

THANK YOU !

Greetings PVSers,

First, kudos to Dick Schwartzbard (Grand Prize) and Nick Chybinski (first, and only, runner-up) for solving my March puzzler. See page 2 for details.

Here we are at the end of my tenure as PVS President. It truly has been an honor and a privilege. Now is the time to thank all those that **really** lead and do the work of PVS.

To continuing ExComers, thank you Dottie, Sue, Kerry and Dave Callaway for your steadfast and continued support.

To holders of the other vital positions: Dick Laeser provided a diligent but friendly monitoring of our financial situation (and persistent plodding to turn in expense reports): Dave Learner honchoed our web site. offered insights on ski trip locations, and provided BRSC leadership and support; Mary Beale not only recorded our ExCom actions (or inactions) but used her extraordinary medical experience to communicate sensitive information about our fellow members to all PVSers; to Bob and Jan Marx, whose contributions we didn't fully appreciate until their understandable absence from duties; and to Ray McKinley who kept us mindful of the historical perspective, managed current activities, and authored the pre-eminent TOOT column.

We have some ExComers going off the group to whom we all owe tremendous gratitude. Ruth Powers has provided wise counsel and advice; Carolyn Maurer-Devilbiss (with assistance from Dave) stepped forward to organize and refine an extraordinarily effective meeting registration process along with other membership duties: and Dave Warthen took membership management and prospect relations to a new HIGHER level AND who became the facilitator in TOOT production as well as the "Members' Corner" of TOOT. I can't thank you all too much for your tremendous support. These folks have provided a legacy of continued management of PVS vital functions. Please thank them for their wonderful service to our club!

Additional thanks goes to Eloise who served us superbly as nominating committee chair this year and very special thanks to Rosemary Schwartzbard who a year ago chaired the Nominating Committee and who this year took on the task of chairing the Ski Trip Committee. Without hesitation, Rosemary came through with diligence, compassion and dignity in all endeavors.

A special thanks to some special folks: to Marvin Haas, for your diligent support of our TOOT continuance; to Charlie and Sara Huggins for your thoughts, ideas, and support to me; and to Barbara Leonhardt, our #1 PVS volunteer who comes through when most needed; all true PVS stalwarts!

My last (but not least) thanks go to the readers of my column. The column reflected me...and was somewhat unorthodox more times than not. For those of you that liked my quirky approach and provided me positive feedback: "Thank You". For others who have patiently tolerated my prose without public criticism, I "Thank You" even more!

In these last two years we have experienced fun and frolic that brings joy to life, challenges we have overcome, and losses we will never forget. I thank you for allowing me to be a small part of that history.

Mike Good Bye,

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, April 21st

at 7:30 PM Sherri and Tom McKenna Rockville MD 20854



Next page for directions.

# Monthly Meeting directions

Sherri and Tom McKenna 14310 Fallsmead Way Rockville MD 20854 **301-424-2328** 

I-495 to I-270 north; exit 5 toward Potomac; Falls Road exit. Very first right into the development of Fallsmead; four blocks on right: 1431 Fallsmead Way

# <u>ExCom Slate</u>

In last month's TOOT we provided the slate of candidates from the Nominating Committee to be voted for during this month's annual meeting elections.

PRESIDENT (1 Yr Term): Dottie Villers

VICE PRESIDENT (1 Yr Term): Kerry Hines

EXCOM (2 Yr Terms); Cara Jablon, John Seabold, Ellie Thayer

Applicant Members

The following have met the requirements to become Full Members.

Voting also will be done at the April Meeting.

Ingrid Dallaire

Angela Hale

Louann Eadie Bob Eadie

## **PUS Board - 2008-2009**

Board Members, Officers, and Chairpersons

President – *Mike Strand* Vice President – Dottie Villers Secretary – *Mary Beale* Treasurer – *Dick Laeser* Membership Records – *Dave Warthen* Membership PR Rep – *Carolyn Maurer-DeVilbiss* Events – *Ray McKinley* Non-ski Activities – *Mike Strand* Ski Trip Cmte Chair – *Rosemary Schwartzbard* TOOT Editor – *rotating* TOOT Proofreader– TOOT Mailers – rotating **\*\*Out-going members**  Webmaster – Dave Lerner Meeting Records – Sue Lyon Historian – Jan Marx EXCOM: <u>First Term</u>: David Callaway Kerry Hines Sue Lyon Second Term: Carolyn Maurer-DeVilbiss Ruth Powers Dave Warthen



# March Puzzler Solutions

Congratulations to the two first solvers of the March Puzzler.

