

VOLUME XLV
NUMBER 6

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

JUNE 2009

www.potomacvalleyskiers.org

info@pvskiers.org

Greetings PVSers,

I have just returned from a reconnaissance trip to Jackson Hole with Marty Rine to scout things out for the PVS Jackson Hole ski trip in February 2010. We left no culinary stone unturned in our efforts to find suitable places for our group dinners. Our slogan: so many restaurants, so little time. (It's a dirty job, but somebody has to do it.) Jackson Hole, as many of you know, is supposed to be a true western town and the home of REAL MOUNTAIN MEN (and WOMEN). We encountered one such mountain man on our excursion to Grand Targhee Ski Resort to check things out. This stalwart fellow was determined to ski even though the resort was clearly closed, and the gate to the main entrance was chained shut. We watched him prepare the bottom of his skis with skins, pack his skis on his back, and head up the mountain. Actually for this time of year, there was still an abundance of snow on the ground, and rumor has it, that Grand Targhee had almost 600 inches of snow this year.

However, I am clearly not a mountain woman of that ilk, so I was quite content to settle into the routine of checking out the lodging, dining, and other facilities at the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. Marty and I did get in one short hike in the Grand Teton National Park. The snow-capped mountains were quite spectacular, and the weather was great. We even saw a few bison grazing alongside the road. I look forward to going back to the area next year.

Meanwhile, back at home, ExCom has been busy reviewing the club's liability status in different situations. This was prompted by a recent incident with the Ski Club of Washington DC, in which a ski tour operator left the club in debt for a large sum of money. [Cara Jablon](#) and [Ellie Thayer](#) have spent a lot of time and effort looking into the liability issues of PVS, club officers, and trip leaders, and they have provided guidance in developing a revised trip waiver. This will be an ongoing process, and we appreciate their help as we consider some important issues.

Best wishes, Dottie

Monthly Meeting

*Tuesday, June 16th at 7:30 PM
at the home of Ilse Keel
10021 Weatherwood Court
Potomac MD 20854
(301) 251-1710*

Directions from the Beltway:

From I-495 take the I-270 spur to I-270 north.
Keep right to take I-270 LOCAL N toward Montrose Rd.
Take the Montrose Rd. West exit, exit 4B.
Merge onto Montrose Rd.
Turn left at Falls Rd.
Turn right at Glen Rd.
Turn right at Gregerscroft Rd.
Turn left at Autumnwood Way.
Turn left at Weatherwood Ct.
Phone 301-251-1710 if you're lost!



Coming Events:

All Trips Party

**Sunday, July 12
2:00-5:00 PM**

At the home of **Cara and Bob Jablon**

**4573 Indian Rock Terrace, NW
Washington, DC 20007**

Please RSVP by **July 8** to **Cara Jablon** at **202-333-5332** or **rcjablon@aol.com**. Come and learn all about the many great trips PVS is offering for the 2010 season. The Jablon outdoor pool will be available for those who would like to go for a swim. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be served, but **everyone is asked to bring an appetizer, salad, or dessert**. A small fee will be charged to cover the cost of the drinks and food. Please contact Cara to let her know what food you plan to bring. Directions to the Jablon's house will be available in the July TOOT.

SUMMER PICNIC AND SHOW AT WOLF TRAP

Wednesday, August 19

Come join the PVS group for a fun summer evening at Wolf Trap on Wednesday, August 19. The festivities will begin at 6:30 with happy hour and a picnic in the Wolf Trap picnic area. Wine, beer, soda etc. will be provided, as well as glasses, plates and utensils. The picnic will be potluck style. Everyone is asked to bring a dish – appetizer, main dish salad, side dish, or dessert. Please contact Dottie Villers to let her know what you will be bringing.



Following the picnic, we will see a unique show, “Face of America: Glacier National Park.” This is another episode in Wolf Trap’s critically acclaimed multimedia artistic adventure series. It features *The Sun Road*, a new ballet. Giant HD video projections of the dancers at Glacier will intertwine with the ballet on-stage and music. We have reserved front orchestra seats for this event. If our group consists of 20 or more people, each person will benefit from a group discount.

