

VOLUME XXXV

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.

FEBRUARY 2000

NUMBER TWO

WASHINGTON

MARYLAND

VIRGINIA

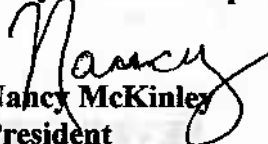
Fellow PVSers:

For a ski club of just 200 souls, we put a lot of skiers on the slopes and may single-handedly keep the ski industry humming. Why, just this year PVS trips are contributing well over 1000 skier days all over the world. That doesn't begin to count the numerous other ski days that PVSers do without benefit of PVS-sanctioned trips. That means that our skier days come to over 5 times the number of members in the club. What a ratio! Do you think SCWDC produces 30,000 skier days? I don't think so! What I can't figure out is how PVSers have any time left over for biking, hiking, and eating.

To memorialize all this activity year after year, PVS created our Millennium Time Capsule. There you can place a memento of your PVS days for our progeny to discover in 20 years. The PVS Millennium Time Capsule was created by George Hicho and Liz Triau and inaugurated at our January 1 Millennium Bash. Many articles of immense fascination (and interest to no one other than PVSers!) have already been squirreled away in the box.

While small, our Time Capsule is slightly larger (really) than your standard breadbox and so can hold a few more items. The Time Capsule will be present at each meeting until our Annual Meeting this April to accept your PVS memorabilia. Then it will be ceremoniously closed and then sealed, not to be opened until the Year 2020! Already inside the Capsule are ski pins, a PVS membership card (a collector's item), Valle Nevado, Chili lift passes, the Knee on disk, pictures of PVS events and skiers and a few other items. So wrack your brain and stir up your memories and bring a small item or two for the Time Capsule that will bring back memories of the Way We Were.

See you on the slopes,


Nancy McKinley
President



MONTHLY MEETING : FEBRUARY 15, 2000 at 7:30 p.m.
Home of John & Ramona Matthews, 9214 Midwood Road
Silver Spring MD 20910 Phone: 301-589-7612

◆◆◆◆◆ COMING EVENTS ◆◆◆◆◆

MONTHLY MEETING

Directions: Take Beltway Exit 31 south on Georgia Avenue toward Silver Spring. After 7:00 p.m., make a left at the Exxon Station at the second traffic signal (use the left turn lane) onto MD Route 391 - Columbia Road which shortly becomes Dale Drive. Continue for about ½ mile and turn right at the mailbox onto Midwood Road. The Matthews place is the second house on the right: #9214 with the red door. [If arriving during the rush hour before 7:00 p.m., continue south on Georgia Avenue another five intersections and turn left into Highland Drive. Continue about ½ mile and turn left into Midwood Road. The Matthews house is the fifth one on the left.] Early arrivals can park two deep in the driveway.



MIDWEEK ZOO WALK 'N LUNCH

Thursday, February 24, 2000 10:30 AM

Starting Point: Education Building, National Zoo, which is the first building on entering from Conn Ave. N.W.

Route: See what's new at the Zoo. Will explore exhibits both inside and outside. Generally there are few people at



this time so that both the animals and docents will be glad to see you. After viewing the exhibits, we will adjourn for lunch at 1:30 PM at Yanni's Greek Taverna in Cleveland Park (1/2 block north of the Uptown Theater on northwest corner of Conn. Ave. & Ordway St.) — a neighborhood bistro appreciated by those who came last year.

Logistics: Parking available at Zoo, though it might set you back \$6 (hey, that's life in the big city). The Zoo entrance is midway between the Woodley Park and Cleveland Park stations of Metro (red line).

Weather cancellation: This event is apt to take place regardless of weather conditions.

Leaders: Betty Byrne (202) 483-4048 and Marvin Hass (703) 751-4737

SEVEN SPRINGS FEB. (7-9), 2000

The December Toot has details on lodging. Lift tickets are \$32, and seniors 70+ ski free. At press time for the Feb. Toot, Seven Springs reports all 30 trails are open, base of 26-38 inches, and a temperature of 22 degrees. Those going to Seven Springs should contact Charles Huggins (301) 424-5725 or Jack Peoples (301) 881 6220 to let us know your coming, for car pools, or roommate suggestions if you need one.

