



# TOOT



Volume 45 No. 4

**Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc**

April 2010

WASHINGTON

MARYLAND

VIRGINIA

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## President's Letter: Greetings PVSers,

Since this is my "swan song" edition of the President's Letter, I want to take this opportunity to thank the many people who have helped me during the past year and who have helped make it an enjoyable and successful year for PVS. First of all I want to thank the ExCom members and PVS officers who ably provided leadership and feedback and helped in many ways to keep the club moving along smoothly. Those ExCom members who are leaving are Sue Lyon and Liz Warren-Boulton, who filled in for Dave Callaway. Mary Beale, who filled Kerry Hines' position when he became vice-president, will be continuing on ExCom for another term as well as continuing as secretary. Dick Laeser will continue as treasurer in addition to being a new ExCom member. Others who will be continuing in their current roles include: Dave Warthen and Carolyn DeVilbiss for membership, Ray McKinley for events, Rosemary Schwartzbard for the Ski Trip Committee and Dave Lerner as webmaster.

This year we truly missed our friend Bob Marx, who left a big pair of shoes to fill in PVS, especially in working with Jan on the TOOT. However, I want to really thank those who have stepped forward to be temporary TOOT editors during the year: Marvin Hass, Kerry Hines, Mike Strand, and Dave Warthen. Thanks to Marvin for doing a great job as editor of this month's TOOT. I also want to thank those who helped out with mailing out the "snail mail" paper edition of the TOOT: Carolyn DeVilbiss, Barbara Leonhardt, and Sue Lyon.

There are many more people in the club who have contributed in a variety of ways to keep things running smoothly. I will only mention a few here. Many of you may not know that Dave Warthen has volunteered to scan back issues of the TOOT (going back to 1965) and work with Dave Lerner to have them put out on the PVS web site so that PVS members can access them. This is a very time-

consuming project, but it will provide the club with historical information easily available to all members. Thanks to both Daves for taking on this task. Dave Warthen has also done a great job of maintaining our membership database, providing an updated roster, sending out group email messages as needed, and coordinating the email production of the TOOT. Sue Lyon has helped with maintaining attendance records at all our monthly meetings and Carolyn DeVilbiss has continued to manage the meeting registration process along with her other duties. Many other PVSers have provided support by hosting meetings and other events and giving helpful suggestions and original ideas. Thanks to all of you.

The past year has been a good one, but it's time to look to the future. I urge all of you who can to attend our April Annual Meeting and cast your vote for the nominees who will be leading the club in the coming year and for the applicant members who want to join PVS. I have been privileged to serve as president this past year and urge you to support the new officers. I am moving to North Carolina this summer, but my heart will still very much be with PVS, and I look forward to participating in future PVS ski trips and other events from time to time.

Best Wishes,  
*Dottie*

**Next Monthly PVS Meeting**  
**Tuesday April 20, 2010 7:30 PM**  
**Annual Business Meeting with**  
**Election of Club Officers and ExCom**  
**Members.**  
**Details on Page 2**

## Monthly PVS Meeting

Tuesday, April 20, 2010 7:30 PM

in the party room

of the condo of

Reg and Jean

Heitchue

11990 Market St.

Reston, VA 20190

Telephone: 703-437-7611



Come and join your fellow PVSers at this annual business meeting which will involve election of officers for the coming year in addition to the social hour and announcements of forthcoming PVS events and ski trips.

**Directions** to Reg and Jean Heitchue's Midtown Condo in Reston Town Center.

**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.)
- Tell the valet or concierge that you are there for the PVS meeting and they will direct you to the Great Room upstairs

## Candidates for PVS Officers for 2010-2111 to be voted on at April Business meeting

President: **Sharon Mulholland**

Vice-President: **Ellie Thayer**

Excom (and continuing as Secretary)

**Mary Beale**

Excom (and continuing as Treasurer)

**Dick Laeser**

Excom (1 year only): **John Brunelli**

Excom (1 year to replace Ellie)

**Dick Schwartzbard**

The following applicant members have been approved by ExCom and will be voted on at the April Annual Meeting to become full PVS members: Donna Diewald  
John Holt, Barbara Holt, Jack Sloan, Linda Sloan

## Sharon Mulholland Bio:

### Candidate for PVS President

I joined PVS 8 years ago, thanks to Barbara Leonhardt and June Read. I am very thankful for the many friends I've gotten to know through the monthly meetings, 9 ski trips and other activities with the club.

I started out my career doing what I always wanted to do--teach physical education and health, which I did for 5 years in middle and high school in NJ and 1 year in MD. For 2 years I was adviser to the ski club where I improved my skiing abilities (by learning to ski better on ice) during our 6 trips a season of twilight skiing (while keeping an eye on the adolescents).

