



VOLUME XLV *Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.* DECEMBER 2009
NUMBER 12 WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

www.potomacvalleyskiers.org

info@pvskiers.org

Greetings PVSers,

As I recover slowly from an all too hearty Thanksgiving dinner shared with family and friends, the thought has just entered my mind that in a little over two weeks from now I will be schussing down the trails at Steamboat Springs. Yipes! Will this turkey-laden, pumpkin pie filled body somehow manage to get in shape by then? My inner skier responds, "Yes, Dottie, now two more miles of hiking along this trail and pick up the pace." And so the anticipation of the start of another ski season has taken hold. It promises to be an excellent one for PVS, with the Wedel Week (warmup) trip to Steamboat Springs, the perennial favorite to Snowmass, the trip to Jackson Hole, and ending with the BRSC sponsored trip to Bormio, Italy. For the latter, leader Dick Comerford's cries at recent monthly meetings of "I need a woman" have so far not been heeded. (It's OK, Betty was there.) Dick is looking for a single female to room with another female who wants to go on the trip, so if any of you single women have been thinking about going, please contact Dick.

While we are appropriately very focused on the current winter ski season, our Ski Trip Committee chairperson, Rosemary Schwartzbard, has urged everyone to start thinking ahead to next year and consider leading a PVS ski trip for the 2010-2011 ski season. The process of selecting locations for next year's trips begins early in 2010, so we need members to step up and volunteer to lead trips. The Blue Ridge Ski Council has selected two great venues for their western U.S. and European trips next year: Park City and Aosta Valley, Italy. This is a good opportunity for a first-time trip leader, since a lot is already taken care of by the BRSC trip leader.

December brings colder weather but warm thoughts of the holiday season and the chance to share good times with friends and family. It's time once again for the annual PVS holiday party, this year hosted by the McKennas. So come join in the camaraderie and festivities (i.e. food and drink) that we all enjoy so much. Hint: this is a good opportunity to bring a potential member as a guest. I really regret that I will not be able to attend this event this year, but as previously mentioned I will be with the group of PVSers on the slopes at Steamboat Springs. Vice-president Kerry Hines will be conducting the meeting.

Happy Holidays!
Dottie



The PVS Holiday Extravaganza

Tuesday, December 15, 7:30 PM

Join us for Holiday Spirit and taste the delightful appetizers and deserts prepared by your fellow skiers.



At the Maryland home of

Sherri and Tom McKenna

1431 Fallsmead Way

Potomac, MD 20854

301-424-2328

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. Those with the last name beginning with A - P, bring appetizers. For those who have last names beginning with Q - Z, please bring desserts. If any one has a question, please call Sherri or Tom McKenna at (301) 424-2328 or email McKenn3@comcast.net.

Directions: From the Beltway (495), take I-270 North to Exit 5. Go **left** on Falls Road toward Potomac; Take the **first right** into the first development on the right - Fallsmead; turn right on Fallsmead Way and proceed for 4 long blocks; 1431 Fallsmead Way is on the right hand side -- white brick with blue-gray shutters. If people go to Wootton Parkway, they have gone too far. Turn around and it will be the fourth house on the left.



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In Remembrance



Martha Ann McNeill August 14, 1935 – October 30, 2009

By Eloise Strand

Martha Ann (Weirich) McNeill died peacefully at Sibley Hospital on October 30, 2009 at 12:30 PM. Her two beloved sons, David and Timothy, together with other members of her immediate family were with her. She had heroically battled ovarian cancer for over a year.

She was born on August 14, 1935 to Gladys and Robert Weirich and lived the early years of her life in Camp Springs, Maryland. After high school graduation she joined the staff of Pepco and later the staff of the Washington office of Ford Motor Company where she worked in Ford's international affairs. Ford temporarily loaned her to the Presidential Inaugural Committee for President Eisenhower in 1957. She received a formal commendation for her critical role in organizing and implementing the many transportation functions of the inaugural.

