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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

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www.pvskiers.org

info@pvskiers.org

President's Message:

Many years ago – when I was considerably younger – I was looking for a summer adventure vacation. At that point, skiing in Chile in the summer was not an option. There had to be something that would be as much of a physical challenge as a skiing vacation! Indeed, there is – probably way more so. That summer, Bob and I embarked on our very first biking trip – a July trip in southern Utah covering the area from St. George to Bryce Canyon and the Escalante National Monument. We went with a company called Vermont Bike Tours (www.vbt.com).



After surviving my first grueling uphill climb, I was looking forward to the reward – a long downhill – when much to my surprise, there was a sudden burst of thunder and lightning, and large white flakes started falling from the sky. We had to take refuge off the road and wait for the van to retrieve us. A week of uphills later, with highlights of a wonderful walk down into the rock formations of

Bryce Canyon and biking through the fabulous red cliffs of Escalante National Monument, we returned to St. George exhausted and exhilarated by the experience. We then drove across Utah to Arches National Park, and Moab (where I purchased my favorite piece of sculpture – a large metal “medicine man”). Even if you do not choose to bike in southern Utah, the area is well worth a visit (and, for full disclosure, for some reason, the bike company only ran the Utah trip for a single season).

The next summer, we decided to face the challenge of a bike trip in the hill country of Tuscany, again with Vermont Bike Tours. I discovered that biking serious hills was not my forte – I had to walk my bike up the road to San Gimignano (a

Continued on Page 2

PVS General Meeting
Tuesday, 18 October 7:30 PM
@ Tom & Sherri McKennas' Home

1431 Fallsmead Way
Rockville, MD 20854-5549
301-424-2328



Directions:

From the Beltway (495), take I-270 North to Exit 5. Go left on Falls Road toward Potomac.

Take the first right into the first development on the right - Fallsmead; turn right on Fallsmead Way and proceed for 4 long blocks.

1431 Fallsmead Way is on the right hand side -- white brick with blue-gray shutters.

If you go to Wootton Parkway, you have gone too far. Turn around and it will be the fourth house on the left.

beautiful hill town famous for its fourteen surviving medieval towers). The last day of the trip, we were biking on a dirt road, and I fell in a rut. I knew as soon as I picked myself up that I had broken a rib – but, the only thing to do was to get back on the bike and bike into town. I somehow managed, and, in fact, Bob and I bought two glass paintings in that town as mementos of the trip. The biking accident did convince me that I needed a ski helmet, and I bought my first ski helmet that winter.

We subsequently took bike trips to Scotland (two different trips), Ireland, the Canadian Rockies, California Wine Country, and a trip that covered small parts of the Czech Republic, Germany and Austria. Other than two of the trips, we used Vermont Bike Tours.

This summer we went on a week-long trip in Hungary, starting in Bratislava, Slovakia, and ending in Budapest. Most of the trip was on flat terrain – primarily bike paths - along the Danube. We biked through some very lovely Hungarian towns with beautiful town squares, enjoyed the Hungarian goulash and strudel (and even had a lesson in strudel making), relaxed in the thermal baths, and had an excellent trip. We had been to Budapest many years ago and just spent a few days there at the end of the trip. I was amazed at the changes in Budapest over the last 15 or so years – the buildings have been cleaned, the air is much less polluted, the streets have adequate lighting, and there are many outdoor cafes and lots of young people enjoying the city. I strongly recommend a trip to Budapest.

If you are considering a bike trip, take a look at the Vermont Bike Tours website (www.vbt.com). Overall, they provide good value, although the price of the trip is higher than might first appear, because not all the meals are covered, and the guides have to be tipped. We have uniformly found the guides to be excellent. There are two guides for a group of 14-16 people. Each day, one guide bikes with the group and the other guide drives the support van. The support van is available at designed stops along the way to provide snacks, or pick up a tired biker. The trips typically last for a week (either 6 or 7 days of biking) and are rated easy, moderate, or difficult. On most days, there is a short option and a longer option – on our Hungarian trip, which had an easy rating, I biked about 133 miles in 7 days (the longest ride was about 25 miles) – Bob, who did a long option one day, biked somewhat more miles.

