



VOLUME XXVIII
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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.

MAY, 1992

WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: A THANK YOU LETTER...

Once again I wish to thank the members of P V S for electing me to serve as your President for another year. I consider it a privilege to have been selected President for such an outstanding group of talented, dedicated and fun-loving people. I also thank the out-going Ex-Com members who have completed their two-year terms of office: Bill Brown, Howard Hensley and June Kelsay. The Ex-Com members give many hours of their time to assure that your Club continues to function and that it serves the needs of its members. I look forward to working with the newly elected Ex-Com members, Karen Felker, Bob Harmon and Bill Hager, who join Joan Flake, Bob McNeil and Jack Peoples. I believe this adds up to an outstanding administrative team together with V. P. Mary Jane McCarthy.

In addition to Ex-Com I extend a Big THANK YOU to the TOOT STAFF. Lu Beale, Editor, for her untiring and dedicated service; to Bette Walker, Copy Editor; to Jan and Bob Marx, Production. Many thanks also to Irene Farrell, Secretary, to Margaret Wyckoff, retiring Treasurer, to Marilyn Clark, Membership, and to Ray McKinley, Program Chairman. In addition to those named, I also extend to all of you who have opened your homes for our great meetings and fun-filled social events a BIG THANK YOU. Thanks also to those Trip Leaders for their hard work. And finally, THANKS to you, the membership for your never-failing enthusiastic support.

Let us now all stand and give ourselves a rousing round of APPLAUSE.

Bill

Bill Anderson, President

MONTHLY MEETING

TUESDAY, May 19. 8:00 P.M.

Where:
Home of Jean and Howard Hensley
3745 N. Woodrow Street
Arlington, Va.

Telephone: (703)536-9749



TIME ONCE AGAIN TO CELEBRATE SPRING IN THE HENSLEYS' FLOWER-DECKED HOME
WHILE ENJOYING THEIR HOSPITALITY AND THE COMPANY OF FELLOW SKIERS.
(FOR DIRECTIONS TO HENSLEY HOME, SEE NEXT PAGE)

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COMING EVENTS

DIRECTIONS to Hensley home for May meeting:

Take George Washington Pkwy exit and follow towards Washington to exit on Rt 123 NORTH. Follow 123 north to end at Chain Bridge where take a right on Glebe Road. Follow Glebe Rd to a left on 36th Street (about one mile from Chain Bridge). Go 2½ blocks and take a left on Dittmar. Take an immediate left on 37th Street and an immediate right on Woodrow Street. Go to house at end of cul de sac - 3745 N. Woodrow - the Hensley abode.

From Route 166: Take North Glebe Rd exit and follow about three miles to a right on 36th Street. From there on, follow above directions.



DINING OUT GROUP - May 12, 1992

Join us for dinner on Tuesday, May 12, 1992. Meeting and greeting at 6:30, Dinner at 7:00 P.M. This month dinner is planned at POSITANO RISTORANTE, 4940 Fairmont Ave., Bethesda MD. POSITANO'S is a moderately priced Italian restaurant.

Directions: From the Capitol Beltway (Rt. 495) in Maryland, take Old Georgetown Road exit (Rt. 187) South for approx. 2 miles. Turn left on Fairmont Ave. Parking is available in the county parking garage adjacent to the restaurant.

Coming up Wisconsin Ave. from D.C. - go left on Old Georgetown Road (Rt. 187), turn right at the second street which is Fairmont Ave.

So that we may know how many to expect, please call Pat Tengel or John Smith at (301) 299-8376 by Sunday, May 10.

SATURDAY, MAY 16 - ANNUAL FUN RUN / BRUNCH WITH THE CLARKS

9 A.M. Rain or shine!! BRUNCH is already fully subscribed. If you like, feel free to come for "the run" only. If your plans change, please let the Clarks know so someone on the wait-list can have your place.

DIRECTIONS: Take Beltway exit 5 (Braddock Rd) in Virginia. Go West (outside beltway) one tenth mile to light and well-marked Wakefield Park sign on right. Drive to main parking lot (as far as road goes) and meet by the small bridge immediately on your left as you enter the lot.