Martha married Bruce Sorter in 1960 and they had a son, David R. Sorter. This marriage ended in divorce. Early in 1970 Martha married Robert L. McNeill. Bob and Marty, as she is affectionately called, had 39 years of love and happiness together. Their son, Timothy C. McNeill was born in 1971. She had her two stepsons, Fletcher and Craig McNeill. And as with all grandmothers she got great joy out of five grandchildren.

Bob McNeill would be the first to say that Marty was not a skier. Yet she, along with Bob, were very active members of PVS: attending meetings, hosting meetings, going on trips and participating in other activities. Bob, on the other hand, is a consummate skier and frequently Marty was known as the skier widow. This was because Bob was away out West skiing months at a time. She was happy that Bob was still able to ski and she stayed involved taking care of her mother, aunt and uncles, children and grandchildren. She also enjoyed Jackie Sorenson's Aerobic Dancing, which she did for over thirty years.

Marty's funeral services were at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Temple Hills, Maryland, the church in which she grew up. This small church was packed to standing room only and overflowing outside. The service was a tribute to one of its own and how her life had impacted so many people in the community, neighborhood, organizations and close friends. She was buried in the family plot at the Church cemetery.

Donations can be made in Marty's name to St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 3207 St. Barnabas Road, Temple Hills, MD 0748.

A Note of Thanks from Bob:

Dear PVS Family,

I want to thank our fellow PVSers for their many kindnesses and love for Marty. PVS was very important to her life as were the wonderful and cherished friends that she met there.

Her love to all of you,
Bob



MY FRIEND WALTER (WALLY) LUKENS

1924-2009

by Glade Flake

Wally died on October 9, 2009 after a long illness with Alzheimer's disease. I met Wally in about 1955 in Stuttgart, Germany at Eight Army Headquarters where Wally was stationed after graduating from Stanford Law School and passing the California Bar.

Previously, Wally had attended West Point, graduated in 1947, served in Korea where he received the Bronze Star for heroism in combat. He married Sylvia in 1950. While we were stationed in Germany we skied the Zugspitze and other ski areas in Europe.

Thereafter, I was stationed at the Presidio of San Francisco and Wally was assigned to JAG at the Pentagon. We were both then assigned to Germany in 1963 - Wally to Heidelberg and I to Frankfurt/Munich - we skied Europe on weekends. Upon returning we were both assigned to the Pentagon.

Wally retired from the US Army in 1967 at which time he was awarded the Legion of Merit for Outstanding Service. Thereafter, he joined Litton Industries, Los Angeles California and later became Litton's Vice President and Director of the Washington DC Office. While at Litton, Wally was selected by President George H. W. Bush to the unveiling ceremony for the design of the Korean War Memorial and was awarded a Presidential Citation. Wally retired from Litton in 1991. Upon being assigned the Washington area by Litton, Wally and Sylvia bought a house in Old Town, Alexandria and thereafter joined PVS and went on many ski trips to Europe.

Getting back to skiing - while at West Point Wally was the captain of the West Point Ski Team and continued his love of skiing his entire life, even in the last few years when he was in the early stages of Alzheimer's. I recall a recent trip to Schladming Austria he insisted on skiing and Sylvia hired an instructor as a guide to assist him. Also, in the last years, he skied at Snowmass assisted by another couple from Nantucket, MA (where Wally and Sylvia bought a summer home years ago).

I will never forget Wally for his skiing ability although I told him many times to "slow down" - he was fast. After the many times we skied together, I hate the passing of my skiing buddy but we will still be taking skiing trips with Sylvia who will be with Joan and me on the trip to Bormio, Italy next year.

Funeral service with Full Military Honors will be held at Ft. Myer Chapel (it is the small chapel at the top of the hill on the Post) on Wednesday December 30, 2009 at 11AM with the burial at Arlington National Cemetery and a reception to follow at the Fort Myers Officers Club

Members Corner



By J. David Warthen, Jr.

