

VOLUME XV  
NUMBER 4

## Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.

APRIL, 1979

WASHINGTON

MARYLAND

VIRGINIA

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### "Nameless"

I had a difficult time coming up with a title for this particular message. I was going to call it "In Appreciation" because it's all about the many people who do all of the work in the club. But that title sounded too much like an obituary. Then I decided to call it "Sex on Skis", figuring that that title would get your attention. "Nameless" was a compromise title because it's about all of the people who have helped me do my job and get very little credit, and because I couldn't think of anything better.

This marks my twenty-fourth and last Presidential message. (Please hold the applause). My two years as President have flown past. I've enjoyed it and hopefully I haven't screwed things up too badly. As you are reading this I'm going out, so to speak, with my (ski) boots on. I'm finishing up two weeks skiing in Aspen. What a way to go!

In two years I've made at least one remarkable discovery. It takes, thank God, very little talent to be the President. All it takes is a group of dedicated volunteer workers. And I've had the rare privilege of working with a fantastic crew. They do most of the work while I get the credit. I'd like to tell you about some of these otherwise nameless (see you knew I'd sneak the title in) people.

Most important are the people responsible for putting out TOOT. Without TOOT, the club could not function. Dick and Julie King did an unbelievable job and literally held the club together for five years. Starting last November their place has been taken by Judy Mealey as Editor and typist and Jan (and on rare occasions Bob) Marx) who collate it, affix the address labels (graciously provided by Larry Pease) and mail it to you. A great job by all.

Over the last two years the following people have served on the Executive Committee: Pat Cope, Gerry Deighton, Gail Gell, Bill Hager, Julie King, Keith Lyon, Bob Marx, Judy Mealey, Penny Richards, Geoff' Wadey and Mary Ward. All have hosted meetings, volunteered to run events and, overall, done a magnificent job. The same applies to our club officers, my ice resident Marilyn Clark has done a great job. Gail Gell, in charge of membership, probably does the most club-related work of any of us--and does it very effectively. We would be lost without her. Our Treasurer, Margaret Wyckoff, keeps the books with typical Germanic efficiency and controls our spending with a padlocked checkbook. New club Secretary, Alice Swalm is responsible for getting the EXCOM minutes into TOOT and also keeps our ski area files. And finally, our new program chairman Jim Slack (and his predecessors Sandie Deighton and Penny Wiederhold) has helped us set up some great events.

Ski Trips are really the lifeblood of our club, and in PVS we have some real pros for the leaders. Bob Wyckoff and Bob Grasley have each led two very successful

Continued

President's Message Continued

European trips during my tenure, and added to the clubs membership. Keep up the good work! Our Mt. Sutton trips run by the Deightons (last year) and the Copes (this year) have always been winners as was this years Killington trip run by Norm Engleman. Our local trips have also all been effectively run and special--thank-you to Gail Gell for running two trips to Wisp.

To set up a meeting or event also takes alot of work by a lot of people. Since we've had some 35 events in the last two years it would be impossible to mention all of them individually. However, it would be unforgivable not to single out Kirk and Peggy Burns who have organized some six events over the past two years and Pat and Don Cope who have done five. Additionally, the Elrods, Jacques Hadler and the Wiederholds have each hosted memorable annual events. The Stechers have always helped us obtain New Mark Commons for events and Aase Berling has gotten the Grosvenor Apartments meeting room. Thanks to all of you.

I also must thank our representatives to Eastern Ski Association, Blue Ridge Ski Association and Pennsylvania Ski Federation. And all of the individuals who served on the nominating committees. The list could go on forever but I must stop. I apologize to all of you I haven't named individually. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at our Second Annual Meeting/Party at the Burns on April 17th

*Roy Mc Kinley*

\*\*\*\*\*

APRIL MEETING

"Second Annual Meeting/Party"

When: April 17th at 8:00 p.m.

