



TOOT



Volume XXXX No. 10

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc

October, 2004

WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

Meeting Review (Sept)




(above: Nancy McK, David A. and Ray McK)

In addition to the announcements regarding our forthcoming ski trips and other events, the September 21 monthly meeting (at the Strand's whose hospitality is greatly appreciated) was devoted to recognizing the author of "The KNEE" column which has been appearing regularly in TOOT for the past twenty five years. While one might groan at the puns and attempts to describe the antics and gossip about members of PVS, this column has attracted a wide following among its readers.

The event was highlighted by a proclamation of "The KNEE Day," a presentation of a trophy from Lu Beale to the King of Korn (shown in photo above), an album of KNEE articles, a special song written for the occasion, and a decorated cake with KNEE logo (on the lower right hand side of this page).

(more on this historic event on pages 2 and 8)

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Monthly Meeting
At the Waddick's
Tuesday October 19 7:30 PM
 1605 N. Howard St. Alexandria, VA
 (703) 751-3143

Join us for this first monthly meeting after the summer recess at the Waddick's in Alexandria just off Shirley Highway (I-395).

Directions: Take Shirley Highway (I-395 inside the Beltway) to Exit 4 Seminary Rd East. Proceed about 0.6 miles east on Seminary Rd (four traffic lights) to N. Howard St and turn **left** (Hospital will be on the right at this intersection). The second house on the right on N. Howard St. is the Waddick's (1605 N Howard St). Park in the driveway or drive past the house to the first street, Maple Tree Court. Turn right into Maple Tree Court and park on the street. (Maple Tree Court is a cul-de-sac with public street parking.)

A map can be generated by clicking [here](#) by those receiving TOOT by email in most formats and currently connected to the Internet.



The KNEE 25th AnnKNEEversary

From Lucrece Beale on the occasion of the Knee's 25th anniversary

In 1979 I had the dubious pleasure of being among The Knee's first editors. I say dubious pleasure but actually in one word it was 'hell!'

Have you ever seen The Knee take out a scrap of paper from his breast shirt pocket and scribble a few words of so-called fiddle-faddle? This is why the Knee sounds like fiddle-faddle - because when he goes to read it he can't make it out!

However, I was just a lowly new PVSer. The Knee was Mr. PVS himself so I certainly couldn't talk back to him or correct him. Until one day on a plane returning from France, he gave me

the entire Knee written on the front and back of a match book! In tears, I went up to Bob Wyckoff and said what can I do with this? I can't read a word of it! And Bob said, tell him it's unacceptable. That was a new word for me. So when I returned down the aisle I gave the matchbook back to Ray and said "This is unacceptable." And he said"ok." And that was the beginning of a long, ultimately successful editorial relationship.

In return for 25 years of Korn Pone, I hereby present this token of an abiding friendship to my dear and good friend, Ray.

(slightly abridged version of proclamation below:)

With this instrument, we the members of Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc, through their duly elected directors and officers, hereby proclaim this day to be known and remembered by all persons of faith and having a sense of humor, along with an uncanny knack for the beauty of the outdoors, the mountains of the world, and the skiable slopes everywhere, as

THE KNEE DAY

IN HONOR OF THE INCOMPARABLE AUTHOR OF THE ONE-AND-ONLY LITERARY COLUMN, **THE KNEE**, WHO FOR A REMARKABLE PERIOD OF **TWENTY FIVE YEARS**, has benefited his fellow members with his wit, his insight, and revelations of the most critically important news stories of the day. Our genial author-reporter-confidant has unselfishly labored incessantly for an incredible **THREE HUNDRED MONTHS** to enrich the lives of his fellow members and friends. He has uniquely succeeded informing and amusing at the same time, to make our wait for his monthly column as much of an agony as an anticipated pleasure.

Our indebtedness to **THE KNEE**, a **k a Ray McKinley**, has greatly exceeded our ability to adequately and appropriately return the favor. While we pledge ourselves to be providers of suitable grist for the KNEE's mill, we will seek inputs of Cocknee, Horknee, Wee-knee and more, and we will honor and cherish for ever more the real KNEE, our friend and benefactor, **RAY the KNEE**.

