

VOLUME 45
NUMBER 12

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

DECEMBER 2010

www.potomacvalleyskiers.org

info@pvskiers.org

Seasons Greetings Members and Applicants,

As I sit at my desk in my lower level office Saturday afternoon with gas fireplace turned on for the first time, while enjoying this relaxing four-day weekend, I'm reminded that the cold weather means our ski season is upon us. But before I go that direction, let me first say I hope you and yours had an enjoyable Thanksgiving with family and friends. It is such a special Holiday. Three weeks ago 64 PVSers celebrated the 45th anniversary of the founding of our club in style and camaraderie. And on December 14 we'll be gathering again for our Holiday party at the home of the Mahallatis in Herndon, VA. See that write-up later in the TOOT, but remember to bring a dish for this fun event.

Looking forward to our first ski trip of the season (now full), I found that both Snowmass and Aspen (Ajax) opened on Thanksgiving Day after a big dump of powder that the locals were looking forward to in a huge way. The other two Aspen ski areas, Buttermilk and Aspen Highlands, are scheduled to open December 11. Steamboat, the location of our second ski trip for 2011, is now open as well.

As of last Wednesday I am now the proud owner of those "cool" white ski boots that Brian Eardley was presenting to us at our November meeting (my personal favorite) at the Ski Center just over the DC line. My friend and PVS member Ingrid Dallaire also made the plunge and bought new ski boots and, much to her surprise, skis. I do so enjoy helping my friends buy their ski equipment. It's amazing how easy and much fun it is, as Brian tells you his inside jokes and will sometimes convince you that you don't even need new boots. I found out that in his spare time, besides demo-ing ski equipment all over the country for Ski magazine and others, Brian is also the director of ski racing at Liberty Mountain.

Speaking of Liberty Mountain, did you know as of November 27th, you could buy an Advantage Card for an individual for \$119 for the season? This gives you 40% off lift tickets and your 6th one is free. Check out the savings and more information at <http://www.skiliberty.com/lmr/mountain/advantage-card.aspx>. I'm told that between the hours of 8am and noon Liberty is much less crowded with very good conditions on many days.

So much for now! There's a lot more good stuff to come in this issue of the TOOT published by temporary editor, Jan Marx. Thank you Jan!

Happy Holidays and see you all on the 14th for our PVS Holiday party!

Fondly,

Sharon



Annual Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 14 at 7:30

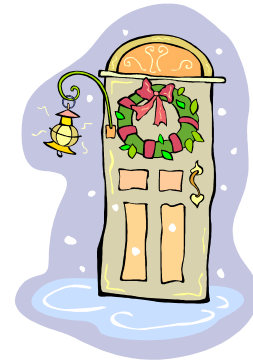
Lee and Sal Mahalatti

Herdon, VA



Join us for Holiday Spirit and taste the delightful appetizers and desserts prepared by your fellow skiers at the Virginia home of:

Lee and Sal Mahallati
11595 Cedar Chase Rd
Herndon, VA 20170
703-444-6697
LeenSal@msn.com



Bring: One of your favorite appetizers, desserts, or holiday goodies to share.
Beverages will be provided, and the usual fee will be collected when you sign in.

From Maryland:

Take the beltway, **I-495, toward Northern VA.**
Take exit **45A / DULLES AIRPORT** onto **VA 267 W** (toll) – go **1.8** miles.
Take exit **16 / LEESBURG PIKE W (RT 7 W)** towards **LEESBURG** – go **7.1** miles.
Turn left on **RESTON AVE (PAST Reston Pkwy)** – go **< 0.1** mile.
Turn right on **CEDAR CHASE RD** - go **0.2** mile.
Arrive at **11595 CEDAR CHASE RD, HERNDON**, on the left.