When we moved back to MD in 1971 my late husband, Hank, and I started our family of two lovely daughters. Five years later, I inadvertently stumbled into real estate, and decided I liked combining people skills with business. It has become my life long career for 32 years. During the 90's I was very active with the leadership of the Montgomery County Association of Realtors, including as a State Director, and continue on the Subscriber Advisory Committee of MRIS, the largest regional MLS in the US. I also managed my own company for nine years. Working with people of all types in this field has given me an education beyond words.

I have three beautiful and intelligent (not prejudiced here) granddaughters, all under six years of age, who constantly light up my life. I've been teaching myself guitar in the last 1 ½ years and enjoy dancing, tennis and canoeing/kayaking.

## Ellie Thayer bio

### Candidate for PVS Vice President

I was born on a farm in northwest Iowa and spent my childhood and undergraduate college years in Iowa. After graduation, I moved to Washington, DC and worked as a historian for the Department of Naval History. I married a Naval Officer, became a full-time mom with two children, and lived in Rota, Spain for three years. After six years in Virginia Beach, I moved myself and my two children to Arlington to start law school in 1978.

The latter part of my legal career was spent at the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit where I served as the Senior Staff Attorney until my retirement in 2006. Early in this period, I married Jack Chapman and learned to ski as a forty-plus year old. Our blended family consists of five children and 10 grandchildren, all of whom live in the Washington area. I have many interests in addition to skiing, including running, traveling, cooking, and reading.

## Meeting Announcements and Previous Meeting Review

### **John Brunelli, Candidate for ExCom**

A native of Franklin, Massachusetts, Rear Admiral John Brunelli is a graduate of Boston College. He received his commission from the Navy's Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island. Rear Admiral Brunelli was promoted to Rear Admiral Upper Half in August 1999.

During his career he has served in numerous sea duty billets including First Lieutenant in USS PHILIP (DD 498), Operations Officer in USS JOHN R. PIERCE (DD 753), Executive Officer, USS JOHNSTON (DD 821) and Chief of Staff for Commander, Destroyer Squadron Thirty. In 1983 he was selected to command USS OLIVER HAZARD PERRY (FFG 7), the lead ship of the Navy's largest class of guided missile frigates. From 1988 to 1990 he was the Commander of Naval Surface Group Four in Newport, Rhode Island, a command consisting of 17 ships and three shore based activities. He served several shore tours in Washington DC and received a Master of Science Degree in Financial Management from the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California.

His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (four awards), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Naval Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Navy Commendation Medal, Combat Action Ribbon (for duty in the Gulf of Tonkin and Vietnam), two Battle Efficiency Awards and various other service and campaign awards.

Since leaving military service Mr. Brunelli has begun a second career as a consultant in the diverse fields of the privatization of military housing and software solutions applications.

A life long "intermediate" skier, John has joined PVS members on several trips to the west, Europe, and Whitetail which convinced him to cease east coast skiing.

### **Dick Schwartzbard, Candidate for ExCom**

Dick learned to ski on a small bump of ice otherwise known as a Pennsylvania ski resort. Since joining PVS in 2000 he has moved on to more formidable slopes as he participated in more than 20 western PVS trips. He credits his skiing ability to his desire to keep up with his wife Rosemary, a somewhat daunting challenge. Dick is a retired Federal employee, a fact that makes him not at all unique in our club. What does make him somewhat different, though, is that this will be his second time serving on ExCOM as he previously served a full term a few years ago. Dick is a long time Washington area resident and currently lives in Arlington.

### **Mary Beale bio Candidate for ExCom (continuing as Secretary)**

For years before I joined PVS, I heard about the Club through my mother Lu Beale. She was, I think, its biggest fan. Several weeks before a ski trip she would get out her duffel bag and begin packing. By doing so she could draw out the excitement. When she wasn't packing or working towards a TOOT deadline, she was planning the next "great hike". Her favorites were Sugarloaf, the Catoctins, Old Rag, and the Billy Goat trail. In her later years, the Gold Mine trail was the perfect length and slope. The family dachshund, members of PVS, and I were frequently invited along. These were fun times. They offered opportunities for starting new friendships and strengthening old ones. Occasionally more renowned trails were tackled- Little Devil Stairs and White Oak Canyon/Cedar Run among them. When I joined PVS in 2005 it was with the memory of these wonderful hikes and the warm camaraderie within the Club. I tried to ski but I soon concluded that I was a safety risk both to myself and others. In 2006 I officially retired after 35 years of practicing medicine. Somehow the days fill up through volunteer work, racquet sports, and two high-maintenance dachshunds. If you're thinking about a hike though, please let me know.