If you would like to go, please contact Dottie Villers: dottievillers@yahoo.com, 703-476-9259 (home) or 703-217-6986 (cell). Send a check payable to Dottie Villers for \$38. This includes the discounted cost of the ticket (\$34.20) plus expenses for beverages etc. (\$3.80). The deadline for sending the money to Dottie is July 25. Please send the check to:

Dottie Villers
2520 Farrier Lane
Reston, VA 20191



!!! Wanted - Wanted - Wanted !!!

Your Ideas for Summer Activities

PVS members have regularly organized participation in a variety of non-ski summer activities such as theater, concerts, local events, trips, hikes, bike tours, outdoor activities, etc., and we are looking for SPECIFIC IDEAS for this summer.

So we need your thoughts, plans, desires, offers, and help to generate a non-ski program of interest that contains a variety of activities for you and other PVS members.

Communicate your ideas via e-mail, telephone, letter, or other convenient means to Ray McKinley raymckin@gmail.com or other members of EXCOM.

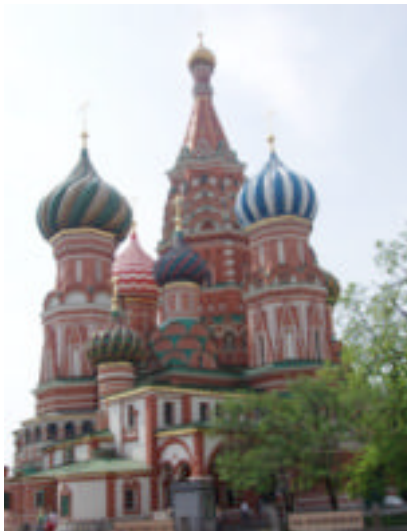
Members Corner



The Adventures of Daisy Beale:

I have already had an emergency room visit. Can you believe it? I wiggled out of my mistress' arms and fell 2 feet to the floor. That's a long way for a little girl like me to fall. I hurt my left foreleg. Ouch! Three hours and \$400 (I'm not kidding) later, I found out that I really didn't have a fracture (only achondroplasia of the bones, typical of all dachshunds and of humans with the genetic form of achondroplastic dwarfism), according to my mistress. Does that mean I can ski? The vet told me I had to keep quiet for 2 weeks but I didn't hear this. Within hours, I was running and jumping for joy, about as good as new. However, my mistress was totally drained. Seeing the x-rays, I now view my legs not so much as vertically challenged but as a mutation – oh well! I am going to have my first routine vet appointment soon, and my mistress will probably have to take out a loan for that one. What's a girl to do? Off to my favorite pastime - I am never so happy as when I'm chewing on string – yummy!

From Russia with Love:



Rosemary & Dick Schwartzbard and Ellie Thayer & Jack Chapman toured Moscow and St. Petersburg for 11 days in May with a group of 25. Each city boasted world-class art museums and astonishing churches. The churches are very different from those in Western Europe. The exteriors have myriad onion domes that are gold, silver, or brightly colored. (See St. Basil's in Red Square to the left.) The interiors are covered with painted or mosaic icons. Moscow's Pushkin Museum boasts the second largest collection of Impressionist paintings in the world. St. Petersburg's Hermitage is the second largest art museum in the world. Additionally, some of the most ornate palaces in the world reside in St. Petersburg and its environs.

Roster Changes:

Knox & Karen Felker: 843-388-5643 (H)

New Applicant Member:

Toni Govier, tgovier@verizon.net, 240-453-0142

10201 Glen Rd.

Potomac, MD 20854

TOOT Distribution to 176 PVS Members:

pdf: 78; USPS: 42; MS-Word: 31;

Emb. Text: 3; and Text (Att.): 2.

Roster Corrections:

Changes in postal or e-mail address, telephone number, method of TOOT distribution, version of TOOT format, choice of Hotline, desire to volunteer, etc. should be reported to Dave Warthen.

dwarthen@verizon.net, 301-774-2653



Miss Daisy at home with her guardian, Mary.

As always, a foreign tour is more than its beautiful buildings and art. We were fortunate to be in Moscow on Victory Day, May 9, an important Russian holiday celebrating the defeat of the Nazis in the Second World War. The tanks and nuclear warheads rolled by in front of our hotel. We were part of the packed crowd trying to take pictures.