Nick Chybinski was the first reader to solve Part 1 (only one of three switches control a light upstairs; but you can only make one trip upstairs). "You turn on switches 1 and 2. Wait a few minutes. Turn off #2. Go upstairs and check. If light is on, it is switch 1. If light is off but the bulb is hot, it is switch 2. If light is off and the bulb is cold, it is switch 3." Nick eventually solved Part 2.

**Dick Schwartzbard** was the first reader to solve both Part 1 and Part 2 (have a 78" rod; but can't carry anything longer than 6' on the bus). "Get a box 6'x3' and put the rod in diagonally."

**Dick** is the Grand Winner and is deserving of appropriate glory.

Call for 2009-2010 Ski Trip Proposals



The current Ski Trip Committee (STC) is as follows:

Acting Chairman: - Rosemary Schwartzbard

Members: Eloise Strand, Shirley Rettig, Polli Brunelli, David Lerner, and Sharon Mulholland

We have just completed three successful trips for 2009. Our goal now is to get proposals for the 2010 season. We need the full proposals by <u>April 15.</u> but would like to hear from people before then with ideas and short proposals. We urge you to come forward with your ideas and questions. The STC would be glad to answer questions and provide help. Looking forward to hearing from you. Send me an email: rosemaryphd@verizon.net

In accordance with the *Guidelines for a PVS-Endorsed Ski Trip* (the *Guidelines*), the STC is issuing this "Preliminary Call for 2009-2010 Winter Ski Trip Proposals." (The STC also will accept preliminary proposals for **Summer** 2010 trips at the same time.) Preliminary ski trip proposals should include, at a minimum, the proposed destination, dates, and hotel location (ski-out/ski-in or not) for the ski trip. If even "guess-timated" costs are available, that information will be considered favorably by the STC.

For planning purposes, potential Ski Trip Leaders (STLs) should be aware of the following:

- One firm proposal for the 2009-2010 ski season has been received by the STC already, and has been approved by the ExCom a return trip to Snowmass, CO in Jan. 13-20, 2010.
- There are two planned Blue Ridge Ski Council (BRSC)-sponsored ski trips planned in 2010:
  - The annual BRSC Western Carnival at Heavenly (Lake Tahoe), CA from February 20-27, 2010;
  - The BRSC 2010 EuroFest scheduled in Bormeo, Italy March 6-14 2010; probably with both pre- and post-skiing extensions.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

#### Contact Rosemary:

703-812-5234

rosemaryphd@verizon.net



# In Rememberance

#### Karen Nielsen Devorshak



December 5, 1934 - February 28, 2009

Karen Felker reported that Karen and George were their friends and were only members for a few years but went on trips with PVS. The two Karens often communicated in Danish and shared many interests.

Karen Devorshak was born and raised in Copenhagen, Denmark, came to the United States in 1956, and married (then) Lt. George A. Devorshak, a fighter pilot in the United States Air Force

After traveling the world and raising four children, Karen and George retired to Middleburg, VA. She was passionate about gardening and became involved with the garden club. The Middleburg Garden Club has planned a tree planting dedicated to Karen at 11:00 AM on April 18th within the courtyard at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 105 E. Washington Street in Middleburg.

Following the tree planting event, a reception will be held at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church Parish House.

RSVP by e-mail or telephone 540-687-6777 (leave a message) would be helpful in planning the reception.



# Josie

#### January 13, 1995 -- March 15, 2009

Josie, a miniature dachshund, was a frequent participant in PVS activities, but never a full member -- she couldn't pass the ski test. For 14 years, she was a dedicated and devoted pal of Lu Beale and then, Mary Beale. During her younger years she took hikes with Lu - lots of them. We recall hiking the Capital Crescent Trail near Bethesda, as well as around Seneca Lake, the Great Falls area, and Sugarloaf Mountain. Josie would toddle along as best she could with her short legs and then Lu, or one of us, would carry her. In her later years, she didn't do hikes, but did do laps (as in sitting on them). We recall the time that four of us were at Lu's house for lunch. We all had a turn holding Josie on our laps.