Where: Kirk and Peggy Burns' home at 6503 Waterway Drive, Falls Church, Virginia  
Telephone - 256-4443

Why: Voting for new PVS officers takes place at the annual meeting as well as voting by secret ballot of those people who have qualified for membership. A celebration party follows--always a unanimous vote!

President (One-year Term) - Marilyn Clark  
Excom (Two-year Terms) - Keith Lyon, Barbara Wingrove and Bing Poon

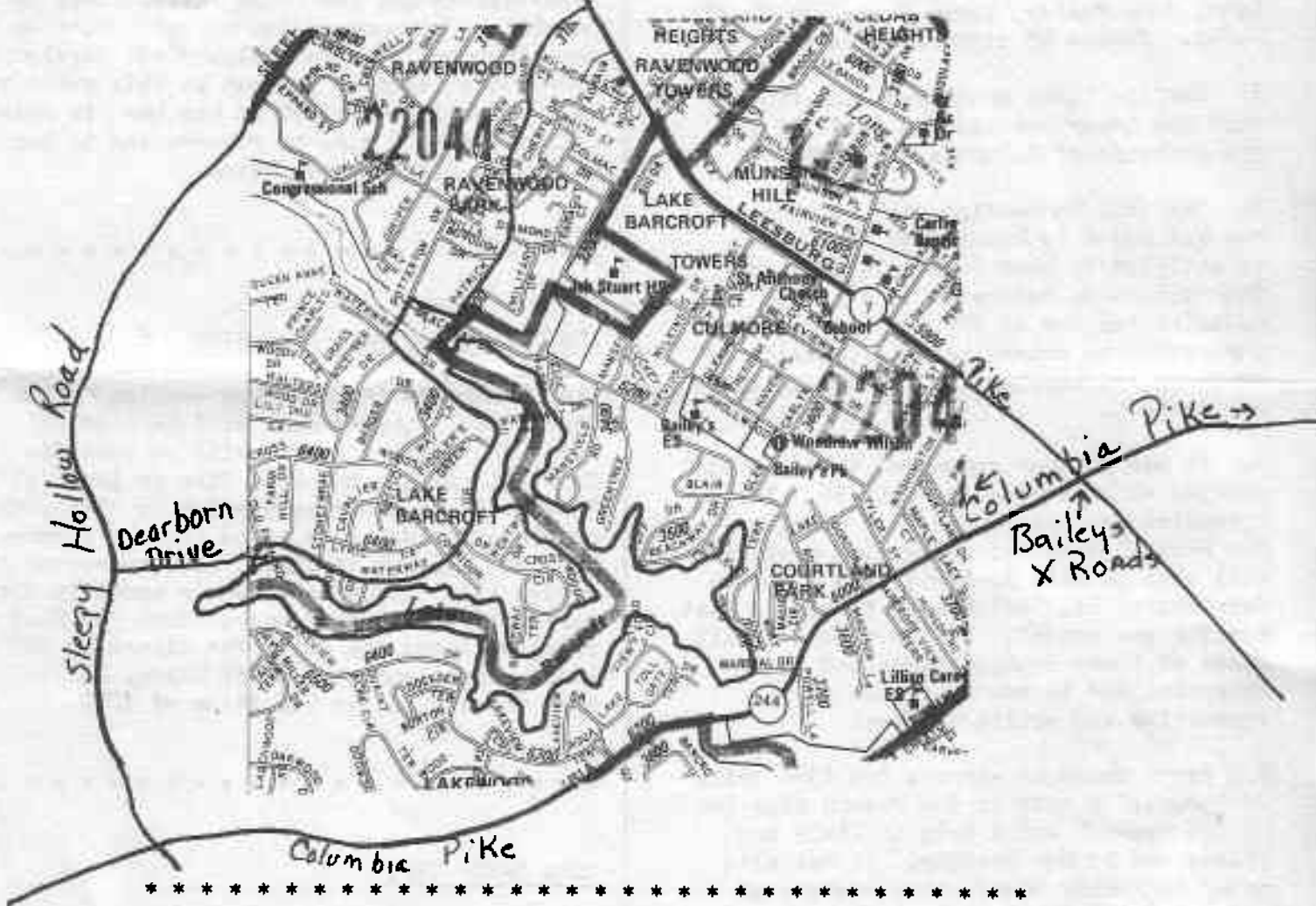
Qualifying Applicant Members - Angela and Mort Kuff, Jean and Reg Heitchue, Jenckes and Dot Mason, Judy and Mike Mealey, Lois and Cecil Rose, Bernie Schuchner and Bette Walker.

