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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.  
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

APRIL 2008

[www.potomacvalleyskiers.org](http://www.potomacvalleyskiers.org)

[info@pvskiers.org](mailto:info@pvskiers.org)

*Greetings PVSers,*

First, kudos to Judy Macaluso for solving half (the toughest half, me thinks) of my March Toot puzzler. For full and complete coverage see page 5.

Next, ExCom is proposing a By-Laws change. This to open our membership to participants in the broader array of snow sports, such as snow boarders and the like. We conducted a "straw pool" on this issue by asking this season's ski trip participants if they agreed/disagreed to this By-Laws change. Here are the results:

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>	<u>No Response</u>
Snowmass	23	1	0	8
Sun Valley	16	1	4	4
Balkans	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
TOTAL	<b>43</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>

Notwithstanding overwhelming approval from the trip participants, we strongly recommend your support of this amendment. For particulars, see page 3.

Lastly, please join me in thanking those members who are "retiring" from ExCom...at least for now: **Bob Knopes, Dick Laeser, David Lerner, and Dick Comerford**. Rumor has it Bob missed just one ExCom meeting in his two years of service. We thank him for his diligence and judgment throughout. Dick Laeser provided double-duty with the additional responsibility as Treasurer. We thank him for his wisdom and support of PVS in so many ways...AND he will continue as Treasurer. We are tremendously appreciative to David for bringing to us his web-master expertise and immense knowledge of skiing and ski areas. And a very special thanks to Dick Comerford who has served faithfully as Vice President substituting for me during too many of my absences...and Dick added an important historical perspective to many ExCom issues under discussion. *Please join me in thanking them all for their wonderful service during their terms of office.*

Next month I will feature those other members of ExCom who contribute so much to PVS leadership and operations. Meantime, see you at the Annual Meeting!

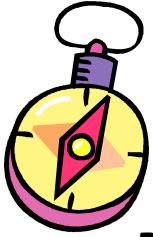
Best Wishes,

Mike

Annual Business Meeting

Jean and Reg  
Heitchue's  
party room  
April 15 , 7:30 PM  
In Reston Center





**Directions** Reg and Jean Heitchue's Party Room  
11990 Market St # 1015  
Reston, VA 20190  
**703-437-7611**

**From Beltway:** Take Rt. 267 West (Dulles Toll Rd.)  
Take Exit 12 (Reston Parkway.) Turn **right** at end of ramp.  
Turn **left** at 2<sup>nd</sup> light onto Bluemont Way.  
Go 2 blocks and turn **right** on Library St.  
Go 1 block and turn **left** on Market St.  
Midtown Condominium is on the right at 11990 Market St.  
Free parking == Pull up in front of the building and have the valet park  
your car. (Tips would be appreciated, I'm sure, but are not necessary.)

### **Changes**

New applicant member:

Ingrid L. Dallaire

8900 Clifford Avenue

Chevy Chase, MD 200815

301-654-6952

[ingrid.dallaire@longandfoster.com](mailto:ingrid.dallaire@longandfoster.com)



### **Coming Event**



## **Tour Annapolis by Segway**

**Saturday, May 3, 2008**

Barbara and Fred Leonhardt have organized a 2-hr guided tour of Annapolis on Segways for a maximum of 16 PVSers on Sat. May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The participants will lunch at Carrol's Creek Restaurant in Annapolis. The tour currently is full but the waiting list is very short.

**Please call Barbara at 301-963-8111 or at cell phone no. 301-996-2338** for information or to add your name to the waiting list.

## Profiles of Nominated Members



### *David Callaway- Candidate for ExCom*

I grew up in Chevy Chase, Maryland. After graduating from Bethesda Chevy Chase High School, I attended Washington College in Chestertown, MD. I served in the Marine Corps in the six year reserve program after which Carolyn and I were married in 1961. She and I started skiing in our early 30s and liked it so much that we bought a townhouse on the slope in Camelback, PA. We used it a lot for 20 years but finally sold it. We found that we missed skiing and were introduced to PVS by our daughter's in-laws...Wilma and Gene Sharer. We have been members for about 5 years.

My working years were spent in Mortgage Banking and FHA from which I retired in 2002. Since then we have enjoyed traveling overseas and the PVS ski trips!! I continue to do consulting in the mortgage field. Carolyn and I were unable to go on any trips this year but plan not to miss next winter on the slopes!!



### *Sue Lyon- Candidate for ExCom*

I am originally from upper NY state and have lived in VA since 1956. As a child, I lived in Aruba for 9 years and Santos, Brazil for one year.