Getting to know Liz Warren-Boulton (new ExCom

Member): I grew up in Canberra, Australia. I was 13 when my father made my first pair of lovely wooden skis. I wish now that I had saved them. My family and I learned to ski with charming European ski instructors who came south for our winter. These were the early days for Smiggins Hole, Perisher Valley, and Thredbo – all in New South Wales. It's very different now. We hiked a lot carrying our skis or skated across a large flat area to get to the Perisher T bars. I remember one amazing time spring skiing after the season had closed. Early morning my father and I drove high up into the mountains then hiked for a couple of hours. We skied glittering pristine snow looping our way down until we ran into grass then hiked out. I have never found spring conditions to compare with those in Australia – maybe something to do with altitude. The highest mountain in Australia is Kosciusko at 7,310 feet.

I graduated from the Royal Canberra School of Nursing, left to see the world, and married an American. My early days in the USA included many great ski trips to Vermont with its amazing white windswept frozen trees at the top of the lifts and several not so fun frostbite days when even we quit early. All that Austrian technique that I worked so hard to gain in Australia, I have since worked very hard to lose, beginning in Vermont with compression turns! We moved from Princeton to Washington University in St Louis when my husband joined the economics faculty and I the Washington U Diabetes Research and Training Center (post earning my masters degree in nursing from St. Louis University). I liked St Louis – it was closer to the Rockies! Since then western USA skiing has won me over with its beautiful mountains and fabulous snow. I have skied most areas in Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Montana, and several days in California out of Truckee. I am thankful for a heli-skiing week in Bobbie Burns (Canadian Rockies) that showed me what real powder is. I would like more of that. I introduced my son Geoffrey to skiing at Liberty, PA then we skied in Taos, NM for many years – many members met him there last year. Taos remains an all time favorite place for me to be. I do like living in Washington DC where I paint and work

for the National Diabetes Education Program. Joe and I have enjoyed many special ski trips with good friends and look forward to lots more.

Bike & Barge—The 2009 Encore, by Marvin Hass & Betty Byrne: In April 2008, we went on a Bike and Barge tour of Holland viewing the tulip fields <<http://tiny.cc/QMROR>, our photos> in full bloom as well as cycling through the densely populated Amsterdam--The Hague--Rotterdam region of the Netherlands. This worked out so well that we decided on an encore in September 2009 much of which traversed a less populated region. This time we started out in Bremen, Germany <<http://tiny.cc/SREXY>>, our photos> and bicycled and barged east toward northwest provinces of the Netherlands eventually ending up in Amsterdam. This provided us with an opportunity to view the marshes of this region which have been transformed over the centuries by the industrious inhabitants into lush farmlands. You can gain some idea of the atmosphere of two-wheel travel in this area from the photo of the group stopping for its mid-morning coffee and apfelkuchen (apple cake) at an old convent in Germany transformed into a country inn. (see photo)



For those not familiar with bicycle and barge tours, they do have the advantage of providing food and lodging right on the barge. In addition, good touring bicycles are available. Most are geared to a one week schedules, but our selected tour company (www.bikebarge.com) only offers a variety of two-week trips. Each day participants were offered the choice of a shorter (typically 25 miles) or a longer (typically 40 miles) ride, each led by its own highly competent Dutch leader. These rides primarily focused on sightseeing along the way with many stops and commentary on the areas being visited. PVSers might be interested to note that on our trip we had a group from the Cascade Prime Timers Ski Club (www.cascadeprimetimers.org) an organization much like PVS whose members reside primarily in Portland, Oregon. This Club has sponsored four previous Bike and Barge trips. For those who find this appealing or just prefer being armchair tourists, the flavor of our trips can best be conveyed in our web slide shows (with captions) at links before photo.