Come And Vote For Your Club Officers!

\*\*\*\*\*

April Meeting Directions: Take either Columbia Pike (244) to Sleepy Hollow Road (613) to Dearborn Drive which turns into Waterway; or take Patrick Henry Drive to Beach Way to Patterson (across a bridge) to Waterway. Follow Waterway past the divided section to 6503. Park on Old Farm Road or on Waterway, the Burns' driveway is very narrow.

Seven Corners



MARCH MEETING REPORT by Mary Ward

The ski season is, alas, almost gone. The March PVS meeting at the International Cafeteria (recently renamed the Middle Eastern Restaurant) was in tune with that. There was no Tyrolian atmosphere in the Magic Lamp room; even the sun and snow ski movie we have come to anticipate was replaced by a film of an epic journey through an unexplored cavern beneath the Rockies rather than to untracked powder on their peaks.

The leisurely dinner enabled much reliving of the winter's skiing exploits and even a little envious anticipation of some members planned spring skiing. A near-record crowd of 41 showed up almost overwhelming the family-operated restaurant (they had been told to expect 20-25). The food eventually arrived though, and a good time was had by all.

\*\*\*\*\*

EXCOM REPORT

The March Excom meeting was held on March 27 at the home of Judy and Mike Mealey. Members attending were Vice President Marilyn Clark, presiding, Gail Gell, Keith Lyon, Judy Mealey, Larry Pease and Geoff' Wadey. Topics of discussion were:

1. Marilyn Clark announced that PVS has paid the incorporation fee of \$1.00 to the District of Columbia for 1979.

2. The USSA Convention will be held on May 4,5 and 6 in Washington, D.C. PVS is entitled to send four delegates and four alternate delegates to it. The registration fee is \$46.00. Any persons interested in attending must contact Excom or Art Topping, USSA Representative at 521-6215.

3. It was further announced that the BRSC meeting will be held on April 14. Three delegates are needed for that meeting. The Pennsylvania Ski Federation meeting will also be held in April, the 29th, in Harrisburg, Pa. Volunteers to attend that meeting are needed. PVS is a part of all three of these organizations and it is important and to our advantage to be supportive and active in them.

4. Excom voted to approve two 1980 trips to Europe. A trip to the French Alps led by Bob Wyckoff and a trip to Italy and France led by Bob Grasley. It was also moved to remind prospective members of any PVS ski trips that it is a BRSC requirement to belong to a member club to take trips sponsored by BRSC.

5. It was decided that a written PVS Trip Leader Guidelines and Policy would be helpful for prospective trip leaders and for general member information.

6. Coming events were announced:  
International Dinner - May 19  
Shenandoah Hike - June 9  
Steak & Swim - July 21

7. The April Excom meeting will be held on April 24th at Keith Lyons' home, 8002 Log Cabin Court, Springfield, Va. Telephone 455-4294.

\*\*\*\*\*

TENTH INTERNATIONAL DINNER

The 10th International PVS Dinner will be held on Saturday, May 19 at Pat and Don Cope's home, 117 West Monroe Ave., Alexandria, Va. Marilyn Clark is coordinating this event and reservations are now being taken. Only 34 people can be accomodated at this event so it's important you reserve early. Call Marilyn at 978-9435 as soon as you can as this event has been a "sell-out" since it has been in existence. Call after 4:00 p.m. to reserve and to let her know what dish you can bring.