After-trip party for the ASPEN/KEYSTONE SKIERS has been re-scheduled for May 23 at 5 pm at DINA TAYLOR's house. Please bring your photos. You may bring one guest also. RSVP requested. If you need directions or have questions, please call Dina- (301)663-6089.

COMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, MAY 30 - LUAU AT THE WALNS' - 6 P.M.

This terrific event is already fully subscribed. Please let hosts know if you have a change in plans as there is a long wait-list.

Janet reminds that you bring nothing (except appetite - the Walns are doing the entire feast!) and dress Hawaiian or an approximation thereof.

DIRECTIONS to 7853 PAINTED DAISY DR. SPRINGFIELD, VA.

Take Beltway to #95 South. Stay in the far right lane and take Springfield Exit. On exit ramp, merge left onto Old Keene Mill Rd. Proceed down Old Keene Mill about 1.3 miles to light at Hunter Village Rd. Turn left onto Hunter Village Rd into "DAVENTRY." Proceed down Hunter Village (25 Mile speed limit is enforced!) just under one mile to Painted Daisy Drive. Turn right onto Painted Daisy Drive (watch for speed bumps on this street!) and proceed to 7853 near end on right.

There is NO PARKING along Painted Daisy curbs. Use central parking area or proceed to far left overflow area beyond central parking down in Gerardia Court where curbside parking is allowed.

If you need help, don't panic! Call the Walns (703-912-7289.)

SATURDAY, JUNE 6 - SPRING HIKE ON SUGAR LOAF MOUNTAIN - 10:30 A.M.

Bob Marx will lead us on a moderate 5-7 mile circuit hike on this scenic monadnock offering sweeping views over the Frederick Valley.

No reservations necessary. If weather is "iffy" the Marx's will be at the trailhead and decide there whether to "go" or "no-go".

BRING LUNCH, POTABLES, GORP. (And rain gear?) Questions? Call the Marxes (703)451-9158.

Directions: From the beltway take 1-270 toward Frederick and go 22 miles to the exit for Route 109 to Barnesville and Hyattstown. At the bottom of the exit ramp bear right and follow Rte. 109 3 miles to right on Comus Road. Follow Comus Road 2.4 miles to a wide, paved area at the mountain entrance. Park here.

JUNE 28 - MATINEE PERFORMANCE AT MONTGOMERY PLAYHOUSE

PLUS

DOGS at Fegan's Seafood Restaurant in Gaithersburg

The play is JACQUES BREL IS ALIVE AND WELL AND LIVING IN PARIS. Tickets are \$9. Call Sara Huggins by June 21 to reserve (301)424-5725

The dinner is in place of the usual second Tuesday DOGS. Call Pat Tengel or John Smith by June 26. (301) 299-8376

Attend one or both events. See details in June TOOT.

JULY 3 - BOATING WEEKEND AT DEAN WORCESTER'S ANNAPOLIS HOME

Limited to 20. Boats..boats. and more boats .. plus picnicking and camaraderie. Call Coordinator Rosy Soler (301) 649-2155 to reserve a place.

Directions in June TOOT.

COMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, JULY 10 - EVENING AT WOLF TRAP

Picnic supper and front-section orchestra seats for the National Symphony's rendition of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. \$30 for evening. Call Barbara Leonhardt (301) 279-9056. Still 3 or 4 places.

JULY 11/12 - WHITE WATER RAFTING WEEKEND ON THE YOUGHIOGHENY

Pvs' weekend of White Water Rafting on the Yough and hiking in Swallow Falls Park has been scheduled for July 11-12. The price is \$76. It covers one day's accommodation at the Grantsville Holiday Inn, a mini 5 o'clock champagne party and the rafting with lunch. Reservations have been made for 26 rafters. To sign up call Dina Taylor (301)663-6089.

See flier in June TOOT.

JULY 18 - STEAK AND SWIM AT THE ELRODS'

This delightful day of swimming and socializing and enjoying Roy's out-of-this-world steaks is one of the oldest PVS annual events. Limited to 50. Call coordinator Margaret Wyckoff (301) 589-5532 to reserve a spot. A line is already forming!

