

www.pvskiers.org

info@pvskiers.org

President's Message

I recently attended my 50th high school reunion in Scarsdale, New York. Scarsdale is in Westchester County, about 25 miles north of New York City. At the time I attended Scarsdale High School, the school was ranked as one of the top public high schools in the country. Today, the school has fallen to number 55 on the list, apparently based on test scores – the building, which we toured, is extremely impressive, with a new state of the art gym, a new wing of classrooms, impressive computer and science classrooms, and a library that could rival that of some colleges. We were also impressed with the students who took us on the school tour.

My high school class was extremely gifted, and students from my class attended an array of the best colleges in the country – Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Dartmouth, Brown, Princeton, MIT, Stanford, Amherst, Middlebury, Oberlin, Tufts, Swarthmore, Haverford, Wellesley, Smith, Mount Holyoke, Vassar, and Bryn Mawr, to name a few. The success of the school in college placement is quite amazing, given that we were each only allowed to apply to a handful of colleges. Needless to say, the school was very competitive academically, and academic success was prized.

What brings one back to a reunion of high school classmates after 50 years? High school was not the highlight of my life – I was very shy and quiet, and, other than a few close friends, did not have much of a social life. I was successful academically, but, otherwise, did not excel in sports, music, or any other area. Quite simply, my high school years were not "fun." Yet, somehow, I have been drawn back to attend quite a number of reunions.

Continued on page 2



Brian Eardley
will tell us "What's New in Equipment and
the Ski Industry"

November 15 --- 7:30
At the Ski Center in DC
2300 Fordham Road NW
Washington, DC 20016
(202) 966-4474

http://www.skicenter.com/hours.aspx

<u>Snacks start at 7:30 and Brian will begin about 8:15</u>

Parking is free with validation of the parking lot ticket in the Ski Center. The shop normally closes at 6:00 PM, but it will reopen at 7:00 PM for our 7:30 meeting. Take a ticket from the machine as you enter the parking lot. Enter the Ski Center from this lot. There also is parking on the street and in an open lot on 49th Street.

Directions on page 3



President's message continued...

I do keep up with two high school classmates, who both live in the New York area – I usually see them at least once a year. Both attended the reunion, and I was able to spend some time with them. Otherwise, I have lost touch with my other high school friends and acquaintances, and have not renewed or developed any friendships with classmates I met at the previous reunions that I have attended._I probably would not have attended the reunion but for my two friends. Clearly, however, there is an element of curiosity in seeing how classmates have fared after 50 years, both in terms of physical appearance and career achievements.

Many of my classmates look remarkably good, and are easily recognizable; others have not fared as well. One of the problems in attending a reunion after 50 years is that one cannot just go up to a classmate and say "who are you?" Most of my classmates (at least those who came to the reunion and/or submitted information for the reunion booklet) appear to have had successful careers and family lives. Perhaps, most surprising, is how many of the women have had careers, given that my generation did not have very many role models of career women. Growing up in the 50s, we were very much a transition generation – the women were expected first to get married and have a family, and, although academic success was encouraged for women, careers were viewed as a fallback in the event of financial necessity. Several of the women who were high achievers in high school, and could have had brilliant careers, opted for a traditional homemaker's life. On the other hand, a number of women who were in the middle of the class academically have had very successful careers – of particular interest to me, one woman runs a multi-million dollar accessories business and sells jewelry to Chico's and similar stores.



One question raised by attending a reunion is the extent to which people change over a 50-year span. To a large extent, from the perspective of one's high school classmates, one cannot escape the image of one's high school years. Four years of high school, although seemingly insignificant after 50 years, still permeate our being in many ways. This fact was brought into clear focus by one woman, who, during our Saturday afternoon discussion session, noted that she had struggled all her life to overcome the belief that she was not intelligent because her then undiagnosed dyslexia impaired her high school performance.