GIVEN and PROCLAIMED THIS BEAUTIFUL KNEEDAY, 21 September, in the year of the knee, two thousand and four, in the City of Washington, Dee CeeKnee.

(composed by David Abraham)

The KNEE by Bigfoot (aka Ray) January 1979 The very first column

The Knee creaks, and knows all, and tells all - or at least 73%. Starting now and throughout 1979 we'll be kneedling PSVers. Let's start with our President. Ray, please tell us you were misquoted in the Globe Papers. We are Potomac Valley Skiers not Potomac Valley Ski Club. And how come you tell us that we're THE club for skiers and you tell the media that we mainly offer "steak and swim parties, hikes, and beach parties."? Get your act together, Pres!

The Knee really liked the Wyckoff's Christmas card with three skiers on the front... wasn't the third one Bob Grasley rapidly coming up from behind?

A hard tip of the ol' Knee Cap to Dick King. Dick is one of the founding father persons (the Knee is not sexist) of PVS and is leaving our area for—horror of all skiers horrors—Colorado! Good luck, Dick—Keep 'em bent.

Who was it that Lu Beale was following to the PVS Christmas party? We understand it was Alice

Swalm. Alice is the wrong person to follow—anywhere. She's the only person ever to get lost and miss one of Bob Wyckoff's buses. And we understand she even gets lost trying to find her living room! One thing Alice CAN find is the Finish Line. Of some 1700 people in the National Symphony Five-Mile run last month she finished third in her category. And she's only been jogging since June. Right on!

And finally, the Knee's Kneedle of the month (or possibly of the year) goes to Bob Marx. (In order to preserve Bob's anonymity we'll only use his initials.) Well... in October, BM volunteered to do the major work of getting together TOOT starting in November. But in November BM was on a business trip so B's lovely wife Jan (or J) had to put TOOT together. When it was time to do the December TOOT, B was also on a trip. And guess where B was on January 4th and 5th? Right - on a business trip. Way to volunteer, B! Any trips planned for February?

Future Local Events



Oktoberfest **Sat October 2**

When: at 3:00 p.m. Rain or Shine
Call: Mary Ward & Jim Slack
At 703-754-8814 or

MaryAndJim@termineigh.com to check for last minute space availability.



Blue Knob - Fall Foliage Weekend **Sat-Mon, Oct 9-11.**

WHERE: Betty Lawrence's lodge at Blue Knob, Pennsylvania

LOTS TO DO: hiking, flea markets, antiquing, railroad museum, Spa

COST: approximately \$10/person/night, two nights minimum.

Accommodations limited

HOW: Call the hostess with the mostest, Betty Lawrence at (703) 626-3699.



PVS Monthly Meeting **Tues Oct. 19 7:30 PM**



Frank Shelburne Memorial Hike **Fri Oct 29 10:30 AM**

Frank would have considered this a really wimpy hike, but hey! If we had a real Frank Shelburne hike, nobody would come! So we will be walking 3 or 4 wimpy miles along the W&OD Trail from Falls Church into Arlington with lunch on return At 1 PM at the Pilin Thai, a very nice moderately-priced restaurant at the intersection of Broad & Washington St, otherwise know as the intersection of Rte. US 29 (Lee Highway) and VA 7 (Leesburg Pike). To reach the restaurant take thje Rte 7 East exist from I-66 and go about one mile, and then turn left into the free municipal parking lot just before the intersection with Rte. US 29. If you are planning to walk or just join the group for lunch, call Shirley Rettig at (703) 836-0147 on the day of the walk. If there are no calls, she won't be there!



Annual Chili Hike **Sat November 6**

This is the 19th anniversary of the PVS Chili Hike and it will be held on Saturday,

November 6. Meet at 1:30 at

the Great Falls Visitor's Center, Virginia side. After hiking through the gorgeous wilderness along the river and the falls just a few miles from the White House, we'll have a hot and not-so-hot chili supper at Ray and Nancy McKinley's house. The fall foliage should be perfect! All are welcome to hike (but call to sign up so that we don't miss anyone) but space for chili is limited. Call Ray or Nancy at 703 527 7126 to sign up for hiking and/or to reserve a place at the chili supper and also to sign up to bring an appetizer, salad or dessert. Cost for supper will be about \$8.