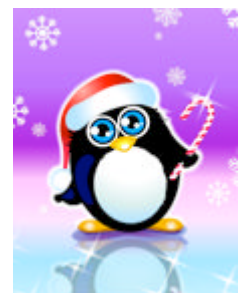
From VA

From the beltway, **I-495 N**,
Take left exit **45 / DULLES AIRPORT** onto **VA 267 W** (toll) – go **1.8** miles.
Take exit **16 / LEESBURG PIKE W (RT 7 W)** towards **LEESBURG** – go **7.1** miles.
Turn left on **RESTON AVE (PAST Reston Pkwy)** – go **< 0.1** mile.
Turn right on **CEDAR CHASE RD** - go **0.2** mile.
Arrive at **11595 CEDAR CHASE RD, HERNDON**, on the left.

From DC

Take the **G.WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PKY N** – go **10.5** miles.
Take left ramp onto **I-495 S** toward **RICHMOND** – go **1.3** miles.
Take exit **16 / LEESBURG PIKE W (RT 7 W)** towards **LEESBURG** – go **7.1** miles.
Turn left on **RESTON AVE (PAST Reston Pkwy)** – go **< 0.1** mile.
Turn right on **CEDAR CHASE RD** - go **0.2** mile.
Arrive at **11595 CEDAR CHASE RD, HERNDON**, on the left.

**When you enter the community, the house is the 6th on the left.
Park only on the left side of the street.**





Keystone Trip

Has been cancelled

It was scheduled for December 11 - 18, 2010

Even though the trip is cancelled, Dick is planning to be at Keystone during these dates. Contact him if interested in going at that time (H) 703-777-9374 (C) 571-426-3098 dick.comerford@verizon.net





SNOWMASS 2011



Wednesday, January 19-26, 2011

WAITLISTED! PVS returns to our "Old Faithful" Colorado ski resort with reduced pricing in 2011. We will again stay at Snowmass Mountain Chalet with its ski-in ski-out convenience, the welcoming staff, and the many amenities of the Aspen environ. Place your name on the wait list for this PVS favorite!

Contact Carolyn, 703-370-4865 (Carolyn.maurer@verizon.net), or Sharon, 301-330-2953 (shank@mrisc.com), immediately, if interested.

Carolyn's address: Carolyn DeVilbiss, 4508 Peacock Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304.

Check out the lower rates this year!

Full package, including air: \$1938
Land only: \$1494
Single Supplement: +\$886

www.mountainchalet.com
www.aspensnowmass.com





Steamboat Springs

February 17 - 23, 2011

A hardy bunch of sixteen skiers is going to Steamboat. The trip is now closed.

Cara Jablon, 4573 Indian Rock Terrace, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20007

202-333-5332 or rcjablon@aol.com

The [Potomac Valley Skiers](#) week of skiing in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, is going to be a grand time. We are staying in the **STEAMBOAT GRAND**, a premier hotel a short 100-yard walk from the high-speed gondola, with complimentary ski storage slope side. It has an outdoor heated pool and two hot tubs, sauna, full service spa and fitness center, in-room coffee makers and flat screen TVs, and wireless internet.

Members Corner



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

Daisy & Buddy Beale Hike the Goldmine Trail:

We invited our mistress, Mary Beale, on a terrific hike on the Gold Mine Trail, which is several miles long. Most 2-legged visitors to Great Falls, Maryland don't



get away from the canal or the river or even the trail. Since we more or less follow Mary, we get to make side trips off the trail when our leashes are removed. However, we return in short order to relieve her anxiety



about her charges. We find cool woods with wide paths away from the crowds. The trails are excellent for running, though some hills are a bit steep for vertically challenged 4-legged folks. Rocks also occasionally

mine the path. Mining of a different sort was labored over near the intersection of Falls Road and MacArthur Boulevard. Gold, over 5,000 ounces worth, was mined there and extracted through a chemical process. The mining went on from 1900-1939. Passing by the site, you can see the remains of the old building, which was used, and also a water tower. It's all off-limits for direct exploration and enclosed within a chain-linked fence for safety's sake. The mine shaft itself can be very dangerous, and we were very careful.