VBT provides the bikes, helmets, and route maps, which give detailed directions for the day's bike ride. Each morning, the guides conduct a route review, pointing out the most likely places for getting lost, and highlighting the sights along the route. Typically, the routes go through beautiful countryside and charming towns, and are designed to allow time to see the towns or other sights of interest along the way. Over the course of a week's trip, the group will stay in three or four different hotels (with one or two nights in each hotel). The guide who is driving the van on a transfer day will put the luggage in the van and drive it to the next hotel. Generally, three dinners and a number of lunches are included in the trip. On our Hungarian trip, the best meal was a lunch of Hungarian goulash in a forest setting, with the most fabulous desert I have ever had – a chocolate sponge cake with crème anglaise, chocolate fudge sauce, and whipped cream. Perhaps, I will try to recreate it for one of our PVS meetings.

Overall, we have been impressed with the hotels that VBT uses – for example, we stayed at a lovely hotel in an old castle in the Hungarian countryside - and the included meals are generally good. Most trips are designed with an optional pre-trip or post-trip extension to a city – allowing one to combine a week of biking with sightseeing in a major city. There is also the option of a pre-trip diversion – essentially creating your own pre-trip extension. This can be done through VBT if you purchase the complete air and land package (I believe that the VBT airfare is cheaper these days than trying to purchase air independently) and go through the same airport route (i.e., if VBT is flying you from Dulles to Frankfurt to Vienna, you can book your own deviation from Frankfurt to Berlin, and then from Berlin to Vienna). We did just this – we spent four days in Berlin before starting the bike trip.

VBT is also offering walking tour vacations. We have friends who went on their first walking trip with VBT last summer, and liked it so much they are going on a VBT walking trip in Patagonia this year.

I have been trying without success to persuade my husband that a VBT bike and barge trip on the Moselle River in Germany would be fun – his view, however, is that hotels should not be moving with the waves. There are many other options, including trips in Italy and France. Perhaps we could organize a PVS group for a biking or walking vacation next summer. Let me know if you have any interest in such an activity (rcjablon@aol.com, 202-333-5332).

--Cara



< ----- Summer

Winter ----- >



Estella Lerner: It is with deep sadness that PVS announces the death of David Lerner's wife, Estella, 22 September 2011, after a long illness. The Lerner's adult children were with David when Stella died. David & Stella were married for 49 years. The PVS Membership expresses their heartfelt sympathy and condolences to David and his family. A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, 15 October, 11:00 AM, at the Reston Unitarian Church (uureston.org), 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston, VA 20190. Contributions may be made to:

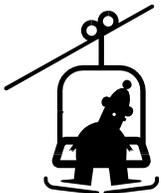
Alzheimer's Foundation of America, www.alzfdn.org 322 Eighth Ave., 7th fl., New York, NY 10001	Cystic Fibrosis Foundation www.cff.org 6931 Arlington Road, 2nd fl., Bethesda, MD 20814
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2012 Ski Trips:

Snowmass 2012

Wednesday to Wednesday, January 18-25, 2012

ONLY A FEW ROOMS LEFT!!!



Ski four mountains for the price of one, with locked-in air pricing for the first 30 persons to sign up! Beat the galloping air fares due to rising fuel costs. The staff at our "Old Faithful" Snowmass Mountain Chalet is waiting with open arms to welcome us once again.



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.



Slope-side lodging at Snowmass Mountain Chalet includes a daily family-style hot breakfast and daily 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 tables for "Dave's" games offers a comfortable gathering place. The hootenanny sing-alongs will again be a popular event.



The trip will include group dinners, après-ski parties, and other activities available in the Aspen environs. To reserve, send the first and second payments to Carolyn (call Carolyn for the exact amount and also refer to the flyer and application in the July TOOT).

