

VOLUME XV
NUMBER 2

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.

FEBRUARY, 1979

WASHINGTON

MARYLAND

VIRGINIA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Security"

Here we are, at the height of the ski season and lots of skiers are having their holidays wrecked. Let me give you the scenario. It's lunch time and it's cold, you quickly get out of your skis and toss them against a rack so you can get inside for some warmth and nutrition. Half an hour later you come out and your skis, bindings and poles are gone--a \$300 investment today. You spend the afternoon with the police and security patrol but it's useless--only one pair of skis out of every 30 stolen is ever returned.

The incidence of ski theft is increasing rapidly. This was vividly brought out in a recent report I received from Killington, in Vermont. It seems that they have installed transmitters in three pair of skis. Like you they leave the skis against the racks. During the month of November they apprehended six ski-nappers. Six in one month--it's really frightening.

So what can you do? It's simple, just do like you do for your house. Make it harder for the thief to steal your skis than someone elses. You can use a ski lock (also known as a bicycle lock) and attach your skis to the rack. You can also use one of the ski lockers available at most resorts--what's a quarter compared to your \$300 investment? Finally, if you don't want to do either of the above, at a minimum separate your skis. Put one ski on one rack and the other some distance away on another rack. Why would a thief look for your pair of skis when all the other idiots leave theirs together and ripe for the picking? And by the way, it also helps to sit where you can keep an occasional eye on your skis--however you leave them.

Enough preaching. This is the time of year to be out doing what the club is all about. Let's enjoy the white stuff. And, if by some chance you aren't skiing on the third Tuesday in February (the 19th), we hope to see you at the meeting at my house. Some of you who haven't been to a meeting in ages, come on over!

Ray McKinley

RAY MCKINLEY, PRESIDENT, PVS



FEBRUARY MEETING

When: *April 15th*
~~February 20th~~, 8:00 p.m.
Where: Ray & Malle McKinley's home
1135 Langley Lane
McLean, Va. 22101
Tel: 790-8812

Directions: Take the George Washington Parkway to Route 123; Take 123 West 3/4 of a mile to Route 193; take 193 1/2 mile (just past Amoco Station) to a left turn (about a 30 degree turn) on Chain Bridge Road; about 1/4 of a mile to a 90 degree right turn on Langley Lane; the ~~third~~ ^{third} house on the right (a grey ~~one~~ ^{one}) is #1135 and you are there

copy code with a circular driveway

There will be refreshments, a movie, and a talk by Kirk Burns on "Proper Dressing for Cold Weather Skiing".

See you there!