Josie often attended PVS events, such as Oktoberfest, and Fall Foliage Weekends at Blue Knob. She loved being a hound and sniffing out the chipmunks in the woodpile. Got lost once, chasing one 'munk trail after another.

Mary said that her life soon became intertwined with Josie's daily To-Do list. Josie's favorite pastime was digging in the ivy in the back yard. She gave commands throughout the day, usually by shaking herself to make the quietest noise or by gesturing her head when she had your attention. She lived for the mailman's regular delivery and attacked the mail as it rained through the slot. She didn't rest until she had confirmed that the mail truck was out of sight. Then her work for the day was complete.

We sincerely send our condolences to Mary, who will miss her wonderful and loving companion very much.

#### **Roster Corrections:**

Changes in postal or e-mail address, telephone numbers, method of TOOT distribution, version of TOOT format, choice of Hotline, desire to volunteer, etc. should be reported to Dave Warthen (PVS Membership Records), dwarthen@verizon.net, 301-774-2653.

#### **Toot Distribution to 175 PVS Members:**

Pdf: 78; USPS: 42; MS-Word: 31; Emb. Text: 3; and Text (Att.): 2.

#### **Roster Changes:**

Kirk & Peggy Burns 7414 Village Spring Dr., Apt FV 105 Springfield, VA 22150 burnskirk@gmail.com

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*



Tribute To A Best Friend

Sunlight streams through window pane unto a spot on the floor.... then I remember, it's where you used to lie, but now you are no more.

Our feet walk down a hall of carpet, and muted echoes sound....

then I remember, it's where your paws would joyously abound.

A voice is heard along the road, and up beyond the hill,

then I remember it can't be yours.... your golden voice is still.

But I'll take that vacant spot of floor and empty muted hall

and lay them with the absent voice and unused dish along the wall.

I'll wrap these treasured memorials in a blanket of my love

and keep them for my best friend until we meet above. Author Unknown

#### Recovering

#### Carolyn Calloway

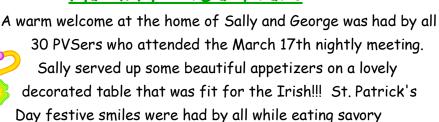
After participating in the Park City, UT ski trip, Carolyn fell on her home stairs and ruptured disks in her back and has been experiencing severe pain. She is now home from the hospital and is in a body cast that can be removed at night. She is progressing slowly. Marty McNeill

Marty is home from the hospital following complications from her chemotherapy. Bob says recovery is slow but she is doing OK.

Please join us in wishing Carolyn and Marty get-well wishes and hope for a speedy recovery. Their e-mail addresses, snail mail address, and phone number are in the PVS Roster.

#### Past Events

## March Meeting at Finan's





meatballs, scrumptious cheese (from Ireland) and crackers, some salsa with a bite, and some lovely cheese filled blintzes!!



Very-seldom-seen Bill Hagar was in town - looking for work and looking good after his health scare. He says he wants a traveling job so he can write another letter from a fascinating place.

The rainbow of smiles grew wider as everyone enjoyed a mystery item that Jan Marx brought to the party where everyone wrote down what they "thought" it might be! There were some very interesting answers, some which cannot be named!!! Many PVSers gave the correct answer of "rope tow grip," which in the 21st century no longer applies!!! Now we have moving mats that glide you right up to the top!!!!



Mike Strand, our president-soon-to-step-down, ran a meeting filled with updates about future outings. Ray McKinley gave his report concerning future meeting dates and places. Mike did say that Eloise must be having a great time in Taos because he hadn't heard from her!!! But, Nancy McKinley filled us in on the trip having spoken to someone in Taos reporting that everyone was enjoying the trip. Dessert finished the night with tasty "Irish theme" cookies and a fabulous chocolate fondue with strawberries and melon!