### **Dick Laeser, Candidate for ExCom (continuing as Treasurer)**

Dick has served one prior 2-year term on PVS ExCom and has been PVS Treasurer since late-2006. In 2000, he retired from CalTech/JPL (NASA) where he flew robots to five of the planets and a bunch of their moons. Dick learned to ski at Mammoth Mountain in the eastern Sierras because his office-mate talked him into being the first treasurer of the JPL Ski Club, and there wasn't anything better to do on the club's ski trips. He lives on Lake Thoreau in Reston with his perennial-beginner-skier wife, Sandy, and his youngest (of 2) daughters is a former ski instructor at Breckenridge. Irrelevant but fun background information: competition staff for gymnastics at the '84 Olympics in LA, 6-time cancer survivor, classmate of Dick Schwartzbard, and ate lunch on the ice at the North Pole.

## Meeting Announcements and Previous Meeting Review

### March 16, 2010 Monthly Meeting Review : Barbara and Fred Leonhardt (hosts)

The Leonhardts welcomed approximately 35 enthusiastic members to their home for the March PVS meeting. We were treated to a bountiful spread of delicious food and warm hospitality. Attendees included guest Jackie Flaherty and members John and Ellen Burgess, whom we haven't seen recently.

President Dottie Villers presided over the business meeting. She announced the slate of nominees for club officers from the nominating committee, to be voted on at the annual meeting in April. She opened the floor for additional nominations, in accordance with the bylaws. When none were offered, nominations were closed.

Dottie reported on a meeting that she and Carolyn Maurer recently attended with Capital Golden Skiers. They discussed activities in which the two clubs might cooperate in order to provide additional social opportunities for members of both clubs. Several CGS members signed up for our Snowmass trip this year and one has become an applicant member. CGS invited PVS to participate in several of their upcoming events. A joint lunch is planned for May 22.

review ski trips, in the absence of the Ski Trip Chair, Rosemary Schwartzbard. Carolyn Maurer and Sharon Mulholland announced plans for the 2011 Snowmass trip, which has been approved by the trip committee. Dottie noted that additional trip proposals are needed and requested that members send in rough proposals as soon as they can.

Discussion of past trips included a report on injuries to Dave Lerner and Jack Chapman. Fortunately, Jack was able to attend the meeting, although with a leg brace. Dave is reported to be improving. Serge Triaou reported that he had tracked down Jack Peoples, a former member. He said that Jack sounded a little better than he had the last time he talked to him, a few years ago.

Dottie and several other members remembered Nate Seeman, who recently passed away. He was an active and well-loved member of the club.

Thanks again to Barbara and Fred for sharing their home with us and enabling us to have such a delightful time.

*Submitted by Ruth Powers*



(Above) Dottie Villers addressing the meeting

In the absence of Ray McKinley, Dottie put on the Activities Chair hat and announced upcoming events. She then switched hats to



(Above) Fred and Barbara Leonhardt, hosts

## Coming Events

*The event described below is not sponsored by PVS or BRSC, but could be of interest to current and potential ski trip leaders*

### **PRW SKI TRAVEL SHOW**

**Friday Evening April 30,**

**2010**

**Hilton Rockville**

1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852

301-468-1100

Location: on east side of Rockville Pike (MD-355) about 0.8 mile north of Montrose Rd intersection

**Ballroom Show Hours: 6:30 pm – 9 PM**

**Hors d'oeuvres 9 PM Cash Bar all evening Prize drawing 9:30 PM**

- Designed to bring the Ski Industry together with Clubs from Blue Ridge Ski Council and any Clubs not affiliated with any Council for future ski seasons.
- To provide more time for club decision makers (Presidents, Board Members, Trip Chairs, Current and Future Trip Leaders), to educate themselves with Resorts and formulate their travel plans for next season and the future.
- Each show is designed to bring the Ski Industry together with Ski Club and Council Leaders for future ski seasons. The schedule gives your club trip decision makers 2 ½ hours to plan trips for next season and beyond. This gives your club a great opportunity to gather trip information and cement relationships with tour operators and destination resort personnel.
- Western, Eastern, Canadian and European Resorts along with Tour Operators will be exhibiting at the show.
- **Prize Drawing** - 9:30 PM - chance to win door prizes donated by Exhibitors (Resorts, Tour Operators and Lodging Companies) (winners must be present)

**(No attendance after 8 PM to attend and be Eligible for Door Prizes)**

• **Registration:** Please try to submit one registration **Deadline for pre-registration is Tuesday April 27, 2010.**