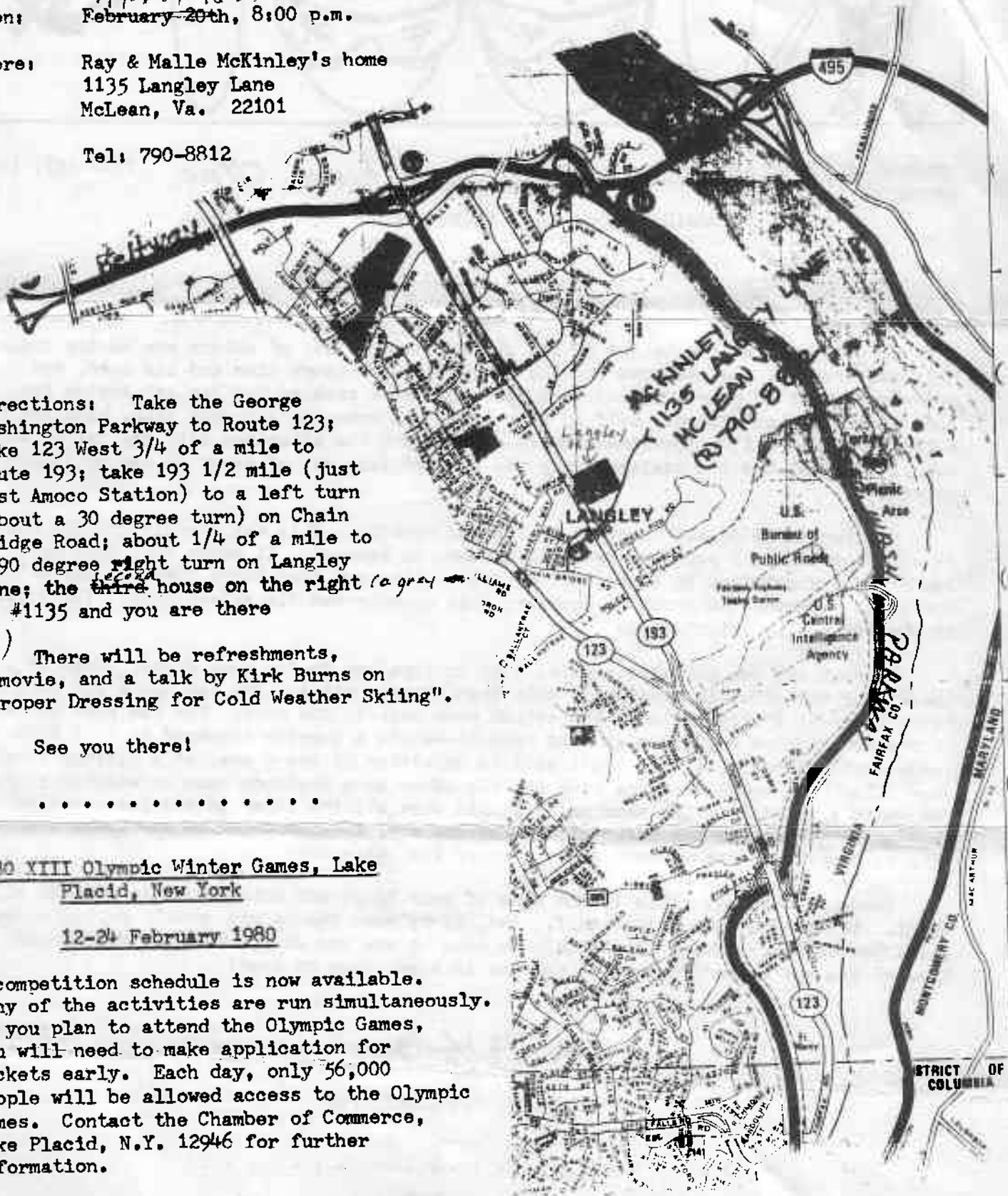
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1980 XIII Olympic Winter Games, Lake Placid, New York

12-24 February 1980

A competition schedule is now available. Many of the activities are run simultaneously. If you plan to attend the Olympic Games, you will need to make application for tickets early. Each day, only 56,000 people will be allowed access to the Olympic Games. Contact the Chamber of Commerce, Lake Placid, N.Y. 12946 for further information.

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EXCOM REPORT

The January Excom meeting was held Tuesday the 23rd, with Kirk and Peggy Burns treating their guests to beverages, snacks, and hours of ice skating on the glassy surface of Lake Barcroft. Excom members attending were: Ray McKinley, Marilyn Clark, Gail Gell, Judy Mealey, Mary Ward, Jim Slack, Geoff' Wadey, Bob Marx and Alice Swalm. Topics discussed were:

1. The possibility of changing the PVS regular meetings from Tuesdays to another day. It was unanimously decided to continue with the Tuesday meetings.
2. Members interested in a skiers babysitting co-op are urged to submit their names to the answering service or to contact Judy Mealey.
3. Larry Pease was asked to update the P V S Telephone Tree.
4. Ray McKinley announced that there would be a P V S Ski Trip to Canaan Valley on Feb. 9 -10.
5. Judy Mealey was elected to serve the unexpired term of Julie King on Excom.
6. A donation in memory of Brooke Armat will be made by PVS to St. Francis Burial and Counseling Society.
7. Gail Gell reported on proposed Wisp trips for 1980. Reservations for space will be made for the 2nd weekend in January and the 2nd weekend in Feb.
8. The February Excom meeting will be at the home of Judy and Mike Mealey, 1457 Waggaman Circle, McLean, Virginia. Telephone: 790-8227. Call for directions.