Join us!



Left: PVS Chili Hikers last year with Great Falls in background.



Bicycling Gourmet **Glen Echo to Potomac** **Thurs Nov 11, 2004**

Via MacArthur Blvd. Bikepath for cappuccino/rest stop at the Vie de France bakery in Potomac with (optional) beer/Irish coffee on return at the Irish Inn at Glen Echo. Come join us for last ride of the year.

Details in Nov. TOOT



New York RADIO CITY **Christmas Spectacular** **Sat November 13, 2004**

We have a waiting list in case of cancellation. If interested, call Wilma Sharer, 301-975-9411, or e-mail

wilma@sharerassociates.com

Reviews of Previous Events



Event Review: National Air and Space Museum (Udvar-Hazy Center)

On Saturday morning, September 25, 25 PVSers drove through the last local rain of hurricane IVAN for a 1½ hour guided tour of the new Udvar-Hazy

Center of the National Air and Space Museum located on the south edge of Dulles International Airport. We broke up into two groups for better personal contact with our docents. The museum building resembles a huge dirigible hanger with a ceiling ten stories high so that aircraft can be displayed on the floor and on two levels suspended from the ceiling. Our tour concentrated on the more memorable items such as the Space Shuttle Enterprise, the Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird (a Mach 3 reconnaissance (spy) aircraft capable of flying from Los Angeles to Washington in less than 65 minutes), the B-29 superfortress bomber Enola

Gay (which delivered the atomic bomb in World War II and which could formerly only be displayed as a partial fuselage section in the Air/Space Museum on the Mall), and a "retired" Air France Concorde supersonic passenger plane. In addition, we did view a Piper J-3 Cub, a small but widely used civil airplane and one in which our tour organizer Barbara Leonhardt trained and flew. This plane was adapted for use in World War II for artillery-spotting and observation and was fitted with bazooka anti-tank rockets to become a "tank-buster." After the tour we split up to go the futuristic observation tower, an IMAX theater, or to Wegman's super-gourmet market café for lunch.

Thanks again, Barbara, for organizing a great tour.
submitted by Sheldon Drews (retired Navy pilot).



Washington Post Newsroom Tour

On September 13 nine PVSers and a friend toured the Washington Post

newsroom on 15th Street NW. Eight members of the group enjoyed a pleasant lunch at the Mayflower Hotel prior to the tour. The tour started with a video showing highlights of the Post's history and a visit to a small museum featuring a linotype machine and other print-related artifacts. The public relations staff member who led the tour pointed out that the Post is a local newspaper serving a metropolitan area that happens to include the nation's capitol. The metro staff is the largest

of the Post's news groups. The highlight of the tour was a walk through the Post's newsroom, where we observed enclosed offices for the editorial staff and open cubicles housing the news staff. Our tour leader said that this arrangement encouraged interaction among the news staff and discouraged interaction between the editorial staff and the news staff.

Thanks to Jessma Blockwick for organizing this interesting event. We're now looking forward to a follow-up tour of one of the Post's printing facilities.

Submitted by Ruth Powers



Biketoberfest- Sept 23

Review of Bicycling Gourmet Ride

Perfect cycling weather with sunny weather and temperature in the 70's. Five PVSers in the group of 13 enjoyed the relatively flat ride on the W&OD Trail from Sterling to the cappuccino/rest stop in Leesburg followed by a speedy return for lunch at the Old Dominion BrewPub, which is just off the Trail for cyclists, but difficult to find by auto. Oktoberfest brew was on tap.

Left: Photo at Leesburg rest stop.

PVSers David Abraham, Ruth Powers, and Marvin Hass

SNOWMASS/BEAVER CREEK 2005

Join the Potomac Valley Skiers' year after year favorite trip. Ski Snowmass for up to six days and go on to Beaver Creek for an additional three days skiing. We leave from Dulles on January 20 and fly into Aspen airport. Return on January 27 from Aspen to Dulles. For those going on to Beaver Creek, we motor coach to Beaver Creek from Snowmass on January 27 and return to Dulles on January 31 from Eagle Airport. All inclusive this year are: pre and post trip parties, après ski parties, group dinners, air fare lift tickets, breakfast and lunch at Snowmass, slope side access from hotels, arrangement for ski rental [which can be dropped at Beaver Creek], great camaraderie and more. Equipment rental and insurance available but not included.