\*\*\*\*\*

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK HIKE

A hike in the Northern section of the Shenandoah National Park will be held on June 9th. The rain date will be June 10. This will not be the same hike as last Fall. There will be seven easy miles to hike with a couple of harder ones added for the strong. Wine and beer at trailhead will be served to revive all. Dinner at Mason's mountain place north of Front Royal, shared cost for food and drink, will end the day. The dinner is optional. Leaders are Jenckes and Dot Mason, 652-4313. More details in the May issue of TOOT.

\*\*\*\*\*

USSA BASIC TEST

One of the requirements for full membership in PVS is to pass the USSA Basic Test. To pass the test you must be able to:

1. Walk on skis on the level,
2. Kick turns on the level,
3. Side step up an incline,
4. Herring Bone up an incline,
5. Snowplow stop,
6. Snowplow turn,
7. Sidestep on an incline and
8. Three linked stem turns with traverse.

\*\*\*\*\*

ADDRESS CHANGE

Please make a note on your membership roster of the following change of address:

Bette B. Walker  
468 M Street, S.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20024  
Telephone 554-4766 Work 381-6708





You shoulda been at the March PVS meeting at the Middle East Inn at Tysons Corner. It was a real Turkey (well, what do you expect, "It was a real Abu Dhabi" wouldn't have been funny either). We all ate middle eastern food and lasagne (obviously from the mid-east part of Italy). President Ray McKinley and new member Mort Kuff traded of-the-Kuff puns. Even though some of Morts material was lacking in, ah, foundation and was not, um, brief (you had to be there to understand those) he was the winner.

With her Knee (sorry, that's knee) still sore, Weep Marilyn Clark was acting more like a lame duck than the Pres. And they almost convinced Mary Ward to belly dance without her clothes on. Yup, it was a belly interesting evening.

The Knee understands that back a few weeks ago, Larry Pease failed to pass a toboggan test in New York state. And it really sleighed him. And there's more! Larry and Kirk Burns went to an avalance course with no snow. And that sno joke. Pease, no more puns about Larry.

Moving rapidly back to Italy and Italian food. . . In Milan, out of 6 people, Art Topping and Mary Lee Grasley got what they ordered (i.e. Oso Bucco and Spaghetti). The other four got what was decided by the staff. Nobody ordered Risotto alla Milanese but everybody got it. (It was great!). From the Milan culture file. . . At Milan Airport an Italian speaking leader of another U.S. group was asked, "Have you been to La Scala?" "No, I've never skied there!"

Dot and Jenckes (pronounced Jinx) Mason were spotted by a member of Norm Englemans trip at Killington. They had gone up independently with their family. Norm walked up and said "Hi Jenckes". Dots almost what he said anyway.

Jim Pinkham is moving to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Sorry Jim, the water they ski on there isn't frozen.

And finally, the Kneadle of the Month. It goes to the Damita Bus Company who took the PVS trip to Killington and won our Best Excuses Award. By 7:15 a.m. everyone was waiting at Montgomery Mall and Columbia Island Marina. At 7:30 a call to the bus company informed us that the bus was broken down, by 8:30 the bus had been stolen. At 9:30 the bus "must have gone to Columbia, Md. and not Columbia Marina". At 11:00, the bus was back at the yard but someone had stolen the front wheel (then how did it get back from Columbia, Md.? Or was that Columbia, South Carolina or perhaps Columbia, Gem of the Ocean?). At 12:00 the bus was "on the way" and would be there in 5 minutes. At 12:30 the bus was back at the bus yard. The driver didn't want to go to Vermont and had quit. "But bear with me" said the bus company owner, "I'll try to find another driver". At 1:00 another driver had been found and would be there shortly. At 1:45 the bus arrived at Montgomery Mall (someone said, "Damit a Bus") and the PVS trip to Killington was on! You know that story has to be true. Even The Knee couldn't invent that wild a tale.