Carolyn DeVilbiss at 4508 Peacock Avenue, Alexandria VA 22304

(note "PVS-Snowmass 2012" on the memo line)

For more information **contact** trip leaders:

Carolyn DeVilbiss at 703-370-4865 (carolyn.maurer@verizon.net)

Sharon Mulholland at 301-330-2953 (shank@mris.com)



Ski Swaps-'11		<i>Benefits-</i>
Oct 08 & 09	Alpine Ski Shop, Oakton < alpineskishop.com >	Timberline Ski Patrol
Oct 30	Ski Center < skicenter.com >	Liberty Ski Patrol
Nov 05	Ski Chalet*, Gaithersburg < skichalet.com/Articles.asp?ID=148 >	White Tail Ski Patrol
Nov 05 & 06	Alpine Ski Shop, Oakton < alpineskishop.com >	Timberline Ski Patrol
Nov 12 & 13	Ski Chalet*, Chantilly < skichalet.com/Articles.asp?ID=148 >	Canaan Valley Ski Patrol

*Arlington Store closed, & will reopen at Seven Corners, Oct 7 or 8.

March 1-12 or 16, 2012, join Nancy and Ray McKinley to See and Ski in Andorra!

See and Ski Andorra 2012



Andorra has sufficient skiing for everyone

Potomac Valley Skiers is joining BRSC for a true gem of a ski trip—to one of the smallest and most mountainous countries in the world—Andorra, a skier's and tourist's paradise. And we'll visit spectacular Barcelona. There are optional trips: to Madrid and the Prado Museum, the medieval, walled city of Carcassonne, France with its winding cobbled streets, and turrets—a World Heritage Site. We'll have the opportunity to visit the fortress city, Toledo with its Christian, Jewish and Islamic heritage, and Segovia and Avila to see the 2,000-year old Roman aqueduct, the fairyland castle of Alcazar and much more. *Skiing in Andorra is World Class. It has 7,600 acres, a vertical of 3,575 feet, 111 lifts with a capacity of 156,390 skiers/hr, and 187 mi of runs.*



Upper Lift Restaurant

Our 10-day, 9-night trip includes: 2 nights in historic, vibrant Barcelona; 7 nights at the 5-star Crown Plaza Hotel in Andorra's capital, with two people per junior suite—and including breakfast and a daily 5-course themed buffet dinner! We include your Emergency Medical and repatriation insurance, a pre-trip party, a welcome party, a mid-week Apres Ski party, a Grand Finale Dance in the ballroom and a post-trip party. We will also offer a 4-night post-trip extension to Madrid including three superb tours.



Crown Plaza Lobby

GREAT PRICES-\$2,560; LAND ONLY-\$1,755; SPAIN Add-\$800

We may have limited space available for you or your friends. Please call or write us for information and current status. Information at (703) 527-7126 or at raymckin@gmail.com. Mail to 1805 Crystal Drive # 813, Arlington, VA 22202.

Ski Talk:

--Rosemary Schwartzbard

Central and Southern Colorado saw its first dusting of snow last week. Elevations above 11,000 feet received approximately one to two inches of accumulation.

Resorts stretching from the San Juans through Summit County received this first snowfall and it has people excited about the upcoming season. Snow did not arrive as early last year so people in Colorado are optimistic about an early ski season.

In our area it is beginning to get cooler and we can start thinking about the upcoming ski season. For those of you who might be interested in local skiing, let me know. We are beginning to compile a list. John Smith will be coordinating our local ski group.

The best deal for local skiing is the senior midweek pass for \$199.00 for those who are 65+. This has to be purchased by the end of October and will give you unlimited skiing Monday through Friday at Whitetail, Roundtop or Ski Liberty. You can go to the Fall Fest at Liberty Mountain on Oct. 16, enjoy the picnic lunch and purchase a pass. The regular mid-week fee at these resorts is \$54. If you are 65+ you can ski for \$27.00.

Ski Chalet is having a Ski Appreciation Day at Whitetail on February 1 and is charging \$30.00. Last year it was \$20!! It is only a deal if you are younger than 65.

Let me know if you want to get on the Local Ski list.



