

VOLUME XXXV

# Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.

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Fellow PVSers:

Rituals are the subject of today's sermon, er... remarks.

We all need rituals and, heaven knows, PVS has its share. For 35 years, PVS has been getting together every month to talk and eat; for 35 years PVSers have searched the globe for ski adventures - from A to Z - from Alta, Utah to Zakopane, Poland; for 35 years PVSers have been volunteering to run trips, hold meetings, host events from Oktoberfests to Wine Tastings; for 35 years we've done all that and more.

Now we can celebrate the past 35 years with a new ritual that encompasses everything we're all about: camaraderie, good spirits, good food, and ski talk (still trying to figure out how to actually ski at this event). See the flyer in this TOOT and sign up for PVS' 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party on November 4.

And, speaking of rituals, my ritual is to pick out the ski trips I want to go on this coming year and now is the time to do it before our PVS-run trips open up to non-members on August 1.

Happy ski-trip planning



## SUMMER SERENADES AT STRATHMORE HALL

Thursday, July 13

Picnic with PVSers on the lawn of Strathmore at 6:30 p.m. and then hear the music of the Monumental Brass Quintet playing classical treasures with a traditional sound at 7:30. The concert is free. Bring your own food and drink or purchase dinner on site from La Madeleine. Call John Smith or Pat Tengel (301-299-8376) for further information or just show up. Bring blanket or low beach chairs and look around for other PVSers.



# Oktoberfest

**When: Saturday, September 23, 2000 at 3:00. Rain or shine.**

**What: 22nd annual PVS Oktoberfest featuring beer, sausages, sauerkraut, pretzels, potato salad & pflaumen kuchen. Oompah music, too, for dancing of feet, clapping of hands, and cavorting of spirit.**

**Call: Coordinator Aina Thomas at 301-309-8933 by Tuesday, September 19th to reserve your place (limited to 60), to choose low-fat or high-test wurst, and to sign up for bringing one of the delectable foods. No-shows will be responsible for their share of the cost.**

**Cost: Approximately \$8.00 per person.**

**Where: Mary Ward & Jim Slack's Termineigh Horse Farm & Nosh Bar, Catharpin, VA.**

**More details in August TOOT.**

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## PVS BOARD

President ..... Nancy McKinley  
 Vice President ..... Ned Flaherty  
 Secretary ..... Karen Felker  
 Treasurer ..... Pat Tengel  
 Membership..... Marilyn Clark  
 Program ..... Ray McKinley  
 TOOT Editor ..... Jessma Blockwick  
 TOOT Production ..... Bette Walker  
 Ski Trip Chair ..... Serge Triau  
 Midweek Activities ..... Charles Huggins  
 Ombudsman ..... Bill Anderson  
 Meeting Records ..... Sara Huggins

## EXCOM

**First Term:**  
 Sally Finan  
 Penny Hanshaw  
 Jim Slack

**Second Term:**  
 Don Dillon  
 Sheldon Drews  
 Charlotte Kline

**PLEASE NOTE...A PROMPT REPLY  
WILL BE VERY HELPFUL!!!**

**PVS 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner**  
*Saturday, November 4, 2000, 6:30PM*  
*Bolling Officers' Club*

*Cocktail hour (cash bar)*  
*Hors d'Oeuvres*

*Appetizer*  
*Entrée with vegetables*  
*Salad*  
*Wines*

*Dessert*  
*Coffee*

**DOOR PRIZES**

Estimated cost until September 1<sup>st</sup> \$45 pp, thereafter \$50.

Bolling Airforce Base is just off the southern part of I 295, and very easy to reach. If we are enough (70), we can get the Potomac Room with large windows and a beautiful view of the Washington Monument.

For more information call Joan Flake at 301 762 6890 or Karen Felker at 703 931 6843 or e-mail to [karknox@erols.com](mailto:karknox@erols.com).

Checks should be issued to Potomac Valley Skiers and given/mailed to Pat Tengel, 8174 Inverness Ridge Road, Potomac, MD 20854

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August 12 - 26, 2000, with Nancy & Ray McKinley--and we're rain' to

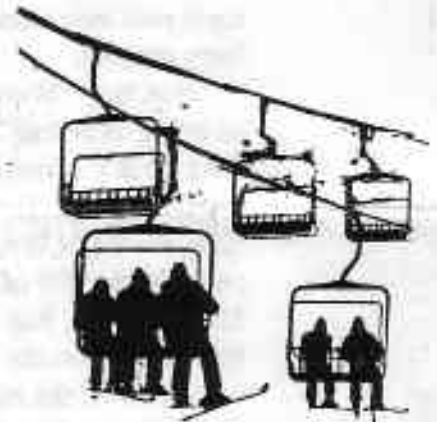
# Ski & See in Argentina

**Participants:** Pre Trip Party & Dinner at our house 4 pm July 16. PLEASE let us know if you CANNOT attend. We have just received final flight schedules. We are checking them and will mail them by mid July. Questions? Call us at 703 527-7126.