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TOOT Tidbit

Jim Pinkham is interested in getting a group together for a trip to Snowshoe, W. Va. the third weekend in March. This mountain has a 1500 foot vertical drop and great skiing. Call Jim at 942-1932 for details.

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OUR FRIEND -- BROOKE ARMAT

PVS lost a good friend this past month when Brooke Armat's very full life came to an end. We owe him a great deal and he will be long and fondly remembered. Brooke was one of the small group who determined back in 1965 that Washington should have a club for skiing enthusiasts and who founded the Potomac Valley Skiers, The Club for Skiers.

Officially he served us all in many ways. He was a member of the first Executive Committee and became the third president of PVS. For a number of years, until forced to resign by his final illness, he was the club's Registered Agent, a legal requirement of our incorporation in the District of Columbia. In addition he helped us many times with informal legal advice that smoothed our way and kept us out of possible legal difficulties.

A graduate of Harvard, the former National Law School in Washington and the George Washington School of Law, his professional career until his retirement in 1971 was as an attorney in the Department of Justice. During World War II he served in the Navy as commander of a squadron of PT boats in the South Pacific. He retired from the Navy as a lieutenant commander.

Many of us will remember Brooke best as a fine companion on a ski trip, but his interests were much broader than skiing. Each Fall he was off in the woods with his hunting friends and was an enthusiastic Porsche sports car driver as well. Most of us took him for a confirmed bachelor and then he surprised us by marrying a charming lady from Philadelphia. Perhaps his only failure was his inability to convince Mary that sliding down hills on a pair of boards in the freezing cold was a sensible thing to do.

He was a great organizer on a ski trip-- a model of quiet, calm, friendly efficiency. On trips out West he has been known to take the time to make movies of his skiing companions and then to arrange a showing for their benefit without appearing himself. His brave straightforward recognition of the progress of the disease that took his life should serve as an example of courage to us all. We will miss him.

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It was with some trepidation that the WISP weekend was approached since there had been rain the weekend before and no snow in sight. However, with the cold snap beginning on Tuesday, a weekend of limited skiing was forecasted. Bright and early on Friday morning, applicant members Thierry and Ellen DeBremont along with their friends Larry and Arlene Klainer plus all their children set out to ski and make the house ready for the rest of the group. Their day of skiing was so successful that before Jim Slack and Mary Ward arrived followed quickly by their friends Tom and Roxanne Taylor plus children, the DeBremonts and Klainer's were in bed asleep. Almost as soon as everyone settled down again, Larry Pease and Gail Gell arrived. But where were the Miers?

Saturday dawned grey and snowy--no one seemed in a hurry to get up except Roxanne. As breakfast was being prepared, Vic Mier appeared upstairs to say he and family had arrived around 5:30 a.m. but were ready to go ski in good PVS tradition. It was the first day of skiing for Loma Mier and their two children. There was a few inches of snow over a base of rock and grass but enough good skiing to keep everyone happy. Ellen had prepared a scrumptious cheese fondue for our apres-ski snack. It was hard to even think about dinner until late in the evening. For 21 of us it took a children's table and an adult's table to feed everyone beef burgundy, salad and home made bread. There was hardly any room left for the rum cake!

Sunday morning, in past WISP weekend tradition, it was 28 degrees and raining! Our band of hearty skiers hit the slopes early in spite of the weather and stayed through lunch. In spite of the rain the skiing was good and the new double chair was even operating. As we gathered for lunch in the lodge, Vic and Loma were looking for their son Tony with no success. Finally, Vic came back from the Ski Patrol Aid Room saying Tony was there with a possible fractured leg and had to be taken to the hospital in Oakland. Afternoon skiing was impossible since we were wet from being in the rain in the morning so back to Timberlake to clean up and head for home. Tony Mier, as it turned out, did not have a fracture but did have severe tearing of tendons and other soft tissue of the leg.