Breck's 10 Mile Range had a nice coating of the white stuff.
Photo Courtesy of Breckenridge Mountain Resort.

rosemaryschw@gmail.com

Past Events:

PVS Monthly Meeting, September 20, 2011:

Not only does Cara have a role as President of PVS. She has a role of instructing me to write minutes. This may be [is] a bad idea.

We were fortunate to hold our November meeting at Mary Beale's beautiful Spring Valley house. This is in Northwest D.C. (For those who do not know, the District of Columbia is a colony of the several states, including Maryland and Virginia. We would be happy to break free from bondage. "Live free or die!" as New Hampshire says.)

We had strong attendance. Those present were immediately and graciously greeted by Mary, Daisy and Buddy. Daisy and Buddy are most friendly small dogs, who think they are big and who know they are in control.

Mary's living room has Monet blue paintings against a pale blue wall. The paintings are reminiscent of Matisse or of Bonnard, but as was common to the period, these are complemented with art Chinois. (I take no responsibility for French or English spelling). Mary has a beautiful sailboat painting.

After elegant and delicious hors d'oeuvres and plentiful wine, Cara, having priorities, opened the meeting asking everyone to pay and sign in. Appropriately changing the subject, Ray announced events. These are reported elsewhere herein. The Oktoberfest was on September 25th. The November meeting is at the Ski Center. The Ski Center always reports on the newest and best in ski equipment.

There were brief reports on prospective formal and informal trips. Rosemary Schwartzbard reported that Colorado has had its first fall snow. There will be an e-mail list for those interested in local somewhat spur of the moment trips. Contact Rosemary if you want to be on the list. Carolyn DeVilbiss says approximately 30 people have signed up for Snowmass (1/18-1/25). She and Sharon Mulholland are running the trip. They always do a wonderful job. Ray and Nancy are running the Andorra trip. The trip is filled, but there is a wait list and if you call Ray or Nancy, you can probably go. Those who can ought to go. We are told that some may go to Carcassonne for cassoulet. There may be space (or maneuvering potentials) to allow added attendees for both trips. If you have not signed up, but may be interested, please contact the trip leaders.

Many kind words and remembrances were said about Kirk Burns. The composite was his great zest for life. He was a good friend.

I add that Ray will be away for the next issue. He asked if I could write the Knee while he is away. I certainly cannot, but I told Ray I would if only I could get the right ankle on it. Then, I realized that I do not know what any of you have been doing. Ray seems always to know. So if any who want free publicity can e-mail me (at rcjablon@aol.com) what you have been doing, what you might be doing, what someone else is doing, or what someone else should be doing. With this leg up, I should have what I need to get a toe hold on the task. If I do not nail this down correctly, or am too corny or too callous, Ray will have to knee his way back in sooner than he expects.

The meeting closed with much friendship and high winter expectations.



Mary & one of her friends

-Bob Jablon



PVS celebrates Oktoberfest at the Eadies' home in Reston

All together now in your very best German singing voice:

“in Reston steht ein Hofbrauhaus – eins, zwei, gsuffa!”

It was a great day for hoisting a beer – or any of the other beverages offered by Louann and Bob Eadie - when they graciously hosted PVS Oktoberfest for the second year in a row. Though their life-size Terra Cotta Warrior standing guard in the living room had forgotten to don his lederhosen, at least one authentic piece of apparel was seen when the Knee arrived in some of his best Bavarian attire.

Louann and Bob cooked up a mighty pile of the absolute “best of the wurst” and served up a batch of steaming sauerkraut that put us all in the mood for the kickoff to the ski season. The air was just cool enough to spend the afternoon out on the patio chatting with friends old and new while we nibbled on appetizers and geared up for the feast to come. Contributions from participants were numerous and included fruit and traditional cucumber and potato salads as well as a special crispy sauerkraut dish from Dave Warthen. (That guy can cook!) Apple and pumpkin desserts rounded out the delicious fare.