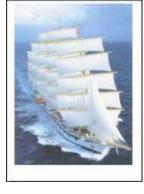




# Tahiti and South Seas Cruise – May 28-June 12 2009 Join Reg Heitchue and Nancy & Ray McKinley

They're the most alluring and beautiful destination on earth--Tahiti and French Polynesia, the legendary isles of the South Pacific. Now home of the 360' Star Flyer - the consummate mega-yacht sailing experience for a mere 170 passengers. Below is just a bit of what we'll see as we sail in quiet luxury to such legendary locations as Bora Bora, Moorea, Tahaa, Raiate and 5 other spectacular South Pacific Isles. Star Flyer is as fleet as the wind, a true clipper ship, yet a modern cruise ships in every way, created for comfort-loving passengers who also love the traditions and romance of the legendary era of sailing ships. Star Flyer is 360 feet long and carries just 170 guests in pampered comfort. Life aboard is blissfully relaxed, like traveling on a private yacht. You'll never feel confined, as our ship offers pleasingly spacious cabins, gourmet meals and expansive teak decks with ample space for relaxing and play. Our Fabulous 14 Day Cruise Vacation Includes - R/T Airfare, Wash DC to Tahiti - 3 Days with breakfast in Tahiti, double occupancy - 11 Day Sail Cruise on the Star Flyer including all meals - baggage handling - bus gratuities - pre trip party. Space is limited. Please send your check for \$400 per person payable to Reg Heitchue, 11990 Market Street, Unit 1015, Reston, VA 20190. Please call for more information

703-437-7611 or <u>heitchu@yahoo.com</u>.







Prices: **\$5,957 per person Double**, **\$7,939 single** Based on airfare of \$1,804. Land only \$4,153 **NOTE: THIS PRICE INCLUDES A \$1000 PER PERSON EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT...!** 



#### Wednesday January 13 through 20, 2010

We're returning to Snowmass!! The developer has delayed plans for renovation of our beloved Snowmass Mountain Chalet! Join us again in 2010 for this PVS favorite.

Snowmass offers direct access to 3,100 acres of slopeside skiing just outside the door. With interchangeable lift tickets and free bus service to Aspen Highlands, Ajax Mountain, and Buttermilk ski areas, the skiing terrain totals more than 5,000 acres.

Slopeside lodging at Snowmass Mountain Chalet 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. This small hotel, with its welcoming staff, is unique for its convenience and friendly ambiance.

The trip will include group dinners, après-ski parties, and other activities available in the Aspen environs.

Approximate trip cost is \$2,072, details to be announced when air transport is arranged. For more information:

Contact trip leaders Carolyn and David DeVilbiss at 703-370-4865 or

<u>To reserve</u>: -- Send deposit (fully refundable to August 1) of \$250 per person to: Carolyn DeVilbiss at 4508 Peacock Avenue, Alexandria VA 2230 AND Note "PVS-Snowmass 2010" on the memo line.

Other PVS trips to be announced in the TOOT at a later date.

# TAOS, NEW MEXICO 2009 TRIP



Friday, March 13 marked the beginning of the Taos, New Mexico ski trip for an adventurous group of PVSers (Melissa Fitzgerald, Reg Heitchue, Cara and Bob Jablon, Joe Jevcak, Bob Knopes, Dick Laeser, Susan and David Payne, Shirley Rettig and her niece Beverly Rettig, Marty Rine, Rosemary and Dick Schwartzbard, Eloise Strand, Jean van der Tak, Dottie Villers, Liz Warren-Boulton, Liz's son Geoffrey Warren-Boulton, and Kelly Wolsayer and Ray Rosenbloom (residents of Columbia, Maryland, who found us on the internet – they were a great addition to our group – we hope they will become members of PVS and join us on future ski trips).

Fortunately, all went well on the flight to the "Land of Enchantment". Our leaders, Liz and Joe, Gold Class American Airlines fliers, were able to get our bags on without a fee, the flights were on time, and we had a pleasant bus trip from Albuquerque to Santa Fe. The unique architecture and culture of New Mexico were readily apparent on our arrival at the airport terminal – a building designed to reflect the adobe, pueblo style prevalent in New Mexico. Unique features of the airport terminal include a beautiful wooden Spanish style ceiling in the main room of the terminal, walls painted in sand and turquoise colors, and large clay Native American pottery lining the airport access road.