PVS Wine Tasting & Dinner, April 1

It's no April Fools joke. This annual affair changes its format this year, as noted below. It includes dinner and a one night, mini vacation. The wines will be accompanied with matching food courses that will make the dinner. For example, chicken with remoulade sauce will accompany the Chardonnay, etc, so come hungry. As noted in the January Toot, overnight accommodations will be supplied at nearby rental homes. Homes will be stocked with simple breakfast fare. Estimated cost is \$60 per person, complete.

It will be held at the Cope's lakefront home at Lake of the Woods, 1 Apr 2000, at 6:30 PM. During the move of their wine cellar, Don noted the abundance of some smashing wines available in his cellar. Some of these wines from his cellar will be featured including some mouth watering Chardonnay, and some Bordeaux and Rhone at the peak of development.

Some reservations have already been taken. So, with a limit of 20 people, don't delay in reserving your spot. To sign up call the Copes at 540 972 9838 or Ray McKinley at 703 527 7126 or e-mail at pcope@att.net.

Directions to the Copes: From the Springfield exit on Interstate 95 head south about 40 miles. Very shortly after crossing the Rappahanock River, turn west on Virginia Route 3. Go west for about 14 miles. You will need to turn left from route 3 at the traffic light to enter the gate at Lake of the Woods. Directions from the gate & to the rental homes, as well as check in time will be supplied later.



ABOUT TOOT WRITERS.....

This is a highly participatory newsletter. Probably a majority of PVS members have written up some event or other. Have you? Volunteers are eagerly solicited.

Sometimes, when articles come in beautifully ready to print, the editor fails to give credit, if it is not already on the copy.

No lack of gratitude is implied! So hereby thanks is given to Joan Flake who wrote the report on the London trip, and to Jan and Bob Marx who did the article on the Christmas party at the Heitchues'.

And remember, volunteer!

March 5 - 12, 2000, join Nancy and Ray McKinley to

SKI **BIG SKY** MONTANA

The trip is full with a small waiting list. Please call us to get on the list, at (703) 527-7126.

BIG SKY Participants: We will send a letter with final details mid Feb.

August 12 - 26, 2000, join Nancy & Ray McKinley

Ski and See in Argentina

35 SIGNED UP, ROOM FOR ONLY 6 MORE. ACT NOW!

The grandeur of Argentina's Patagonia, the Old World beauty and tango passion of Buenos Aires, and to top it all off — great skiing! We're planning this fabulous trip for August 12th to 23rd, 2000. Seven days, six nights in Argentina's world-class 5,000 acre, ski resort, Bariloche, and 4 days, 3 nights in South America's most cosmopolitan, spectacular city, the Paris of the Western Hemisphere, Buenos Aires. We'll include all lodging in 5 Star hotels, daily breakfasts, 3 dinners in Bariloche, 2 dinners and a multicourse lunch in Buenos Aires, airfare from Washington DC, all transfers, happy hours most evenings, pre and post trip parties, and three eye-opening tours in Buenos Aires. Not included are remaining meals and ski lift tickets. (\$20-25 per day) The cost is for this 11 day package is \$2,673 per person double occupancy.

We also offer a spectacular 3-day add-on. This will include a day trip to Uruguay, an additional night in exciting Buenos Aires, round trip air to one of the seven natural wonders of the world, Iguazu Falls (on full-size jet aircraft--about 2 hours each way), two nights at the 5 Star Sheraton *Internacional* with falls-view rooms, all transfers, all breakfasts, one dinner and one lunch. Our return is on August 26. We highly recommend the add-on at a cost of \$586 inclusive.

Our trip is also for non-skiers, who will be taking lake trips, touring and shopping in Bariloche City, feasting on the sights of Patagonia and simply enjoying one of the world's foremost parks. Truly something for everyone. Space is limited for this trip of a lifetime. Our flyer was in last month's COOT. We have oodles more information. Call us at 703-527-7126 for more, or for a copy of our flyer.