In advance of the day Louann realized that there was no “oompah” music to add to the festivities so she enlisted help from German-born Marianne Hines and from Margaret Wyckoff who, with husband Bob, had held many Oktoberfests in years gone by. Both dug up and brought the right sound for the event; Marianne brought a Bavarian music CD but Margaret’s music came from days long gone by and was on 78’s! Normally records on 78 rpm would be a deal-breaker but leave it to Louann and Bob – they just popped the disk into their antique jukebox and we had ambiance to spare!

Gemütlichkeit was provided by the great group of people who flocked to the Eadies’ to welcome in the season. Bill Hager wins the prize for longest distance traveled to attend the event – he changed his business flight from Reno to arrive early enough to join us. Louann invited a couple of her local simpatico tennis friends to add to our partying group. And, to top it off, Sharon Mulholland entertained us with her computer slideshow of fascinating wildlife pictures taken on her recent trip to Kenya.



And a toast to you

Dankeschön, Louann and Bob, for once again hosting this PVS favorite flavor fest!

—Nancy McKinley



If any PVS Members are interested in playing bridge, please contact Melissa FitzGerald, 703-476-9259, or thediehlhouse@gmail.com

Members' Corner



By J. David Warthen, Jr.
dwarthen@verizon.net

Biennial PVS Dues (1 July 2011-30 June 2013):

PVS is 90 days into the 2011-2013 biennial dues period. We now have 138 PVS members, who have renewed their membership, for the 2011-2013 dues period. On 31 October, a PVS member who has not paid his/her dues for the succeeding biennial dues period, will have his/her PVS membership terminated, according to PVS By-Laws. Eleven (11) 2009-2011 PVS members have not replied to the Membership Records Chairperson of their intentions for the 2011-2013 dues period. If you are one of these 11, it would be appreciated if you would reply ASAP; you will receive a single and FINAL phone call mid-October, requesting a reply. I urge you to renew your membership ASAP.

Getting to Know You:

Ann Cummins (Applicant Member)

Growing up in central Maine, I hit the slopes at the age of twelve. Slopes are somewhat of an overstatement as local ski areas consisted of a golf course incline or two, and a rope tow. And I skied on my Norwegian uncle's borrowed 210" woodies with bear trap bindings. At fourteen I move up to Northland 190's, made in Paris, Maine, and purchased for \$35. I was so envious of you all with those aluminum Heads. The much more challenging distant slopes of Sugarloaf and Saddleback that I skied were unfortunately also graced with only rope tows and a few J and T bars. Yes, talk about the good old days!

My move to Maryland in 1968 was a definite setback to my skiing career . . . not to mention a job, a spouse, motherhood, and little to no snow or money. It wasn't until the mid-1980's that I got my ski legs back under me. And for that, I have Sharon Mulholland to thank. Seven Springs, Ski Liberty, Summit County Colorado and Snowmass all beckoned to us, and we heeded the call. In love with Colorado skiing, from 1986 to 2004, my late husband and I owned a vacation home at Copper Mountain and enjoyed four seasons of delight . . . and often four seasons of snow. After an eight year hiatus, last year was my first to be back on skis and traversing slopes, with a group of new and old friends – such bliss! With the new ski manufacturing technology I discovered little of my skills were lost. Even age and fear of the fall had little effect, thanks to you inspirational PVS skiers.

Over the years I have had a long career in

construction and real estate and more recently a pastime in artistic painting, guitar playing, and kayak paddling. Now golf is new to the agenda too. Putting goes well with the paint, paddle and picking. With my three adult children, fast growing grandchildren and my parents all in the Frederick area, even during retirement, there is little time to be idle, bored, or lonely.

Joplin Report:

Many of you know that Jack Chapman's sister and her family had their house and cars destroyed in the May 2011 Joplin, MO tornado. This note is to let everyone know that the Sullivan family is doing well and is in good spirits. They have chosen to buy a house in a suburb of Joplin rather than rebuild in the wasteland that is their old neighborhood. The older two daughters are attending college in Joplin, the youngest is being driven to her old school in Joplin to attend 8th grade, and MaryAnn and Brent are happy to still have their jobs.

We drove our SUV to Joplin right after the tornado so they could use it for the summer. As it turns out, they now call the SUV their own and we have a replacement here.



