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Greetings PVSers:

Mike, hold on here. Rather than one of your quirky President letters, how about something like what was done by your predecessors? You mean like the good-ole days? Yup! OK, here goes:

Fellow PVSers: ^(Nancy 7/00)

Greetings All, skiers and spectators alike. ^(David 4/06)

By the time you read this, 2004 will be history and the year 2005 will be upon us. The New Year will bring us some great ski trips and many other activities and socializing opportunities that we enjoy as the PVS family. ^(Reg 1/05) Indeed, the holidays are upon us, and there's white stuff in the air. It's time for reflection, for looking back as well as ahead. For all us PVSers it's surely correct to give thanks for and acknowledge the varied programs we've been treated to throughout this often-memorable year. ^(David 1/06)

...PVSers everywhere are tuning their skis and pulling long johns out of boxes and drawers in the basement. So, it seems all's right with the world. ^(Nancy 12/00) While no one looks forward to pushing the white stuff off our walkways and driveways, we love it when it's plentifully present on them mountains that we hold dear and admire always anew. ^(David 10/05)

All that snow out west gives us distracting day dreams... ^(Ned 7/01) My other...observation has to do with what is now confirmed as an ever increasing number of skiers whose chronological clock has long surpassed the number at which there used not to be any skiers. While I wouldn't try to analyze and opine on what makes this phenomenon possible, it's a fact that an ever larger number of downhill skiers are in senior citizen territory. ^(David 3/06) And the number of gray-haired snowboarders is growing every day. ^(Nancy 9/00)

...this is a club of volunteers, members who work unselfishly to benefit their friends by spawning and organizing activities for all of us to enjoy. ^(David 5/05) ...of note are Ray McKinley's continuing work on programs and efforts for as long as anyone can remember. He is getting results currently. ^(Ned 9/01) May great snow conditions, unblemished camaraderie and goodwill be with us all for many years to come. ^(David 4/07)

Best Wishes,
Mike

A HAPPY PVS NEW YEAR

岁次 2009 己丑

**Kick off the new PVS year (2009 – The Year of the OX)
on 25 January at 2:00 pm with the monthly meeting at
Dottie Villers.**

**2520 Farrier Lane
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 476-9259**

Directions:

From the beltway (I495) take the Dulles Toll Road (Rte 267) west to exit 12, Reston Parkway. Turn left onto Reston Parkway. Go about two miles and turn left at the light at Lawyers Road (note that if you turn left it's called Lawyers Road, if you turn right it's called McLearen Road). Take the first left onto Farrier Lane. Dottie's house is the third on the left.

From the south take Fairfax County Parkway north. Turn right at Fox Mill Road. Right at Reston Parkway. Left at Lawyers Road. First left onto Farrier Lane. Dottie's house is the third on the left.

Looking forward to seeing you all to get the new year off to a great start! What would be more appropriate [for recognizing the Asian new year that begins on 26 January] than a presentation by Carolyn [if we succeed in convincing her] on her trip to Bangkok, Cambodia, and Bhutan (see Members' Corner, below).



Members' Corner



Roster Changes:

Maryann Rozzell, new e-mail: ptmaryann@verizon.net

Next roster distribution – 1 February 2009, via e-mail

Toot Format & Distribution (176 Members):

pdf – 77 (recommended),

USPS – 43, MS-Word – 32, Emb. Txt. – 3, Text (Att.) – 2

News:

Gorman **Young** is recovering from a broken hip at Chestnut Green at Blakehurst, 1055 Joppa Rd., Towson, MD 21204.

Charlie **Gordon** is recuperating after being struck by a police car in hot pursuit, 24 August, near Austin, TX.

Extraordinary Trips:

In addition to the Marx's trip to Alaska (see Oct '08 TOOT), Sharon **Mulholland** & June **Reed-Martin** and Dave & Marsha **Warthen** also traveled to Alaska in August 2008:



Dave & Marsha, Glacier Garden Rainforest, Juneau

Dave & Marsha had a great trip to Alaska, via a cruise of the Inner Passage with stops at Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay, College Fjord, and Whittier, followed by the Denali Express RR to Fairbanks with stops at Mt. McKinley & Denali.

Sharon & June, et al., toured Alaska one week after the Warthen's. However, some of their excursions were different. Both parties began in Vancouver, visited Victoria, Butchart Gardens, and were amazed by the Alaskan glaciers. They all had great trips.