After an hour's bus drive through the semi-arid, hilly, sagebrush-covered New Mexican landscape, we arrived Friday afternoon at the beautiful, historic La Fonda hotel, right off the central Plaza in Santa Fe. The large spacious rooms and public spaces of the hotel are filled with paintings, painted furniture, murals, carvings, wood work, and light fixtures by New Mexican artists. Members of the group dispersed to enjoy the many museums, galleries, shops, and

restaurants of Santa Fe (highly recommended restaurants include the Coyote Café and the Pink Adobe). On Saturday morning, many in our group had breakfast at the memorable Café Pasqual (displaying wall murals, and ceiling hangings of clothing and lacey objects), and enjoyed huge portions of breakfast burritos, huevos rancheros and southwestern style omelets. Saturday afternoon, we headed off to Taos, courtesy of the Inn at Snakedance, which provided the van service from Santa Fe to Taos. Our two hour drive through the town of Taos to the Taos Ski Valley, 25 miles from the town, took us through much spectacular mountain scenery.

The base elevation of the Taos Ski Valley is 9,207 feet (with the top of the highest lift at 11,819 feet), and the ski mountain is one of the steepest in North America. On arriving at the ski resort, the visitor is greeted by a view of two steep bump runs and a sign that states: "Don't panic. You are looking at only 1/30 of Taos Ski Valley. There are many easy runs too." Our intrepid group settled in right away, and enjoyed a welcoming cocktail party, where the manager of the hotel presented Liz and Joe with a book about the history of Taos and each member of the group received a black vest emblazoned with the logos of the hotel and PVS. A little about the history – Taos Ski Valley was started in 1955 by Ernie Blake, a determined, "personality plus" character of German/Swiss/Jewish origin, who emigrated to the U.S. prior to World War II, and served in a U.S. intelligence unit during the war. After the war, he worked at a number of Western ski areas, and then brought his wife and children to the wilderness to

build the Taos ski area. The ski area is still owned by the Blake family, and many of the runs are named after the early pioneers who worked with Ernie Blake in developing the resort.

On Sunday, a warm and sunny day, most of the group headed off for the first lesson of our ski week. Taos gets top ranking for its ski school, and the area prides itself on being in the forefront in developing ski technique. We self-divided ourselves into "aggressive" and "nonaggressive" skiers, and then faced a ski-off, in which we were grouped with like skiers. Our leader Liz, her son



Geoffrey, and Kelly were in the top "10" group, which, over the course of the week, hiked to the top of the mountain numerous times and skied the double black diamond cliffs: "WOW." The rest of us mere mortals did not attempt such feats, but unquestionably stretched our abilities on the challenging runs of Taos.

The weather continued warm and sunny over the course of the week, with only a smattering of snow one night early in the week. Towards the end of the week, the runs tended to be crusty in the morning, and slushy in the afternoon. Not the best snow, but, on the other hand, we weren't cold, and we came back bronzed from the sun. Further, most of the members of our group enjoyed the ski lessons, and improved their skiing skills. Kudos, in particular, to Joe for following his instructor down a slope that the instructor determined was too steep and icy (even though the instructor tried to wave to the group to go the easier way) – Joe successfully navigated the slope, while the instructor fell. Rosemary was very pleased that she had made nice turns on the steep bump run, "Blitz" and experienced some challenging tree runs. Quite remarkably, despite the crowds (it was spring break for Texas) and the massive dodging of the many snowplowing Texans and the snowboarders (allowed for the first time this year at Taos), there were no ski injuries on the trip.

There were many opportunities for group interactions. Because the inn offered two-bedroom condos,



rather than individual rooms, three or four skiers shared each unit. The condos were spacious and very attractive with sand-colored tile bathrooms, teak kitchen cabinets, black granite kitchen counters, and dark wood furniture. Liz and Joe arranged meeting places for lunch each ski day, and held a number of PVS après-ski cocktail parties. A highlight was our St. Patrick's Day party, where the prize (a cup with a shamrock design) for the best outfit went to Dick Laeser, who paraded around in green Guinness pajama bottoms, a green and white checked

shirt and a green hat. Melissa and Kelly also won prizes for their outfits. Every morning, we had a breakfast buffet at the Inn, with a different hot offering each day, except for Monday morning because there was no electricity for several hours in the entire ski valley (apparently a bird hit a power supply box and shorted the transformer).