Despite the destruction and trauma caused by the tornado, the Sullivans remained in good spirits and resilient. In truth, their attitude and perspective have been amazing. They consider themselves fortunate to all be alive. Jack and I thank everyone for their concern and support.

–Ellie Thayer

TOOT Distribution to 149 members:

-pdf: 116; Text (Att.): 2; ; USPS: 9

Roster Changes: (notify dwarthen@verizon.net)

-Joan Flake (New e-mail address)

joanflake@aol.com

-Glade Flake (New e-mail address)

gladeflake@aol.com

-Alice Swalm (New address & phone)

4800 Fillmore Ave. Apt 925

Alexandria, VA 22311-5074

703-931-0373 h

-Rosemary Schwartzbard (New e-mail address)

rosemaryschw@gmail.com

In Remembrance of Kirk Burns:

Kirk Lycurgus Burns was born in Kentucky at Glen Lily Plantation in 1920. At the age of 5, his parents moved to the banks of the Columbia River in White Bluffs, Washington, where he lived until 1941 when the family moved nearby to a ranch on the Yakima River.

He studied at Washington State College for two years then took a state-wide competitive examination for an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. He graduated from the Academy with the class of 1944.

Later, he attended the University of Washington in Seattle where he earned his MA in Political Science. He won a Fulbright scholarship to Paris, France, in 1949 and was awarded a PHD from the Faculty of Law, University of Paris.

He served in the U.S. Foreign Service Reserve in Paris where he conducted many missions for the Marshall Plan's French Overseas Territories. Kirk and his family returned to the U.S. and settled in Falls Church, Virginia. Kirk co-founded and served as CEO of Universal Dynamics Corporation, a firm specializing in the design and manufacturer of plastics technology. Following his corporate work, he joined the faculty of the Graduate School of Business at American University from where he retired.

He was a resident of Lake Barcroft for 50 years. He served on the Board of Directors for many years and served as a volunteer on many Barcroft committees.

For the last two years of his life, he lived at Greenspring Retirement Village in Springfield, VA. At the age of 91, he died suddenly at Fairfax Hospital on August 18 following emergency surgery. He is survived by his wife Peggy of 68 years, two daughters, Peggy Ann and Chantal, six grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. His daughter Daria died in 2009. He donated his body to Georgetown University School of Medicine.

Kirk, an avid and expert skier, skied until he was 89. He was a member of the National Ski Patrol and a long-time member of Potomac Valley Skiers. He was a member of the Merrymakers where he performed as a singer and dancer. For years he enjoyed sailing on the Chesapeake Bay, swimming and ice skating at Lake Barcroft. His other interests included scuba diving, climbing peaks in Colorado, managing investments and traveling world-wide. He had an unquenchable sweet tooth and delighted everyone with his delicious pies.

Kirk possessed a uniquely refined taste, not for conventional luxuries, but for the fruits of nature masterfully nurtured and selected—the lush carpet of his carefully tended moss garden, a perfectly ripened ear of summer corn, or a breath of mountain air from a snowy summit. With the fierce independence and will of an engineer and athlete, he pursued knowledge and experience with a humble passion that inspired his family, friends, and students.

Kirk will be remembered with great fondness.

--Peggy, Peggy Ann, and Chantal

"Kirk L. Burns, business owner:

Kirk L. Burns, 91, who co-founded a company specializing in the design and manufacture of plastics technology, died Aug. 18 at Inova Fairfax Hospital.

He had pneumonitis, an inflammation of the lung tissue. The death was confirmed by his daughter Chantal Burns.

After a brief Foreign Service career, Dr. Burns helped start Universal Dynamics 1957, initially to manufacture dehumidifying equipment. The company was sold in 1965 to one of its biggest clients, the Rainville Co.

He was then on the faculty of American University's graduate business school for more than 10 years.

Kirk Lycurgus Burns was born in Munfordville, Ky. He was in the Class of 1944 at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis and graduated a year early because of World War II. He was a Navy veteran of the war.