PVS Registration List: Contact Rosemary Schwartzbard at 703-527-2458 or [rosemaryphd@verizon.net](mailto:rosemaryphd@verizon.net)

• **After April 27, Register at the show**



## ***PVS Finger Lakes Extravaganza 2010***

***Thursday, August 26, 2010 – Sunday, August 29, 2010***

Enjoy the beautiful Finger Lakes Wine Country with your hosts and vintners David & Susan Payne. Act now as participation is **Limited to 20 participants!!**

The total package is \$300 per person. It includes:

- Visits to 8 wineries and distilleries
- A behind the scenes tour of a vineyard and winery
- Two (2) group dinners and two (2) group lunches
- Chartered bus transportation to wineries/distilleries and meals
- A boat excursion on Seneca Lake with refreshments

The two items below are not included in the package. Participants will make their own arrangements for:

- Transportation to and from Watkins Glen
- Lodging: After submitting a deposit, you will be provided with a list of inns/B&Bs located in the Watkins Glen area. Three (3) nights (August 26, 27, 28) lodging is estimated at \$210 - \$300 per person (based on double occupancy, including tax on the B&B or inn selected). B&B list will be provided after deposit is received.

For more info and to get an application, call Susan Payne at 607-727-1190 or e-mail her at [vineyard100@frontiernet.net](mailto:vineyard100@frontiernet.net). You can also send your \$100 deposit payable to: Susan Payne (put PVS FLWC 2010 on the memo line) and mail to: Susan Payne at 5598 Dutch Street, Dundee, NY 14837.

# ***PVS 45th Anniversary***

## **Saturday evening November 6, 2010**

Save the date. This special event will be held at the Bolger Center in Potomac, Maryland and involve a Cocktail party, dinner, and special program. A premier event and an occasion where you might be able to see some of your fellow PVSers in their (optional) formal attire. Those wishing to stay overnight at the Bolger Center will be able to do so at a special rate.



# Snowmass 2011

**Wednesday January 19-26, 2011**

*(above--lunch at the Mountain Chalet)*

**Early Alert!** PVS returns to our “Old Faithful” Colorado ski resort with reduced pricing in 2011. We will again stay at Snowmass Mountain Chalet with its ski-in ski-out convenience, the welcoming staff, and the many amenities of the Aspen environ. Join us for this PVS favorite!

- Snowmass offers the crème de la crème of ski-in ski-out experience with 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 hot breakfast and soup lunch, greatly appreciated by trip participants and other guests, many of whom return year after year. The reunions in the hot tub quickly refresh the memories. The spacious, welcoming lobby with oversized stone fireplace, flat screen TV and card table for “Dave’s” games also provides the setting for the weekly après-ski party given by the hotel.
- The trip will include group dinners, our own après-ski parties, games, and other activities available in the Aspen environs. Many participants take a day off to “do” the town of Aspen. Historical restaurants and hotels, shops with the Western flair including consignments (just ask Rosemary and Eloise about the deals) nightly live music, opera house theater and other cultural activities can be included in your city tour.

Sharon Mulholland joins Carolyn DeVilbiss in leading the trip. Call or email us for more information:\

Carolyn at 703-370-4865 ([Carolyn.maurer@verizon.net](mailto:Carolyn.maurer@verizon.net))

Sharon at 301-330-2953 ([shank@mrisc.com](mailto:shank@mrisc.com))

To lock in your reservation, send deposit (fully refundable until Aug. 1) of \$250 per person to:

Carolyn DeVilbiss  
4508 Peacock Ave.  
Alexandria VA 22304

[www.mountainchalet.com](http://www.mountainchalet.com)  
[www.aspensnowmass.com](http://www.aspensnowmass.com)

(NOTE “PVS 2011” on the memo line -- early registration by mid-April needed to assure lower rate)

## Jackson Hole, Wyoming Ski Trip; February 18-25, 2010

Our Jackson Hole trip started off with the usual excitement of a PVS ski trip, but even more so because of the hype inadvertently instilled by co- trip leader, Dottie Villers, who emailed us with daily words of wisdom about the trip, since we were **snowed out** of our pre-trip party **twice**. The flights and subsequent bus trip got all 37 of us to Jackson Hole in a timely fashion by 2:30PM with two exceptions. Dave DeVilbiss had to hop a later flight when the car wouldn't start after he and Carolyn had checked their bags. He arrived happily at Jackson Hole around 9:00PM that night. Greg Gell was also delayed due to a security alert on one of the legs of his flight.