This mostly tree-covered route starts at the old Tavern. The trail intersects with the old trolley line. The trolley and tracks, long ago removed, took visitors to the falls from the city. The Falls Road Spur Trail will eventually appear. If you wish to actually see the gold mine site, take this to detour further up the hill. You can return the way you came via the trolley line. On the longer route, the Angler's Spur Trail descends along a ridge before steepening at the bottom. We spotted several deer and a fox near here – tall folks. Upon hitting the gravel road, turn right. It's flat. Good views of the Widewater are visible through breaks in the trees. Turn left going over a bridge for the canal and head back to the start on the towpath. Wow, what an outing we had! I think our mistress enjoyed it too; she's the greatest!

runcd.com/Doc/MD/Montgomery/C&OGreatFalls.htm

~Daisy & Buddy

TOOT Distribution to 157 members:

-pdf: 103; MS-Word: 22; USPS: 10; Text (Att.): 2
-147 members (93.6%) receive electronic TOOTs.

Roster Changes: notify dwarthen@verizon.net

-Rosemary Soler (address & phone)

Sunrise of Rockville

8 Baltimore Road #301

Rockville, MD 20850-4604

301-610-6783

-David & Susan Payne

19 Carol Court (permanent residence)

Endwell, NY 13760-1572

607-727-1190 c (only access)

800 North Tamiami Trail (November-May residence)

Alinari Unit #301

Sarasota, FL 34236-4001

Thanks To:

-TOOT Layout Editor – Jan Marx

-TOOT Content/Proof Editor – Ellie Thayer

-TOOT USPS Distribution – Barb Leonhardt

Happy Holidays!



Past Events



OUR 45th GALA



The PVS 45th Anniversary Celebration and Gala took place on November 6th at the Bolger Center in Potomac, Maryland.

Festivities included food, drink and entertainment. All were treated to Hors D'Oeuvres including Tandoori Chicken Satay and Mozzarella/Tomato Crostini at the Fireplace Lounge. The dining room had formal yet homey décor with votives on each table.

Dinner included a choice of three entrees followed by the "program." Our President Sharon Mulholland recognized the past PVS Presidents in attendance: Larry Pease, Ray McKinley, Gail Pease, Sheldon Drews, Jan Marx, Bill Anderson, Nancy McKinley, Reg Heitchue, Mike Strand and Dottie Villers. Ray McKinley, our EmCee for the evening, provided a historical retrospect on the



origin of PVS and recognized two of the Charter Members present: Glade Flake and Larry Pease. And then "On With the Show."

A visual presentation of past on and off-the slopes activities over the club's first 40 years was shown thanks to the skills of Marvin Hass. A complimentary slide show covering the last five years was provided by Ellie Thayer, Jack Chapman, and Susan Payne. Jan Marx, an official speaker, provided a historical perspective followed by Mike Strand with more recent membership observations.



With minimal rehearsal (this writer observed) The PVS Chorale, led by "Chorale Master" Nancy McKinley serenaded us with a medley of tunes borrowing the music from show tunes (OK, the Roy Rogers theme song WAS there) with lyrics and an original tune by Marianne Cook who stood and was given applause. The "songbirds" included Rosemary Schwartzbard, Jan Marx, Dottie Villers, Eloise Strand, Ellie Thayer, Liz Boulton-Warren, Ray McKinley, and Nancy McKinley.

Thank you to the Anniversary Committee for organizing this special event: Janet Marx, Ray McKinley, Rachel Abraham, Suzanne Boisclair, Betty Lawrence, and Ellie Thayer.

PVSers are World Travelers

As our elegantly dressed members mingled in the Fireplace Lounge some noticed a world map on an easel. Stick pins were provided with the request to identify where you had traveled in the last 2 years. Boy, have we been around! Every continent welcomed PVS members. We traveled to Australia, Antarctica, South America, Southern Africa, many places in Europe (East and West), Russia, Turkey, Israel, Serbia, India, South Korea, All over China and (good to learn) all over the USA.



It was a joyous time visiting with seldom-seen and far-traveled friends such as Charlie Gordon, Mary Ward, Jim Slack, Keith Lyon, Ron and Nancy Ewing, and Greg Gell (Gail Pease's son), and Genee and Charles Boykin.