We tasted the caviar, blini, borsch, and vodka of Russia. We dined on Beef Stroganoff in the sumptuous and elegant Stoganoff Palace in St. Petersburg. We sampled Georgian food overlooking Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake. It was a memorable trip and we had a wonderful time.

Ellie and Rosemary



2009-2010
Ski Trips



Ski Trip to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, December 12-18, 2009

Get a head start on the ski season and come to Steamboat Springs for a great week. Fly on your own to Denver on December 12 and take a free shuttle to the Embassy Suites Hotel, conveniently situated just six miles from Denver International Airport. Spend the first night there, and we will head to Steamboat Springs the next day, after a cooked-to-order breakfast.

At Steamboat, we will stay at the Ptarmigan Inn - Steamboat's coziest ski-in/ski-out lodge. The full-service Ptarmigan Inn offers [SportStalker Ski and Snowboard rentals](#) and complimentary valet ski storage, outdoor heated pool and hot tub, sauna, in-room refrigerators, coffee makers and remote color cable TVs. The [Snowbird Restaurant & Lounge](#), located slopeside in the hotel, allows you to dine while you watch the skiers go by. The lounge offers a daily happy hour that is the main watering hole of Steamboat ski instructors.

Included in cost of \$890:

- Lodging 1 night at the Denver Embassy Suites
- Lodging at the Ptarmigan Inn for 6 Nights
- Daily Breakfast
- Three Dinners – Yacht Club, Ore House Restaurant, + 1 TBD
- Private Après ski in Trip Leaders Room
- Transportation to Steamboat Springs from the Embassy Suites

For more information and to sign up, contact Dick Comerford,
dick.comerford@verizon.net,
(H) 703-777-9374, (C) 571-426-3098.



Ptarmigan Inn

Snowmass 2010

Wednesday, January 13 - 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 slope-side skiing just outside the door.
- The skiing terrain totals more than 5,000 acres with interchangeable lift tickets and free bus service to Aspen Highlands, Ajax Mountain, and Buttermilk ski areas,.
- 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.
- Complete trip cost is \$2,138, which includes air, lodging, lift tickets, and party events.
- For more information:
- Contact trip leaders Carolyn and David DeVilbiss at 703-370-4865 or
- To reserve: -- Send deposit (fully refundable till August 1) of \$250 per person to:
- Carolyn DeVilbiss at 4508 Peacock Avenue, Alexandria VA 22304 AND
- Note "PVS-Snowmass 2010" on the memo line.



Jackson Hole, Wyoming

February 18 - 25, 2010

Join us for premium skiing at a world-class resort in Jackson, WY.

Slope side accommodations are at the Alpenhof Lodge, a cozy Bavarian style lodge with ski in, ski out access. There are 'five of six days' lift tickets included (seniors over 65 can deduct \$100). Go on an optional trip over the Teton Pass to Grand Targhee where "the snow comes from heaven, not hoses." Cross-country skiers have trails outside the front door, or options to ski in Grand Teton National Park and Grand Targhee. The trip begins at Dulles, and goes on to Jackson, WY, then a short bus ride to the "Hole." We have a welcome-reception of gluwain and fondue.

Full buffet breakfasts are included every day at the hotel. Two group dinners are included, pre- and post-trip parties, and two après ski gatherings. A short bus trip into the town of Jackson reveals many opportunities for shopping, dining, touring, skiing, and reliving history in a true western town. Yellowstone National Park is 60 miles north, accessible by snowmobile or snow coach, and a visit to the nearby National Elk Refuge will give you the opportunity to see a herd of 12,000-15,000 elk in winter.

Approximate trip cost is \$1750, details to be announced when air transport is finalized.

Contact trip leaders Dottie Villers: 703-476-9259 or Marty Rine: 703-978-0179.

To reserve, send a deposit of \$350, fully refundable until August 1st, to Dottie Villers, 2520 Farrier Lane, Reston, VA 20191, and note PVS –Jackson Hole trip on the memo line.