A LURID TALE

Peregrinating Charles Farwell recently returned from trekking in Nepal. Reporting in the Maryland Medical Journal, he describes a harrowing encounter with leeches. For the benefit of PVSers who might someday find themselves in similar circumstances, the following excerpts from Charlie's article are printed:

I asked a number of people about the best defense against leeches. I was told that I should keep my trousers tucked in my socks, that it was unlikely that insect repellents would work (as repellents probably only worked against mosquitos and other flying insects), and that if a leech were to attach itself to me, I should touch a lighted cigarette to the back of the leech in order to make it release its bite. So when the heavy rains came unexpectedly to the area in which my colleagues and I were trekking and leeches appeared literally by the millions, we found ourselves with virtually no defenses.

The leeches ranged in size from about one quarter inch to six inches. They were as thin as a matchstick before they sucked our blood and as swollen as a cigarette after. If I have nightmares, I know the villains will be those whitish creatures! They would inch up our shoes, legs, and bodies. I found one full of blood on my head. Evolution has been so successful in preparing them for their bloodsucking that it was rare that we could feel by touch when they crawled over our skin. Only by sight could we find them. Frequently, there were thirty or more on each of us at any instant. We were pulling off thousands of them in a few hours. My guide, who

was Nepalese and had holes in his shoes, was bleeding profusely and was slushing blood in his socks. My own socks were also soaked with blood. Even after we removed the leeches from our bodies, we continued to bleed for one-half hour or longer. It was so hot that if we kept our trousers on, we just poured sweat, but trousers did offer some leech protection. If we took our trousers off, we got leeches up and down our exposed legs, although we were a little cooler—it seemed hopeless.

It was going to take more than one hour to get out of the leech area. We were in Nepal, between Dhamdus and Nuanda, more or less 100 miles west of Katmandu. In desperation, the thought occurred to me—what do I have to lose by using my insect repellent that I was carrying for mosquitos and flying insects? The leeches withered, twisted, and fell off when touched by *Jungle Juice* by REI, and we began to smear it on over clothes and shoes. The leeches would now climb up on our shoes and fall away, and we experienced a great sense of relief.



THE KNEE

by

Ray McKinley

The Knee's entire research staff has been hard at work checking out areas for late season skiing. Of foremost importance, Ski Liberty has, unfortunately, closed for the season. Their tenth annual Mothers Day slalom will, as in previous years, not be held.

Tom Aguilar skied fairly late at Stowe. He remained there despite poor conditions, he noted Stowically.

While Tom was in Vermont, Jessma Blockwick was in Utah, not skiing, but camping out with her family in Canyonlands National Park. A bit brisk, she noted.

At a recent Post Trip Party for the Comerford's Steamboat trip, Jessma spilled a glass of wine and noted that "a wine is a terrible thing to waste." The Knee whined.

A follow up to last month's report of bad skiing days with Dean Worcester and Biddy Esher. At the end of the season, they got back to Mad River Glen and had a great weekend of skiing.

Reg and Jean Heitchue recently traded in their full sized, four door Cadillac for a Toyota 4x4 small truck. "It's so much more useful," said Reg. "And it's so appropriate when we go the opera," noted Jean.

Margaret Wyckoff was somewhat surprised to receive a call from Jim Slack and Mary Ward signing up for Steak and Swim at the Elrods. Seems Jim and Mary have had their fill of California earthquakes, etc., and are moving back to Virginia. They will be a little further out than their previous Reston abode to accommodate Mary's horsing around. (That is what they do on horses, isn't it?)

The Annual Meeting was Larry Pease's first PVS appearance since his Achilles heel surgery. I asked how he was doing. Larry responded "I'm heeling." And, sure enough, he was -- obediently walking one step behind and one step to the right of Gail.

As is reported elsewhere, Ken Evans has fractured his leg. This is coincident with his opening a new company office in Martinsburg, WV. Ken's first few trips there will be in a cast.

Will John Smith be PVS' latest skier this year? He is currently in Turin, Italy on business and, while there, expects to do some skiturin. John, by the way, had been interested in running a PVS balloon trip but is now "up in the air" about it since he discovered balloon trips are two hours long, serve champagne, and don't have rest rooms.

It's time for my last monthly Huey Roberts ski bum feature. Huey is back from a winter in Colorado, where he skied 103 days. I continue to find this disgusting and will not, as I stated in January and monthly thereafter, further report on him. (Knee note: Huey really only skied 102 days - and one night, at Keystone.)