Of course, many of us have changed dramatically and developed in ways that might have seemed unlikely in high school. For example, given how shy and quiet I was in high school, I never could have imagined that I would have become an attorney and litigated 20 cases over my legal career. However, the thread of shyness is ever present, and despite my long membership in a Toastmasters speaking group, I still have difficulty speaking in front of large groups. I also never could have contemplated in high school that I would have developed a passion for skiing, as skiing was simply not in the zone of activities engaged in by my family or contemporaries.

One disappointing aspect of my reunion was the inability to have time to speak with more than a few of my high school classmates. There are many interesting people in my class and I probably have much more in common with many of them than I did 50 years ago. There is always some regret about friendships not pursued, and the failure to make sufficient effort to keep up with former friends. I did meet a classmate who lives in Bethesda, no more than 15 minutes away from me, and I have resolved to try to get together with her.



All in all, I did satisfy some of my "curiosity" about my fellow classmates, and was glad that I had decided to attend the reunion, even though such an event brings into sharp focus the too rapid passage of the years. I am appreciative of my husband, who did all the driving on what turned out to be the longest drive up to New York that I have experienced in 50 years, and endured a weekend in Westchester County, rather than spending time in Manhattan.

Hope to see you at the Ski Center – Cara

(202) 966-4474



Directions from I-495 inner loop and American Legion Bridge. From Beltway and River Road —

Take River Rd. southeast toward Washington, DC for 3.5 miles, then right at Little Falls Pkwy (traffic light at end of commercial section, just past a Citgo gas station), left at 1st light (Massachusetts Ave.), then right at 3rd light (49th St), 1/2 block and left into the gated parking lot.

Directions from I-495 outer loop. From Beltway and Connecticut Ave. — Take Connecticut Ave. south toward Washington, DC for 2.6 miles to Chevy Chase Circle. Take 3rd right off of circle (Western Ave) and go 2 miles to the next traffic circle (Westmoreland Circle). Go 3/4 of the way around and get off on Massachusetts Ave. toward

Washington, DC. Go right at 2nd light (49th St), 1/2 block and left into the gated parking lot.

Directions from Key Bridge (Take GW Parkway to Key Bridge, if coming from I-395). From Key Bridge - Go left onto M Street. After 1/2 mile, keep to the right where the street name changes to Foxhall Rd. Go 2 miles until it ends at Nebraska Ave. Go right, take Nebraska Ave to Ward Circle (at American Univ). Get into the outer part of the circle and go 3/4 of the way around, taking Massachusetts Ave. headed northwest. Go 3/4 of a mile until you see Crate & Barrel on your left. Make the next left at 49th St. then 1/2 block and left into the gated parking lot.

Past Events



Lunch with our fellow club, Capital Golden Skiers, on the first day of October was a happy experience. PVSers met them at Clyde's in Rockville. We had a good visit while we ate the good food. It was great having a chance to meet some of them. We look forward to having more joint events.



PVS meeting October 18, 2011

by Sue Lyon
Our gracious PVS hosts, Sherri and Tom McKenna, welcomed us
to their home for our October, 2011 meeting.



An additional 25 PVS members, two applicant members, Jane Dealy and Catherine Sands, and one guest, Stan Bissey, attended the meeting. Stan said he happened to be walking by the house and it looked so inviting with all of us eating, drinking and socializing that he decided to drop in. Actually Stan is a neighbor of the McKennas, is also a skier and may be interested in joining our ski club.

After enjoying all the delicious, healthy munchies, wine and good conversations, we heard a very loud, powerful voice telling us the meeting was about to start. Not Ray? No, Ray and Nancy were in Italy. This powerful voice was from Bob Jablon.

Announcements were made by our president Cara Jablon and future events were discussed.

Someone is needed to host our December Holiday Party.

In addition to the planned ski trips, Rosemary suggested we try more local skiing which has some really good bargains. Charlie Huggins and John Smith plan to go on certain days of week, weather permitting.

A sign up list was passed around for those interested in being contacted when a group is going. E-mail or call Rosemary if you want to get on the list. (See her notice elsewhere in this Toot)

Sharon gave the trip report for Snowmass and there are a few spaces still available. Nancy Cammarata is going and needs a roommate.