When PVS first started in 1965, (my husband at the time) Keith and I attended meetings but didn't join until the following year. I learned to ski the first year while Keith was a ski patrol leader.

I'm a R.N. graduate of 1962 from Rockingham Memorial Hospital in Harrisonburg, VA. I've worked in the operating room off and on while helping raise three sons and living overseas in Frankfurt Germany for two years, and London, England for three years. Back in Virginia I was a Cub Scout Den Mother for three years. In 1981 I went back to work in the O.R. at Alexandria Hospital and retired from there the end of March 2006. In about 1984, I took a long leave of absence from PVS until rejoining in 2000. I was surprised and enjoyed seeing so many of the same ski club members - who are very young at heart and still look great. My very first trip ski trip out west was in 2001 at The Canyons in Utah with PVS. Right now I'm enjoying retirement, keeping busy with many projects, activities and occasional babysitting for my two grandsons who are two and four years old.

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### Nominees:

PRESIDENT: Mike Strand      VICE PRESIDENT: Dottie Villers

EXCOM: Kerry Hines, David Callaway, Sue Lyon

## ExCom Slate

The **Nominating Committee** places the following candidates in nomination:

### PRESIDENT:

Mike Strand

### VICE PRESIDENT:

Dottie Villers

### EXCOM:

Kerry Hines

David Callaway

Sue Lyon



## Applicant and Associate Members

The ExCom has reviewed and approved the following members to be voted on for membership at the April 15<sup>th</sup> business meeting.

### Full Membership

Walter Flowers  
Donna Hambric  
Marie Heilen  
Robert Heilen  
Dorian Janney  
Sherri McKenna  
Thomas McKenna  
John Seabold

### Associate Membership

Bonnie Sweeney  
Russel Sweeney  
Paralee White

## By-Laws Amendment Proposal

ExCom proposes the following changes to the By-Laws in order to expand our membership to include individuals who do other winter snow sports, such as snowboarders and similar athletic activities. As mentioned in the November Toot, ExCom would look at applicants who do these other sports on a case-by-case basis. The expanded qualified activities are not intended to include tubing or similar snow sports. As currently, there is no specified level of proficiency.

### MEMBERSHIP:

#### SECT I, B

*Current: "3. Ski at least three days with a club member or members."*

**Proposed: "3. Participate in skiing or other athletic snow sports at least three days with a club member or members."**

#### SECT I, B

*Current: "4. Display skiing ability."*

**Proposed: "4. Display skiing ability or athletic ability in some other snow sport."**



## Follow-up - the Puzzler answer

### *It's Not What You See...It's What You Don't See*

Just 8 days after the puzzler was presented in the March Toot, Judy Macaluso braved a snow storm to obtain the best cell phone coverage (from Utah) to report that the text in italics contained NOT one letter "e"! As she noted, "This was highly unusual, e being the most common letter in the English language." (Judy was the only one to respond to this challenge. **Thank you Judy!**)

Now that the unique aspect is solved, the next step is to find the clue. To help find the clue there is a clue in the column: "With all of you literary types out there this should be fairly easy..." So there's a hint that the absent letter e may be related to literature. Sounds like a Google search may be in order: like "Missing Letter e." This brings you to books (literature you might say) among which is a title "*A Void*". Thus the same letters as "avoid" in the 10<sup>th</sup> line of the text. Hence the CLUE! (I suppose I could have used "a void" in the text but I thought it would then be a give-away. Wrong!)

So here's the background story about *A Void*:

*La Disparition* (literally, "The Disappearance") is a 300 page French lipogrammatic novel, written in 1969 by Georges Perec, entirely without the letter *e*, following Oulipo constraints. It was translated into English by Gilbert Adair, with the title *A Void* (\$12.21 from Amazon.com), for which he won the Scott Moncrieff Prize in 1995. Another English translation by Ian Monk is titled *A Vanishing*. The book has also been translated into German, Spanish, Turkish, Swedish and Russian.

All translators have imposed upon themselves a similar lipogrammatic constraint to the original, avoiding the most commonly used letter of the alphabet. This precludes the use of words normally considered essential such as *je* ("I") and *le* (masculine "the") in French, and "me" and "the" in English. The Spanish version contains no *a*, which is the most commonly used letter in that language.