\*\*\*\*\*

PVS PROFILE

GEOFF' WADEY

Geoff' Wadey claims to be from the deep South and the far West, since he was born in New Zealand, although he was brought up in Michigan, where he endured the bitter winters as a youngster and never dreamt he would one day learn to enjoy the snow and cold. All his schooling was in Michigan, including under-graduate and graduate study at the University of Michigan in preparation for a career in nuclear physics. The war years were spent doing war research at Harvard, where he met his wife Jean, who had been brought up in Montreal. After some years of research and teaching at Yale, (still no skiing) he got into the computer business with Univac in Philadelphia.

It was only after coming to our Nation's Capital to his present career in operations research and systems analysis, that he discovered the joys of skiing. That happened during a two-year stint in Salt Lake City. He tried it and he liked it. On his return to the Banana Belt, he joined USEASA and through it learned about PVS and joined the club.

continued

Geoff' Wadey Profile Continued

As a PVS'er he has served on Excom both before and after being elected our first two-term President. He rewrote the club by-laws, designed the PVS pin, and coined our "The Club for Skiers" slogan.

Geoff's other interests are sport cars (he drives and restores an Austin Healey 3000), music (ancient and modern), books (likewise), travel, conversation, etc., etc. His married daughter (and grandson) and two sons all ski, as does his wife Jean, although she is not as sold on the cold weather as he is.

\*\*\*\*\*

SKI ITALIAN STYLE By Lucrece Beale

"Que será, será" best describes PVS's "Ski '79 - A European Ski Adventure" that departed Dulles Airport February 10 for two weeks skiing in Italy's famed Val d' Aosta surrounded by three of the highest mountains in the Alps: Mont Blanc (15,778'), Monte Rosa (15,200') and the Matterhorn (14,688').

Bob Grasley who, with wife Mary Lee, led our group of 33, warned at the start: "To enjoy this trip you gotta be real laid back". Right on. "Laid back" - (opposite of "uptight") is the Italian way and before we left New York we had begun to adapt to their casual manner and to imitate their wonderfully expressive shrug of the shoulders at whatever snafu or calamity occurred.

As it turned out, the only real crisis was at the end of our trip when, on arrival at Milan Airport for the flight home, we were told our airline (Alitalia) was on strike and God knows when or how we would ever get out of Italy. "Oh, isn't that terrible!" exclaimed someone. The airline spokesman gave the familiar shrug of the shoulders and replied calmly, "Not as bad as war." True.

Our introduction to the Italian style began at JFK where we and 27 disheveled, raucous members of a Hunter Mountain ski

club, appropriately named The Crazy Ritchies, were weighed in with excruciating slowness by one serene Alitalia ticket agent. Checked in at last we dashed to the VIP lounge for one quick drink at our prearranged party, then the dash to the plane where we seated ourselves as far as possible from the increasingly strident Crazy Ritchies.

At Milan next morning a drug-sniffing police dog, under the guidance of the carabinieri, leaped on and sniffed each piece of luggage coming out the carousel. It took 1 1/2 hours to obtain all our gear but, no contraband found, we were finally free to load our bus and head for Courmayeur - 118 miles away. (The Crazies, we were relieved to see, headed elsewhere).

It was lightly snowing and the mountain tops were cloud shrouded when we arrived at Courmayeur's 4 star Royal Hotel at the base of Mont Blanc. We explored the cobble paved streets. We noted the Italian custom of carrying umbrellas in the snow and marveled at the identical black curly heads of male Italian skiers who in tight racing pants roamed the byways enchanting themselves if not the girls. The hotel hosted a before dinner wine party with elaborate appetizers. Skiing had been poor during the past week we were told. Plenty of snow but whiteouts were prevalent. We should be prepared.