From Ski Trip Committee (STC)

A document generated by the STC pertaining to Guidelines for PVS ski trips was approved by the EXCOM at the December EXCOM meeting, and will be mailed to all members soon. The STC would like to announce that anyone interested in running a PVS ski trip in the '00 to '01 ski season, should contact one of the following STC members: Serge Triau (STC chairperson); Janet Marx; and Myron Marquardt. The guidelines require that proposals for trips next season be submitted to the STC by March 15, 2000. Anyone interested in running a trip should discuss this activity with one of the STC members prior to submitting a proposal.

Election of new officers:

The Nominating Committee submits the following slate of officers to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in April:

President: Nancy McKinley (second term)

ExCom (2-year terms):

**Sally Finan
Penny Hanshaw
Jim Slack**

Additional nominations may be made by the signed proposal of any five active members presented to the membership at a business meeting at least one month prior to the April meeting.

JIM SLACK

Jim was born in Pottstown, PA and subsequently went to school, including Drexel (undergraduate) and Stanford (graduate) where he learned a few things, mostly about mathematics. But especially that formal education doesn't teach the important stuff such as "Don't eat the yellow snow!".

His first skiing was in the early 60's at Spring Mountain, PA where the vertical was 120 feet but they're still counting. He prefers Val d'Isere or Mt. Bachelor. Jim has also skied at Liberty.

Drexel has a Coop program for students to attend college half of the year and work in industry the other half. His first two work periods were as a draftsman in a boiler factory; so he's an expert on what gets written on ... walls (op. cit.). His third work period was with the U.S. Geological Survey in 1966. He's been with the Survey ever since, still doing math. He recommends getting paid to do what you like.

At the Survey, there also worked one Mary Ward, who planted a trail of M&Ms to lead him to matrimony. With split second timing, they joined PVS, got married, and took their very first PVS trip (Wyckoff's to Zurs and Val Gardena) as their honeymoon in 1977.

In 1980, only barely paying attention to his surroundings, he agreed to succeed Mary on Excom. But as the then PVS Program Chair he had his revenge: not only finally getting the directions correct to the Annual Get-Lost-On-The-Way-To-Shakey's Pizza & Movie meeting, but also persuading Ray McKinley to succeed him as Program Chair. Now that's the kind of leadership PVS needs.



JANUARY MEETING

Eighteen hearty PVSers, undeterred by the infamous "snow flurries" that brought the Washington area to its knees, gathered at Carol Bridger's beautiful Rockville home for the January 18th meeting.

The small number allowed participants to move freely from room to room and even carry on real conversations with fellow PVSers.

Carol offered platters of marvelous goodies (including WRAPS, meat balls, garlic dip, cheeses, and an array of veggies) and the small group happily feasted in unaccustomed tranquility.

Charles Gordon, visiting from Texas, was among the attendees, as were Dina Taylor and Emmi Plowman who managed the icy run from Frederick and Mt. Airy.

For the "business" part of the meeting, we gathered before gently blazing logs in the large family room. There were seats for all and Prez Nancy (she and Ray were the only Virginians to make it) was able to preside without benefit of the amplifier.

Then there was coffee and platters of incredibly delectable cookies before the group ventured once more onto the icy highways.

We thank Carol for her outstanding hospitality and especially for her total unflappability in the face of the uncertainties caused by the weather.

....Lu Beale

MILLENNIUM PARTY

Bob Harmon

Undeterred by the fact that it was a year too early (and only the most misanthropic spoilsport would even *hint* at such an unwelcome fact!), about 69 PVSers and friends enthusiastically welcomed the new millennium on January 1, 2000, at the festively decorated home of Jim and Charlotte Kline. Things got underway about 1:30 with a lengthy period of socializing with hors d'oeuvres and drinks. During this time large charts were available for those who wished to record their choice for the most important person of the century and the most important invention/discovery of the century and of the millennium. We were favored with a most unseasonal spring-like day, so we could enjoy going outside onto the patio. Penny Henshaw sported a white rabbit coat that her grandmother had worn at a New Year's celebration on January 1, 1900 -- exactly 100 years earlier to the day! Although the coat perhaps wasn't necessary given the mild weather, it was most impressive nevertheless.

Before dinner Bob Marx took photos of each person present. These were mounted on attractively decorated black cards and distributed before we left, so everyone had a nice souvenir of the event to take home.