**Plot summary:** *A Void's* plot follows a group of individuals hunting a missing companion, Anton Vowl. It is in part a parody of noir and horror fiction, with many stylistic tricks and gags, plot convolutions, and a grim conclusion. In many parts it implicitly talks about its own lipogrammatic limitation: illustrations of this including a missing part 5 (of 26), and calling its main protagonist "Vowl". Individuals within *A Void* do work out what is missing, but find difficulty discussing or naming it as it has no word or form that conforms to its author's constraint. Philip Howard, writing a lipogrammatic appraisal of *A Void* in a British daily journal, said, "This is a story chock-full of plots and sub-plots, of loops within loops, of trails in pursuit of trails, all of which allow its author an opportunity to display his customary virtuosity as an avant-gardist magician, acrobat and clown."

In his **postscript**, our author lays out his ambition in imposing such a constricting lipogrammatic constraint on his production of this book, and an inkling of how this brought about much difficulty in finishing it!

Notice anything unusual in the two previous paragraphs?

Also, Ray McKinley used a clever letter-play technique years ago in a Knee column targeting Lu Beale. Ask him about it.

*Mike Strand*



Bulgaria



Slovenia

# Balkans 2008

by Jean van der Tak, with input from the McKinleys

Skiing?! In Bulgaria and Slovenia?! Where the heck *are* those places, anyway? Defying general skepticism, that's what 14 adventurers did under the expert, pioneering guidance of Kerry Hines and spouse Marianne on the last PVS trip of 2007-08, March 2 to 13.

We did indeed ski, though the last of our four days on the slopes was in Nassfeld, Austria, over the border from Kranjska Gora in Slovenia, which claims to have invented skiing in the 1600s and has produced many world-class skiers, but this year was hampered by early global warming. Off the slopes we took in splendid sights and scenery of these two eastern European countries with their long turbulent histories, now energetically emerging from their post-World War II communist eras. Both are now European Union members, and Slovenia currently holds the presidency of the EU. Slovenia is onto the euro, Bulgaria still on the leva, which took some mental gymnastics for us tied to the sinking U.S. dollar. The sights ranged from Roman ruins to frescoed and gilded monasteries and churches reflective of rich histories--Bulgaria and its centuries under the Turkish Ottomans; Slovenia and its Austro-Hungarian past--to quaint medieval villages, bustling plazas in the two capital cities with upscale shops, McDonalds and KFCs, few tourists (other than some non-skiing Japanese and British skiers), plus snowcapped mountains and winter-dormant valleys between.



Bansko



Touring Sofia

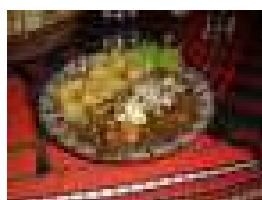
Kerry started scheming for this trip two years ago, he says, drawing on his travel, work, and research in this part of the world. The Internet helped, and also his Russian (with its Cyrillic alphabet, like Bulgarian) and Marianne's native German, though English was spoken--and displayed--most everywhere we went. Our transportation was flawless, by air (Lufthansa, Slovenia's airline, United Airlines) and by land--buses and vans reserved in advance or efficiently mustered when plans changed. So were our four top-class hotels. Our local guides were voluble and knowledgeable. And the rentals of skis (all of us) and boots (most of us) just fine, and cheap by U.S. and west European standards.



Touring the woodworker's house museum in Old Bansko.

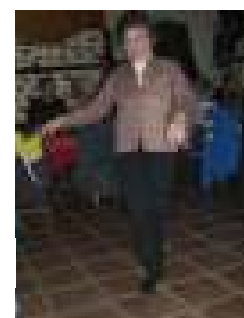
The "we" of the group, besides Kerry and Marianne, were: Jan and Bob Marx, Nancy and Ray McKinley (a lingering knee problem kept Ray off the slopes), Eileen Clegg (also a non-skier) and travel companion Ronald Fedorczyk, Joan Firman (a longtime skier, she confirmed, but sidelined by a recently broken wrist), Dottie Villers, Melissa FitzGerald and their tennis mates lured by the prospects of this exotic trip, Louann Eadie and Caroline Dibbs, and Jean van der Tak.

Our arrival in Sofia, capital of Bulgaria (that's the bulge in the middle of the Balkan peninsula, with the Black Sea, Turkey and Greece to the east and south, and almost next door on the west, Kosovo, much in the news just now but we avoided it) coincided with Bulgaria's Liberation Day. That's sort of their July 4th, celebrating the Russian-Turkish War of 1877-78, which ended Bulgaria's five centuries as part of the Ottoman Empire. Fireworks were heard and viewed from our hotel that evening.