Ski Trip to Bormio Italy 2010

Summary Trip Details:

- Participating with the Blue Ridge Ski Council (BRSC) 2010 Bormio *Eurofest*.
- Dates: March 6-14, 2010.
- Price: \$1995 double occupancy.
- Transportation:
 - Airfare: Round trip airfare to Milan from Dulles Airport on Air France (Dulles-Paris-Milan). Air France still offers free wine, cocktails, and baggage.
 - Ground: Round trip charter bus from the Milan airport to the hotels in Bormio, with two hour stop at Lake Como on the way.
- Lodging: Seven nights lodging, double occupancy at the (4 star) Baita dei Pini Hotel centrally located in Bormio.
- Food: Full breakfast and dinner included daily.
- Insurance: Emergency Medical and repatriation insurance provided at no extra cost.
- Around Town:
 - Discount at Bagni di Bormio and Terme Bormio, the ancient and the modern town hot springs and spa.
 - Complimentary welcome card entitles each guest to Free public transportation throughout the ski valley.
 - Optional day trips and trip extension are available.
 - 3 Blue Ridge parties with drink coupons. Friday night party includes DJ for dancing. (Total of 4 drink coupons per person for the week)

Contact me if interested: dick.comerford@verizon.net (H) 703-777-9374 (C) 571-426-3098

Previous Events:

May 19th Meeting at Vagonis'

Oh, what a night! The weather couldn't have been better for the May meeting at Pat & Jim Vagonis' lovely home in Potomac. Pat may not be able to claim credit for the weather but certainly can for the welcome we received, and the beautiful gardens and patio. Out on the patio, the tall outdoor heater was fired up just in case – but not necessary for this hearty group of skiers.

The group numbered 29 for the meeting, and Pat set out yummy snacks and desserts to keep PVSers happy and chatty. Mom, Margaret Wyckoff, was also instrumental in getting all set for the meeting. The mother-daughter duo did a terrific job!

For the first meeting after being elected, Dottie Villers was out of town scouting a new ski trip destination, so our meeting was conducted by newly-elected Veep, Kerry Hines, who presided with aplomb. Ray McKinley noted upcoming events, and Kerry introduced the ski trips anticipated for next year. The trip to the South Pacific (yes, a non-skiing event) is next and several excited trip-goers were at the meeting.

Many thanks to Pat – and Margaret, too – for opening her home and hosting PVS once again.

Nancy McKinley

Washington Ski Travel Show, May 1st

Eighteen PVSers attended the show at the Conference Center in North Bethesda, Maryland, sponsored by Paul Webber (Sports Luggage) Canton, Ohio. Forty-five mountain resorts and travel agencies were represented at the show. It was a great source of ski information about ski areas in New England, Canada, Europe, Alaska, and the Rocky Mountains.

Representatives from Wisp and Blue Knob were the two local participants. The good news about Wisp, for many PVSers, is that free skiing will continue for +70 members for the 2009/2010 season. PVS trip leaders on the upcoming Jackson Hole, February 2010 Trip were able to get information from Spencer Long on the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. Their travel agent, Dan Ellis of Winter Ski & Sports, was also available for trip discussion. Casey Leach of Aspen/Snowmass was present, and the PVS trip leaders of the Snowmass January 2010 Trip were able to learn of new developments. Peter Porton was at the Group Trips Unlimited (GTU) booth, and provided information on the two Blue Ridge Ski Council (BRSC) Trips for 2010. With Joanne Theresa Magro (JTM) missing this year, information on ski travel to South America, and New Zealand was scarce.

PVSers received bags, full of ski information on lodging and trail maps. At the conclusion of the show, door prizes were awarded. Many PVSers picked up shirts, hats, lift tickets, lodging, and a hydration pack. It was again a very good show, sponsored by Paul Webber, which provided a lot of ski information for ski clubs in the DC/Baltimore area.

Charles Huggins

BRSC Spring Meeting, May 2nd

The Blue Ridge Ski Council (BRSC) is an association of ski clubs from MD, VA, and DC. PVS is one of the 29 clubs in the Council. BRSC runs 2 trips each season, and PVS often participates. There is also a Spring and a Fall meeting each year, at which destinations and tour operators are selected. This meeting was held at the Fairfax Best Western. PVS hosted the meeting and was represented by Charles Huggins, Rosemary Schwartsbard, David Lerner and Dottie Villers.