After the meeting we socialized some more while enjoying coffee, apple and/or pumpkin pie, with/without whipped cream. Yum







If any PVS Members are interested in playing bridge, please contact Melissa FitzGerald, 703-476-9259, or thediehlhouse@gmail.com

SKI TALK

I reported in my last column that Colorado had its first snowfall in September. Denver had 8 inches this week and more than a foot in the mountains! Not to be outdone by the West it snowed in West Virginia in October. Both Snowshoe and Canaan Valley/Timberline had a few days of snow in early October. My son tells me some early birds were cross country skiing in Timberline. Even Ski Liberty had a couple inches. Let's be hopeful for a good local ski year.

For those of you who want to improve your skiing skills, the <u>Ski Club of Washington</u> (SCWDC) has opened its local Ski Performance Enhancement trips to BRSC members. You can get information on these trips by going to our website, <u>www.pvskiers.org</u> and clicking on the BRSC link and then scrolling to the SCWDC trips.

Here is a list of the SCWDC local trips which include lessons:



January 5-8, Canaan Valley January 15, Ski Liberty January 29, Round Top February 5, Ski Liberty February 9-11, Timberline

Also, there will be a special ski club weekend at Wintergreen, January 6-8. Be watching the Dec. TOOT for more information.

<u>Twenty members</u> have joined our local ski list. If you have not signed up yet, please send me an email. We will be notifying people on the list when a PVS group is going skiing locally.

Don't forget to join us at the Ski Center on November 15. Brian Eardley will be discussing the latest skis and boots and other new ski items.

The new Ski Magazine lists the top 30 ski resorts. Snowmass came in fourth. For PVSers we would give it a ONE. They list the "wonderful variety of terrain" and "high quality snow" and "noon groom". There are still a few spaces if anyone wants to go on the PVS Snowmass trip.

Rosemary Schwartzbard rosemaryschw@gmail.com



2012 Ski Trips:



Snowmass 2012

Wednesday to Wednesday, January 18-25, 2012

ONLY A FEW ROOMS LEFT!!!





Ski four mountains for the price of one, with locked-in air pricing for the first 30 persons to sign up! Beat the galloping air fares due to rising fuel costs.

The staff at our "Old Faithful" Snowmass Mountain Chalet is waiting with open arms to welcome us once again.

Snowmass offers the crème de la crème of ski-in, ski-out experience with direct access to 3,100 acres of slope-side skiing just outside the door.

The skiing terrain totals more than 5,000 acres with interchangeable lift tickets and free bus service to Aspen Highlands, Ajax Mountain, and Buttermilk ski areas.





The trip will include group dinners, après-ski parties, and other activities available in the Aspen environs. To reserve, send the first and second payments to Carolyn (call Carolyn for the exact amount and also refer to the flyer and application in the July TOOT).

Carolyn DeVilbiss at 4508 Peacock Avenue, Alexandria VA 22304
(note "PVS-Snowmass 2012" on the memo line)
For more information contact trip leaders:
Carolyn DeVilbiss at 703-370-4865 (carolyn.maurer@verizon.net)
Sharon Mulholland at 301-330-2953 (shank@mris.com)







Looking for a single female roommate to share.





3 Spaces Now Available—Act Soon!

Potomac Valley Skiers is joining BRSC for a true gem of a ski trip—to one of the smallest and most mountainous countries in the world—Andorra, a skier's and tourist's paradise. And we'll visit spectacular Barcelona. There are optional trips: to Madrid and the Prado Museum, the medieval, walled city of Carcassonne, France with its winding cobbled streets, and turrets—a World Heritage Site. We'll have the opportunity to visit the fortress city, Toledo with its Christian, Jewish and Islamic heritage, and Segovia and Avila to see the 2,000 year old Roman aqueduct, the fairyland castle of Alcazar and



Upper Lift Restaurant

more. Skiing in Andorra is World Class, with 7,600 acres, a vertical of 3,575 feet, 111 lifts with a capacity of 156,390 skiers/hr, and 187 mi of runs.