Everyone settled into their rooms at the Alpenhof and at 5PM the hotel entertained us with their welcome party with cheese and chocolate fondue accompanied by hot gluhwein.. The Jackson Hole Mountain Resorts rep filled us in on the mountain, city of Jackson, answered questions and signed us up for the next morning's Mountain Tours.

For our first day most of us did the Mountain Tours led by ski instructors or ambassadors to help acquaint us with this magnificent mountain. Although not as high an altitude as other ski areas, the 4,150 vertical foot drop made for quick and interesting adjustments on the mountain. Many of us found out that the Jackson Hole reputation was true—their double blues (didn't know there was such a thing before) were like blacks at most other ski areas.

Unfortunately there were 2 injuries on the 1<sup>st</sup> day. Jack Chapman had a mishap at the top of lower Moran and blew out his ACL and MCL. He still had a smile on his face as he made his way around on crutches until Tuesday, when he and Ellie left. Dave Lerner got caught by the "snow snake" as he was maneuvering his way down the moguls on a double black diamond. He opted to have surgery on his right heel the next day but needed more surgery when he returned home. Reg Heichue was his "guardian angel" for the remainder of the trip, and David was able to continue to enjoy the many social aspects.

Snow showers came on Friday, Saturday and Wednesday which really helped the ski conditions through the week. Although still cold, the sun came out 3 days so we could appreciate the beauty of the Teton Village both from the Village and the top of the mountain via tram ride. Many of our advanced skiers skied down the Rendezvous Bowl, each with their own fantastic style. I'm told that Bob Knopes skied it unintentionally the first day, but was never the worse for it.

On Tuesday a group of 22 of us took the one hour plus bus ride over Teton pass to ski at the Grand Targhee ski resort. This is a smaller ski area than Jackson Hole, but

one which is renowned for its powder. Some might add that it's an easier mountain, but you might ask those who tried the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly – three black diamond trails. We had no fresh powder, but we did have a "bluebird day" with lots of sunshine and blue skies. On the way back our friendly and somewhat eccentric bus driver, Jesse, entertained us by singing for us. He also obliged us by stopping for a group photo with the spectacular Grand Teton mountains in the background. Note: Dave DeVilbiss accidentally, on purpose, forgot his ski boots at Grand Targhee—since he wanted new ones anyway he never went back to retrieve them.

Ten attendees also enjoyed the day long Yellowstone Tour, either by Snowcoach or Snowmobile (the later for the warm blooded). It included a viewing of the Old Faithful geyser doing her thing like she's done forever plus various other hot springs, water falls, continental divide sites and scenic lakes and streams. The ride over and back with views of the Grand Teton Mountains was just as glorious. See the web site for additional photos.

For many of us this was our first visit to Jackson Hole, and therefore a day in Jackson was definitely in order. We arrived by city bus to the Town Square designated by four arches made of elk antlers and lighted with Christmas lights at night. After some window shopping we met for lunch at the Bunnery, a perfect gathering spot with delicious brunch offerings. Then later that afternoon 16 PVS'ers took a trip to the National Elk refuge via sleigh ride. They saw lots of elk to whom they were introduced by their personal first names: Cyclops, Tiger Woods, Dumbo, Tom Brokaw, and use your imagination.....

Of course any PVS trip wouldn't be complete without the camaraderie enjoyed at our two après ski parties, one complete with the movie "Swift, Silent and Deep". Our dinner at the Gun Barrel with its western motif was delicious and appreciated by all, but that chocolate dessert took the prize. The town bus even cooperated that evening by picking us up within 10 minutes of our waiting in 10 degree temps.

The finale of the trip included with a scrumptious dinner at Snake River Lodge where Dottie and Marty were presented with two lovely pieces of jewelry (hand picked in Jackson by, of course, Rosemary and Eloise). A huge **Thank You** was offered to co-trip leaders Marty Rine and Dottie Villers, who did a great job handling our large, diverse group of skiers. The Jackson Hole trip will be a memorable one packed with a wonderful variety of activities and great skiing, including cross country for some.

*Submitted by Sharon Mulholland* (Photos next page)

## Trip Review



**PVSers boarding the Jackson Hole Metro**



**Co-leaders Marty (left) and Dottie (right) at the Million Dollar Cowboy Bar in Jackson Hole**

### **Nat Seeman Skier and Physicist**

**April 19, 1923 - March 2, 2010.**

Although Nat only joined PVS in 1992, he got hooked on skiing earlier in 1964-65 when he took he and his family (wife and two daughters) off to Kitzbuhel on a two-week "learn to ski" holiday. Members of PVS remember him as an avid skier, who was elected a member of the PVS ExCom. On one occasion he assumed leadership of a ski trip on the spot after the designated leader was unable to continue. In fact he continued his skiing into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and remained a member of PVS until 2009. Even after he had "retired" from the sport he still joined a PVS ski trip for the ambiance. On a personal level, his devotion to Mary Jane McCarthy, a fellow PVS member and a Club President, continued well after she developed a serious illness. This was just one more indication of his personal qualities which endeared him to those in the Club who knew him.

