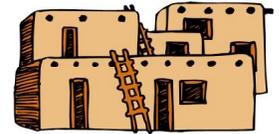


2009 SKI TRIP/TAHITI TRIP

Taos, New Mexico

March 13 to 21, 2009

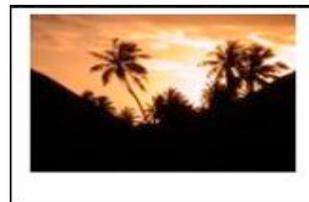
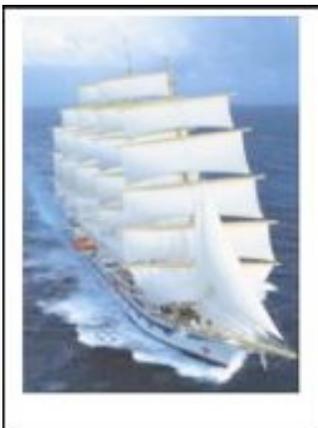
Join us for a fun week in Taos Ski Valley -- skiing for everyone with dry desert air, radiant sunshine and lots of snow. Pre- and post trip parties and welcome supper. The trip will begin on Friday morning from Reagan National Airport to Albuquerque, then a short bus ride to Santa Fe. Explore Santa Fe 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 slope side 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 seniors. 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.

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

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 - R/T Airfare, Wash DC to Tahiti - 3 Days with breakfast in Tahiti, double occupancy - 11 Day Sail Cruise on the Star Flyer including all meals - baggage handling - bus gratuities - pre 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...!

Snowmass 2010

Wednesday January 13 through 20, 1010

We're returning to Snowmass!! The developer has delayed plans for renovation of our beloved Snowmass Mountain Chalet! Join us again in 2010 for this PVS favorite.

- **Snowmass offers direct access to 3,100 acres of slopeside skiing just outside the door. With interchangeable lift tickets and free bus service to Aspen Highlands, Ajax Mountain, and Buttermilk ski areas, the skiing terrain totals more than 5,000 acres.**
- **Slopeside lodging at Snowmass Mountain Chalet includes a daily family-style breakfast and daily soup lunch, greatly appreciated by trip participants and other guests, many of whom return year after year. This small hotel, with its welcoming staff, is unique for its convenience and friendly ambiance.**
- **The trip will include group dinners, après-ski parties, and other activities available in the Aspen environs.**
- **Approximate trip cost is \$2072, details to be announced when air transport is arranged.**

For more information:

**Contact trip leaders Carolyn and David DeVilbiss at 703-370-4865 or
by email to Carolyn.maurer@verizon.net**

**To reserve: -- Send deposit (fully refundable to August 1) of \$250 per person to:
Carolyn DeVilbiss at 4508 Peacock Avenue, Alexandria VA 2230 AND
Note "PVS-Snowmass 2010" on the memo line.**

Other PVS trips to be announced in the TOOT at a later date.

Skiing Feb. 5th At Liberty Mountain Resort

Ten PVSer's journeyed to Liberty Mountain Resort under an azure blue sky, 14 degree temperature, and a brisk wind out of the west. We turned in our Ski Chalet Vouchers for \$15 eight-hour lift tickets. Liberty Mountain Resort had undergone 3.6 million dollars of improvements in the off-season, which were seen in the main lodge, and automated snowmaking equipment on the Ultra and Whitney's Way Trails. All the trails on the mountain were open with ten feet of mostly man-made snow on top of the mountain. We managed to lose Bob Heilen on the first run, as he took the trail to the front side of the mountain. David Callaway arrived about ten thirty and discovered us on the backside of the mountain. Sally Finan had just returned from Florida and joined the Reston Girls (D. Villers, M. FitzGerald, A. Hale, and L. Eadie). The cold weather reduced the number of adult skiers, and there were no daytime events scheduled for schools. Shirley Rettig, our leader, stated that it was the fewest number of people she had ever seen on the mountain. We stopped for lunch and walked across to the restaurant that serves the golfers and anybody in the Conference Center Rooms. The golf course was covered with snow and no meetings were taking place. We almost had a private dining room, as there was only one other couple in the room. We sent the Knee a Liberty Mountain Card, as we all know the Knee can't handle those double diamond trails.

In the afternoon, Jean van der Tak set the skiing bar high for the day, skiing 12,000 vertical feet. Shirley Rettig and Charles Huggins left Jean and Dave for their last run, and went to the lodge for a cup of hot chocolate. We were fortunate to have good skiing conditions. As we were departing from the lodge at 4:00 PM, it was filling up with students from six buses that had just unloaded on the circle for night skiing. Everybody left hoping to join Cara Jablon at Whitetail next Thursday. We all thank Shirley Rettig for leading this great day of skiing.