We didn't worry. Leader Grasley has a magic touch where ski conditions are concerned. Sure enough, next morning dawned that rarest of ski days: cold, sunny, windless, with feet of new powder blanketing the mountain. Lift tickets (\$50 for 5 days) were obtained for all by the Grasleys and PVSer Jackie Hendrick who, as representative of Waters Travel Service, often broke trail for us in difficult confrontations with authorities.

We rushed to the slopes to board the world's largest cable car (completed only six weeks earlier) which every four minutes deposited 135 ski-toting passengers at the Plan Checrouit where a chain of chairs and pomas provided access to seemingly endless expanses of easy and intermediate runs. Slowly and timidly we started out - most of us on skis for the first time since equipment was stored last winter. Soon we were letting it all hang out - exhilarated by the sheer wonder of skiing these incredible sun-drenched snow fields beside towering Mont Blanc.

Continued

## Ski Italian Style Continued

We returned to the hotel in the sunset for hot baths (or sauna and swimming in the outdoor pool) and a fine Italian dinner served by a swarm of attentive waiters. Followed, of course, by the traditional cappuccino in the lounge.

The next four days were as splendid as the first. We spread out on the mountain to Val Veny, to Dolonne, trying all slopes green, red, black. We sunbathed on the decks of mountain ristoranti, lunching on pasta, onion soup, polenta and fondu. Garlic pizza at Piccolo Padres at the top of the cable and the antipasto feast at Zerotta were favorite stops.

Prices were a shock. Altho the dollar is good in Italy inflation meant \$3.00 for soup, \$1.00 for tea. Not to worry. Those 10,000 lira notes were just play money anyway and we flung them heedlessly around.

One day a group went to Chamonix (a 40 minute bus ride via St. Bernard Tunnel) where they skied Les Grand Montets in the French Alps. Twelve from the group visited Maison De Filippo in nearby Entreves for a unique dining experience: for \$12.50 each they consumed 14 courses and 13 bottles of wine!

Meanwhile, the Wieses explored country facilities (not too good), an avalanche slid from a ristorante roof into Phyllis Daly's soup, Steve Grenleski began a personal study of Italian desserts, Frank Shelburne outstayed everyone on the slopes and Jeanne Strickland launched a do-or-die assault on the pomas.

On the last day at Courmayeur we were to leave at 9 a.m. for Breuil-Cervinia to ski a week in the shadow of the Matterhorn but, true to the Italian way, we were not picked up until 4 p.m. Some used the time to ski again. Others shopped for Italian ski wear, leather goods and woodwork.

We reached Cervinia at 7:30 p.m. Our hotel, the Petit Palais, at the base of the funiculaire, announced (Italian style)

that it did not, after all, have rooms for all of us so 7 were dispatched to the Hotel Cristallo, a shuttle bus away at the top of the hill. It didn't matter. We easily met on the slopes where the skiing was as great as Courmayeur. The Grasley weather was with us still; sunlit, windless days, occasionally whited out, and acres and acres of deep snow - packed and virgin.

Lift tickets for 6 days cost \$50. A 3-stage cableway took us to the Plateau Rosa on the Swiss border. From there we could ski long easy or intermediate runs to the base (one run seven miles long!). Or we could stop midway at Plan Maison to take chairs or pomas for reruns. Or ski the Carosello system on the south side of town. The first morning on reaching Plateau Rosa we dropped down to take a T bar and found alas! we had crossed into Switzerland and our passes were no good. We made the tough herring bone climb back to Italian soil chagrined at what we felt was a rip off trap.

Later in the week many of the group crossed over at the top on purpose to drop down to Zermatt by ski and cable car for lunch and a view of the Matterhorn from the Swiss side. Zermatt skiing was not nearly as good as on the Cervinia side but the fondu, draft beer and pear schnapps were terrific.

Wherever we skied there were mogul mites - teeny tots under 3' - skiing circles around us, putting us to shame. At night there was disco dancing at the Cristallo where they occasionally played a waltz for the oldsters.