PAST EVENTS

November – Ski Center - Meeting

Rocker is in. Camber is still around, but mostly as an added tweak. This seemed the gist of the newest skis demonstrated by Brian Eardley of Washington's Ski Center to PVSers gathered November 17 for our third annual meeting at the venerable Center. Twenty-eight members, one guest, and an applicant member (Toni Govier, an aerobics classmate of Eloise Strand) signed in to hear Brian's report. Before and after his talk, Rosemary Schwartzbard and Eloise laid on an elegant and tasty spread of refreshments, squeezed into the Center's second-floor array of boots, helmets, goggles, and dazzlingly colorful skis and wear. Founded in 1959 in downtown D.C. by legendary Polish skiman Adam Kahane, the Center moved in the early 1970s to its present northwest D.C. location in upscale Spring Valley and this year is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Brian has been a resident expert and associate there for 31 years.



President Dottie Villers prefaced her talk with an update on PVS's big trips of 2009-10: Steamboat Springs, Dec. 12-19; Snowmass, Jan. 13-20; Jackson Hole, Feb. 18-25; Bormio, Italy, Mar. 6-14. The rosters for all four trips are pretty well set, she reported, but all would welcome a single woman to fill a current hole. Dottie also reminded us of the Finger Lakes wine country tour planned for next August. And--most important--PVS's 45th anniversary celebration coming up in November 2010.

Brian's demonstration included an all-terrain binding that can be tweaked to adjust to any slope, trail, or snow condition. The latest bindings, he said, could mean a drop in ACLs--torn knee ligaments--which are our sport's chief injuries. The latest boots, as always, adapt to all temperatures as well as skiers' abilities, particularly those of women. And the skis? Well, one offering has rocker at the tips and tails and camber in the middle with its typical rise there, which all-rocker skis lack, though the latter are best for powder, Brian said. These items individually cost what might seem an arm and a leg, but could also be viewed as good long-term investments for dedicated skiers.



Asked after his talk how the recession has affected the ski scene, Brian said December '08 was the pits: gear sales and attendance at ski-destination resorts plummeted, though local short-hop sites like Ski Liberty fared better. He saw the 2009-10 outlook as rosier, judging from a roaring five-hour ski swap the Center orchestrated in October and reports that advance leasing of slopeside condos is way up. As for snow? Well, as we know, many Western resorts were up and running early this season, thanks to early onslaughts of snow, despite global warming. And snow or at least snowmaking prospects hereabouts? None so far. Temperatures the night we met were in the "normal" November 50s, but last year on the same date there was a low of 31 degrees and "snowflurries" in the Washington area. So keep your fingers crossed, hardy PVSers.

by Jean van der Tak

***** **2009-2010 SKI TRIPS** *****



Steamboat Springs

Wedel Week Reunion (7th)

A good relaxing way to start the new ski season

December 12 – 19, 2009

They are **SKIING** at Steamboat! A group from PVS will be joining them soon. Join the trip or just come and visit for a few days. Dick & Betty Comerford will serve as your host and hostess. [Steamboat Springs, Ski Town USA](#), has a base elevation of 6900 feet, ideal for anyone who has difficulty adapting to high altitude (sleeping below 7500 feet keeps the headaches away).

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| * 7 Nights Lodging, Ptarmigan Inn | * 3668 Vertical Feet |
| * 30 Yards to the Gondola | * 165 Named Ski Trails- 18 Lifts |
| * Rooms Have 2 Queen Size Beds | * 18 % Beg, 42% Int, 44% Adv |
| * Coffee in Each Room | * Average Snowfall > 27 Feet |
| * Heated Outdoor Pool & Hot Tub | * 6 Days of Skiing |
| * Convenient to Restaurants & Shops | |

Daily Breakfasts; Three Dinners – Yacht Club, Ore House Restaurant, Western BBQ (w/ Entertainment)
Private Après ski in Trip Leaders Room