Charles Huggins

SKI N'SKI, IN PARK CITY

On February 22nd PVS was off to Park Ci-ty..
Where we met at the Elderhostel Lodge to ski!
Leaders of the group Ellie, Jack, Rosemary and Dick,,
Did such a great job to make everything click..
There were parties, ski lessons, meals, hot tubs for all...
Mike and Eloise Strand, Carolyn and David Callaway had a ball!!
Now let's mention others who were here to play,
Cara and Bob Jablin, the McKinley's Nancy and Ray
Others that joined this ski trip of fame,
Were Sue Lyon, Betty Lawrence, Susan and Dave Payne
Ann Snyder, Sally Finan, Bill and Bonnie Sween-ey,
Dick Laeser, Dave Warthen and John Brunelli you'd see..
Ski lessons were an unbelievable attribute..
Some stories and adventures were really a Hoot!
There were sooo many great skiers all around,
Only one had to take the chair lift down..



Dick Laeser, Dave Callaway, John Brunelli and Wilson Bell

Gary's Mountain Tour and incredible expertise..
Gave us a wonderful week ..on or off skis!

It was so convenient to have 3 meals included..
Socializing, laughing and nobody secluded.
Monday-Eloise and Mike's (and Bonnie & Bill's) unbelievable suite!
Brought PVSers together for wine and treats!



Don Dillon joined us..a long time member..
A great opportunity to share and remember .

A video presentation of our Solar System..
Everyone engaged, asked questions and listened.

Tuesday-interesting facts about Galaxy and Milky Way were told..
And realistic predictions about the Black Hole!

Evening activities were fabulous choices...
Enjoying the Mormon Tabernacle voices!!

Or "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" play..
A perfect end to a sunny skiing day!!

John Brunelli.. a Charlie Huggins "wanna be",
Made a special run down Park City's LIBERTY!
Sorry about Dave Warthen's altitude spell,
For Dave, Dave, Dick, Dick and John were skiing so well..



Three "generations" of PVSers: Don Dillon sponsored the Strands and Mike & Eloise sponsored Bill & Bonnie Sweeney.

And then there was Ray and Rosemary doing Polynesian dances on stage..
Who would believe they're of Elderhostel Age??

There were very few reasons to call the front desk..
But Cara needed Murphy Bed help in order to rest.

And how ironical could this possibly be!!!
Ray McKinley had trouble with his "KNEE"

No injuries reported which is hard to believe!
Members, leaders and insurance are truly pleased

The enjoyable conditions for all that were there
Gave 24 PVSer's a trip EXTRAORDINAIRE!!!

From 4:00am to Salt Lake Airport vans did roam..
After a marvelous trip, taking PVSer's...HOME!



[Carolyn Callaway](#)



PREVIOUS EVENTS

February Monthly Meeting

This Sunday afternoon meeting was held February 15th at Dorie and John Waddick's beautiful home in Alexandria. The weather was sunny but cold for the large crowd of PVSer's who mingled around the yummy rum balls, French soft cheese, a multi-layered desert and other treats, wine and beer provided by the Waddicks.

It was good to see seldom-seen Bob Harmon, who seems ageless. It was also good to see Bob Marx looking pretty good and upbeat, along with wife Jan.

Dottie Villers again very ably presided over the meeting in Prez Mike's absence. Day skiers were advised of local trips available, led by Shirley Rettig and Charlie Huggins. There is also a deadline April 15 for future ski trip proposals. This was the last monthly meeting to be held on a Sunday afternoon. The next meeting will be returning to Tuesday nights, falling in March on St Patty's Day and hosted by Sally Finan, a fine Irish lass!



Dorie and John, thank you for hosting yet another pleasurable meeting for PVS.

Betty Comerford



THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley

RaysKnee@gmail.com

The economic downturn is affecting almost everyone—and that includes PVS.

The **Knee's** 401(k) is now a 201(k)—and that's not funk**nee**.

Unfortunately, this year several of us have shortened ski trips, cancelled ski and other trips, or decided to ski locally, rather than go to a more expensive, destination resort. In the **Knee** business, this is what is called a bummer.