Most PVSers were primarily acquainted with Nat as a skier and member of the Club. He graduated from Brooklyn College and served in World War II as a radio and radar specialist. After the war he returned to school for graduate studies at the University of Illinois where he received his MS degree in Physics. Then he came to Washington at the end of 1947 to get married, to start work at the US Naval Research Laboratory

and to continue graduate studies at the University of Maryland. At the Naval Research Laboratory he was associated with a well known group who were involved in the study of cosmic rays. The primary cosmic rays are high energy particles (mostly protons from outer space which collide with nuclei of molecules in the earth's atmosphere resulting in transitory new particles (such as the muon – intermediate in mass between an electron and proton.) It is not easy to investigate the nature of cosmic rays. Nevertheless, Nat and other members of this group have made a number of significant contributions to the field. Nat also developed a strong interest in black and white photography, built a large darkroom, and competed in area-wide club competitions.

On a personal level, Nat lost his first wife to cancer in 1973. His survivors from this marriage include two daughters. A graveside service was attended by PVS members John and Ellen Burgess, Ray McKinley, John Brunelli, Betty Byrne, and Marvin Hass. With his passing, his family, his skiing companions, and the community have indeed lost a true friend and gentlemen.

*Submitted by Marvin Hass*

# Members Corner



By J. David Warthen, Jr.

[dwarthen@verizon.net](mailto:dwarthen@verizon.net)

301-774-2653

## Getting to Know You:

**Betsy Stephens** (Applicant Member) grew up in the Boston area where roots go way back. Prior to leaving for college in NH, my dad purchased wooden skies at the hardware shop. After classes, I'd ski through the trail to New London Town slopes. Rope tow only!

Skiing lapsed for a while. I went to nursing school in Baltimore, married, and had two sons in England, where we were for more than 4 years. But, I did go on a ski trip to Obergurgel, then a new, small area.

In 1964, we returned to South Alexandria where I've since lived in a bungalow under oak trees. After divorcing in 1974, I went to graduate school, worked in health professions, and got active. I took up skiing again, tennis, water sports, traveling, and piano lessons. Now, I'm a member of Capital Golden Skiers [www.capitalgoldenskiers.com/](http://www.capitalgoldenskiers.com/), and joined PVS after loving the Snowmass 2010 trip. I look forward to more adventures with PVS.

## TOOT Distribution to 147 PVS Members:

pdf: 78; MS-Word: 21; USPS: 34; and  
Text (Att.): 2

## Roster Changes & Additions:

**Jack & Linda Sloan** (New Applicant Couple)

1530 Key Blvd. PH 22

Arlington, VA 22209-1532

(703) 528-0107

[jackandlindasloan@yahoo.com](mailto:jackandlindasloan@yahoo.com)

**Jessma Blockwick** (New e-mail address)

[jezblock@comcast.net](mailto:jezblock@comcast.net)

## Hexagon 2010 - Dancing With The Czars:

**Dottie Villers** led a small group of PVSer's and a guest to the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Performing Arts Center of Montgomery College on March 24. They enjoyed Washington's only original, political, satirical, musical, comedy revue. The new, contemporary theater, located almost on the DC/MD border, was surprisingly comfortable, attractive and intimate.

After finding free parking, we settled in our seats to be entertained by Hexagon's 55<sup>th</sup> show [www.hexagon.org/](http://www.hexagon.org/), originating in 1956. You can only imagine the political and social fodder these recent months have provided for a satirical revue. The production, with a large cast, was quite clever and humorous for an all-volunteer organization. The production was thoroughly enjoyable. We were also entertained by several "Newsbreaks," starring Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) and Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC).

The proceeds of the production this year went to "Rebuilding Together of Washington, DC" [www.rebuildingtogetherdc.org/](http://www.rebuildingtogetherdc.org/), which helps low-income DC homeowners.

Thanks Dottie for making the arrangements!

## Toots 1965-2010 - Remember When:

Some of you may not realize that PVS has a website: [www.potomacvalleyskiers.org/](http://www.potomacvalleyskiers.org/), and that there is access to TOOTs back to 2005. An effort is ongoing to make available, on the website, all TOOTs from the inception of PVS in 1965. So, if you keep your eyes peeled, you will gradually notice the appearance of [blue links](#) for each year back to 1965.