Contact for details: Dick Comerford (H) 703 777-9374 (C) 571 426-3098
307 Lounsbury Ct, Leesburg, VA 20176 dick.comerford@verizon.net

Snowmass 2010 *Wednesday, January 13-20, 2010*

- We're returning to Snowmass!! The developer has delayed plans for renovation of our beloved Snowmass Mountain Chalet! Join us again in 2010 for this PVS favorite.
 - Snowmass offers direct access to 3,100 acres of slope-side skiing just outside the door.
 - The skiing terrain totals more than 5,000 acres with interchangeable lift tickets and free bus service to Aspen Highlands, Ajax Mountain, and Buttermilk ski areas,.
 - Slopeside lodging at Snowmass Mountain Chalet includes a daily family-style breakfast and daily soup lunch, greatly appreciated by trip participants and other guests, many of whom return year after year. This small hotel, with its welcoming staff, is unique for its convenience and friendly ambiance.
 - The trip will include group dinners, après-ski parties, and other activities available in the Aspen environs.
 - Complete trip cost is \$2,138, which includes air, lodging, lift tickets, and party events.
 - For more information:
 - Contact trip leaders Carolyn and David DeVilbiss at 703-370-4865 or
 - To reserve: -- Send payment of \$1000 per person, trip application, and signed waiver to:
Carolyn DeVilbiss
4508 Peacock Avenue,
Alexandria VA 22304
 - * Note "PVS-Snowmass 2010" on the memo line.
- Possible single female vacancy;
Call trip leaders.



Jackson Hole, Wyoming

February 18 to 25, 2010

I am happy to say that with the addition of the latest participants, Jan Marx and applicant member Toni Govier, we now have 39 people going on the trip and are no longer in need of a single female.

Slope side accommodations are at the Alpenhof Lodge, a cozy Bavarian style lodge with ski in ski out access. There are five of six days lift tickets included (seniors over 65 can deduct \$100). Go on an optional trip over the Teton Pass to Grand Targhee where "the snow comes from heaven not hoses". Cross-country skiers have trails outside the front door or options to ski in Grand Teton National Park and Grand Targhee. The trip begins at Dulles, then goes to Jackson, Wy, then a short bus ride to the "Hole". We have a welcome reception of gluwain and fondue.

Full buffet breakfasts are included every day at the hotel. Two group dinners are included, pre and post trip parties, and two après ski gatherings. A short bus trip into the town of Jackson reveals many opportunities for shopping, dining, touring, skiing, and reliving history in a true western town. Yellowstone N.P. is 60 miles north accessible by snowmobile or snowcoach, and a visit to the nearby National Elk Refuge will give you the opportunity to see a herd of 12,000-15,000 elk in winter.

Trip cost is \$1625. See complete trip flier for more details. Contact trip leaders Dottie Villers: 703-476-9259 or Marty Rine: 703-978-0179 to put your name on the waiting list.



Bormio Italy Update – 3, March 6-14, 2010 -\$1895 double occupancy

The Potomac Valley Skiers invites you to participate with the Blue Ridge Ski Council (BRSC) for the 2010 Bormio Eurofest with Dick & Betty Comerford as your host and hostess.

We still have room on the trip to Bormio in the Italian Alps. Come and join us for the great food (big breakfasts and gourmet dinners included), beautiful sights, and good skiing. There will be a number of non-skiers on the trip, so touring will be a significant activity. Don't forget your bathing suit; everyone must experience the Roman Baths. The only whining on the trip will be spelled wining, and it will involve a bottle and cork.

Reservation are now being taken for the day trips to the lakeside towns of Bellagio and Varenna; and the historic town of Bergamo which is surrounded by Venetian walls built in the 17th century. (Call for a flyer.)

Group airfare is being released soon; late sign-ups will be on a best effort basis.