Since this trip was so popular this year, two weekends have been set aside for 1980. The second weekend in January and the second weekend in February. Looking forward to Timberlake and WISP again.

Gail Gell
Trip Leader

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Postcard from Morocco to PVS:

"Morocco is just like the Crock comic strip except that in Marrakeck (and Oukaimeden) they pop out from behind rocks and moguls instead of sand dunes. Skied yesterday in a white out--so much snow my rental Renault just made it out. That was in the high Atlas Mountains. Would anyone like a baby camel?"

Bob Grasley

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PVS Annual Elections

As required by our club by-laws, the results of the nominating committee are presented in publication two months before our annual meeting in April. Chairperson Art Topping reports that the committee has offered the following individuals to fill the related offices:

President (one year term) - Marilyn Clark

Excom (two year term) - Jim Pinkham
Barbara Wingrove
Bing Poon

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TOOT Tidbit

PVS Ski Killington trip has a few vacancies remaining. To secure a place on this five-day bus trip just send a check to Norm Engleman, 10450 Kentsdale Drive, Potomac, Maryland. Norm will be back from Austria on February 19th to answer any questions!

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THE KNEE

By Big Foot



(Ouch!)

Hot diggity! The Knee has a logo. That's advertising lingo for a sign or something to associate with the name. After a lengthy search we've found the Knee's knee (it was right there between the calf and the thigh!).

Is it true that after a weekend at Wisp, Mary Ward's new Rossignol skis are now really Roc(k) skis? More Wisp-ers, (thats a pun - get it?) You should invite Ellen De Bremund to your next event. She makes the best cheese fondue we've ever tasted--and she also apparently has an unlimited supply of wine and brie!

By way of travel, PVSers were out in force last month--the best month for skiing. Norm Engleman in Africa where its summer. (Ski Kilimanjaro?). And Bob Grasley in Morocco--testing out his ski legs in the Atlas Mountains? (Bob, PVS bought Ski Spain and Ski Italy but Ski Marrakesh?). PVS ski patroller John Gable ran a ski patrol public relations seminar at Greek Peak, New York at the end of January. Hope it went better than the PVS events you planned John! We understand that PVS'ers Jim Pinkham, John Newdorp along with some others from lesser ski clubs in the area are heading for Whiteface Mountain in New York to bone up on officiating for next years Olympics. After standing by slalom gates for several hours "Blueface" Mountain might be a more appropriate name.

Insiders comments: The Knee knows that you love these nitty gritty comments, so here goes. Lu Beale, an ex White House reporter with the clubs neatest, deepest voice was originally asked to write this column. But she declined claiming a lack of knowledge of club events. Lu, we hope

that these first two columns have proved to you that you were wrong. It takes no knowledge whatsoever to write The Knee, but I've got my Big Foot in the door and I'm going to keep it up. Yea! And there's more. In order to get a quorum together, nominating committee chairman Art Topping wired three telephones onto one line so that he, Malle McKinley, and Kirk Burns could "meet" with Aina and Hank Thomas and come up with a slate of candidates for the upcoming elections.

Is it true that Cecil Rose and Kirk Burns?

The Knee's Kneedle of the month was a toss-up this month. The first goes to you, the membership of the club. After months of trying to get a trip leader the trip to Canaan Valley, West Virginia was finally organized by an outsider, almost. We say "almost" because president whats-his-name and membership chairman Gail Gell arranged to make trip leader Meg Bittinger a PVS'er ex post facto (see, The Knee knows latin--that means after its in The Wasington Post its a fact). For a club of skiers, you sure don't seem willing to help much!