6-- Traditional Bulgarian

Next day, in spring-like weather, we walked in and around golden-domed churches (Bulgaria is of Eastern Orthodox persuasion), an icon market, a few Roman ruins, potholed streets, and lunched outdoors at a "Happy Grill," served by red-legged waitresses, amid bustling crowds of smartly dressed office workers on their lunch breaks.



Jean joining folk dance.

Then came a two-hour drive southward to Bansko, Bulgaria's "premier" ski resort. There we had two days of spring-like skiing, except above the clouds where Kerry found us some fairly fresh snow. And the first of the Hines' regular wine (local, of course) and beer pre-dinner gatherings. And hearty dinners of shopska salads (pyramids of tomatoes, cucumbers, and onions, topped with grated feta cheese), and skewers/kebabs of lamb, pork, chicken, etc. Some of us ventured out for a lively evening of Bulgarian folk song and dance.

Ray, Eileen and Joan one day toured Melnik, Bulgaria's "smallest, historic town." On arrival, Ray reports: "We were told that the presidents of Bulgaria and Macedonia were meeting there so we would have to wait until they went to lunch to visit." So they toured the "stunning" Rozen Monastery, had a "superb" four-course lunch, and returned to Melnik "where the presidents were now lunching. We didn't see them but saw lots of secret service. And unlike in the U.S., we got to within 50 feet of their luncheon." Then went on to visit "the largest house in the Balkans, built in 1740," furnished with period antiques and a fine wine cellar. "A great day."



*Local trout, head and all!*

Our third day in Bansko took most of us to Bulgaria's "most revered holy place," the Rila Monastery, a World Heritage site, nestled in a narrow, forested valley south of Sofia. For us that next day, it was back to Sofia and flights on to Ljubljana (by way of the Munich



*Rila Monastery*

airport, for the second time), capital of Slovenia (The only country with "love" in its name, That's the Rhode-Island-size country of just over two million, squeezed between Italy and Austria to the west and north, Hungary and Croatia. Again in spring-like weather, we walked Ljubljana on a Sunday, admiring the two main churches (Roman Catholic), both crowded for services, and a flea market beside the picturesque main canal, where the Hines bartered for antique engravings of the region and a three-volume set (missing volume 2) on World War I, which Kerry is researching for his next book.

That afternoon we drove northwesterly to our next ski spot, Kranjska Gora, by way of Lake Bled, adorned by a medieval castle and a picturesque church atop "the only true island in Slovenia." Touted as "Slovenia's largest and best-equipped ski resort," Kranjska Gora seemed to be that, certainly, and our Miklic pension was cozy, and its mushroom soup in bread pods was delicious. But the weather was uncooperative. Soggy rain and sleet challenged our first day on the slopes (thank goodness for the pension's dryer), but we were able to ski on slopes prepared for World Cup slalom competitions held the two preceding days.



*Coastal town of Piran.*

So on days two and three in Kranjska Gora, some of us opted for a trip to Piran in Slovenia's far southwest. This we reached by way of Italy (bordering Slovenia just five miles west of KG), down through wintry vineyards, through Trieste, and beyond to a Mediterranean-like, beflowered town by the Adriatic Sea. None of us had ever heard of



Piran, but we were charmed by its medieval alleys, refurbishing town square, and a sunny lunch by the sea.

The McKinleys and Eileen opted meanwhile for a day in Venice, "on the other side of the Adriatic," Nancy notes: "Despite the cost; \$19 to enter the city by boat, \$1.50 to use a restroom, we were awed by the beauty and history of the water-filled city. Into the Basilica, over bridge after bridge, lunch on the Grand Canal made for an unforgettable day."

Determined to get us the ideal Alpine skiing we'd come all this way for, Kerry--with Louann's help--got on the Internet and targeted Nassfeld, just an hour or so's drive away across the border into the Austrian Alps, ski conditions reportedly great. So off went eight of us for a last day's glorious skiing, in abundant natural snow, blue sky and sun, gondolas, chairlifts and T-bars all over the wide expanses of steep and less-steep slopes, with Kerry confidently



*Nassfeld – all that glorious snow!*

consulting the trail map and leading us on. There were a few scary moments in an errant cloud in mid-afternoon, visibility near zero. But Bob Marx, ever the thoughtful "sweep" keeping watch over the group, helped up a few sit-downers and we all arrived triumphantly at the bottom.