Ski Snowmass with all of its **blue** and **green** runs along with a plentiful number of **black** runs for the more adventurous skier. The lift ticket is honored at Aspen,

Aspen Highlands, and Buttermilk in addition to the Snowmass area. Ski Vail in addition to Beaver Creek.

At Snowmass, we again are staying at the Mountain Chalet which has become the Club favorite and at Beaver Creek we stay at the Beaver Creek Lodge in mini- suites which contain a sitting area, small refrigerator and microwave. We hope to schedule an event at Beano's Cabin at your option and a group dinner included as well. On the way to Beaver Creek, we will stop at Glenwood Springs for shopping, lunch and the springs for those interested.

All of the above for \$1,911 for the Snowmass portion and \$2,995 for both Snowmass and Beaver Creek. Land only, deduct \$499; non skiers deduct \$220. Add the sixth ski day at Snowmass for \$38. Your trip leaders again this year are Gene and Wilma Sharer. Contact Wilma at 301-975-9411 or at wilma@sharerassociates.com

[Snowmass full, but check with leader for last minute possibilities]

February 12-19, 2005, join Nancy and Ray McKinley to Ski



THREE SPACES LEFT!

We continue to look for new areas that PVS will love and hasn't visited. We've found a true gem in Sun Peaks, Canada's newest destination resort. "Big" describes Sun Peaks--**big fun, hospitality, mountain, terrain and vertical** and a charming, Tyrolean, car-free village that twinkles under alpine starlight. Float effortlessly through snow so light it hangs in the crisp air. Cruise, down award-winning trails. Sunny skies complemented by sunny smiles. Let your spirits soar! The Resort logs an average of 2,000 hours of sunshine. Combined with 220" of dry snow and an average mid-winter temp. of 20 to 25 degrees F, make Sun Peaks a favorite ski holiday

We're at **Olympic Gold & Silver Medallist Nancy Greene's Cahilty Lodge**. It includes **heated tile floors in the bathrooms and kitchens**, convenient ski in/ski out location, There are **2 hot tubs** and a work-out room. We have **full, hot Canadian Breakfasts daily**. Nancy Greene hosts our welcoming reception and a 2-hour mountain ski tour. The Lodge offers many room types. We selected Studios featuring 1 or 2 queen beds, TV, VCR, kitchen, most with fireplace, and bath. We also offer Hotel rooms and larger rooms.

Access is a piece of cake! We fly from Reagan National on Alaska Air non-stop to Seattle, leaving at a civilized 9 am. A brief layover to switch flights gets us to Kamloops, and then to the resort, by 2:30 pm. Wow! Aside from air, lodging and 5 of 6 day lifts Our trip also includes **3 dinners, happy hours, pre & post trip parties, bus & bellman tips, etc.**

GREAT PRICES - \$1,732; 65+ \$1,685; LAND ONLY \$1,173, \$36 less in Hotel Room

This year due to air schedules we have only 30 spaces. To reserve, send your check for \$250 per person payable to Ray McKinley and send it to McKinley's, 2326 N Upton Street, Arlington, VA 22207-4045. Please call us for a copy of our flyer and lots more information at (703) 527-7126.

2005 Ski Trips



Come along to **SEE and SKI** the
MAMMOTH

We will have a new adventure...and a FUN time.
Ask other PVSers who have been there. They loved it.

Saturday, March 19 to Saturday, March 26

- > Seniors 65 and over = \$1,313
- > Land only = \$1,020
- > Single supplement is \$480

LOTS of skiing for all levels on 3,500 acres of snow. 15% expert, 20% advanced, 40% intermediate, 25% beginner. 27 lifts including 2 gondolas.--- Average snowfall = 385"--- Base elevation is a comfortable: 7,900 feet; the top elevation is 11,000 feet: and 3,100 vertical feet.