Our 12-day, 10-night trip includes: 3 nights in historic, vibrant Barcelona; 7 nights at the 5-star Crown Plaza Hotel in Andorra's capital, with two people per 2-room junior suite. We include full breakfast and a daily 5-course themed buffet

dinner! Trip includes your Emergency Medical and repatriation insurance, a pre-trip party, a welcome party, a mid-week

Apres Ski party, a Grand Finale Dance in the ballroom and a post-trip party. We will also offer a 4-night post-trip extension to historic scenic Madrid including three superb tours.

GREAT PRICES-\$2,560; LAND ONLY-\$1,755; SPAIN Add-\$800

Due to cancellations, we again have three spaces available for you and your friends. Please call us for information. To reserve a spot on this memorable PVS See & Ski in Andorra trip, send your check for \$1,760 per person payable to Ray McKinley, with "Andorra" in the memo line. Include your full name from your passport, and if you want the Spain add-on. Mail to 1805 Crystal Drive # 813, Arlington, VA 22202. More info at (703) 527-7126 or at raymckin@gmail.com.

Tidbit



The Day Potomac Valley Skiers First Served Food and Wine (instead of beer and pretzels)

Story from Peggy Burns

A long, long time ago when PVS was a new club we met in a restaurant down town where one could have dinner after work. Then meeting in members' homes was special and serving beer, pretzels and chips was the norm. One April Ray was looking for a place to hold the annual meeting and the Burns volunteered their Lake Barcroft home. Peggy thought, "Oh, what to feed all these friends - they are coming from work and must be hungry." It felt like we should have more than the normal beer and pretzels.

We bought a ham and a beef roast, and a lot of buns. We bought FIVE *five litre* bottles of Chianti in their straw baskets. Due to this, more substantial food started to be the norm. Wine started to win over beer, partly because of the trend of wine tasting. PVS members relish meeting in private homes rather than restaurants. How lucky we are!

Members' Corner

By J. David Warthen, Jr. dwarthen@verizon.net

Getting to Know You:

-Corinne Moore (New Applicant)

I moved to the USA in 1974 from the UK. I am a 'newbie' to skiing so only started the sport late in life. My oldest, and younger, sisters are avid skiers and have been skiing together for about 15 years, with trips mostly to France and a couple of trips to Canada. I have always enjoyed watching the sport but never thought about participating until 2008 when another sister of mine, and I, were asked if we would be interested in joining their yearly sojourn. So we thought, 'why not'?

In February 2009, the four of us travelled to La Plagne, France. My sister, Chris, and I were left to the baby slopes and ski lessons, while the other two took off for slopes afar. Chris and I immediately 'got the bug' and thoroughly enjoyed our first week of skiing, not to mention the friendly people and the night village life.

In February 2010, the four of us ventured off to Saalbach, Austria, where the skiing was spectacular. More lessons and at the end of the week, Chris and I were venturing out onto the blue slopes. Unfortunately, on that trip, Chris took a tumble on the slopes – she still has back trouble and will not be able to return to skiing – I also had a mishap, but on a toboggan, not on skis. A German guy rammed into the back of me; so, I suffered not only a very sore back, but also a pinched sciatic nerve. Fortunately, this happened at the end of the trip, so I only missed one day of skiing, but the pain was unbelievable. (When asked by colleagues on the trip, what the pain felt like, I told them that childbirth was a close second!!) However, after a few sessions at the chiropractor, I was ready for more.

So in February 2011, three of us returned to France, this time to Courchevel. I continued with lessons and made friends with others in my class; so, we spent afternoons practicing and I joined my sisters on our last day of skiing, where I felt quite comfortable on the blue slopes.

In 2012, no one in my family is venturing out on a skiing holiday (although they want to come out to Colorado in 2013); so instead of giving up on the idea of skiing in 2012, I was encouraged by Louann Eadie to join the trip to Snowmass next January, my first skiing vacation in the USA.

I very much look forward to the trip and hope I can get a practice in locally, with my daughter, who is also an avid skier. I still need lessons – at least I think I do – as this will only be my fourth week, but hopefully, I will meet other keen skiers who still need a little more help. (I only wish my skiing was as good as my tennis!!)