That final evening, responding to Caroline's query re our most memorable moments of a memorable trip, the eight of us counted Nassfeld the highlight for us (though Jean was flummoxed by the high-tech system of verifying ski lift passes). Also getting high votes were our sorteys in Ljubljana and to the Rila Monastery.

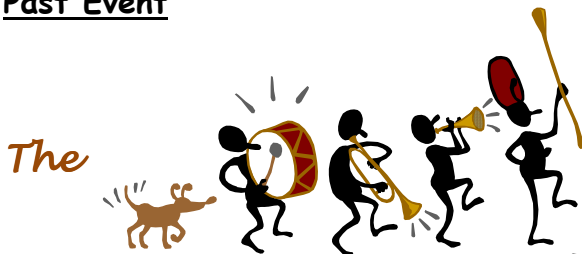


*Marianne and Kerry with their guides for Sofia who they met 6 years ago.*

We owe many thanks to Kerry's enthusiasm, research, and undauntedness in the face of "emergencies," i.e., weather incompatibility at Kranjska Gora. On the last night, we presented him and Marianne with a crystal water pitcher of thanks. Melissa and Nancy read poems lauding our adventures, and Kerry had his poem ready for the bus ride next morning, en route back to the Ljubljana airport. There we took leave of Nancy and Ray, who were extending the adventure with three days of travel down the Dalmatian Coast, and took off with great memories.

The Hines hosted our pre-trip brunch party on February 3 at their lovely near-mountain home in western Virginia, and will host the post-trip party there on April 6.

## Past Event



*Meeting* ...was held at the home of  
*Phil & Eugenia Ufholz.*

There was a nice turn out with 34 members, 1 applicant member, and 1 guest present to enjoy the wonderful kielbasa, crackers and cheese, a delicious layered dip with chips, and a great assortment of beverages. Eugenia served a yummy Greek dessert that only she in her family makes.

A short business meeting ensued that updated us all on membership, up-coming events, and the current status of 2009 ski trip proposals.



*Thanks*, Eugenia and Phil for sharing your home and yourselves.



## Barrow, Alaska in January

*Editor's note: Dorian Janney originally was scheduled to host the January PVS meeting. She had this opportunity to go to Barrow that month, so agreed to host the February meeting. Those of us who couldn't attend missed Dorian's tales of her adventure. Mary Beale e-mailed Dorian with some interesting reporter-type questions. Dorian has replied with great answers plus a link to a web site that I think is well worth visiting. I am including a few pictures from there.*

### 1. Where and what do you teach?

I am the Science Resource Teacher at the Parkland Magnet Middle School for Aerospace Technology in Aspen Hill. I also teach "Astronomy and Space Exploration" and "Research in Astronomy".



Dorian enjoying a piece of muktuk.

### 2. What was the purpose of the trip to Barrow Alaska?

I was invited to participate in the International Polar Year's "Polar Gateways" conference, which was held on the first day that the sun reappeared above the horizon above the Arctic Circle on Jan. 23rd. I am a co-investigator on a grant that focuses on improving science education for middle school students as well as on a grant that works to educate people, mostly teachers, about how to establish After School Astronomy Clubs across the US. We actually even have some international clubs that have gotten involved in our network, which is called, "After School Astronomy Clubs".

### 3. How cold was it?

When I first arrived, they had a record-breaking warm spell, and it actually got above freezing - but just for about 15 hours - long enough to begin to form some very impressive icicles! Then it got back to normal - which ranged from about 30 degrees below zero to 65 degrees below zero one night. How cold was that - well, we were in a van with about 6 other people on a polar bear hunt. We had to use credit cards to continually scrape the frost off the windows so we could see! No sooner had you slaved away to scrape a tiny peephole when it would close up right away.

4. Was it dark 24x7? Wasn't there some variation? Was it winter there? Did you and others find it hard to maintain a regular waking/sleep schedule? In other words did you need a sleeping pill? Well, I did need a sleeping pill, but only because I shared a room with a woman who snored really loudly! I had thought it would be completely dark until the sun rose above the horizon, and was pleasantly surprised to find that it actually got fairly light from about 11 am until 3 pm - and the rosy tints of sunrise and sunset seemed to last about 45 minutes on either end - just lovely! It was winter there- but even in the summer, when the sun just goes around the sky 24-7 for almost three months - it is still really cold there. A warm day in Barrow is around 50 degrees F.

