



TOOT



Volume 45 No. 3

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc

March 2010

WASHINGTON

MARYLAND

VIRGINIA

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Greetings PVSers,

The Jackson Hole trip is over now, and despite a mild threat of possible snow on the trip home the weather cooperated and there were no travel issues. We could have used some fresh powder during the week (instead of on the day we left), but we had several grand "bluebird" days that made up for the lack of new snow. The trip was only marred by injuries to two of our skiers, both of which happened on the first ski day. Dave Lerner fractured his heel bone and badly sprained his thumb. He underwent surgery at the Jackson Hospital and is using crutches and a walker while recovering at home. Jack Chapman was also on crutches after falling and tearing his ACL and MCL ligaments. He went home early and was facing surgery back home.

The April PVS annual meeting will be coming up soon, and my term as PVS president is coming to an end. Kerry Hines has been busy as chairman of the Nominating Committee, and he and the committee members have put together an excellent slate of PVS officers for the coming year. Please read his announcement later in this TOOT to see who they are. (OK, so this is a teaser.) Many thanks to Kerry and the committee for their good work.

Meanwhile the Anniversary Dinner Committee has met (by conference call) and decided on the date and location of the PVS 45th anniversary dinner to be held this year. We selected the Bolger Center as the best location for this event. This is the same place the dinner was held five years ago, and most PVSers were very happy with the venue. We have reserved the Overland Room for Saturday, November 6, so mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information about this gala event.

I am writing this letter from Wilmington, NC where I am staying for a few days to see my newly built house for the first time and sign the final documents. It's an exciting trip for me, and I'm looking forward to

moving down here later this year and starting a new chapter in my life.

Best Wishes,

Dottie

Monthly PVS Meeting

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

**at the residence of
Barbara and Fred
Leonhardt**

**606 Firehouse Lane
Gaithersburg, MD 29878**

Telephone: (301-963-8111)



Come and join your fellow PVSers at this monthly meeting in the Kentlands area. Participants of recent PVS Ski Trips should be present and be able to give a first hand report of their activities.

Directions:

Take Interstate 270 North to exit 6B (West to Darnestown).

Follow Route 28 West, making no turns for 5.2 miles (as measured from the bottom of the 270 ramp).

At the signal, turn right onto Tscheffely Square Rd. (the main Kentlands entrance)

At the 3rd stop sign, turn right onto Leekes Lot Way, and then an immediate right onto Firehouse Lane (7th house on the right).

Carpooling is recommended.

Nominating Committee Report for candidates for PVS Officers for 2010-2111

President: **Sharon Mulholland**
Vice-President: **Ellie Thayer**
Excom (and continuing as Secretary) **Mary Beale**
Excom (and continuing as Treasurer) **Dick Laeser**
Excom (1 year only): **John Brunelli**
Excom (1 year to replace Ellie) **Dick Schwartzbard**

Submitted by the nominating committee:
Kerry Hines (Chair)
Margaret Wycoff
Eloise Strand
Carolyn DeVilbiss
Dick Schwartzbard
J. David Warthen, Jr

Additional nominations may be made by the signatures of any five active members in good standing and must be presented at a business meeting at least one month prior to the election.

45th Anniversary Gala

Saturday evening November 6, 2010

Save the date. This special event will be held at the Bolger Center in Potomac, Maryland and involve a Cocktail party, dinner, and special program. A premier event and an occasion where you might be able to see some of your fellow PVSers in their (optional) formal attire. Those wishing to stay overnight at the Bolger Center will be able to do so at a special rate.

February 28, 2010 Monthly Meeting Review John and Barbara Holt (hosts)

Good weather and lack of big snowstorms during the preceding days brought out over 36 PVSers, a record number of PVSers for a Sunday afternoon meeting, to savor the hospitality of John and Barbara Holt, new members of PVS, in their "little bit of heaven" hidden away a scenic location in McLean overlooking a small stream.

The meeting was conducted by Kerry Hines, filling in for club president, Dottie Villers, who was away from this area at the time of this meeting. Kerry announced the candidates for PVS officers for the 2010-2011 term submitted by the nominating committee as noted in the left column of this page. The election will be held at the April meeting of PVS.