The destination for the 2011 Winter Carnival was originally selected as either Snowbird or Snowmass, depending on price and availability. It was proposed and approved to change this to Park City or Snowmass because of a lack of dining facilities at Snowbird. There were also extensive discussions about defaults by JTM Tours that led to a \$120,000 loss by SCWDC and much smaller losses by the Baltimore Ski Club. JTM Tours had been a trusted tour operator for 27 years, and earlier trips this season had been operated without problems. The club became aware of a problem when the Gant Hotel called to say that room keys would not be distributed, because the hotel had not been paid. Subsequent investigation revealed that the airline tickets had not been purchased. SCWDC had developed a large reserve fund that allowed them to pay \$120,000 to provide their members with the expected vacation. The club elected to take this action, effectively depleting their reserve.

Various schemes to protect ski clubs from this kind of problem were discussed. Obtaining credit reports and late payment scores from tour operators were recommended. The BRSC will obtain these reports on behalf of member-clubs in the future. Reports will be obtained for both the registered corporation and the principal corporate owner. Suggestions included individual trip insurance, use of credit cards in making payments, and requirements for performance bonds. All of these alternatives are expensive, adding 2% to 5% to trip costs.

The status of clubs planning to participate in the 2010 Western and European trips was discussed. PVS is participating in the Bormio trip but not the Lake Tahoe trip. The Fall BRSC meeting will be October 17 at the Crowne Plaza in Tyson's Corner. It will be hosted by SCWDC.

David Lerner

PVS HIKE, WAKEFIELD/LAKE ACCOTINK PARK, ANNANDALE

Wednesday, May 20,

It was a beautiful sunny day, and perfect for hiking, with the temperatures in the mid 60's and low 70's. The hikers included Carolyn Maurer DeVilbiss, Jean Van der Tak, Marvin Hass and his friend Bill Maisch, Ruth Powers, Sally Finan, Sharon Mulholland and her friends Courtney and daughter Shanan Ives, Shirley Rettig, and Sue Lyon.

On one section of the trail, near the dam at the lake, we got our shoes wet, because the trail had flooded from the rain of the previous week.

At the end of our 4.3 mile hike, Carolyn, Sharon and Sharon's two friends had to leave. The rest of us had worked up an appetite, so we enjoyed a bountiful lunch at Kilroy's restaurant.

What a fun way to spend a beautiful spring day and exercise in the great outdoors. We had a wonderful time hiking and then relaxing, eating and conversing with friends.

What a hearty group of hikers, but what else would one expect from a group of PVSers?

Sue Lyon



Getting to Know You:

Toni Govier is a new Applicant Member as of May 19th. PVS welcomes her to our ski club. Toni is originally from Detroit, Michigan. She started skiing in the 1970's, and participated in Michigan ski club activities and trips out West and in Europe.

Nine years ago she and her husband, Bill, relocated to Maryland from Ann Arbor, Michigan. They both worked in the pharmaceutical industry. Toni was a Director in Regulatory Affairs, and her husband held positions in Research and Management. They are both retired.

Toni plays tennis frequently and takes aerobics classes. Eloise Strand, who is in Toni's aerobics dance class, introduced her to PVS. Toni hasn't skied a lot in the last few years, but is hoping to ski with PVS either locally or out West.

Toni and her husband love the culture in Washington DC. They enjoy entertaining family and friends from out of town, and they have 4 grandchildren.

For Sale:

Univega 12-speed men's bicycle 21" frame. Purchased in 1990. Excellent condition. \$150 or best offer. Call Toni Govier 240-453-0142, tgovier@verizon.net



THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley
RaysKnee@gmail.com

AnKneeeone living in the DC area knows that winter is over. The end of May seems like July—hot and humid. If, however, you are still rarin' to ski, there is hope. Mammoth Mountain in California currently plans to be open until mid July. And Killington and Arapaho Basin are also usually available until the cows come home—which is typically in June.

That's dedication: Fred and Barbara Leonhardt were in Williamsburg golfing. They returned home on PVS meeting day—at 7:30 pm! Barb changed clothes and showed up at Pat Vagonis' only a few minutes late.