He received a master's degree in political science from the University of Washington in 1949 and then was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study in France. He received a doctorate in international law and political science from the University of Paris in 1954.

He was a Springfield resident. His memberships included the Potomac Valley Skiers, the National Ski Patrol and the Merrymakers, a senior citizens entertainment group. He was a past board member of the Lake Barcroft Association.

A daughter, Daria Burns, died in 2009.

Survivors include his wife of 68 years, Margaret Connell Burns of Springfield; two daughters, Margaret Parlato of Washington and Chantal Burns of Edmonds, Wash.; a brother; a sister; six grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

--Adam Bernstein", Washington Post Sunday C7, 18 September 2011

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/2011/09/12/gIQA3FRJQK_story.html



THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley
RaysKnee@gmail.com

Skiers care about the weather. And we've had quite a bit lately. Hurricane Irene, a significant (unless you hail from Califorkneeia) earthquake, and tropical storm Lee. What's next? Locusts? The worst damage the Knee is aware of to a PVSer was to Jan Marx. She ended up with 3" of water in her basement. Lots of neighbors helped her. They formed a bucket line to get all of the water out! Right on. Melissa FitzGerald went out during the rain. She couldn't get back to her home because of flooded streets. When she finally did arrive, she had a significant lake in her back yard. Yuck.

It's October. Fall is upon us. The Knee recently read that weather forecasters are using a new methodology that predicts a very snowy winter. It's called pinecone counting. A lot of pinecones is Mother Nature's (perhaps I should use the non-sexist "Parent Nature's") way to tell the squirrels to stock up on nuts as it should be a real humdinger of a winter. Scientists have correlated the amount of pinecones directly with the amount of snowfall. Although they don't tell us how the pine trees know how much snow is coming 6-9 months in advance. Rosemary Schwartzbard added credence to this when she reported major snowfalls in Colorado's high country—the earliest on record. Kneet

At the September PVS meeting at Mary Beale's lovely redone home there was considerable discussion about wine. All of the best wines use hand-picked grapes. They had tried using foot-picked, but it just didn't work out. I toed you so. Dick Schwartzbard said bringing the original grapes from France was "de-vine inspiration." It was the yeast he could say.

Knee surgery: Carolyn DeVilbiss was at the meeting shortly after her second Knee surgery. And she was walking with no limp whatsoever. The surgery was on her meniscus. To be PC, shouldn't it be on her womeniscus??

We were reminiscing about Kirk Burns. Rosemary Schwartzbard recalls skiing down a very steep run with him. Half-way down, she saw Kirk waiting at the bottom. His comment, "I just can't turn these skis." Yup, that was Kirk.

As a volunteer mental health worker for the Red Cross, Rosemary has a YouTube video which has had a lot of hits. It's on how to deal with the 10th Anniversary of 9/11.

Sadly the Knee reports the recent death of a ski icon, Mahlon "Dutch" C. Mueller, founder of the D.C. Fagowee Ski & Social Club. I was on several ski trips with Dutch. He certainly knew how to quaff a beer—or two. Dutch was 78 and a previous manager of the Blue Knob Ski area. He really was "larger than life."

Sylvia Lukens spent this summer in Cape Cod. She was battered a bit by Hurricane Irene but all is well now. Sylvia, with shoulder now whole, will be back in DC this month. At the same time, Ellie Thayer will be traveling to her 45th college reunion in Dubuque, Iowa

PVS Travels: Liz and Serge Tria have been on several Road Scholar (previously called Elderhostel) trips. Their latest journey was to Gettysburg where they had great talks and a tour of the battlefield. Joe Jevcak and Liz Warren-Boulton are trying to use some United miles before the miles-to-take-a-trip doubles. They are going to India and Turkey. No they won't be in Turkey on Thanksgiving. Now that she is retired, Polli and John Brunelli are in Paris and Brittany—no, not Brittany Spears!