The second Kneedle goes to the organizers of the Shakeys Pizza party. Following the instructions in TOOT, The Knee went up I 270, turned right on Montrose Road and turned right on Rockville Pike. I went past a food store, White Flint, The Beltway, the White House . . . But don't worry, The Knee ended up with a lovely pizza dinner--at A.V. Ristorante in Southeast! Had a good dinner there a couple of years ago too, that was the last time we were scheduled for Shakeys! Thats LEFT on Rockville Pike. Left. L-E-F-T.

After the January Excom meeting at Kirk and Peggy Burns' almost everyone headed outside for ice skating on Lake Barcroft. It was the first time on ice in a l-o-n-g time for many of us, especially Judy Mealey. After two times around Judy felt she had mastered going forward so she insisted on spending most of the night trying to go in reverse!

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PVS PROFILE Bob and Margaret Wyckoff

They call it a "hobby" and it certainly has enhanced and enlivened many other lives as well as their own! Margaret and Bob have been leading ski trips since 1967--always successful because unlike agents, they only take one trip a year that they work very hard on, including many extras and side trips. The private tour through the royal palace in Monaco last year as the personal guests of Her Serene Highness Princess Grace is just one example of a Wyckoff "extra".

Bob was born in Niagara Falls, New York and first skied when he was three years old while his family lived in Norway temporarily. As a teenager he strapped his regular shoes onto wooden skies with leather straps and "skied" (no steering) on a 30 foot hill behind his house. After graduating from Antioch College Bob eventually moved to Washington, D.C., where he was sure his skiing days would be over! He soon joined the Washington Ski Club, and on a trip to Paris on a Pennsylvania Ski Federation flight, met Margaret, his wife-to-be, who was also a WSC member. Margaret was born in Breslau, Germany, and at the time of their meeting in Paris lived only seven miles from Bob, right here in Washington. Margaret's language ability and her familiarity with Europe have been valuable assets on all their trips.

Bob has claimed Zurs, Austria as his favorite place to ski because in addition to the great skiing, Zurs has good hotels with the lifts right at the hotel door. He has a myriad of memories of trips past, such as the trip to the French Alps when aircraft controllers went on strike and the entire group had to travel to Paris overnight on a sleeper bus--and last year in South France being snowed in at Isloa at 2000 feet. The bus couldn't get up the roads to pick them up, and the entire trip schedule was delayed. Bob and Margaret agree, though, that the many good friends and good times make the trips all worth while!

The Wyckoffs live in Silver Spring, Md. with their 15 year old daughter Patricia. Other hobbies are photography, swimming and traveling in general. When Bob is not traveling he is employed by the Department of the Army at the Harry Diamond Laboratories as a General Engineer.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Feb. 1-18 - PVS Ski Austria
In Progress.
- Feb. 10-11 - Ski Canaan Valley. In Progress.
- Feb. 10-24 - PVS European Ski Adventure
In Progress.
- Feb. 20 - PVS Meeting at Ray and Malle McKinleys, 8:00 p.m. See separate notice.
- Feb. 22 - PVS Excom Meeting at Judy and Mike Mealeys home. 1457 Waggaman Circle, McLean, Va. Telephone: 790-8227.
- Feb. 25-
March 3 - Ski Mt. Sutton, Canada. Trip leader Don Cope, 836-5436.
- Mar. 11-17 - Ski Killington, Vermont. Trip leader Norm Engleman, 299-2635. There are several vacancies for this trip. For reservations send a check to Norm at 10450 Kentsdale Drive, Potomac, Md.
- March 20 - PVS Monthly Meeting at the International Cafeteria at Tysons Corner.
- April 17 - PVS Annual Meeting at Kirk & Peggy Burns home.

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Thanks!

The night was beautiful, the ice was perfect, the refreshments were delicious and the company was grand at Kirk and Peggy Burns' home the night of the PVS Excom meeting and impromptu ice skating party.

Please hang on to your new PVS Telephone Tree and the next time Lake Barcroft freezes over we will be able to contact everyone!

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