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**PVS SKI TRIPS - 2000-2001**

Dec. 7-14, 2000	Keystone	Penny Hanshaw Pat Egan
Jan 22 - 29, 2001	Steamboat	Barbara Leonhardt
Feb. 10, 2001	Canyons	Nancy/Ray McKinley
Mar. 4 - 11, 2001	Telluride	Don Dillon



PAST EVENTS

**JUNE MEETING**

In 1845, James Russell Lowell wrote; "And what is so rare as a day in June?, then if ever, come perfect days." Therefore, on June 20, 155 years later, that perfect evening arrived at the Great Falls home of Betty Lawrence. Yes, Betty hosted her eleventh June meeting for PVS. Sara Huggins reported that 53 PVS, s and friends enjoyed this perfect night of abundance of food, drink and conversation. President Nancy conducted the meeting on the spacious decks overlooking the gardens and swimming pool with its fountain. Serge reported on the ski trip schedule for the 2000/2001 season. In the absence of Charles, Sara reported on the mid-week activities. After very large chocolate chip cookies and coffee, all too soon the evening was a memorable event. Many, Many thanksto Betty for making Mr. Lowell, s poetry come alive.

Bill Anderson

Brookside Gardens Tour

Ruth Powers

Seven PVSers, led by Rachel Abraham, enjoyed a fine spring visit to Brookside Gardens. When our guide failed to appear, we wandered through the gardens at our own pace, viewing azaleas, hostas, tulips, herbs, gazebos, etc. We especially enjoyed the wisteria-covered pergola, which provided shaded benches where we relaxed amid the fragrant and lovely wisteria blossoms. We found a shady spot outside the entrance gate to eat our lunches. Rachel brought chocolate pizzelles and perfect strawberries to top off our lunch and a delightful event.



A Walk on the Shady Side by Lu Beale

On a 90° plus day in June, Marty Rine led 9 stalwart PVSers on a hike around Lake Accotink in Wakefield Park, Virginia. Marty, who lives very close to the lake, managed to keep us in the shade for most of the way and somehow was able to eliminate (almost) all the "up-hills." As a result the group (half of them over seventy) completed the 4 plus mile circuit without casualties in the perfectly respectable time of one hour and forty minutes.

But, boy! Were we ready and grateful for the repast Marty and Tony Drago had awaiting us at trail's end-coffee, juice, bagels, veggies, cakes, etc. etc. Thank you, Marty for a VERY satisfying ending to a VERY satisfactory morning!

HISTORICAL NOTES: This annual event, originally known as the FUN RUN and, later, the RUN, WALK, CRAWL WIDOW-MAKER, began in 1981 when Marilyn and Dick Clark led 9 of us on a 5 mile run(?) On the C&O Tow Path. Three of that group-Shirley Rettig, Ray McKinley and Lu Beale - participated in the 2000 run - still alive. Still panting on the uphill.

In 1982, the run, still led by the Clarks but now numbering as many as 25 entrants, was moved to Accotink Lake. The Clarks continued to orchestrate the event until, in 1999, after 18 years of leadership, they passed the baton on to Marty Rine - a fine successor - may she lead us for another 18 years!



Leesylvania Hike.....Liz Triau

On Tuesday, May 30 a group of eight PVSers undaunted by cloudy skies and a bit of difficulty with the directions, met at Leesylvania State Park in Virginia. This must be one of the best kept secrets around as it is a lovely scenic park situated along the Potomac River near Woodbridge. We walked the wooded trails through the historic sites where once lived Revolutionary War hero, "Lighthorse Harry Lee", the father of Civil War General Robert E. Lee. We had to imagine how those homes may have looked so long ago as all that remains are the ruins of their foundations and at the farmhouse, a tall crumbling brick chimney. We also stood on the hill among the remains of a confederate battery which once served as part of a blockade of the Potomac River.

After our hike through history, we gathered at picnic tables by the river and with the sun finally shining, we enjoyed our lunch and conversation. A perfect ending to another fun PVS event and we all thank Jessma for organizing it.