After accessing the PVS website, click on the Newsletter button on the left, and a link to [login instructions](#) (under the blue bar, placed by webmaster, **David Lerner**) will be seen. (Your username and password are based on your entry in the PVS Roster.)

In the future, those who have e-mail addresses, will occasionally receive a pdf TOOT of yesteryear – a real "Remember When" moment.



## The (April) KNEE Replacement

# THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley  
[RaysKnee@gmail.com](mailto:RaysKnee@gmail.com)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/14/business/14yellow.html?em>

<http://www.yellowstoneclub.com>

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**Warren Miller at age 85**  
*NY Times November 20, 2009*

No true fan of Warren Miller ski movies has a favorite, and it's not because each of the 60 is special in its own way, but because they are all pretty much the same.

Mr. Miller considers himself lucky to still have outlets. He is at work on an autobiography and still writes a weekly column that runs in several small newspapers in the West. He spends winters at the Yellowstone Club in Big Sky, Mont., a gated resort community (which recently emerged from bankruptcy) that has made him its honorary director of skiing.

"I always thought it was when Maria Bogner invented stretch pants and put romance into skiing," he said, adding that the style was due for a comeback. "There are a lot of good photographs around of stretch pants.

The elder Mr. Miller said that he hadn't seen the last few movies, but that, in general, he felt they hadn't been the same since his son took over. "I had a unique, mean-spirited sense of humor, a little bit sarcastic," he said. "And my son and his partner and the film company, they didn't want a lot of humor in the movies."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/21/movies/21miller.html>

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**A ski bum turns his love of the slopes into a living.** *Washington Post, March 8, 2010*

Chris Chapman, who sells used ski equipment -- mostly online -- displays his wares at his Lothian, Md., warehouse. His company, Loucon, sold \$1.3 million of ski equipment and accessories in 2009 and has made a profit nine out of the past 11 years. A friend's venture started him on the path of entrepreneurship, and his use of the Internet began quietly enough when he sold a pair of racing skis on eBay a decade ago. (Mark Gail/the Washington Post)

<http://tinyurl.com/ye55bvix>

There will be no Knee this month due to travel by the author to Bormio and other places thus providing a respite for his long suffering PVS viewers.

Late Note: Ray delivered post-deadline  
See last page

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*In lieu of the absence of the Knee, the TOOT April temporary editor (Marvin Hass) will supply a few gems culled from the Internet.*

**The Yellowstone Club**  
*NY Times June 13, 2009*

The Yellowstone Club, a 13,600-acre playground 20 miles north of Yellowstone National Park, may be the world's lone members-only ski resort. Its pristine natural beauty and remote location have attracted wealthy skiers who prize their privacy, including [Bill Gates](#) of [Microsoft](#); Barry Sternlicht, the hotelier; and [Peter Chernin](#), president of the [News Corporation](#).

Membership has its price: a minimum of \$250,000 to join, plus the cost of a \$5 million to \$35 million mountainside home, plus annual dues of about \$20,000, according to members.

Marketed with the phrase "Private Powder," Yellowstone is the anti-Aspen — luxurious, sure, but discreet and child-friendly. Ask members what makes it so special, and more than one offers this simple fact: There, and nowhere else, the family of the world's richest man can ski without bodyguards. One club member — who, like many Yellowstone members, requested anonymity so as not to be seen as violating the club's tradition of not blabbing about one another — recalls Mr. Gates's saying that his family once tried Vail but their need for security "made us look like jerks. Here, we don't need it." That's because the club has long been kept safe by former Secret Service agents, and who can put a price tag on that?

In one of the signature, fin de siècle moments of our passing Gilded Age, the Yellowstone Club filed for Chapter 11 protection last November;.



PVS managed to have four spectacular trips this season and we are in the planning stages for 2011. Please send me your ideas and preliminary proposals. One trip has already been approved by

ExCom -- Snowmass January 19-26, 2011. We look forward to hearing from you and receiving more proposals for 2011. It is important that we continue to have quality ski trips.

The BRSC trips for 2011 are Park City February 5 and Aosta Valley, Italy, in March. The timeline for proposals is as follows: preliminary proposals are due by early March; full proposals are due by late April to be presented to ExCom at the May meeting. This does not mean that all details have to be worked out by that time. The approved trips will be published in the June TOOT. Please send questions, ideas and/or proposals to me.

