



"... a sincere dedication
to educational, social,
and athletic pursuits
with particular refer-
ence to skiing."

HAPPY
SECOND ANNIVERSARY

TOOT is the official organ of Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc., a non-profit organization devoted primarily to furthering ski interest and education. TOOT is published monthly and distribution is limited to the active membership. TOOT is written for skiers, by skiers. Its views do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Club direction or membership. TOOT is wholly supported by the PVS membership. Space in TOOT cannot be bought. However, it can be borrowed on occasion for any good, non-commercial, ski-related purpose. TOOT has an address: c/o Potomac Valley Skiers, P. O. Box 19047, Washington, D. C., 20036.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT. Two years ago this November several enthusiastic local skiers, all well acquainted from many previous ski outings, decided that a new kind of ski club was needed in the area. These skiers shared the view that an ideal ski club should consist of people who not only like to ski but enjoy sharing the delights of the sport with others similarly inclined. Potomac Valley Skiers was thus founded on the premise that the real devotees to the sport of skiing were basically a very compatible group and as such could easily be banded together into a small formal organization through which their genuine ski interest could be adequately expressed.

Because ski interest and skiing compatibility are not easily defined, the founding fathers of PVS attempted to articulate in two pages of Club By-Laws not only the fundamental objectives of the Club but also the criteria that determined eligibility for membership. These criteria are: (a) basic skiing ability determined by actual test; (b) attitude toward skiing as a sport; and (c) social compatibility. None of these criteria are exclusive. The founding fathers were mainly interested in the intermediate skier who was fairly active in the sport and who was at least an average social mixer.

During the past two years many new members have been brought into PVS on the basis of these simple criteria. Some already belonged to one ski club in the area and this posed no problems because PVS is neither competitive nor seeks any kind of pre-eminence among local ski clubs. PVS has been lenient in requiring prospective members to pass the basic ski test. Lack of snow and absence of a reliable testing schedule have been the main problems. During the coming season (1967-68) PVS plans to give every Club member and aspirant to PVS membership the opportunity to pass the basic ski test. In the unlikely event that some member cannot pass the test, we will provide cost-free instruction until he or she acquires the needed proficiency. PVS thus hopes to achieve full conformity with its own By-Laws and prove that these By-Laws are valid and consistent with our Club purposes.

There was ample variety in our Club activities last summer. Much credit is due Max Bunnell for the tennis, Russ and Lilo Kinaman for the sailing, Bill Stecher and Charlie Gordon for the water skiing. Even our surfing chairman, Mort Stimmler, whose appointment to this job was actually made in jest (considering his heavy scholastic schedule), provided many members the opportunity to get the "feel of the board," some on a tow line, others in the surf.

"On the lawn" meetings during the summer also were a success. Here gratitude is due Mike Rura, Aina Hertelis, Bill Stecher and Packard Anderson for their hard work and hospitality. With summer's many pleasant, but not wholly satisfactory, substitutes for skiing now behind us, we can begin to THINK SNOW and look forward with real enthusiasm to prospective ski trips out West (now being arranged by PVS Trips Chairman, Packard Anderson), ski junkets to the Northeast and local areas, and maybe even a ski safari in Europe.

With eyes focused on all these bright ski season prospects, I wish all my fellow PVS members a happy winter season on this Second Anniversary of the founding of our Club.

C. Brooke Armat

Dick King, whom we all recognize as the father of PVS, sent TOOT a warm birthday greeting from Saigon which we fully intended to publish in the anniversary edition. Dick's stirring and deeply sentimental note was a real keepsake for PVS posterity. Recognizing its timeliness and value, your Editor carefully stashed it away with plans to retrieve it when this issue was about to go into print. In fact, so well was the note put away that it now can't be found. My apologies to Dick for this unforgiveable blunder. In Dick's behalf TOOT extends happy birthday wishes to PVS from Vietnend, as he put it. Dick hopes to rejoin PVS in time for next year's summer activities.

BIRTHDAY WISHES FROM LITTLETON. TOOT recently received the following birthday greeting from Enzo Serafini, Editor of USEASA's SKIER:

"Dear Mr. Rura:

Let me join in the tribute to Potomac Valley Skiers on the occasion of their second anniversary. Dedication to a cause--and yours is skiing--requires a selflessness and belief possessed only by the relatively few. Particularly impressive to me, and quite naturally perhaps, is the contribution a welding publication can make to a cause. May TOOT continue its helpful effort.