The excellent buffet dinner consisted of salad, crab cakes, pork with apple, some kind of mushroom-filled pastry thing, and fruit. Then there was a wide selection of hard-to-resist desserts including petits fours, chocolate-covered strawberries, small fruit tarts, and the like.

The after-dinner program started with Ray McKinley reading entries from the above-mentioned charts. For most important person of the century someone (as a joke, I assume!) listed Rush Limbaugh, but more serious entries included such estimable personages as Churchill, FDR, Einstein, and Lu Beale. (Josie Beale, Lu's shy but very charming miniature dachshund, also made the list, but however deserving she may be, she probably doesn't quite qualify as a person -- almost, to be sure, but probably not quite.) The inventions/discoveries of the millennium included such eye-openers as "earth goes around the sun," which nobody can deny, while choices for invention of the century, not surprisingly, tended to be related to skiing, such as step-in bindings.

Next came the submission of material for the time capsule. Individuals dropped various items of PVS memorabilia into the capsule, such as photos, newspaper articles, recipes, a headband, and much more. This capsule is to be welded shut, passed on from president to president, and re-opened in 20 years. After this the duet of Ray and Nancy McKinley sang 13 songs (yes, 13!!), consisting of lyrics with PVS themes which they had put to familiar tunes. An impressive accomplishment indeed! Serge Triaou concluded the program by regaling us with a selection of "worst jokes" of the past century which he had grouped into categories such as Will Rogers, sick jokes, ethnic jokes, etc. The ethnic jokes were updated to be politically correct (more or less!) by substituting "Virginian" for the original "Polish man." (How come not "Marylander," Serge?!)

Then, with glasses of champagne in hand, we all went outside with sparklers to brighten the night and symbolically greet the putative new millennium.

I believe we would all agree that the event was a huge success. Much of the credit for this goes to the planning committee and its chairwoman, Sue Walsh, who devoted many hours to organizing everything. The catering staff deserves praise for keeping things running smoothly from beginning to end. And of course we thank Jim and Charlotte for all their efforts in hosting the affair.

The party was so enjoyable that I think we should do it all over again next year, when the *real* millenium comes along!

SNOWMASS TRIP

On a cold blustery Saturday in January, most participants left Washington for the milder climate to begin their week-long ski trip at Snowmass. At Eagle/Vail the group added six more who had started early and spent a few days at Vail/Beaver Creek. Then the group proceeded on a scenic trip through Glenwood Canyon with a stop in Glenwood Springs to pick up items for apres ski.

Skiing began on Sunday and was reasonably good considering that depths of perhaps only 20-30 inches of base were given on the reports via the Internet prior to the trip. Most runs were open, with just an occasional rock poking through now and then. There was 6-14 inches of new snow on each of Wed., Thur., and Friday. The last day was glorious with the new snow plus sunshine. PVS powderhounds Bob McNeill, Serge and Liz Triau, Fred and Barbara Leonhardt, Betty Lawrence, Bob and Jan Marx and Sally Finan were out early to ski the 14 plus inches of wonderfully light fluffy powder, making new tracks everywhere. Serge gets the "tumble award" for the best face plant. Other casualties were minor with Sue Walsh ending up with a bruised shoulder and Ellen Burgess getting shook up by a collision with another skier emerging from the wood.

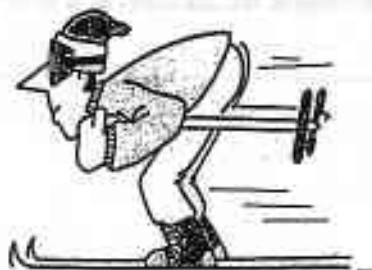
Good ski trips not only involve good skiing, but ambiance as well which Snowmass and Aspen provide in abundance. 16 PVSers went off on a Tuesday evening to the Wheeler Opera House in Aspen to attend a first-rate performance of modern dance by the Aspen Ballet. On a Thursday evening, eight PVSers went off to the Concert Hall at the Aspen Institute to attend a recital by a well-known opera diva, Barbara Hendricks. Both of these events were organized by Betty Byrne. A new event, a games night, was arranged by Jeannette Albersheim who finagled folding chairs and a table from the concierge. Sixteen PVSers came, most for bridge (Sue Walsh was the big winner), the rest for another card game.