Following this, the forthcoming activities of PVS were presented by Ray McKinley and those involved in leading the event (when present). Information concerning all of these is given elsewhere in this newsletter. Of particular interest is the first notice of the 45th Anniversary Gala of PVS in November and the early approval of a January 2011 trip to Steamboat.

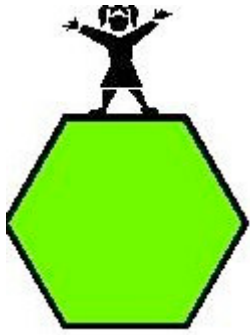
The timing of this meeting on the last day of February enabled some of those who just returned from the large PVS group at Jackson Hole to be present and informally provide their impressions of this spectacular mountain and the new tram.

Following the formal part of the meeting, many lingered on enjoying the refreshments and the view. Participants owe of big vote of thanks to the Holts for allowing us to hold this meeting at their residence.



Submitted by Marvin Hass

Left: John Holt



Hexagon 2010: Dancing With The Czars

PVS Wed eve March 24, 2010

Congressional Night: Targets of satire expected to be in audience along with PVS. Join the fun.

For PVS Group tickets contact Dottie Villers at **703-476-9259** or dottievillers@yahoo.com

Hexagon is Washington's only original political satirical musical comedy revue. This year, our show is located at the fabulous, NEW 500 Seat theatre -

Takoma Park/Silver Spring Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, 7995 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910.



PVS Finger Lakes Extravaganza 2010

Thursday, August 26, 2010 – Sunday, August 29, 2010

Enjoy the beautiful Finger Lakes Wine Country with your hosts and vintners David & Susan Payne.

Act now as participation is **Limited to 20 participants!!**

The total package is \$300 per person. It includes:

- Visits to 8 wineries and distilleries
- A behind the scenes tour of a vineyard and winery
- Two (2) group dinners and two (2) group lunches
- Chartered bus transportation to wineries/distilleries and meals
- A boat excursion on Seneca Lake with refreshments

The two items below are not included in the package. Participants will make their own arrangements for:

- Transportation to and from Watkins Glen
- Lodging: After submitting a deposit, you will be provided with a list of inns/B&Bs located in the Watkins Glen area. Three (3) nights (August 26, 27, 28) lodging is estimated at \$210 - \$300 per person (based on double occupancy, including tax on the B&B or inn selected). B&B list will be provided after deposit is received.

For more info and to get an application, call Susan Payne at 607-727-1190 or e-mail her at vineyard100@frontiernet.net. You can also send your \$100 deposit payable to: Susan Payne (put PVS FLWC 2010 on the memo line) and mail to: Susan Payne at 5598 Dutch Street, Dundee, NY 14837.



Snowmass 2011

Wednesday January 19-26, 2011

Early Alert! PVS returns to our "Old Faithful" Colorado ski resort with reduced pricing in 2011. We will again stay at Snowmass Mountain Chalet with its ski-in ski-out convenience, the welcoming staff, and the many amenities of the Aspen environ.

Sharon Mulholland joins Carolyn DeVilbiss in leading the trip. Call or email us for more information.

Carolyn at 703-370-4865 (carolyn.maurer@verizon.net)

Sharon at 301-330-2953 (shank@mrisc.com)

To lock in your reservation, send deposit (fully refundable until Aug. 1) of \$250 per person to:

Carolyn DeVilbiss
4508 Peacock Ave.
Alexandria VA 22304
(NOTE "PVS 2011" on the memo line)

www.mountainchalet.com
www.aspensnowmass.com

(early registration by mid-April needed to assure lower rate)

More Details in the April TOOT

Members Corner



By J. David Warthen, Jr.
dwarthen@verizon.net
301-774-2653

Marty Rine's Aruba Trip:

As I write, it's snowing again in Northern VA. During the December storm I was in sunny Aruba "One Happy Island." My friends and I treated ourselves to a week of sailing, snorkeling, sunning, site-seeing and sampling excellent food. Aruba is my favorite Caribbean Island. There is always a lovely breeze to keep you cool, gorgeous turquoise waters, clean beaches, and plenty of sun. It rarely rains there, and if it does, just wait 10 minutes and the storm cloud will be gone. I love sailing with the Jolly Pirates on a two-mast schooner to various snorkeling sites. We dance, sing, have rum punch and lunch, and more punch. The "pirates" entertain us with their



antics; no one is immune. In downtown Oranjestad, the capital, shopping is an adventure. Choices range from the typical tourist shops, a beach towel for \$6 to be used and left there, to jewelry shopping, where one can bargain for their purchase. Touring the island might include the aloe factory, the national park, donkey sanctuary, historic churches, and a beer factory; any interest can be accommodated.

On our departure day, National airport was closed. We opted to stay an extra 2 days in our

own little corner of paradise. Snow shoveling could wait and it did!

Blizzards Galore, by Dave Warthen:

As I write this commentary, the 3rd blizzard of the season is raging outside. I sit in front of my computer typing feverishly and saving frequently, wondering how long there will be power. The winds swirl and snow continues to accumulate on top of my 5-6 foot piles of the white stuff we as skiers love. I wonder where I am going to put this 3rd batch of snow when I do get to shovel once more. Can I heave shovels of snow above 6 feet? There is quite a difference between skiing down the 'fluffy white' and shoveling out from 3 blizzards in one season. How do they do it in Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse with lake-effect snow? I am sure Barbara Leonhardt knows how.



However, there have been moments of blessing through it all. Neighbors bonded and looked out for one another. Adventurous younger fathers worked together to open a path out of the development with a big pickup truck, since a plow had not been seen for 3 days. We compared stories of how to keep warm without electricity to run that very necessary fan on the furnace. Some of us were fortunate enough to have gas logs or gas inserts in our fireplaces, and we made sure that others knew in case they wanted to warm up.

Blizzards in the DC metro area are rare, and rarer still is the occurrence of 3 of them in the same season. Survival will occur and many will still get to the slopes, if the airports are open.

TOOT Distribution to 147 PVS Members: pdf: 77; MS-Word: 21; USPS: 34; and Text (Att.): 2

Roster Corrections:

Report changes of postal or e-mail address, telephone number, TOOT e-mail format, etc. to Dave Warthen, dwarthen@verizon.net.



THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley
RaysKnee@gmail.com

It's smack dab in the middle of a great ski season. And the Washington DC area has had more snow than most ski areas! Wow. Being on the no-plow list, we were snowed in for days. I don't know about you, but I'm sick of it!

To help you increase your skiing enjoyment, the **Knee**, this month, has a special new service for the safety-conscious. Perhaps you are worried about the spate of injuries to PVSers. Stop worrying, I can help. I will design your next trip, and book your airline, bus and hotel reservations. But here is where the **Knee** service is really **ukneeque**. After making the arrangements, I'll actually take your trip for you whilst you remain safe at home. I'll take pictures with your camera and send postcards to your friends. Each postcard will be guaranteed at least one witty comment--unlike this column.

A tip of the ol' **Knee** cap to Mike Strand. He's just back from Singapore, and its hot, humid weather. Mike gave a two day seminar there based on his seminal, but non ski, work as a cooker of green turkeys.

Kneeophile Bill Anderson noted that several months ago I incorrectly spelt *el nino*. It should have been *el kneeno*. **Kneea culpa**.

The **Knee** received a note from Liberty Mountain (sic) patroller Jim Wingrove. It's a list, apparently refined by the Liberty Patrollers, of things to do waiting...and waiting for snow. It's titled "Skiing With No Snow." Here are some of their outstanding suggestions:

To simulate finding your car, go to an ice rink and walk across the ice 20 times in your ski boots carrying skis, accessory bag and poles.

To simulate ski boots, put a large pebble in your shoe and tighten a C-clamp on your toes.

Buy a pair of gloves and throw one away.