And this isn't only happening with PVS. **Marvin Hass** says it's happening everywhere in the ski business. Tour operators are offering bigger and bigger discounts to try to tempt people away from the economic worries back home and lure them out to the snowy Alps. Two for the price of one is not uncommon. In the up-market resort of Verbier in Switzerland "It's never been this bad," says the owner of the longest established chalet rental company in Verbier,

Having just returned from **Rosemary Schwartzbard** and **Ellie Thayer's** trip to Park City, the skier days there are down by about 30% from last year. And this downturn is despite oodles of snow (a technical term) out and about—in the East, the West and particularly in Europe. The **Knee** found the following picture of the village of Albotsford in Switzerland just after four feet of new snow—and no skiers!



Knee's words of wisdom: Don't waste your efforts trying to talk to even a talkative yak, because a "yakkity yak don't talk back."

According to **Jan Marx**, **Marty Rine** invited her grandson, 4 years old, to Massanutten where she is on the ski patrol. Little Liam was reluctant, so **Marty** told him that she was a ski patroller and would keep him safe. As they walked out the door Liam asked "What is a ski controller?"

Many years ago, the **Wyckoff's** ran a PVS trip to France, and wanted bag tags made to say PVS France. However, due to a language problem, the tags came out PVS Friends. The **Knee** thought that was a **kneet** name; 'cause that's what we are.

PVS Friends came to the fore after **Mike Hatanaka** passed away. Perhaps more so than anyone in PVS, **Mike**, aside from being kind and gentle, was everyone's friend. **Serge Triau** visited **Mike** several times in the hospice. He discovered that two of **Mike's kneeces**, who spoke very little English would be coming for the funeral. **Serge** called **Fumiko Marquardt** and she was there translating for the **kneeces**. Right on!

Like many other PVSers, **Ilse Keel** had several dinners with **Mike Hatanaka**, albeit not recently. While he was in a coma, **Ilse** visited **Mike**. She asked him if he would like to go to dinner again when he was better. Very softly, **Mike** said his last words, "yes."

Nancy Greene, of Cahilty Lodge, has been named a Senator in the Canadian Parliament. Greene won gold and silver medals in alpine skiing at the 1968 Grenoble Olympics and overall World Cup titles in 1967 and 1968. Her total of 14 World Cup victories, including the Olympics, remains a Canadian record.

She went on to play a key role in the development of the Whistler/Blackcomb ski resort before moving to be director of skiing at the Sun Peaks Resort and later becoming chancellor of the nearby Thompson Rivers University.

A tip of the ol' **Knee** Cap goes to **Polli Brunelli**. She just received a major Dept of Defense award for her pioneering work in registering military to vote electronically. **Kneet!**

Recently, **Sue Lyon** felt some pain. Being a nurse, she thought it might be her appendix. Yup. **Sue** had it removed laproscopically and was chipper again in no time. And **Bill Anderson** reports that **Sue's** ex, **Keith Lyon**, made the Washington Post's Vacation in Lights section for his ski trip to Wildcat NH.

Park City has detachable chairs, called six-packs which carry six people. They're sextuple chairs, so like High Speed Quads, call them "High Speed Sex." That would stir up Utah!

Recognition:

It is a team effort to produce the TOOT each month. Here are some of the key individuals who have done so since we have relieved the marvelous capabilities of Marvin Haas last fall:

Editorship/*Snail-Mail Expediting*

Nov: Dottie Villers/*Barb Leonhardt*

Dec: Dottie Villers/*Barb Leonhardt*

Jan: Kerry Hines/*Barb Leonhardt*

Feb: Kerry Hines/*Dave & Carolyn DeVilbiss*

Mar: Mike Strand/*Dave & Carolyn DeVilbiss*

I've discovered, first-hand with this month's TOOT, that some parts of putting together the TOOT are easy and other tasks are more challenging. So please help me in recognizing these contributors over the past five months.

Our group has the expertise to provide direction and support to you if you volunteer to help produce the TOOT for a month or two. **BE A PART OF TOOT HISTORY**

Submitted by Mike Strand

Calendar and Information

Local Event Calendar				Trip Calendar	
Mar	17	Tues	Monthly Mtg: Finan/Welti	Mar 13-21	09 Taos, New Mexico
Mar	24	Tues	ExCom: Warthen		Liz Warren-Boulton/ Joe Jevcak
Apr	14	Tues	Annual Mtg at McKenna's		Sailing Trip
Apr	28	Tues	ExCom; Maurer-DeVilbiss	May 28 – June 12, 09	Tahiti and French
May	2	Sat	Spring BRSC Mtg: PVS host		Polynesia. (Reg Heitchue)
May	19	Tues	Monthly Mtg	Jan 13 – 20	2010 , Snowmass
May	26	Tues	ExCom		(Carolyn and Dave DeVilbiss)
June	16	Tues	Monthly Mtg: Ilse Keel		

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