The trip leader, Barbara Leonhardt, is not only capable of leading groups through moderately difficult ski terrain, but also leading her flock to some of the better dining spots in the area. One of these dinners was held at the Stonebridge Inn, an establishment of understated mountain elegance. Another dinner was held at the Mountain Dragon Chinese restaurant--to those who believe good Oriental food can only be obtained in large metropolitan areas, this place will change their minds pronto. The final dinner at the Village Steakhouse in our lodge provided a feast for carnivores. A highlight of the week was a catered lunch for the PVS group at a cabin right on the slopes.

In addition to those mentioned above, a number of new as well as familiar faces turned up. Gladys Youngblood joined our group, along with two sons and a daughter-in-law. Penny Hanshaw was there with her six-year-old granddaughter, Stephanie, wearing matching garments. Two sons also dropped in. Also present was Barbara Wilson, an applicant member, with her son, six-year-old Jonathan, a gung ho skier. Finally, special mention should be made of the presence of Ironman Bob McNeill getting the last bit of use of his existing knees (due to be replaced in March) and doing well with his two-year-old replacement hip (not guaranteed for use in skiing by medical authorities). Much missed was co-leader Nat Seeman, who was dealing with a painful arthritis attack.

It has been said that one picture is worth 1000 words. This report is well under 1000 words, but you can see a number of color photos of this trip at the PVS Web Site at <http://www.homestead.com/pvs> skiers or <http://pvskiers.homestead.com>. See the enclosed info about the new Web site.

....Report by Marvin Hass



PVS now on the Internet!



PVS is now online. We have our own members' Web site where photos and news can be posted. Check it out. Currently there are photos from the Xmas and Millennium parties as well as some action shots of participants from the Steamboat trip. Either of the following URL's will get you there.

<http://www.homestead.com/pvskiers>

<http://pvskiers.homestead.com>

If you don't have a computer, no doubt you know someone who does. Currently this is an "open" site meaning anyone can access it. However, if you don't know the magic URL given above, chances are nobody else will. But just to be on the safe side, we will be circumspect in reporting news and names on the Web site. So far there has been very favorable comment about the site from both local and out-of-town PVS members. To see these comments, go to the *Guest Register* on the *home page* and click on *view entries*.

Feel free to submit photos and other items for posting on the Web site. These can be submitted by e-mail {marvin.hass@erols.com or write an entry in the *Guest Register*} or by "snail" mail {Marvin Hass, 309 Yoakum Pkwy, Apt. 605, Alexandria, VA 22304-3923}. Photos can be submitted as image files (try to keep size to around 50kB) or as prints. As a guideline, photos associated with week long PVS trips will be limited to six, photos associated with local day events limited to two, and those associated with non-PVS events will be limited to one. The structure and content of the Web site are undergoing constant revision. However, it will be responsive to the wishes of the members subject to limitations on the time of the webmaster, which is the primary reason for limitations on number of photos. It does take some care and effort to prepare material in the proper form. We do have a number of enthusiastic photographers in PVS and we do have viewers who enjoy seeing good photos of PVS events. If you would like to post additional photos, then the webmaster suggests you create your own Web site at homestead (easy to do) or on other server. A hyperlink on the PVS Web site can be inserted to provide access to any member's personal Web site containing additional photos and other information.

There also is a PVS page on the Blue Ridge Ski Council (BRSC) Web site with the URL of <http://www.skicouncil/pvs.htm>. This Web page is listed with that of the other Clubs associated with BRSC and is primarily designed to let other skiers in the area know of the existence of PVS. In the future, this Web page can contain announcements of PVS trips that would be open to nonmembers (subject to approval of trip leader).

Comments by viewers of the Web site are welcomed as well as by others. Just leave a message on the *Guest Register* or send an e-mail directly.

For those members who do not now have Internet access and feel left out of things, bear in mind that a good fraction of the US population does have access one way or another. The costs of computers have come way down and even free Internet access is available.



THE KNEE

PAGE II

by

Ray McKinley

The Knee moves into its second Millenkneem. Funknee, but I don't feel

that old! And I still have oodles of new information for you. (The knee loves the word oodles. Other words beginning with an "oo," such as oology, only come up once in a bird's age.)