## THE KNEE

by  
Ray McKinley

In Bariloche, Argentina, a single, silvery snowflake flutters down from the nighttime sky. It lands silently on the blissfully cool ground. Then comes another hexagonally perfect ice crystal, and another. Soon the slopes are soft, fluffy whiteness. Conifers, almost white, with branches snow laden, rocks and bushes become indistinguishable white powderpuffs. The days are serene; the world is at peace.

A reminder in the heat and humidity of what is PVS's recognized favorite season. Winter.

Jean Heitchue and Kathy Dillion were both born on the summer solstice, June 21. And Kathy was born on the same date that Jackie and Ned Flaherty got married. To answer your question, no, her birth did not force them to get married.

His doctor explained the reason for Nat Seeman's arthritis. "Too many birthdays!"

David and Rachel Abraham are back from a visit to Israel and the craggy Golan Heights. Their assessment--the Heights would certainly be helped with a gondola or a high speed quad! Artist Rachel is now doing original "paintings" on the computer. Ask her to see some--they are really kneet!

Don and Marijane Harper are in the process of selling their home and moving to Williamsburg. Skiing is further, but golf isn't!

Going to Vail next season? Perhaps you'll want to try their newest idea. A night "Thrill Sled" ride. Belly down on a sled, with goggles and a miners lamp, it's straight from top to the bottom. Not me!

From the Knee's Bet You Didn't Know Dept: In a pre PVS life, Lu Beale wrote children's Christmas Stories. Between 1942 and 1969 they were serialized in hundreds of newspapers. Recently a publisher, Nostalgia, chatted with Lu and will publish one a year. We'll keep you aware of the status of "The Plot against Santa."

Stopping in briefly at the meeting at Betty vrence's were Sally Finan and George Welti. They were returning home after medical testing which

sadly showed that Sally needs heart valve surgery.

Resplendent in shorts at the meeting, Bob McNeill was showing off his new bionic Knees er knees. They work so well that Bob went out and bought 3 pair of new skis! (Were they Kneesils?)

Marvin Hass and Betty Byrne are back from a lengthy biking excursion in Nova Scotia. For those not up on their etymology, Nova is an exploding star and Scotia means a little--as in "a scotia more room." So Nova Scotia is named for Mickey Rooney, a little exploding star.

It was Dick Clark who noted that Liz and Serge form a pair of Triaus.

The bad news is that Betty Lawrence's Blue Knob golf event was cancelled. The good news is that it was cancelled because all on the participants decided they would rather go to the beach! For the census, Blue Knob's ski runs were considered "Roads." So Betty is on Bunny Hop Boulevard.

Applicant member Carolyn Maurer is back from white water rafting down the Grand Canyon. The other choice would have been worse.

The National Ski Club Newsletter reports that North America's largest ski area, Whistler, had over 2 million visitors during ski season.

In the 40's, ski injuries were 6 per 1000 skier days. By the 60's it was 7 per 1000 days. But last year there were just 2.5 injuries per 1000 skier days. So why all the hassle about the dangers of skiing?

Last month, Bill Anderson put his Chevy Chase home up for sale. They never got a sign up. He had 3 offers in 3 days and the home sold for \$30,000 above the asking price! The new owners must continue to host the November turkey ExCom meeting! Bill is now homeless! (Actually he has leased in the same complex as Marianne Cook)

And speaking of Marianne, which I was, Nat Seeman took her and Mary Jane McCarthy out to lunch recently. Alzheimer's patient Mary Jane is increasingly frustrated that memory is failing. However, after lunch, Nat and Mary Jane visited her home. Mary Jane scurried around recalling long lost items. She emerged, smiling, clutching a carefully folded, old newspaper from a dresser drawer. It was Lu Beale's 1990 Washington Post PVS article...

**CALENDAR**

- July 7 ... Golf at Blue Knob - **cancelled**
- July 13 ... Concert at Strathmore, p. 1
- July 16 ... Pre-Argentina-Trip Party at the McKinleys', 4 p.m.
- July 20 ... Midweek Bike Ride, Great Falls to Seneca, p. 2
- July 25 ... ExCom at Annapolis with Tengel/Smith
- July 28 ... Golf at Leisure World, p. 2
- Aug. 22 ... ExCom at the Triaus'
- Sept. 2 ... Crab Feast at Betty Lawrence's, p.2
- Sept. 19 ... Monthly meeting
- Sept. 23 ... Oktoberfest, p. 3
- Sept. 26 ... ExCom
- Oct. 7 ... Fall Weekend at Blue Knob
- Nov. 4 ... 35th Anniversary Dinner , p. 4

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