THE TRIP INCLUDES: Round trip United Air Lines from Dulles to Reno

~ Round trip bus from Reno to Mammoth Lakes

- ~ 6 nights at the *Shilo Inn* on Main St in Mammoth Lakes (breakfasts included)
- ~ 1 night at the *Sands* in Reno (Maybe you can win and pay for the trip!)
- ~ 5 day lift tickets, out of 7 possible skiing days – *option for the 6th day.*
- ~ Welcome wine and cheese party
- ~ 2 group dinners; 3 Après ski parties
- ~ Baggage handling, transfers, and hotel gratuities

>>>> Send \$250 deposit, payable to **Marty Rine**, >>>>>
Marty Rine, 5256 Lonsdale Dr, Springfield, VA 22151
or call **703-978-0179 <<<<<**

Marty Rine = martyski@erols.com

Jan Marx = jebbmarx@aol.com

SKI MAMMOTH

WISP DEMO DAYS Jan 12, 13, & 14, 2005 Call WISP to reserve your room and for the Ski Chalet demo day rate Room rate/night (12 & 13) \$69 + \$6.21 tax Area user fee \$4. Voucher for Thursday lift ticket \$2 (free over 70). Coordinate with Charles Huggins (301) 404-5726 if you are going so he can plan après Ski on Wed and Thurs nights and buy your vouchers at Ski Chalet. Additional details in November TOOT.



Making PVS tick

Left: Eloise and Mike Strand

The Strands hosted the September monthly meeting of PVS at their attractive home in South Rockville. This was not an easy task considering the large turnout of over 50. Mike Strand is also serving PVS as a member of ExCom and tackling the Herculean task of revising the bylaws. Their efforts on behalf of PVS are greatly appreciated.



THE KNEE

By Ray McKinley

The end of summer is upon us. Leaves will soon be turning, and many are sad. But not PVS! Our time of year is coming. And the

Knee, for one, is raring to go. On September 21, the last full day of summer, Utah's Wasatch Mountains had almost 6 inches of snow. I think this is a bit like planting seed in the spring and hoping it will grow into something wonderful. In a few months, it will!

Let me start with the bad news. For those of you who don't get PVS e-mails, dearest friend Lu Beale's cancer has returned with a vengeance. She is now in a hospice and extremely weak. She cannot take visitors or telephone calls. However, she still loves to receive our letters, cards or e-mails (lubeale@starpower.net). Daughter Mary or son David read them to her. Lu particularly likes to hear about people's foibles at old PVS events

The Knee was overwhelmed—OK I was whelmed—by the tribute to my 25 years writing this column. It happened at the September meeting, cake, trophy and the entire shebang! And it is plastered over the front two pages of this TOOT. A tip of the 'ol Knee Cap to all of those who wrote the bad Knee-puns (which are, of course, Japaknees!) Those include—but are not limited to, David Abraham, Jessma Blockwick, Marilyn Clark, Nancy and some particularly joyous, albeit incorrect, words from Lu Beale. I didn't write an entire Knee on a matchbook, Lu. It was an Air France cocktail napkin.

A bit of historknee: The Knee has been around for over 25 years. (307 columns—but who is counting.) For the most part, it has attempted to be a gossip (and hopefully humorous) column. The first column, in January, 1979 did not have a byline. Starting in February and for a year I was under my pseudoKneem, Big Foot (as in Big Foot in mouth).

This was done because of my in-depth reporting and constant muckraking journalism. I was more than a little reticent (I was a big reticent) to reveal my name. I feared attribution—I mean retribution. By the time the Knee, as they say in

the spy business, came in from the cold (or perhaps in the ski business going out into the cold is more appropriate), the Knee's identiknee was the club's worst kept secret. Only Janet Marx didn't know.

Here is the Knee's passing comment on the ski scene, "Woosh."

Two newly wounded at the September meeting: Emmi Plowman's foot was in a brace, as she broke it gardening. And applicant Ellie Thayer's left arm was in a cast as she broke it skiing—er jogging on the Mall. To use a technical term, yucko! And one recovering: Jack Peoples was there just six weeks after he had a kidknee—ouch removed. Sorry Jack, but it's my column!