### 5. Should everyone go to Barrow at least once?

Well, I loved it, and really hope to go back - but I am a little bit strange. There are only three restaurants, and they are nothing to write home about. There is no alcohol for sale, as the Inupiat culture tends to have a very high rate of alcoholism, and the native Americans themselves placed the ban on alcohol about four years ago. I did manage to bring in a few miniature bottles of red wine, and I don't think Merlot has ever tasted so good! I thought the landscape was gorgeous - flat, white, barren. But there were no hills other than the pressure ridges formed by the pushing of sea ice against the shore, no vegetation at all - other than two really cute Palm trees someone had made out of baleen (from the mouth of whales) and drift wood. The main sights to see were the scattered whale skulls located

around town and the occasional snowy owl. Also, if someone has a hankering to try whale blubber, this whaling town is the right place!

6. *Did you see the aurora borealis periodically or constantly? Was it like an impressionist painting or a Picasso?* Mmm. ... We saw the aurora borealis three of the seven nights we were there. The first two nights it was rather like a thin, green rainbow that simply stretched across from the land into the Arctic - and found me wondering if I could locate the little Eskimo with the pot of gold if I looked really hard. But one night, it just came to life! That was, of course, the night that the temperature was 65 below, and even your eyelashes had frost on them! It was really like an Impressionist painting that had someone breathing air into it which caused the colors to dance across the sky as they moved about and grew in some places, and shrunk in others. It was awesome, and in spite of the cold, we watched in utter amazement. Our guide was Inupiat, and he began to sing an Inupiat song and whistled - and the aurora appeared to respond. It was all that and more - and that is one of the reasons why one should visit Barrow!

7. *You have a masters in (Astronomy?). In your "spare time" you're getting a PhD in (Astronomy?).* Actually, I had a Master's in Special Education, a second Master's and Teaching Certification in Earth and Space Science from Johns Hopkins, and I am working toward my doctorate in Science Education at the University of Maryland! I am a glutton for punishment.

I am attaching a few pictures of my trip – and, if there is anyone who wants to hear more, my four days worth of dairies have been archived and are readily available at the following url:

<http://sunearthday.gsfc.nasa.gov/2008/multimedia/arctic.php>



Barrow High School Classroom



Whalebone Arch

8. *Finally, getting back to the February meeting. What is the actual name of the potato hors d'oeuvre you served? Everyone will want to know this. Next to skiing, PVSers love eating.*

Now you have come to the million dollar question. Even with all my travel and advanced degrees - I am stumped. I bought an hors d'oeuvre platter at Costco, and it included potato puffs! Lotsa luck! I'll just have to host another event!

## In Memoriam

### Sad news for Dave and Marsha Warthen



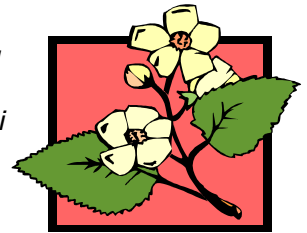
Dave let us know that his granddaughter, Samantha Michele Diedrich, born one month premature in Ohio on 11 March, survived 29 hours. Although she was a beautiful little girl externally, she was facing many problems internally. A severe diaphragmatic hernia led to underdeveloped lungs, and two openings in her heart were persisting. The family has emphasized the positive: that her suffering was limited; that things took their natural course; and that her parents were able to hold her at the end. In Dave's words, "She is now totally healed." At the same time he acknowledged that the loss was extremely hard for all of the family.

We share in their loss.

### Malda C. Elrod

*Malda and Roy were very active and long time members in PVS, including hosting many "annual" Steak and Swim events in the summer and winter. Their love of skiing was demonstrated when they earned recognition as numbers 5 and 6 to ski one million vertical feet at Jackson Hole. Malda was the first woman! She skied until 3 years ago. Roy plans to ski next winter.*

*The following is from the Fredericksburg News Date published: 3/25/2008*



In the early morning hours of March 20, 2008, Malda Chandler Elrod passed away quietly in her sleep at her home in Spotsylvania. She had waged a long and valiant struggle with COPD and the after affects of a very severe stroke.

Malda was born in Buffalo Junction, Virginia, the daughter of Robert and Viola Chandler. Her father died when she was 5 years old. Two years later her mother decided to move back home to her native home, Texas, to be near her family. After five years Malda's mother also died. Malda then went to live with an older sister. When Malda was 13 the family moved to Muleshoe, Texas. There she soon met Roy Elrod and they became sweethearts. Malda attended Muleshoe High School, where she became a stellar basketball player. She was the salvation of her senior class.