Biennial Dues Renewal:

As of today, the biennial PVS dues renewal period for 2011-2013 has ended, according to the PVS By-Sincere thanks to our members for laws responding quicker to renewing than any previous biennial dues period since 2007; that is really appreciated. Also, sincere thanks go to Carolyn DeVilbiss, Membership PR Rep, for following up on a few stragglers. As you can see below, our membership has dropped, which occurs after every biennial dues renewal period. The majority of the dropouts do not leave the club for frivolous reasons; unfortunately, age, infirmity, death, and relocation take their toll. There have been 30 obituaries of club members since 2001. However, on a positive note, there have been 39 new members added to the club since 2001. Please continue to be alert to potentially new PVS members, as you interact with friends and relatives in your daily life; submit names and e-mail addresses to me at anytime so that I can supply a New Member Application and a complementary TOOT issue to them promptly.

TOOT Distribution to 140 members:

-pdf: 108; Text (Att.): 2; USPS: 8

Roster Changes: (notify dwarthen@verizon.net)

- Corinne Moore (New Applicant Individual) 11776 Stratford House Place Apt 703 Reston, VA 20190-3383

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Thanks to:

- -TOOT Content/Proof Editor E. Thayer
- -TOOT Layout Editor Jan Marx
- -TOOT USPS B. Leonhardt

-D. Warthen - Electronic TOOT





by BOB JABLON

Ray McKinley presented me with the awesome task of writing this issue of the Knee. Ray cannot write it because he and Nancy have gone to Rome around Italy. (If they were going to France, it would be Nice.) We all wish that they have the very best time. However, the An[g]kle can hardly substitute for the Knee. This is why when Ray gets back, he will give me the Boot.

Speaking of European travel, the An[g]kle hears that Ellie Thayer and Jack Chapman were just in Barcelona and Northeastern Spain. They had a marvelous time. Sounds like the Andorra trip. The An[g]kle hopes that those who have not signed up can figure out how to go. For those who are unbalanced, the An[g]kle recommends Barcelona's Gaudi architecture. It will make you think that you are standing at an Angle. Gaudi built to take account of his belief that light achieves maximum harmony at an inclination of 45°. So his work is unbalanced, colorful, gaudy really, but it rarely falls or fails. Like PVS members.



Joe and Liz are just back from Central and Eastern Turkey, or was it Iran? They too had a fantastic time. But then, they are always back from somewhere. The An[g]kle hears that there are bargains in Turkey, galore, but only if you can Angle or elbow your way in. Of course, some bargains are bizarre.

<u>John Holt</u> has been also traveling – a lot - only he goes to slightly more prosaic places; Texas in the summer, North Dakota in the winter. This is what happens when you work for the NRECA (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association). Thus, he is always happy to return to Virginia or <u>Barbara</u>.

John's traveling is for the public. He often represents electric cooperatives in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or FERC work, as it is called by insiders. FERC was once called the Federal Power Commission, but Congress wanted to give it a new name. The An(g)kle is told on good authority (by one of the name's authors) that the Senate rejected the Federal Utilities Commission, picking FERC as the most descriptive name it dared use. To all of our benefit, John does a great job in educating FERC.

In our most recent TOOT, our President suggested a group summer bike trip. Notice, applying correct language usage, the An[g]kle said our "most recent" TOOT, not our "last" TOOT. But if the An[g]kle is not soon retired, there will be a last TOOT, not a most recent one.

In presenting the advantages of bike trips, our President failed to dwell on the differences between skiing and bicycling. In skiing, electricity gets people up hill (unless they are foolish enough to go cross-country or off piste). In biking, Knees gets people uphill. Knees have better uses. Of course, there are wine country bike trips, corkers that ease the pain. Better yet, there are Scottish tours. They stop at distilleries.

The An[g]kle observes that as this is written, it is October. What comes after October? April. The An[g]kle brings this up because at our most recent PVS meeting Serge was heard expounding that if we have a 100 percent tax rate, national production would be zero. The An[g]kle is dedicated to the task of passing on all strongly pressed observations, Oliver Wendell Holmes' recognition that taxes buy civilization, notwithstanding. But does this mean that if we have a zero percent tax rate, output would be infinite?