Frank Shelburne Memorial Hike



This year's hike was held on October 28 in Seneca Creek State Park, where Sharon Mulholland, Ingrid Dellaire, Ellie Thayer, Jack Chapman, Charlie Huggins, and Ruth Powers hiked around Lake Clopper. The weather was beautiful, in the 70's, allowing us to hike in short sleeves. This was very unlike the cold weather we experienced two years ago, when the temperature was 40! In addition to the healthy exercise, we were rewarded with lovely scenery, including colorful trees reflected in the lake and sightings of many geese. The path was partly obscured by leaves, but Charlie took the lead and kept us on the path. We all made it around the lake with no problems, including Ellie, who was recovering from a fall while running, and Sharon, who was recovering from a muscle pain in her hip.

Following the hike we enjoyed a delicious lunch and more socializing at the Vasilis Mediterranean Grill in Kentlands. Thanks to Sharon for organizing this delightful hike and for arranging the great weather.

by Ruth Powers



NOVEMBER MEETING AT THE SKI CENTER

Twenty-seven members and applicants attended our annual ski equipment demonstration meeting at the Washington Ski Center on November 16, 2010. The meeting started with some delicious small sandwiches, appetizers, and wine courtesy of Eloise and her helpers. There was time for everyone to look at all the beautiful new clothes, skis, boots, and accessories in the shop.



Brian Eardley then gave his excellent discussion and demonstration of what is new in ski boots, skis, and other equipment. The new ski boots are going back to being a little more upright so that you don't have to lean forward so far to ski well - a little help for those of us who are leaning challenged. The newer boots are a little easier to get into than the earlier forward-leaning boots. There are still no rear-entry boots that were so easy to get into available.



The newest popular brands of skis are no longer getting shorter and are just getting a little bit fatter, especially for powder skiing. Although most well-known brands of skis are now made overseas by a small number of "conglomerate" manufacturers who each own several of the popular brands, there are a number of new smaller "micro" ski manufacturers in the U.S. that are developing very innovative types of skis. The "micro" manufacturers make a very small number of skis not very small "micro" skis. A popular feature of many of the skis from these "micro" manufacturers is the very elaborate and dramatic graphics that can be customized to satisfy your desired image. These new and very colorful skis are a big advance in helping you find your skis from the days when all the metal skis were black (like our model T Fords) so that it was almost impossible to find your own skis when they were in the ski racks.



Best of all, the new skis and boots seem to be getting easier to use and to improve your performance regardless of your skill or stamina.

If you would like to try the new skis, Brian mentioned there would be a demo day at Whitetail on January 5, 2011 where you can try some new skis and see how much they improve your skiing.

After Brian's excellent talk, the business part of the meeting reviewed past and current events and ski trips. The report on the 45th anniversary celebration at the Bolger Center on November 6 was that it was fabulous. It was reported that the planned ski trips for this season to Snowmass and Steamboat are going well. The trip to Keystone has been canceled by Dick Comerford because of lack of response.



The meeting concluded with some delicious desserts and coffee.

by John Smith

For Fun

This is Andi (Andra) Duskie, one of our applicant members, and her dog, Linus. The two of them entered a Halloween contest as a ski patrol rescue team. They didn't win, but were interviewed by a local newspaper.



In Memory of Irene Farrell Ragen



Mt. Sutton 1989

PVS recently lost a 30-year member and friend. Irene Farrell Ragen died of a stroke at age 86 in Santa Cruz, California on November 17. Irene was born in Edmonton, Canada and became one of the earliest women to join the Canadian Air Force. She came to Washington during the war years assigned to the Canadian Joint Staff. She married a Yankee and settled in the Washington area, raising a family of two sons and a daughter and kibitzing the rearing of two grandchildren. She retired after 20 years with the Housing Opportunity Commission.