Friend, Sharon, & June touring Vancouver, BC

Bhutan, Asia

In October 2008, after visiting grandchildren in Tokyo, Japan, Carolyn Maurer **DeVilbiss** traveled to Bangkok, Cambodia, and then to Bhutan. Pictured on the left is Carolyn and friends at 13,100 feet near the Tibetan border – not much air at that altitude! Snowcovered Mt. Jomolhari of the Himalayas is in the background. Carolyn is 2nd from the left. We hope to hear and see a lot more about this fascinating trip to the far away Asian country of Bhutan. What an adventure!



In Memory of Mary Jane McCarthy

Mary Jane McCarthy, formerly of Kensington, MD, died on December 14, 2008. Mary Jane was a very active member of PVS for many years. A superb and avid skier, who particularly liked skiing in Europe, she was PVS' 20th President from 1993-1995, served as a member of EXCOM, worked very hard with the 25th Anniversary Planning Committee, and hosted many PVS meetings in her beautiful home in Kensington. Mary Jane lived some years in Italy while her husband worked there and greatly loved to travel. She once confided to other PVS members that her great disappointment on arriving in London was learning that "Big Ben was a clock!" She was an inspiration to many, especially her daughters Nora Cherubin, Mary Catherine Klemowski, Ann Mirsky, Elizabeth Young, Maureen Salvail and Clare McCarthy; her five grandchildren, Michael Klemowski, the late Lisa Klemowski Boutwell, Katie Salvail, Megan Salvail and Jack Salvail; and three great-grandchildren, Angel Solomon, Michael Klemowski and Crystal Klemowski. She is also survived by a brother Jere Hamill and a sister Ann Sisson. Family and friends honored Mary Jane's life with a Mass at St. Peter's Catholic Church, Olney, MD on Saturday, December 20. She will be missed by all whose life she touched.

PREVIOUS EVENTS

December 2008 Holiday Party

...at the Eadie's on Eakins (Ct.)

Catchy, sing-song little phrase, don't you think?



Yup, another year with inclement weather for our December meeting. However, many of us didn't think it was too terrible; just cold rain. We learned that 6 PVSers from Northern Montgomery County had icy conditions and elected not to venture forth. Louann and Bob hosted 34 of us as we indulged in each other's favorite holiday appetizers and desserts. This was a party where desserts were abundant and delicious. It was definitely an "Eat dessert first" kind of party. David Warthen's key lime white chocolate chip cookies were a standout as was Nancy McKinley's pumpkin fruit cake. The other cookies, fruit

tarts, and cakes were also outstanding. A standout appetizer was Eloise's homemade French Country Terrine, which included ground veal and ground pork.

The house felt like it was definitely ready for the holidays. Décor included Louann's nutcracker collection on the mantle, a fully loaded tree, and many other reminders of the season. Despite all of that, one could not help but notice their most recent member of the family who came all the way from China. He is the terracotta soldier for whom the Eadies paid passage when they visited China last spring. He stands proudly near the front entrance - all 600 pounds of him. In the breakfast nook stood a glowing and bubbling Wurlitzer juke box, providing music from 78 rpm vinyl records!



Many of us wore holiday colors and obviously enjoyed seeing friends, some who have not been at meetings for a while. Mike held a *very* short meeting (may even be a record). It was announced that Shirley Rettig and Cara Jablon will each lead a local day trip in February to Liberty and Whitetail, respectively.

Thanks Bob and Louann

by Jan and Rosemary



2009 SKI TRIPS/TAHITI TRIP

Ski Chalet Ski Appreciation Days

Instead of Demo days, Ski Chalet is sponsoring **Ski Appreciation Days at local resorts** with reduced lift ticket prices. Vouchers can be picked up at any Ski Chalet store (Chantilly, Columbia Pike, Muddy Branch Road). We have trip leaders for two of the local day-trips; anyone interested in leading day-trips for the Timberline and Wisp trips should contact **Rosemary Schwartzbard** (703-527-2458).

- [Thursday, Jan. 15 - \\$2.00 - Timberline, West Va.](#)
- [Thursday, Jan. 22 - \\$10.00 - Wisp, MD.](#) [70+ ski free at Wisp]
- [Thursday, Feb. 5 - \\$15.00 - Liberty, PA:](#) **Shirley Rettig** will be leading the Feb. 5 Appreciation Day at Liberty Mountain. Call Shirley at 703-836-0147 (shirley_rettig@yahoo.com) to arrange a meeting place or car pool and about getting vouchers from Ski Chalet.
- [Thursday, Feb. 12 - \\$15.00 - Whitetail, PA:](#) If interested let **Cara Jablon** (rcjablon@aol.com) know so you can arrange a meeting place or car pool. Then get your voucher from Ski Chalet.