Go to McDonalds, stand in the longest line, and insist on paying \$13.50 for a double cheeseburger with 2 oz of meat. **Kneenuf!**

Another tip of the ol' **Knee** cap to Dave Phillips and Tammy Nguyen/Phillips. They married at the end of last year and honeymooned in the Bahamas, avoiding the worst of the snowstorms. Next winter, they'll be skiing with PVS. "All is good," said Dave.

Charlotte and Jim Kline also just left Williamsburg for Florida before the snow hit.

Rachael Abraham flew to Florida 2 days early to avoid the storms. Rachel went south to settle on a second home, adjacent to her son's home. It's on a canal and has a lap pool. She's "certainly not" planning to move there.

Yuck. As compared to ten years ago, ski sales are down some 15%. Over the same period, snowboard sales are up 700%.

Whistler Mountain would have been a great place to ski during the Olympics, according to Marvin Hass. On a normal weekend day Whistler draws about 20,000 skiers. Barely 10,000 made it up the slopes the weekends during the Games. It's an oddity known in the business as "Olympic aversion." Two million people descended on the Vancouver area to watch the Olympic Games, but although the competition is staged at one of the world's great ski areas, very few visitors actually skied.

It's the Grandmother Factor: Margaret Wyckoff is taking her grandchildren on a Disney cruise and to the Caribbean. Kneat!

We had a great Sunday meeting at applicant members John and Barbara Holt's home. The charming home, with a stream running through the back yard, was at the bottom of a long, perfectly clear of snow, street. John said their community contracts out snow clearing. Unfortunately, the plow hit John and Barbara's car. It's now been repaired.

Lots of impact on PVS from all of the snow. Dick and Sandy Laeser had a large ice dam on their roof. It stopped the normal water runoff path in their Reston lakefront home. So the water ran down three floors of interior. So it was ice, damn!

Those who have been to Kerry and Marianne Hines lovely Delaplane home may recall it has a long (~1/4 mile) driveway. Kerry plowed it three times! Kerry and Marianne have also now taken up cross country skiing.

According to AARP, If God wanted us to be able to touch our toes, (S)he would have put them on our knees! Right on.

And finally, a rare "**Knee Sock**" goes to normally perfect President Dottie Villers. She did due diligence in selecting the Bolger Center for PVS' 45th Anniversary Gig. She then had the contract made out to "Potomac Valley Ski Club." As many PVSers probably don't know, Dottie we've never been PVSC. We are, and for 45 years have been, since founder Brooke Armat set us up, Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.



WOW what a ski season PVS has had so far! We just got back from Jackson Hole and it was an excellent trip. The Tetons are stunning. That was the third trip of the season. We went to Steamboat in December and Snowmass in January. Many people are looking forward to Bormio in March. In addition, we may be skiing locally through March if this weather holds up.

Our Ski Trip Committee (STC) is ready to accept proposals for the 2011 ski season. One trip has already been approved by ExCom -- Snowmass

January 19-26, 2011. We look forward to hearing from you and receiving more proposals for 2011.

The BRSC trips for 2011 are Park City February 5 and Aosta Valley, Italy, in March. The timeline for proposals is as follows: preliminary proposals are due by early March; full proposals are due by late April to be presented to ExCom at the May meeting. This does not mean that all details have to be worked out by that time. The approved trips will be published in the June TOOT. Please send questions, ideas and/or proposals to me.

Local Events Calendar				Trips Calendar	
Mar	16	Tue	7:30 p.m. Monthly Meeting (Leonhardts)	Mar	6-14 Bormio, Italy (<i>D.Comerford</i>)
Mar	23	Tue	ExCom (Jablons)	Aug	26-28 Finger Lakes Wine Country (Paynes)
Mar	24	Wed	Hexagon (D.Villers)	Jan	19-26, 2011 Snowmass (C.DeVilbiss/S.Mulholland/)
Apr	20	Tues	7:30 PM Annual Meeting (Heitchue)		
Nov	6	Sat	PVS 45 TH Anniversary Gala		

TOOT publication information: This March issue and the April issue are being edited by Marvin Hass with USPS distribution by Barbara Leonhardt and email distribution by J. David Warthen. Copy for the April issue can be sent to mhass@mailaps.org Deadline: March 29, 11: PM (tentative)