On our last day "Grasley weather" finally gave out. After a quick try at skiing in total whiteout and high winds we quit. We'd skied 12 out of 14 days with no casualties. Who could complain?

We arrived in Milan at noon next day in time to visit da Vinci's Last Supper, the magnificent Duomo, and La Scala Theatre. Altho our reservations for that evening's Madame Butterfly were canceled due to the illness of the prima donna we were thrilled by the visit to the empty house and its museum of operatic treasures.

For dinner we split into groups to feast at various trattoria. Then early to bed to prepare for the long journey home. Little did we know how long! About 46 hours by actual count. But we learned our lesson, "lay back".

Continued

Ski Italian Style Continued

So when they told us at the airport, that it was a no-go trip due to the strike of Alitalia stewardesses, one panicked. Not even when the lunch counters and bars shut down in sympathy. Not even when we discovered the Crazy Ritchies were among the many other ski clubs stranded with us.

A lucky few of our group escaped on space provided on other airlines. The rest of us sat about the airport all day until passage was arranged on a next day TWA flight.

We returned to Milan (with a strong sense of deja vu!) to dine and spend the night at the elegant Executive Hotel at Alitalia expense. The Crazy Ritchies were there too, friends now, refugees all.

Next morning the packed TWA 707 with us on it went off on time. We were really "laid back" now. Sometime, somehow, we'd get home. Que será, será. (Not a bad slogan for a ski trip anywhere, come to think of it).

\*\*\*\*\*

TOOT Tidbit

Keith Lyon, aged 12, passed the USSA Basic Test this year at Mt. Sutton, Canada for his Boy Scout Skiing Merit Badge. The test was given by PVSer Penny Wiederhold.

\*\*\*\*\*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- April 14 - BRSC (Blue Ridge Ski Council) meeting. Contact Bob Wyckoff for details. Telephone 589-5532.
- April 24 - PVS Annual Meeting and Party at Kirk and Peggy Burns' home, 6503 Waterway Drive, Falls Church, Virginia. Tele. - 256-4443 8:00 p.m.
- April 29 - Pennsylvania Ski Federation Meeting in Harrisburg, Pa. Contact PVS PSF representative Art Topping for more details. Tele. 521-6215.
- May 4,5,6 - USSA Convention in Washington, D.C. Contact PVS USSA representative Art Topping for more details. Tele- 521-6215.
- May 19 - 10th International Dinner at Pat and Don Cope's, 117 West Monroe Ave, Alexandria, Virginia. Contact Marilyn Clark for reservations 978-9435.
- June 9 - Shenandoah National Park Hike led by Dot and Jenckes Mason, 652-4313.
- July 21 - Steak and Swim at Roy and Malda Elrod's in Triangle, Virginia. Further details will be announced in the next issue of TOOT.

\*\*\*\*\*

The PVS Killington trip report will be in the May issue of Toot. Anyone wishing to submit information or comments for TOOT, the deadline for May is May 1. Contact Judy Mealey at 790-8227 or mail to 1457 Waggaman Circle, McLean, Va. 22101.

\*\*\*\*\*



CLUB OFFICERS

President . . . . . Ray McKinley  
Vice President. . . . . Marilyn Clark  
Secretary . . . . . Alice Swalm  
Treasurer . . . . . Margaret Wyckoff

Excom:

Second Term . . . . . Judy Mealey  
Bob Marx  
Keith Lyon

First Term . . . . . Gail Gell  
Geoff' Wadey  
Mary Ward

Membership . . . . . Gail Gell  
TOOT Editor. . . . . Judy Mealey  
TOOT Production. . . . . Jan & Bob Marx  
USSA - Eastern Rep. . . . . Art Topping  
BRSC Rep . . . . . Bob Wyckoff  
PSF Rep . . . . . Art Topping  
Program Chairman . . . . . Jim Slack  
(860-0011)  
Answering Service . . . . . Jan & Bob Marx  
(451-9158)

\*\*\*\*\*