Jack Peoples is back from a golf weekend at Pinehurst. He loved it and threatens to take up the sport again. Jack, a member of PVS Executive Committee, or EXCOM, for over a year continues to call the group ExCons.

It's terrible to close with something negative but here's more on PVS injuries - of course, from my Wounded Knee department.

Karen Felker was on crutches from arthroscopic knee surgery. She will ski next season. And Gail Pease had her finger in a splint, the result of what she describes as a mountain biking accident. Unfortunately, the accident happened in the mountain biking parking lot!

ANNUAL MEETING by Lu Beale

The rains came, as did PVSers - about 75 of them - to the Annual Meeting on April 21st. For the second year in a row, the fabulous Leonhardt's straightened house, cooked up a storm and put out the welcome mat for this always gala affair.

Guests crowded the many-roomed house but because food and drink were in abundant supply in every room, there was plenty of space for socializing. But space behind the belt for more snacking was soon in short supply as guests sampled the vast array of delicacies (loved those miniature pizzas and mushroom squares!) all prepared by the hosts in advance despite Barbara's frequent work-related travels and Fred's knee surgery.

The somewhat raucous business part of the evening was presided over by Bill Anderson who, while hiding his eyes in the hall closet, was elected to a second term. Karen Felker, Bill Hager, and Bob Harmon were elected to ExCom for two year terms.

Membership Chairwoman Marilyn Clark presented four candidates for membership: Jessma Blockwick, James Cook, Arlette DeLong and Olga Gilloghy. All were elected. Ray McKinley ended the meeting with a listing of upcoming events and pleaded for all who have a change of plans to notify their hosts soonest so others could come.

After business there was more socializing before a general exodus began. But just as the hosts thought the party was over and they could put up their feet and relax, the rains really came. There was a major pile-up at the front door as guests who are known for their disregard of blizzards and zero temps, showed remarkable reluctance to getting their feet and hairdos wet.

However, when it became apparent that the downpour just wasn't going to stop, party-goers bravely turned up their coat collars and splashed away.

Anyway, Barbara and Fred, it was all great, rain or no. Thanks and a basket of spring flowers to you both for all your efforts.

ADVENTURE AT GREAT FALLS by An Adventurer

Although the forecaster promised rain, the Potomac was in flood, the trail often inundated by the cresting river, 22 determined hikers gathered at Angler's Inn on April 28 for the annual hike on the Billy Goat Trail.

Anticipating problems with the traditional Plan A, leader Lu Beale resorted to Plan B and the group set out on the Gold Mine trail on what had turned out to be a gorgeous day. With Dick Clark setting the pace and Gail Pease sweeping, the group trekked 2 miles on a woodland trail pausing to examine the remnants of the gold mine (promptly labeled by Liz Triaou and Myra Evans as the No 1 Least Scenic attraction in the Washington area); and, again, to check out the track bed and turn-around of the old trolley line that once carried day revelers to Great Falls from Glen Echo. On the way we looked for wild flowers but the closest we found was a baby's pacifier which Dick presented to Ray Mc. for identification. After some consideration, Ray pronounced it a Kneepie. Very rare.

We arrived at Great Falls in time to see the locks being opened for the passage of the barge down the canal after which, despite a slight sprinkle, we continued on our way to attack the Billy Goat Trail from the north end. After lunch on the rocks we proceeded to scale the awesome boulders bordering the raging river. Here we suddenly came upon John Newdorp whom we had lost at Great Falls an hour before but now, through some Newdorp sleigh-of-hand, was far ahead of us. As we caught up with him we nearly lost Ken Evans who had a bad fall but courageously limped on. (Xrays later showed a hairline fracture in the knee area.) Eventually, our blue-blazed trail disappeared in the swampy flood waters and after much floundering we beat our way out to the tow path and thence to trail's end at Angler's Inn where we all pronounced the day a great adventure despite the ups and downs. Or perhaps because of them.

When we climbed into our cars and started the engines, the clouds burst, the rain POURED. And, the leader, heading home for a gin and tonic, double, said, "I guess you can't call the shots any closer than that."

IN MEMORIAM

Ex-PVSer . Jenckes Mason died after a stroke on April 25. He was 88 years old and for practically all his life had been an outdoorsman—hiking, camping, climbing, exploring, skiing and, of course, working his job in the Forest Service.