We also had a number of group dinners, including a four course dinner at the Inn at Snakedance restaurant. Our most memorable dinner was on Monday night at the home of the manager of the hotel and his wife (Roger and Diane), who live in a beautiful contemporary high-ceiling adobe home on the outskirts of the town of Taos. After a pre-dinner stop to see the spectacular Rio Grande Gorge and bridge, Roger and Diane treated us to margaritas, wine, appetizers, and a dinner of pork with raspberry sauce, shrimp, thin spaghetti, and a vegetable medley of peppers and squash. At the dinner, we had the opportunity to speak with the charming and knowledgeable son-in-law of Ernie Blake, Chris Stagg, who is involved in the management of the ski resort.

Another excellent dinner was at a restaurant in the town of Taos – Graham's Grill – where most members of the group went after an afternoon excursion to town on Wednesday. In Taos, we explored some of the Taos

Art Museums, notably the Harwood Museum of Art and the Fechin House, both of which have collections of the original Taos Society of Artists as well as later works by New Mexico artists. Taos also provided an additional opportunity for shopping for paintings, craft items, and fun and funky clothing. Rosemary, Cara, and Eloise found some great bargains at a little clothing store called "The Spotted Bear." Shirley was successful in finding items with kokopelli designs for





her sister; Beverly bought a beautiful watch; Rosemary found a stunning silver belt; Dick purchased a wool jacket that met his wife's specifications; and, Cara and Bob added to their collection of folk art. Prior to dinner, many members of the group enjoyed cocktails at the Adobe Bar at the historic Taos Inn.

Other evenings, some members of the group took advantage of the condo kitchens to cook dinner, while others tried the restaurants in the ski area. One night, Dick Laeser had the pleasure of being the only man wined and dined by a group of seven women at a pot luck dinner. Several evenings, members of the group enjoyed the live music at the St. Bernard, the inn up the hill from our hotel. The St. Bernard, a rustic wooden structure, is owned by Jean Mayer, the head of the ski school, and an old-timer who worked with Ernie Blake.



The last day of ski lessons, the groups participated in the Taos Martini Tree tradition, enjoying sips from a martini flask hidden behind marked trees. The story is that Ernie Blake once took four women non-skiers up the then rope tow, which crossed an expert slope, on the way to the beginner's run. The women fell off and could not get back on the rope tow. Ernie directed that a pitcher of martinis be brought up, instructed the women to drink the martinis ("drink or die"), and coaxed them down the expert hill.

Saturday morning, we boarded the Inn's vans for our trip back to the Albuquerque airport. Although the timing was a little tight, we, and our luggage, all made the flight for an on-time arrival back in DC. If only the ski season were not over, and we could practice all that we learned at Taos before waiting until next winter.

#### Note from this editor:

I have been most impressed with how PVSers have jumped in to fill the gap so Toot could continue its important role. Volunteers have taken one to two month "tours" and applied their own touch to the document. All of them (me included) take advantage of this challenge and stretch our knowledge of the ever-smart computer programs.

Bob and I thank Dave Warthen for battling all the different idiosyncrasies of each editor's computer programs. He has kneaded them into a fragrant and tasty product to be digested by us all.







KNEE

Was forced to take the Fools Day off.

Actually his computer crashed and Nancy took her laptop to California – probably so it didn't have to be subjected to all those mizzpeled words.

### <u>Calendar</u>

- April 1 Mike Hatanaka Birthday Celebration
- Apr 21 Annual Meeting: Sherri & Tom McKenna
- Apr 28 ExCom Meeting: Carolyn Maurer-DeVilbiss
- May 1 Ski Trip Expo Bethesda
- May 2 BRSC Meeting: Best Western Fairfax. For trip leaders
- May 19 Monthly Meeting: Vagonis'
- May 26 ExCom Meeting: Hines'
- June 16 Monthly Meeting: Ilse Keel's
- June ? Wolf Trap

## <u>Trips</u>



# <u>Sailing</u>

May 28 - June 12, 2009 Tahiti and French Polynesia (Reg Heitchue)



# <u>Skiing</u>

Jan 13 - 20, 2010 Snowmass (Carolyn and Dave DeVilbiss)



Sue Lyon 8961 Fascination Ct. Lorton, VA 22079