Many of us spent the Millennium locally so we could attend the PVS bash at Jim and Charlotte Kline's on January one-th. However, some of us were elsewhere. Rosy Soler and Jessma Blockwick were, sadly, at home with the flu. Sylvia and Wally Lukens were on Nantucket Island. After a week, shortened by fog and rain, of skiing at Chamonix, Suzanne Boisclair and Betty Lawrence saw in the Millennium in *gay Paris* at the Eiffel Tower/Great Rocket. And Lorraine and Roland Brockmeyer were cruising near Tahiti—where, incidentally Brock got a tattoo (actually, due to inflation, they are now called tathrees) on his left shoulder. And the tathree certainly doesn't say "Mother!" Ooh!

The PVS Millenkneem Gala was certainly worth staying in town for. Literally every cubic inch of the Kline's home was resplendent in Christmas finery, collected by Charlotte over the years—including old fashioned bubble lights as night lights. We now understand why she won the home decorating prize in her previous neighborhood.

Bob McNeill was chatting with Bob Marx' father and noted that years before when at the Dept. of Commerce, he had won their highest award, the Gold Medal. Bob Marx had just won his second Gold Medal, the first to win two! Congratulations! And Bob Marx retains his oomph!

Mary Ward and Marty McNeill both arrived late. Marty was recovering from the flu, and Mary, who works for a computer company, was waiting to squash Y2K bugs (and see them ooze out.) The last to arrive were Vilma and Gene Sharer. Said Wilma, "I thought it was for Y3K!" Ooh!

Sue Walsh who chaired the event, flew back from her new abode in Arizona. She brought along

kneet party favors. The best drinkers were Sheldon Drews and Charlotte Eddy. This was only after Charlotte presented Sheldon with a pair of Year 2000 champagne flutes. And Penny Hanshaw briefly wore (it was just too warm) a fur coat first worn by her grandmother to bring in the year 1900!

Perhaps you would like to try my idea for those who are afraid to stand up on skis. Kneeskis.

The nominating committee has been "doing its thing," and selected a slate of Officers. When Chair Lu Beale phoned Sally Finan to be on ExCom, Sally quickly agreed. She said, I thought you were going to ask me to write something up!

Annemarie Black and Walt Brenner, who in case you didn't know are now "a number," (I believe it's two) are back in Sun Valley where they met whilst skiing last year. Or, to coin a ukneeque, new phrase, "It happened in Sun Valley."

According to the National Ski Club Newsletter, there are 2515 active ski clubs in the US. But none are as active as PVS!

Condolences to Charles Boykin and Kathy Dillon. Whilst skiing with a group of PVSers at Crested Butte (where they sometimes ski in the nude), Charles fractured a bone in his leg, and Kathy had a separated shoulder. No blood oozed at all.

The Kneedle of the Month goes to Bing Poon who is spending the winter in snowy Salt Lake City. He was back in town for the holidays. He wanted to go to our January meeting at Carol Bridgers. It was a snow day in DC, and Bing only got to within a mile of the house. Oops!

From Knee Hampshire, Jim Arnold reports 10" of new powder and great skiing. Previously, only 7" of fluffy white stuff had fallen this winter.

A special Tip of the Ol' Knee Cap to Marvin Hass. He designed our new Web page. It's at "<http://www.homestead.com/pvskiers>". Lots of photos including one of John Smith in his "killer bee" ski outfit, now crowned with a yellow ski helmet!

I bet you didn't know that Bill Anderson's address is the same as the last four digits of his telephone number. Or that Sally Finan plays the french horn and lives on French Horn Lane. You knew there was a reason for reading this column!

CALENDAR

- Feb. 7 ... 8&9 at Seven Springs, p. 2
- Feb. 15 ... Monthly meeting at home of Ramona and John Matthews, pp 1&2
- Feb. 22 ... ExCom at the Felkers'
- Feb. 24 ... Zoo walk and lunch, p. 2
- Mar. 15²¹ ... March meeting
- Mar. 23 ... Midweek bike rides resume
- Apr. 1 ... Wine tasting at the Copes', p. 3
- Nov. 4 ... 35th anniversary party

Mary Eva Sheld
April MTs @ Kline

Bette Walker
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