[rosemaryphd@verizon.net](mailto:rosemaryphd@verizon.net)

Local Events Calendar				Trips Calendar		
Apr	20	Tues	7:30 PM	Annual Meeting (Heitchue)	Aug 26-28	Finger Lakes Wine Country (Paynes)
Apr	27	Tues		ExCom Meeting (Seabold)	Jan 19-26, 2011	Snowmass (C. DeVilbiss/S.Mulholland/)
Apr	29	Fri		Ski Travel Show (Rockville)		
May	22	Sat		Lunch w Cap Golden Skiers		
Nov	6	Sat		PVS 45 <sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Gala		

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## The KNEE (post-deadline submission)



# THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley

[RaysKnee@gmail.com](mailto:RaysKnee@gmail.com)

Returning from the Comerford's ski trip to Bormio, Italy the **Knee** flew over the Swiss Alps and several Swiss ski resorts. They had a foot or so of new powder. It had just fallen, as the conifers were still glistening white--a winter wonderland. God, but it's beautiful! From 6 miles up, the snow is pristine and all-encompassing. Our sport really changes winter. It's not the slush and snowplows of the DC area this winter. It's a fluffy, white, soft, gentle, glorious state of our environment.

So it goes with global warming -- after a snowy cold winter. The **Knee** doesn't know much about the subject, but it appears to be bad for skiing. Indeed, in recent years the Ski Liberty glacier has been shrinking--especially when they turn off the ice machine.

Veep Kerry Hines missed the March EXCOM for a good reason, he notes the skiing at Alta, Snowbird, and Solitude was nice -- fresh snow two days, just barely spring conditions two days, one cold and windy day -- and twice during the week Kerry and Marianne almost had lift lines (8-10 people each time).

Condolences from PVS to Rosemary Schwartzbard. Her mother died peacefully while asleep on a Friday night at the end of March after a day being surrounded by her loved ones. Her service will be in Pittsburgh in early April.

Aspen Problems: While we were in Europe Nancy and The Knee heard quite a few interesting rumors about Aspen. We initially heard that a boulder the size of a bus had blocked both sides of the road into Aspen, and that it was only possible to get in by plane. We later heard that they had dynamited the boulder, but there were huge holes in the road so only one lane was getting by. I saw nothing about it.

Here's what happened. It was on I-70 right near Glenwood Springs. The rocks closed the highway for a few days (which begets the question—what's the OTHER route to Aspen??). I watched the video of them blowing up the boulder above the slide and subsequent clean-up. It happened during the week of March 7th. The road will take until summer to complete the repairs. BTW, the other route into Aspen is to fly into Grand Junction.

Separately, there was another boulder that came off a hillside on route 40 from Hayden to Steamboat that landed smack on top of a moving car, leaving the driver unharmed but killing the passenger. Bummer.

Lots of PVSers are retiring. But Betty Comerford has unretired. She is now working in the Deli at the new Leesburg Wegmans. When she arrives, she always sings "Hello Deli...." Betty had an on the job accident. She slipped on a slice of ham on the Deli floor. Her slipping was certainly not Deli iberate. Ouch!

Elsewhere in this issue of TOOT is a remembrance of Nat Seeman. He was truly a rocket scientist working with, amongst others, late PVSer Joe Blum and Marvin Hass at the Naval Research Laboratory. The **Knee's** favorite story about Nat Seeman was one he told me. He was visiting his doctor because of some pain in his hip. The Dr told him, Nat you have arthritis. There is no cure, but we now know what causes it. Nat asked him what causes it. The Doc replied "Too many birthdays."

Bet you didn't know that Shirley Rettig, living in Ohio at the time, was a member of the Civilian Observation Corps during the 50's. They looked for planes (bombers) that got through the DEW line. Shirley was successful. No bombs whatsoever hit Ohio.

According to Marvin Hass, Europeans are bringing expertise on avalanche safety to Utah. A Swiss engineer was at Alta to show off a device meant for surviving a deadly snow slide — a set of air bags designed into a backpack for floating atop avalanche debris. Skiers hit a rip cord to activate the air bags. It's about being a bigger particle in piles of moving snow, said the designer. Sales started in Europe a decade ago, and are skyrocketing for the \$1,000 device.

A few tidbits from the Bormio trip (there will be a more complete write up next month. There was lots of snow and good skiing. And lots of touring in Bergamo, a town nearby that dates from the 6<sup>th</sup> Century.

Many bought tourist or art items to bring home. Co-trip Leader Betty Comerford bought kitchen curtains! "I'd been looking for a year and they were perfect." Sounds a bit shady. The **Knee** is blind to those remarks. Dick and Betty used the latest technology, Skype, to talk, with a video feed to their daughter at home.

While they were chatting one evening, Pat Delevaux and Shirley Rettig discovered that they both went to Ohio Wesleyan University, and both majored in chemistry.