Irene's first ski experience was at the ill-fated Rappahannock Ski area in Little Washington, VA. She had a rather slow start because, for a while, she seemed to suffer a fall (not necessarily on the ski slope) just as each season began and so had to sit the winters out until bones healed and casts were removed. Finally past these hurdles, Irene joined SCWDC where she met Tony and Rosemary Soler and others who introduced her to PVS to her great pleasure...and ours. She ventured with PVS on many European and Western trips, as well as multiple times to Mt. Sutton in the 1980s and 1990s. Her first major ski area that became her favorite is Squaw Valley, CA, not far from her daughter's home.

Irene served as PVS Secretary for much of her PVS years. She frequently coordinated events, especially bike hikes, arranged special-priced purchases of club pins, hats, sweatshirts, etc. and was a frequent contributor to TOOT. During the off-season, she played tennis three times a week, took regular strenuous mountain hikes, and bicycled almost every weekend. Irene remarried and she and hubby Jack Ragen moved to Arizona some 10 years ago and, in 2008, to a retirement community in Santa Cruz, CA.

Irene is survived by Jack and her three children, Bobby Farrell and wife Pattie, Mike Farrell and wife Mary, and Elaine Love and husband Stan. Her granddaughters JoAnna and Laura will always treasure their adventures together with grandma. Her great granddaughter Valerie shares many of her dance moves. She is also survived by her sisters Ethel Wright and Jean Hollinshead of Edmonton, Alberta.

Irene was a live wire in PVS, and a supporter. She was enthusiastic about whatever she was involved with.....you could see it in her eyes. They always sparkled with an almost unworldly glow. Her enthusiasm for life showed through her eyes. They were wonderful. Irene will be sorely missed.



Irene & Betty Comerford 2003



*Compiled by Ray and Nancy McKinley,
Jan Marx, and Barb Leonhardt*



THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley
RaysKnee@gmail.com

My God! It's December, ski season is upon us, and the Kⁿe^e is simply not ready. Einstein was correct, time is relative, the older one gets, the faster it moves. Yippee! Luckily Marvin Hass keeps me up to date. He reports Loveland Ski Area opened October 24, the second year in a row it's the first Colorado resort to open. (In 2009, Loveland opened on Oct. 7.) Sunday River in Maine opened October 22, and Timberline, in Oregon, started its season Oct. 1. At Lake Tahoe, Califorkⁿe^ea (although he really lives in R^kn^ee^o, Kⁿe^evada) Bill Hager reports that many resorts are now open.

PLEASE send your Knee tidbits to my email address above. I'm nothing without you!

After some surgery, Bob McNeill is rarin' to go. He bought new skis and is now in Colorado and likely skied at Arapaho Basin or A Basin, as it's known. The Knee understands that there are expansion plans. Soon there will be a B Basin, and later a series of smaller basinettes. Would the Knee ever report anything inkorectly?

PVS held our fourth meeting at a ski shop. Long time new equipment guru, Brian Eardley, hosted us at Adam Kahane's DC Ski Center. Brian is now one of the ski testers for Ski Magazine. He said that still wider skis are the in thing this year. Kerry Hines said that wider is in for many skiers, too. Fat chance!

Congrats to Kerry. He has finally retired—earlier Kerry had tired.

Last season, Utah had some 4 million skier days (i.e. one person skiing for 1 day). On the other hand, Colorado had 12 million—or three times as many. The Utah folks want to fix this disparity. So they are putting big bucks into improving their ski product. Deer Valley will update on-slope dining and add area. Brighton will add ski area. Park City will update lifts and regrade some runs. And the Canyons is adding the first in the US Quad Chair with a plastic shell over the top and electrically heated seats. The seats raise the temperature 55 degrees above the background. The first hot tush lift!

Great Thanksgiving Adventures: Jack Chapman and Ellie Thayer spent their holiday by taking a long weekend in Rome. They spent last

two Thanksgivings in Amsterdam and Brussels. That's a kneet idea. Perhaps next Thanksgiving they should try a visit to um Turkey. Suzanne Boisclair and Betty Lawrence spent the day, and several others, along the Dalmatian Coast on an Adriatic Cruise. Watch out for the spotted dogs! And shortly thereafter, Melissa Fitzgerald will head to Seattle and Portland to spend the holidays with her son and daughter.