After her graduation at age 16 she was placed on her own, a young girl in 1936, in the middle of the great depression. With hard work and strong will by, age 21 she had graduated from business college, earned a pilot's license, and bought an airplane.

From early 1942 until mid 1944 she worked at the Fort Stockton Air force Base. There she helped train young men to become WWII pilots. After leaving Fort Stockton she moved to Galveston, TX to accept a job monitoring Navy contracts with the Galveston shipyards.

On December 21, 1944 she became the bride of then, Capt. Roy Elrod USMC. She then accompanied her husband on his various military assignments. She became a perfect military wife. She was very active as a volunteer with the Navy Relief Society branches at Marine bases. She also found time to become an expert golfer. After her husband retired from the Marine Corps in 1961, she and he formed a construction and development corporation which operated in northern Virginia until 1994. She was a full and active partner through the entire active time. During those years she was a member of a number of women's business organizations. She continued to play golf and ski. She and her husband also became worldwide travelers.

She is survived by her husband Lt. Col. Roy Elrod USMC (Ret), nieces, nephews, cousins, and their children.

In lieu of flowers gifts in her memory may be made to the Salvation Army, P.O. Box 179, Fredericksburg, VA 22404.



Funeral Service, Fredericksburg Chapel. A memorial service will be held at the Ft. Myer Chapel on **May 29, 2008** at 9:00 A.M. followed immediately by burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

**Roy Elrod**  
**5500 Ashbrook Court**  
**Fredericksburg, VA 22407-9544**

# SNOWMASS

*SNOWMASS 2009*  
*January 15 through 22*

*We have another year to enjoy the convenience and the ambiance of our favorite Snowmass Mountain Chalet. Recent purchase by a large developer includes plans for making major changes with new construction and a new concept in Snowmass Village.*

- Join us for this perennial favorite while it still is available -- slopeside skiing at Snowmass with interchangeable lift tickets and free bus service to Aspen Highlands, Ajax Mountain, and Buttermilk ski areas, more than 5,000 acres of skiing. Direct access to 3,100 acres of Snowmass slopes is just outside the door.
- We will again stay at the charming and friendly Snowmass Mountain Chalet to enjoy the convenience of slopeside lodging served by the welcoming Mountain Chalet staff. Lodging 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.
- The trip will include group dinners, après-ski parties, and other activities available in the Aspen environs.
- Approximate trip cost is \$1,960, 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 e-mail at [Carolyn.maurer@verizon.net](mailto:Carolyn.maurer@verizon.net).

To reserve:

- Send deposit of \$250 per person to:  
Carolyn DeVilbiss at 4508 Peacock Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304
- Note "PVS-Snowmass 2009" on the memo line.



There are Blue Ridge Ski Council (BRSC) sanctioned summer trips available, if anyone is interested. These are run by other clubs and, as members of BRSC, any PVSer can sign up with another club, if the club has space. The website:

<http://www.skicouncil.com/>

## **PVS Board - 2007-2008**

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*Bob Knopes*  
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*David Lerner*



# THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley

There is lots of news, but we'll save that for next month. At the end of ski season, what follows is a Knee from the end of the season two decades ago. You will see that not much changes over the years. Do you remember all of the names? And the Kneepuns remain; what can I say -- overwhelming. OK whelming. Enjoy.

Good news: Jury Verdict Research, Inc. reports that skiers made up only 23 percent of injury related lawsuits in the past 3 years - the lowest of any sport (runners made up 88 percent; golfers 69 percent). This is primarily due to the injury wavers that accompany most lift tickets.

More good news: National Public Radio recently reported that, for the first time, Colorado is criminally prosecuting two cases involving reckless skiers injuring others on the slopes. They could get jail sentences.

Why is it good news? Fewer lawsuits and greater safety will result in lower liability insurance and eventually lower lift prices. Right on! (And you thought this column was only funknee. That's my redeeming "social value" -section!)

More uplifting thoughts: In its 25 years of operation, the tram at Jackson Hole has covered 355,000 miles - a distance one and a half times that from the earth to the moon.

Someone said, "Ski Canada" and Charlie Huggins did. This season he skied 10 areas "in 3 Canadian provinces: several in the Mont Sutton area and Banff with Jack Peoples and ending up at Whistler and Blackcomb with Norm Engleman.

While at Blackcomb, Norm had the opportunity to ski with Olympian 1968 Canadian gold and silver medalist Nancy Green. Others in the group were green with envy.