PVS Snowmass 2009 – January 15-22

Single male needed to share room. Trip is full otherwise. However, space might still be available at the Snowmass Mountain Chalet on special inquiry. **Contact Dave DeVilbiss by telephone/email (703-370-4865 or devilbid@verizon.net).**

The pre-trip party is on Sunday Jan. 4 at Ruth Powers' house, from 4-7 PM.

Park City Mountain Resort – February 22-28

This is an Elderhostel ski program. They make all land arrangements. You will have to register through Elderhostel. Elderhostel allows participants to invite any adult companion to attend this program with them even if they do not meet the 55 year-old age requirement.

The trip is filled but you can get on the Wait List. The trip is first-come, first served. There will be other people besides PVSers on the trip. Last year there were 55 attendees and a waiting list. If you are interested in the trip, please call Elderhostel 1-800-454-5768 or visit their web site: <http://elderhostel.org>. The program number is 7573RJ and listed under winter sports. Tell Elderhostel that you are part of the PVS ski group. **Trip Leaders: Rosemary Schwartzbard (rosemaryphd@verizon.net 703-598-6150 and Ellie Thayer (ellie.thayer@comcast 703-534-3061).**

Pre-trip party at Schwartzbards, 5 pm, Sat. Jan. 31.

Taos, New Mexico

March 13 to 21, 2009

Join us for a fun week in Taos Ski Valley -- skiing for everyone with dry desert air, radiant sunshine and lots of snow. Pre- and post trip parties and welcome supper. The trip will begin on Friday morning from Reagan National Airport to Albuquerque then a short bus ride to Santa Fe. Explore Santa Fe that afternoon and evening. Overnight in Santa Fe's downtown Plaza at the historic La Fonda hotel known for its award-winning architecture, décor, and artwork.

Stay at the slopeside Inn at Snakedance in two-unit condos with private bath and all conveniences. Opportunities for fine dining include the marvelous St. Bernard Hotel. Enjoy an afternoon/evening in the town of Taos for shopping and dinner. Taos has a unique blend of natural beauty, American Indian culture, old west history, and world-class art galleries and museums.



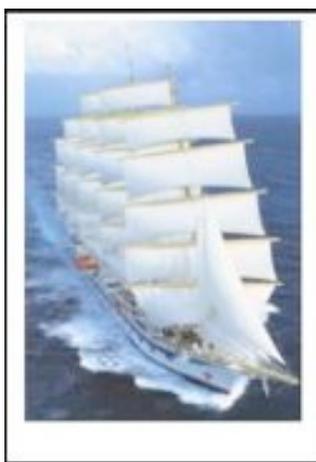
Price per person, \$1,650 (including airfare) Single supplement: \$380 Land-only: \$1222

Special ski rates for seniors. Space still available! Pre-trip party 4pm to 7pm Sunday, February 1 at Porter St.

For more information, contact trip leaders Liz Warren-Boulton and Joe Jevcak at elizawb@starpower.net or 202 244-5717 or 202 447-0250 (Joe daytime). Make checks payable to Liz at 3049 Porter St, NW, Washington, DC 20008.

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 heitchu@yahoo.com.



Prices: **\$5957 per person Double, \$7939 single** Based on airfare of \$1804. Land only \$4153

NOTE: THIS PRICE INCLUDES A \$1000 PER PERSON EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT...!



Capital Golden Skiers Snowmass Trip February 27 - March 6, 2009

Looking for one man, to share a double; possible room availability for several couples. Lodging at Snowmass Mountain Chalet, including hotel welcome reception, daily hot breakfast and soup lunch, daily CGS pre-dinner wine and cheese parties, shuttle service to and from Aspen Airport, luggage transfers, all taxes [\$1130 per person (double room), \$2140 (single room)]. Flights with United A/L - Dulles/Denver/Aspen and return \$558 per person. **Total Cost:** Under age 70, complete package (double, 5-days lifts, flights) is **\$1983**; Age 70 and over is **\$1963**. Detailed information on the trip is at, www.capitalgoldenskiers.com, clicking on "Ski Trips", and then "Snowmass".

If interested, please let **Dietrich Roesler** know ASAP at 703-768-2456 or dietroe234@aol.com.





THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley
RaysKnee@gmail.com

A tip of the ol' Knee
Cap goes to me, the Knee.

This column started in January 1979. So this marks my 30th year as a columnist. Wow. And for my second 30 years, I've made it easier for you to help me get kneet information. The Knee can now get your e-mail. Please tell me all sorts of foibles about other PVSers by using my new Knee-mail. I won't tell sources. It's RaysKnee@gmail.com. It will stay in the logo.

Again I want to wish you all a most Happy Knee Year. It will be difficult to top last year's brilliance, but I'll try. It's just diffkneecult kneevoking puns both zanknee and witknee (in California, the tallest mountain in the United States except for Mt McKin-Knee!!)