New member Ilse Keel is off to France for a week. Ilse will then meet up with Margaret Wyckoff for touring in Egypt and Jordan. Wow.

A little less adventurous, Judy and Vince Macaluso are finishing two weeks in Italy. And Pat Tengel is sporting a new string of pearls purchased on her recent trip to Japan.

Skiing rules! Did you see the latest from the census? Neither Fairfax nor Montgomery County is the richest in the nation by per capita (that means counting each persons' hats) income. It's Douglas County, outside Denver and the gateway to skiing!

Here's a Knee word to the wise. Tossing your salad is better than tossing your cookies.

Ubiquitous PVS—again: Marion Webb ran into Nat Seeman at her sister-in-law Karin Webb's son's wedding. (Did you get that? I will ask questions later) Nat skied regularly at Winter Park with the brides grandfather. I believe this makes Marion and Nat 3rd generation, deputy, associate step uncle and aunt in laws twice removed.

Yes, that was June Read-Martin sporting a great black eye recently. She tried to blame it on the Harley Davidson convention. But it happened when June tripped bringing in some tomatoes.

Second passing comment on the ski scene, "On your left."

A tip of the old Kneecap also goes to Suzanne Boisclair. Two years ago Suzanne gave up wind surfing. Now she is taking roller blading lessons. Roller blading lessons—yup.

CALENDAR

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Oct 2 Sat Oktoberfest - Catharpin, VA
 Oct 19 Tues PVS monthly meeting at Waddick's
 Oct 26 Tues ExCom meeting at Heitchue's
 Oct 29 Fri Frank Shelburne Hike
 Nov 6 Sat Chili Hike
 Nov 11 Thurs Bicycling Gourmet
 Nov 13 Sat New York Radio City
 Nov 16 Tues PVS Monthly meeting at Finan/Welti's
 Nov 23 Tues ExCom meeting -- To Be Announced
 Jan 12, 13, 14 WISP Demo Days

PVS Ski Trips	
Jan 20-27, 2005	Snowmass
Jan 27-31, 2005	Beaver Creek
Feb 12-19 2005	Sun Peaks
Mar 19-25 2005	Mammoth

Change of postal or email address:

Call Wilma at (301) 975-9411
 or send email message to
info@potomacvalleyski.org

E-mail Notice

If you want to start receiving
 Toot electronically, please let me know.
 Thanks, Jan = jebbmarx@aol.com.

CURRENT PVS BOARD & OFFICERS -2004-05

President – *Reg Heitchue*
 Vice President – *David Abraham*
 Secretary- *Dottie Villers*
 Treasurer – *Ray Jones*
 Membership- *Wilma Sharer*
 Program Cmte Chair –
 David Abraham
 Events – *Ray McKinley*

Mid-week Events – *Jessma Blockwick*
 Ski Trip Cmte Chair – *Bob Marx*
 TOOT Editor – *Jan Marx*
 TOOT Proofreader – *Bob Marx*
 TOOT Mailer – *Marilyn Clark*
 Meeting Records – *Sara Huggins*
 Historians – *Lu Beale & Jan Marx*
 Webmaster – *Marvin Hass*

EXCOM:

First Term:

Marilyn Clark
Dave DeVilbiss
Mike Strand

Second Term:

John Brunelli
Ray McKinley
Dottie Villers

An adaptation of the PVS theme song to celebrate 25 years of the KNEE

(to the tune of "There's a Tavern in the Town")

There's a ski club in the town—PVS!
 And it's the ski club in the town—PVS!
 And tonight's a special aKNEEversary
 25 years of Ray McKinley's KNEE!
 Every month we look for KNEE-puns
 And they usually are pretty KNEAT ones
 For our Ray is not a KNEEophyte—

no KNEEophyte
 Watch the Knee to keep us going—yes agoing
 Gossip and puns to keep aflowing—
 This is not a time to KNEE-gate
 25 more years we do await.
 Here's to Ray!

(lyrics by Jessma Blockwick)

This October issue of TOOT has been assembled by Marvin Hass in the absence of Jan Marx, the regular editor who is currently touring the Western US with Bob. The November issue will also be assembled by Marvin. Copy can be sent to info@potomacvalleyski.org