With all of the furor over last year's storms, *la niña* and the upcoming either too snowy or warm winter weather, I called the Liberty Mountain (aka Charnita) folk. **If anyone knew the true poop, it would most certainly be Liberty.** The Knee chatted at length with their prognosticators. Yes, they were aware of *la niña*. It's a Mexican restaurant near Harrisburg. And, no, it wasn't going to affect their planned February season opening.

Dottie Villers earlier said the epitome of an oxymoron is powder and Ski Liberty.

It's reported elsewhere, so the Knee will only state that PVS's 45th Gala was just that. We were gorgeous—resplendent in long gowns and tuxedos! A special tip of the ol' Knee cap to Jan Marx who made it all happen. The club gossip columnist, the Knee understands, also added some witty repartee. It's not true that I have a large Kneego. I'm just really good.

Missing from the Gala were Serge and Liz Triau, as Liz had just had cataract surgery. Also missing was Sue Lyon. Her cousin, a rising young comedian, was in town for the night appearing at the Improv. Right on (stage). And Ellie Thayer was almost late. Earlier in the day, she attended her son's graduate school graduation. And it ran over three hours!

The oldest PVSer attending was 97 year old Marianne Cook, who wrote the PVS anthem which we all sang. This year Marianne has received 5 awards for her service, including one signed by her Member of the House. Right on.

According to Marvin Hass and the Aspen Times, Vail will skirt the \$100 lift ticket this holiday season. A single day ticket will be \$99! Ouch! And they aren't alone at such ridiculous prices. Other resorts in Colorado are sniffing the \$100 price this season. Telluride's single-day lift ticket price will climb to \$98 for the holidays; Steamboat's peak price will be \$97. Outside of Colorado, Deer Valley, Utah, will charge \$94. Stowe, Vt., is sticking to \$89. The top price in Sun Valley, Idaho, is \$85. Yuck!

2010-2011 Calendar

Dec 14 Tue PVS Monthly Meeting & Holiday Party, 7:30 PM (Mahallati, VA)
 Jan 11 Tue ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM (Schwartzbard, VA)
 Jan 16 Sun PVS Monthly AFTERNOON Meeting, 2:00 PM (Holts, VA)
 Feb 9 Wed ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM (Conference Call)
 Feb 27 Sun PVS Monthly AFTERNOON Meeting, 2:00 PM (Jablon, DC)
 Mar 15 Tue PVS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM (Marx, VA)
 Mar 22 Tue ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM (TBA)
 Apr 19 Tue PVS Annual Meeting (TBA)
 Apr 26 Tue ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM (TBA)
 May 17 Tue PVS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 (Knopes, VA)
 May 24 Tue ExCom Meeting, 7:30 PM (TBA)



Ski Trips

January 19-26, 2011 Snowmass (DeVilbiss & Mulholland)

February 17-23, 2011 Steamboat (Jablon)



PVS Board - 2010-2011

Officers, Board Members, & Chairpersons

President – <i>Sharon Mulholland</i> Vice President – <i>Ellie Thayer</i> Secretary – <i>Mary Beale</i> Treasurer – <i>Dick Laeser</i> Ex-Officio – <i>Dottie Villers</i>	EXCOM: <u>First Term:</u> <i>Mary Beale</i> <i>Dick Laeser</i> <i>John Brunelli (1 yr)</i> <u>Second Term:</u> <i>Cara Jablon</i> <i>John Seabold</i> <i>Dick Schwartzbard</i>
Membership Records – <i>Dave Warthen</i> Membership PR Rep – <i>Carolyn DeVilbiss</i> Events – <i>Ray McKinley</i> Ski Trip Comm – <i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i> TOOT Editor – <i>rotating</i> TOOT Proofread – <i>Ellie Thayer</i> TOOT Mailer – <i>rotating</i>	Webmaster – <i>Dave Lerner</i> Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</i> Historian – <i>Jan Marx</i>