/s/ Enzo Serafini, Editor
SKIER Magazine"

ON THE STATE OF PVS. Organizations, like people, are born, live and die. How they fare in life depends on many factors. In their infancy organizations need special care. They must be handled gently, nurtured frequently, treated tenderly, and kept free of the many dangers that threaten their life and limb. In their childhood organizations have even greater needs. Now they must be prepared for the more complex problems of life. They must be imbued with certain ideals and a sense of purpose. They must aspire to worthwhile goals. They must look, see, and learn in order to gain balance and perspective. They must have positive ways of measuring their achievement. In learning and doing they must also be happy. Good health, worthwhile goals, vigorous and productive activity--this is the stuff of which sturdy organizations are made. Such organizations live long. Some never really die because their reason for being and products of their collective labors live on and are passed to others who create new organizations with similar aspirations and goals and these in turn also prosper.

PVS is now two years old, a mere child by any organizational standards. As such PVS needs all the nurturing, tender care, protection, counsel and guidance that it can get. We in PVS can justly be proud that as an organizational child we are in good health. But the good state of our health should not cause us to forget that at our tender age we are still very susceptible to a raft of childhood diseases. Apathy, negativism, factionalism, dissension, indifference--all these are potential organizational killers. These are attitudinal diseases and they are known to be deadly because they strike at the spirit of organizations where they are indeed most vulnerable. Destroy organizational spirit and the organizational body will wither and die. On this second PVS birthday, the PVS body and spirit are in excellent health. They will remain so if we are constantly aware of the lurking dangers and also work closely together toward the goals for which PVS was organized.

Mike Rura

HELP WANTED: MALE OR FEMALE. Local ski club needs several energetic, imaginative, enterprising people to serve on a variety of committees that provide the organizational and social needs of its membership. No experience necessary. Hours are short, pay meager, but satisfactions many. See Brooke Armat, Potomac Valley Skiers. Better yet, declare yourself ready to roll up your sleeves for PVS as often as possible during the coming year.

QUESTION: What can PVS do for you?

ANSWER: PVS is you and what you can do for PVS you do for yourself. So be a little selfish; lend a hand at the next meeting.

WHAT HAPPENED TO SWAP SHOP. Let's face it. The PVS Swap Shop is dead and its organizers admit they goofed. It is now clear that:

-no PVSer would be seen dead on the slopes with any part of that vast array of vintage boots, banged up skis, worn out poles, and miscellaneous cast offs that were variously displayed at PVS meetings last year.

-no self-respecting PVSer, old-fashioned skier that he is, will ever give away, sell, swap or discard any skiing item, even if it is totally useless. Why? Because he's sentimental. He can't part with the old ski stuff without getting a lump in his throat.

CHANGING TIMES. Fifteen years ago local skiers were hard pressed to find one shop in the Washington area that would mount a pair of ski bindings, much less sell you a pair of skis. Time was when you had to travel to the end of Southeast Washington and there in September convince Charlie Brun that you simply had to have those boards in December. Today the Washington telephone directory lists dozens of assorted ski services and there are many more unlisted establishments in the area that handle skis and do ski repairs. The phone directory lists a variety of related ski services, whether you want to disport yourself on skis in this area, out West, Val d'Isere, or at Portillo. Does the "banana belt" rate all this fancy service? Ask the Killington Ski Area or Mattaponi: they both advertise side by side in the Directory.

At the last ExCom meeting, Russ and Lilo Kinaman announced that for business reasons (Russ is being transferred) they are compelled to move to Philadelphia on a permanent basis. The departure of Russ who is an ExCom member and Ski Patrolman, and Lilo, who is also a Ski Patrolman and lately Assistant Editor of TOOT, will be felt deeply by PVS. Both participated actively in PVS programs and together they were instrumental in organizing and conducting a successful club sailing program. TOOT and PVS regret the loss of these fine members and extend to the Kinamans best wishes for continued successes on and off the boards.

YMCA's Camp Arrowhead in Marlboro, N. J. operates an October to March ski resort. When nature doesn't oblige with the white stuff, skiers at the camp take to large interlaced nylon ski mats which, they say, are fine for basic exercises and improvement of ski technique. Camp Arrowhead features low cost ski classes and night skiing.

SKI Magazine (November issue) debates the relative advantages of metal versus fiberglass skis. Representatives from Head, Hart, Kneissl, Rossignol, and Langendorf of Toni Sailer give their opinions on both types of skis in both lay and technical terms. Howard Head's very convincing and practical argument is that American skiers are taught to ski in a way that is well suited to the metal ski. But Howard's real clincher in the debate is that metal skis last longer than fiberglass and need virtually no care.