At the most recent PVS get together, the McKennas and others were extolling the PVS' virtues to multiple would be members. By talking of ski trips? Yes, and more importantly, by talking of New York (that is, Brooklyn) and California experiences. Again, proving the importance of egg creams. Egg creams are highly carbonated drinks made with no eggs and no cream – (but with excessive amounts of UBET's chocolate syrup). What else? Some of us recommend a ski trip to Brooklyn for egg creams, deep fried, gooey French toast and, of course, snow cones. The An[g]kle is no help on California.

Buried in past editions of the Knee are serious thoughts for education and guidance. In that vein the An[g]kle, notes that, perhaps, the key to staying youthful is to maintain our willingness to take risks. Examples of useful risks are skiing after finding a Taos Martini Pitcher, which past owner Ernie Blake used to bury all over the mountain as an encouragement to skiers (before the lawyers found out). Examples of non-useful risks are going on the two seat chair lift, center bar included, over (we hope) the Canyons' gulch. The following is the An[g]kle's contribution to the interplay of risk and wisdom:

An old German Shepherd dog started chasing rabbits and before long the dog discovered that he was lost. Wandering about, he saw a young, very athletic panther who wanted lunch. The German Shepherd thought, "Oh, oh! I'm in deep trouble!" But he settled down immediately to chew on nearby bones. Then, just as the panther was about to leap, the dog exclaimed loudly: "Boy, that was one delicious panther! I wonder if there are any more around here?" The panther halted a would-be attack in mid-strike and slinked into the trees.

A squirrel had been watching. He decided to trade his knowledge for panther protection. So, off he went to find the panther. Furious at being made a fool, the panther said: "Squirrel, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine!"

The old German Shepherd saw the panther coming back and thought, "What am I going to do?" But instead of running, the dog sat down with his back to his attacker. When the panther got close enough to hear, the German Shepherd said: "Where's that squirrel? I sent him off an hour ago to bring me another panther!" Moral: Don't mess with the old dogs...

Fortunately, that angle is the last An[g]kle column.



2011 Calendar

Nov 15 Tue PVS Monthly General Meeting, 7:30 PM (Ski Center, Washington, DC)

Dec 13 Tue ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM (Jan Marx, Springfield, VA)

Dec 20 Tue PVS Holiday Party, 7:30 PM (TBA)



Ski Swaps-'11		<u>Benefits</u> -
Nov 05	Ski Chalet*, Gaithersburg < <u>skichalet.com/Articles.asp?ID=148</u> >	White Tail Ski Patrol
Nov 05 & 06	Alpine Ski Shop, Oakton alpineskishop.com >	Timberline Ski Patrol
Nov 12 & 13	Ski Chalet*, Chantilly < skichalet.com/Articles.asp?ID=148>	Canaan Valley Ski Patrol



Ski Trips

January 18-25, 2012 Snowmass (Carolyn DeVilbiss & Sharon Mulholland)
March 1-12 or 16, 2012 Andorra (Ray & Nancy McKinley)

5

Useful Ski "Links"

Potomac Valley Skiers
Capital Golden Skiers
BRSC Sanctioned Trips

potomacvalleyskiers.org capitalgoldenskiers.com

skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm

DC Ski Online News dcski.com



Welcome to Applicant Individual Member, <u>Corinne Moore</u>, 703-435-6961 h & 703-944-5467 c, <u>cmoore52@gmail.com</u>, 11776 Stratford House Place Apt. 703, Reston, VA 20190-3383.

An INDEX of various TOOT LINKS is now present on the NEWSPAPER page of our PVS WEBSITE, courtesy of our Webmaster, David Lerner. Individual profiles, PVS Anniversaries, Other Special Items, and Obituaries from '65 – Present are accessible; along with Ski Trip Write Ups from 2000 – Present; and Event Write Ups from 2010 – Present.

VIS Board - 2011-2012

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