I first met and skied with Jenckes on a Grasley-led trip to Norway in 1970. After that it was Val d'Isère, Mont Bondone, Poland, Zurs, Cervin, a, La Plagne, on and on, through the years. The very names conjure up memories of shared trails and spills and thrills and the oh-so-welcome après hours. Until, already in his 80's, Jenckes finally hung up the skis for good.

But, PVSers best remember Jenckes for the hikes he and Dorothy led in the Virginia mountains followed by incredible feasts at their mountain home near Front Royal where revelers stayed on and on into the night unwilling to say goodnight to such genial hosts.

The first hike I remember was a hot (90 !) sticky, ticky, steep, rocky trek to The Peak in SNP in June 1979. Through all the travails, Jenckes kept his cool and his command of the sometimes faint-hearted troops who not only survived but couldn't wait to sign up to follow him again on subsequent hikes - thereafter scheduled for fall foliage time.

The Mason hike/dinners ended in 1986 when the mountain retreat was sold. But, in our mind's eye, we still see Jenckes on all those hikes always at the front of a straggling, often disorderly, line and then standing there at a crossroads waiting patiently for the least able to catch up. That's the way we remember Jenckes. Always will.

.....Lu Beale

ABOUT AIRLINE COUPONS by Charles Huggins

Jessma Blockwick was correct when she reported in the March TOOT that United Airlines requires only one coupon for flights each way in the contiguous states. All airlines except TWA have lifted the 2000 mile limit. TWA has the 2000 mile limit only for the month of August. The TOOT-published \$436 coupon price for TWA is still valid as of March 24th and is the best price for skiers or anyone who wishes to fly to the west coast other than during the month of August. Since TWA is in bankruptcy, I would not advise anyone to hang on to coupons very long as TWA could fold like Eastern. P.S. Amtrak has lowered the age to 62 for seniors. All seniors get 15% off the lowest fare Mondays through Thursdays.

PVS OFFICERS

President ... Bill Anderson
Vice President ... Mary Jane McCarthy
Secretary ... Irene Farrell
Treasurer ... Margaret Wyckoff
Membership ... Marilyn Clark
Program Chairman ... Ray McKinley
Trip Chairman ... Dick Comerford
TOOT Editor ... Lu Beale
TOOT Production ... Jan & Bob Marx
TOOT Copy Editor... Bette Walker
PVS Answering Service ... The Marxes
(703) 451-9158

EXCOM

Second Term:
Joan Flake
Bob McNeill
Jack Peoples

First Term:
Bob Harmon
Bill Hager
Karen Felker

CALENDAR

Note
Change →

- May 12 ... DOGS (See page 2)
- May 16 ... Fun/Run Brunch with the Clarks.(See page 2)
- May 19 ... Monthly Meeting at the Hensleys'.(See page 1)
- May 26 ... ExCom at *Bill Anderson's*. 7:30 P.M.
- May 30 ... Luau at the Walns'. (See page 3)
- May 23 ... Post Colorado Trip party.(See page 2)
- June 6 ... Spring Hike. (See page 3)
- June 16 ... Monthly Meeting at Betty Lawrence's.
- June 23 ... ExCom at the Browns'.
- June 28 ... Montgomery Playhouse Matinee Performance Plus DOGS.(See page 3)
- July 3 ... Boating with Dean Worcester & Bidy Esher. (See page 3)
- July 10 ... Evening at Wolf Trap. (See page 4)
- July 11 - 12 - Rafting on the Youghiogheny. (See page 4)
- July 18 ... Summer Steak & Swim at the Elrods'. (See page 4)
- July 28 ... ExCom at the Clarks'. (7:30 P.M.)
- Aug. 1 ... Inner Tubing on the Shenandoah.Call Shirley Rettig (703) 836-0147)
- Sept.15 ... Monthly Meeting at the Evans'.
- Oct. 3 ... Oktoberfest at the Evans'.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS AND ARTISANS !!

If you are either or both of the above (or you know a PVSer who is) and would like to exhibit your work at the September meeting at the Evans' home, call Bette Walker (202) 333-0766. There is talent as well as prowess in our club and it should be shared.



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