Last year TOOT commented on what weather experts described as a "warming trend" in the northern latitudes and cited the findings of these experts who tried to explain why winter snowfalls recently have been so lean (the big blizzard of 1966 being a notable exception). This year the same weather watchers note a considerable decrease in solar explosions and predict the sun soon will enter one of its "cool" periods. Expected now is much cooler weather over the entire globe for the next few years. For "banana belt" skiers this can only mean waist deep powder at Mattaponi and Strudel in mid-November!

Billie Pease, Membership Chairman, announces that all is now well with Eastern billing insofar as PVS is concerned. If you have paid your PVS dues and recently have gotten a bill from Eastern, simply ignore it.

SKI PATROL. The National Ski Patrol System consists of 12,000 ski patrolmen organized in 500 patrols across the country. Twenty-four PVS members belong to five of these patrols. Over 1/3 of the PVS membership is in the NSPS, one of the largest club ratios in the country.

These hard-working, safety-minded skiers begin each ski season (in October or November) with a weekend of re-orientation in First Aid and Ski Patrol techniques. This prepares them for any emergencies they may meet on the hill (or on the way to or from the ski area). And this is merely to refresh their First Aid memory! The initial requirements for acceptance into NSPS include a 16-hour Standard and 12-hour Advanced First Aid course. This is followed by a specialized Winter Supplement course dealing with First Aid problems resulting from cold and wind. The skiing proficiency requirements and toboggan handling techniques are also demanding.

When you see a skier in a rust parka with a gold cross on the back, greet him warmly. He is a well-trained, proficient First Aider and may also be a fellow Potomac Valley Skier.

Larry Pease

TOOT proudly lists the PVS members who are fully qualified National Ski Patrolmen:

REGIONAL OFFICERS (6)

Larry Pease - Regional Chairman, Southern Appalachian Region
Billie Pease - Section Chief, Mason-Dixon Section
Dick Harsh - Section Chief, Potomac Section
Al Fleig - Advisor for Testing and Training
Glade Flake - Advisor for Administration
Bill Jarrett - Advisor for Public Relations

PATROL OFFICERS (4)

Jewell Blankenship - Patrol Leader, Skyline Ski Patrol
Jack Fox - Asst. Patrol Leader, Washington Ski Patrol
Bill Stecher - former Patrol Leader
Bob Broad - former Section Chief

PATROLMEN

Bruce Harstad	Penny Sayre
Mary Iams	Hank Thomas
Lilo Kinaman	Allan Hirsch
Russ Kinaman	Bill Johnson
Richard King	Bob Lowe
Keith Lyon	Shirley Lowe
Mike Rura	Mike Moran
	Russ Rodgers

PVS has other assorted ski related talents including a few qualified amateur ski instructors, some alpine officials and several First Aid instructors. We also have a few journalists, free lance artists, and, last but not least, many good cooks. And the whole gang can ski!!!

Don McBride, a ski patrolman, is now eligible for membership in PVS. Step up to Don soon and say hello.

ISSUES. Can PVS be all things to all people? Probably not. Considering the peculiar "mix" of the membership, differences in age, marital status, and personality, diversity of interests, enthusiasm about skiing, and the like, one sometimes wonders what binds us so closely together. Who will deny that this is a tightly knit bunch that enjoys a lot of things in common and likes to talk about it, if only once a month during meetings at the Hearth.

One PVS damsel put the issue of "the right meeting place for the club" on the line. She said: "It is a pleasure to attend a civilized [emphasis added] ski meeting such as these at the Hearth. We delicate females need more than just beer and pretzels."

Is one PVS club-sponsored ski trip a year too much or too little? One opinion is that shorter trips with each member arranging his own transportation stand a better chance of success because they give members a little more flexibility in terms of departure time, length of stay, and time of return. Trips Chairman (Packard Anderson) please note.

Some PVSers would like to race but cite the formidable obstacles in any kind of organized club competition. The snow problem (lack of it) is only one impediment. With the growing public interest in skiing, it is becoming more and more difficult to convince any ski area manager to close his crowded slopes for a few hours to accommodate a few unspectacular amateur contestants.

TOOT encourages all members to voice their feelings on skiing "issues" that are of common concern. TOOT reserves the right to sort, weigh, evaluate and print (or not to print) these "issues" in the PVS journal in objective and unbiased form.

PVS PHOTO CONTEST? TOOT sees a photogenic future for its members. During the coming ski season TOOT will collect ski photos with a view to awarding a prize for the best black-and-white photography in two ski-related categories: (1) winter ski scenes and (2) people on skis. Please send single copies of your best photos (3" x 5" prints) to Mike Rura before 1 April 1968 so that they can be judged in sufficient time to present the awards to the winners at the April meeting.