Ubiquitous PVS: While skiing at Snowmass on Easter, I ran into (almost literally) Roy and Malda Elrod skiing with Ex-PVSers the Von Northwicks - and their son

who was skiing topless with blue hair. Strange things do happen on a sunny Eastertime day.

Two days later, while lunching at the top of Aspen Mt. with the Fruchts, we found ourselves sitting next to Charlotte Eddy's daughter Charlotte and husband Nikki. They were visiting from Germany and skiing for the first time in the west.

On arriving home, I had a postcard from the Elrods from Jackson Hole noting they were heading for Aspen. The Knee also had an anonkneemous Easter card signed "from the Easter Bunny". Thanks, Aina. Pretty skneeky!

I'm not saying who, but I was virtually attacked by a female club member recently who declared she was a kneeymphomaniac! Right on!

Dick and Marilyn Clark's new addition to their house will end up costing more than the house originally did some years ago.

A purely personal tip of the ol' Knee Cap to late President (I mean ex-president) Jan Marx who presented the Knee with a wonderful, hand-painted, 10th Ankneever-sarknee sweatshirt. It even has my logo - in color, no less- on the sleeve. Guess that makes it a designkeer shirt.

I've discovered another fundamental truth of the skiing universe: The wind always blows in your face on a chair lift.

While many of us were skiing at Easter, the Flakes were in Key West taking wind surfing lessons. They will be ready for their PVS July beach party. As will Charlie Farwell who took similar lessons last fall.

Bing Poon cancelled a ski trip to Alta early this season when he heard they had only a 205 cm base and his skis were 225 cm long!

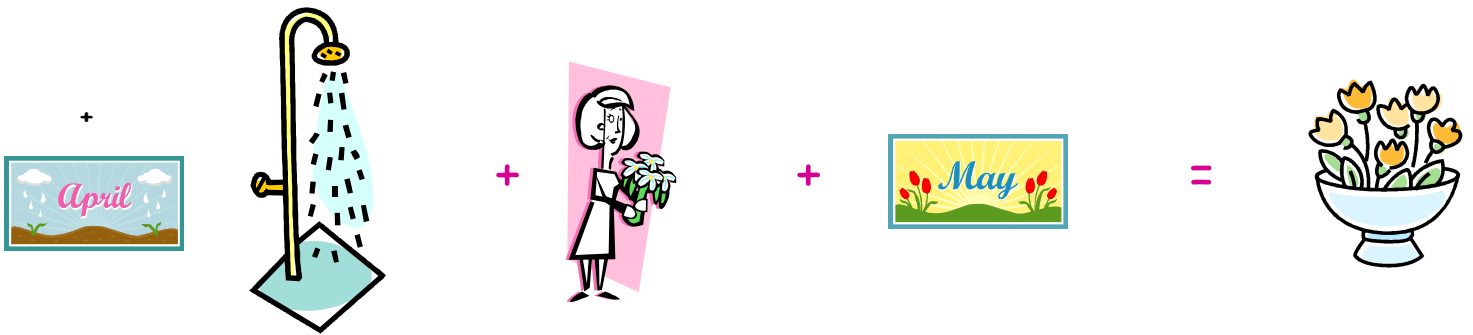
Betty Comerford really wanted to hike the Billy Goat trail and she didn't let trivia like work or lack of sleep affect her. After working the early Sunday midnight to 6 AM" shift, she drove home to Leesburg for an hour's nap then drove 40 miles to Potomac with husband Dick and was raring to go at the 10:30 starting time for the hike. Unfortunately, due to being overly tired, Betty slipped on a rock, fell into the Potomac and drowned. Pity.

(And you thought this column was only funknee. That's my obituary section.),

I just put that in to end with a bit of agonknee.

## Calendar 2008

April	6	Sun	Balkans Post-Trip Party, Hines' -- Noon
April	15	Tue	<b>Annual Meeting</b> at Heitchue's Party Room - 7:30
April	20	Sun	Sun Valley Post-Trip Party at McKinley's - 4:00
April	22	Tue	ExCom Meeting at Warthen's - 7:30
May	2	Fri	Mid-Atlantic Ski/Travel Show
May	3	Sat	Segway tour of Annapolis
May	17	Sat	BRSC Meeting
May	20	Tue	Monthly Meeting at Pete & Alice Crites' - 7:30
May	27	Tue	ExCom Meeting at Marxes - 7:30
June	17	Tue	Monthly Meeting at Callaway's - 7:30



Jan and Bob Marx  
8312 Oakford Dr.  
Springfield, VA 22152