Melissa FitzGerald spent the summer touring beaches up and down the East Coast. Melissa didn't comment as to how many of them were nude beaches. Also, the Knee and Nancy will be in Italy for the month of October—ah, it's great to be retired! Thus, November will have a guest Knee. Bob Jablon has kindly volunteered to step into my awesome shoes!

The Russians are coming: According to Marvin Hass and the Aspen Times, Russian buyers are turning to resort locales such as Aspen. According to a local, Aspen is the "pre-eminent international mountain resort brand," especially when luxury properties are selling at discounts of as much as 30 percent from the peak. In the last three years, Aspen had at least five deals above \$10 million in which the purchaser was from Russia. "Four years ago we didn't have any Russian buyers," said a broker.

The Knee made an error last month. John Lyon didn't complete the Appalachian Trail this summer. Rather, John will do the last 114 miles of the Southern portion this month. He will complete the remaining 300 miles next spring. Then he will have completed the entire 2,180 mile trail. John, it would be much easier to fly.

2011 Calendar

- Oct 01 Sat CGS-PVS Luncheon, Noon, (Clyde's Tower Oaks, Rockville, MD)
- Oct 02 Sun BRSC Meeting, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Tysons Corner, VA, Maggiano's (Cara, Rosemary, David L.)
- Oct 18 Tue PVS Monthly General Meeting, 7:30 PM (Tom & Sherri McKenna, Rockville, MD)
- Oct 25 Tue ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM (Dick & Rosemary Schwartzbard, Arlington, VA)
- Nov 15 Tue PVS Monthly General Meeting, 7:30 PM (Ski Center, Washington, DC)
- Dec 13 Tue ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM (Jan Marx, Springfield, VA)
- Dec 20 Tue PVS Holiday Party, 7:30 PM (TBA)



Ski Trips

January 18-25, 2012 Snowmass (Carolyn DeVilbiss & Sharon Mulholland)
 March 1-12 or 16, 2012 Andorra (Ray & Nancy McKinley)

Useful Ski "Links"

- Potomac Valley Skiers potomacvalleyski.org
- Capital Golden Skiers capitalgoldenskiers.com
- BRSC Sanctioned Trips skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm
- DC Ski Online News dcski.com

Thanks to:

- TOOT Content/Proof Editors – E. **Thayer** & N. **McKinley**
- TOOT USPS – B. **Leonhardt**
 --D. Warthen (Layout Editor & Electronic TOOT)

Welcome to Applicant Individual Member, **Corinne Moore**, 703-435-6961 h & 703-944-5467 c, cmoore52@gmail.com, 11776 Stratford House Place Apt. 703, Reston, VA 20190-3383.

An INDEX of various TOOT LINKS is now present on the NEWSPAPER page of our PVS WEBSITE, courtesy of our Webmaster, David Lerner. Individual profiles, PVS Anniversaries, Other Special Items, and Obituaries from '65 – Present are accessible; along with Ski Trip Write Ups from 2000 – Present; and Event Write Ups from 2010 – Present.

PVS Board - 2011-2012

Officers, Board Members, & Chairpersons

President – <i>Cara Jablon</i> Vice President – <i>Jan Marx</i> Secretary – <i>Mary Beale</i> Treasurer – <i>Dick Laeser</i> Ex-Officio – <i>Sharon Mulholland</i>	EXCOM: <u>First Term:</u> <i>Melissa FitzGerald</i> <i>Reg Heitchue</i> <i>John Holt</i> <u>Second Term:</u> <i>Mary Beale</i> <i>Dick Laeser</i> <i>Dick Schwartzbard</i>
Ski Trip Committee – <i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i> Events – <i>Ray McKinley</i> Membership Records – <i>Dave Warthen</i> Membership PR Rep – <i>Carolyn DeVilbiss</i> TOOT Layout Editors – <i>Jan Marx, Marvin Hass, & Dave Warthen</i> TOOT Content/Proof Editor – <i>Ellie Thayer</i> TOOT (Electronic distribution) – <i>Dave Warthen</i> TOOT (USPS) – <i>Barb Leonhardt</i>	Webmaster – <i>Dave Lerner</i> Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</i> Historian – <i>Jan Marx</i>