Applicant Toni Govier is friends with Mike and Eloise Strand and she has now been to two PVS meetings. Toni brings a unique skiing experience to PVS. She has skied in Brighton, Michigan. Why is that unique? Brighton is flat. But several-ahem-years ago, they had a small ski area on a trash dump. Skiing there was an offer Toni couldn't refuse.

According to Marvin Hass quoting the Aspen Times, the season that just ended turned out to be average, and better than anticipated, given the free-fall of the stock market, the collapse of all facets of housing, rising unemployment, fluctuating energy costs and global economic turmoil. Going into this season, they were reasonably optimistic. If it snows, there would be good numbers. The way the numbers shook out, even at expensive destination resorts, some are going to have a pretty good story to tell in terms of numbers. Indeed, some resorts in the Northeast set records on skier days.

PVS added to the ski numbers. Here's an update on who skied where this last season. Betty Lawrence and Suzanne Boisclair skied in Alyeska, Alaska. Thereafter, they went north to the site where Betty shot the moose that adorns her Blue Knob mantle. A week after, a volcano exploded nearby, causing Alyeska skiers to wear face masks. We thought pollen was bad!

The only really bad thing about the Taos trip was that bargain hunters Eloise Strand and Rosemary Schwartzbard couldn't find a nearby consignment shop. *Caveat Emptor.*

The Knee notes the following with perverse interest: The National Ski Areas Association is holding its annual meeting. This year's theme is trying to keep the Baby Boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964) coming to ski areas. The area owners, mostly Boomers themselves, are holding their meeting in Florida!!

There was a lot of press about Pres. Dottie Villers missing her first meeting after being elected. The Washington Post's two-column Style write up was kneet. Veep Kerry Hines did a great job subbing for Dottie. Except, Kerry kept using the words "I'm in control."

Later, chaos reigned at the ExCom meeting. Indeed, the club has now been turned into a Canasta Club making membership "cards" a bone of contention. So this will be your last issue of TOOT. Next month's newsletter will be called MELD. (It's so much more fun for the Knee to make up news than merely report it!)

Don't forget, the Knee can now get your e-mail. Please tell me all sorts of foibles about other PVSers using my new Knee-mail. It's RaysKnee@gmail.com. I never reveal sources.

Marsha Warthen is in Kneed of a knee replacement. The event will occur on 23 June, in OIKnee, MD at the MontgomerKnee General Hospital. Thereafter, Marsha won't be able to read this column as she will have a new Knee.

Dave and Marsha slipped in a quick trip to Southern California before the surgery. The last leg of the flight, from Las Vegas to Ontario, CA was turbulent. A seated, seasoned, flight attendant broke the anxious silence hilariously by announcing instructions to keep one's legs and arms inside the "roller coaster." The Warthens did. Roll on!

Instead of making a major trip this year (she went to Bhutan last year), Carolyn DeVilbiss' son and his wife are coming here for a rare visit. They live in Japan and Carolyn's daughter-in-law is JapaKnees. Ah so desu ka?

And, some of us are thinking about summer vacations. Pat and Jim Vagonis will be off to Michigan to visit Jim's family. Then they will drive up into Canada.

Herewith, a Knee astronomical factoid: Even though the moon is smaller than the earth, it's farther away.

New members of PVS Louann and Bob Eadie were absent when they were voted into full membership. They had an excuse. They were enjoying a retirement celebration 35 day cruise through most of Asia. Sail on, & on, & on!

Calendar and Information

Local Event Calendar				Ski Trip Calendar	
Jun	16	Tues	Monthly Mtg (Keel)	Dec 12-18	2009 Steamboat (D. Comerford)
Jun	23	Tues	ExCom (Schwartzbard)	Jan 13-20	2010 Snowmass (C. & D. DeVilbiss)
Jul	12	Sun	All-Trips Party (Jablon)	Feb 18-25	2010 Jackson Hole (Villers/Rine)
Jul	28	Tues	ExCom (Thayer)	Mar 6-14	2010 Bormio, Italy (D. Comerford)
Aug	19	Wed	Wolf Trap (Villers)		
Sept	15	Tues	Monthly Mtg (Leonhardt)		

PVS Roster information updates

Change of postal or e-mail address, telephone numbers, TOOT email format, etc.

Call David Warthen 301-774-2653 or send e-mail message to dwarthen@verizon.net