With the Knee year, it's appropriate to philosophize about our favorite pastime. Skiing is far more than merely a sport. Surveying the mountain vista on a crisp morning chairlift ride is truly consciousness raising. One overlooks trees so laden with snow that even the conifers are soft, marshmallow white. One majestic, snow engulfed peak after another rises up against the cobalt blue sky strewn with just a few wispy cirrus clouds.

As you descend, the snow caresses your skis, and that unmistakable soft crunch underneath is the only sound whilst floating over the newly fallen powder. Random hexagonal flakes sparkle prism-like in the warm sunshine. Wonderment. Joy. Goose bumps on the back on your neck.

It's truly like no other feeling. So exhilarating you want to yell at the top of your voice. It's completely understandable that the Swiss yodel. No, skiing is not merely a sport. Our sport is a communion with beauty and the outdoors. A chance to observe and partake in nature's art. Go out, and enjoy.

It's almost the same on a Saturday afternoon at Ski Liberty...

It was a huge blow for PVS to read that our former President, Mary Jane McCarthy passed away from Alzheimer's just before Christmas. Mary Jane was a former ExComer, Pres and helped PVS plan our superb 25th Anniversary bash. She was a collector of fine antiques with a wry sense of humor. Bye Bye.

It's always a pleasure to hear from the PVS's Conway, Knee Hampshire contingent, Jim Arnold, our newest Art Connoisseur. Whilst in Spain, Jim visited the Tapestry Museum. They had for sale an original Goya tapestry about 1 meter square. Jim was captivated by it and it's now on his living room wall. He, now after years of retirement, is the Curator of the Conway Historical Society. He invites all of PVS visiting the area to drop in for a personal tour!

Up until fairly recently—OK, it was 1978--PVS used to have our February meeting with nighttime skiing at the Charnita ski area (now Ski Liberty). Bringing back those "good times," this year several plan to ski at Liberty. The official name is now Liberty Mountain. But my "Strunk and White," won't let me lie and call an 800 ft pimple a "Mountain." Indeed, the ice there appears to have been made in the seventies!

Going back a bit further, 73 years ago, on Jan. 14, 1934, the first ski lift in America went into operation at Woodstock, Vermont. It was a 150-foot long rope tow powered by the rear axle of a Ford Model A truck. Well, we've made some progress. Liberty now uses a 1981 Datsun!!

Speaking of Liberty, a tip of the Ol' Knee Cap goes to Jim Wingrove. He has been very, very good for the ski area. This year is Jim's 39th year on the Liberty Ski Patrol. Right on!

Charles Huggens asked the Knee a question. How many ski areas are there in the US? I have no idea. My guess is between 7 and 1,000,000! Thinking about it a bit, I'd estimate about 900. What's your estimate—or guess. Please drop me a Knee-mail—and if you have a rationale, please include it.

A third tip of the ol' Knee cap goes to Rosemary Schwartzbard. She competed in the Marine Marathon and finished with a personal best time. Rosemary was only 4 mins over the qualifying time for the Boston. She ran a second marathon 8 weeks later and a minute faster. She hopes to get into Boston. Right on!

Carolyn Mauer-DeVilbis has no boos for Bhutan after her hiking trip there. The thing that made traipsing over the boulders worthwhile was special booze made by the Army. No boos for that either. It was nothing to wine about.

Ubiquitous PVS, again. December PVS hosts, Bob and Louann Eadie, VEEP Dottie Villars and Rosemary Schwartzbard all at Wisp at the end of December. They had the Will of ...!!

Calendar and Information

Local Event Calendar				Ski Trip Calendar	
Jan	4	Sun	Snowmass pre-trip party	Jan 15-22	09 Snowmass (C.Maurer/D.DeVilbiss)
Jan	25	Sun	Monthly Mtg in afternoon (Villers)	Feb 22-28	09 Park City (PVS/Elderhostel) (R .Schwartzbard/E.Thayer)
Jan	27	Tues	ExCom Meeting (Conf. call)	Mar 13-21	09 Taos, New Mexico Liz Warren-Boulton/ Joe Jevcak
Jan	31	Sat	Park City pre-trip party	Sailing Trip	
Feb	1	Sun	Taos pre-trip party	May 28 – June 12, 09 Tahiti and French Polynesia. (Reg Heitchue)	
Feb	15	Sun	Monthly Mtg in afternoon		
Feb	24	Tues	ExCom Meeting (Conf. call)		

PVS Roster information updates

Change of postal or e-mail address, telephone numbers, TOOT e-mail format, etc.
 Call David Warthen (301) 774-2653 or send e-mail message to dwarthen@verizon.net