Contact for details: Dick Comerford (H) 703 777-9374 (C) 571 426-3098
307 Lounsbury Ct, Leesburg, VA 20176 dick.comerford@verizon.net

SKI LIBERTY MOUNTAIN - TUESDAY DECEMBER 22

Anybody interested in a day of skiing before the holidays, should contact Charles Huggins at (301-424-5725) so we can form car pools. We will car pool from the bowling alley just off Shady Grove Road. If you wish to drive your own car, contact Charles so the group can look for you at Liberty Mountain Resort. Lift tickets for 4 hrs. are \$42.00. Those 65+ ski for half price.

Finger Lakes Winery & Distillery Extravaganza 2010

Potomac Valley Skiers

Thursday, August 26, 2010 – Sunday, August 29, 2010

Enjoy the beautiful Finger Lakes Wine Country with your hosts and vintners David & Susan Payne. Act now as participation is ***Limited to 20 participants!!***

The total package is \$300 per person. It includes:

- Visits to 8 wineries and distilleries
- A behind the scenes tour of a vineyard and winery
- Two (2) group dinners
- Two (2) group lunches
- Chartered bus transportation to wineries/distilleries and meals
- A boat excursion on Seneca Lake with refreshments
- Arrangements will be made to drive cars on the Watkins Glen International Race Track, but each participant will pay separately
- Also, participants will have time on Saturday morning to do things on their own such as visit the Corning Museum of Glass, the Windmill, hike the Gorge at Watkins Glen, shop, fishing excursion on Seneca Lake, etc.

All participants will make their own arrangements for:

- Transportation to and from Watkins Glen
- Lodging. After submitting a deposit, you will be provided with a list of inns/B&Bs located in the Watkins Glen area. Three (3) nights (August 26, 27, 28) lodging is estimated at \$210 - 300 per person (based on double occupancy, including tax). The cost of the lodging depends on the B&B or inn selected. When your application is received, the Payne's will send you a preferred lodging list.

Schedule

Participants should plan to arrive on Thursday, August 26, 2010. Dinner is on your own Thursday evening, but you will be provided with a list of recommended restaurants that are within walking distance or a short drive of the lodging. The Payne's will be happy to organize an informal gathering at a local restaurant upon the request of the participants. The program starts bright and early on Friday morning, August 27. Participants will be on their own to explore on Saturday morning, but the afternoon and evening will be filled with activities. Staying Sunday night is an option for participants, when making lodging reservations.

Payment Schedule

\$100 deposit per person is due with application on February 15, 2010 (fully refundable until June 1, 2010). Final payment of \$200 is due June 1, 2010.

Sign-Up

To sign up: Please send (1) the Application/ Liability Release (reverse side of flier), (2) a Deposit of \$100 per person or full payment to Susan Payne at 5598 Dutch Street, Dundee, NY 14837 (put PVS FLWC 2010 on the memo line). For more info, call Susan Payne at 607-727-1190 or vineyard100@frontiernet.net.

Cancellation Policy and Fees

If it becomes necessary for you to cancel your trip, the trip leaders will try to minimize your losses although some fees are mandated by the bus tour operator. All cancellations must be in writing. Cancellation fees and dates and costs are consistent with requirements and penalties imposed by vendors per contracted agreements. We expect none prior to June 1; June 2 – July 15, \$75; July 16 – August 25, \$150. Final cancellation fees are dependent upon actual costs.



**Application, Assumption of Risk & Release & Waiver of Liability Agreement
POTOMAC VALLEY SKIERS, INC. (PVS)**

By signing this application to attend the **Finger Lakes Winery & Distillery Extravaganza 2010**

1. I acknowledge that I understand the nature of driving, hiking, and the various other Extravaganza activities. I am willing to determine those activities in which I am willing to participate and will restrict myself to participate only in those parts of this Extravaganza in which I am qualified.
2. I fully understand that PVS activities involve risks and dangers of bodily injury and death, and dangers of property damage. I fully accept all such risks as a result of my participation.
3. I hereby release, discharge, covenant not to sue, and I waive and hold harmless PVS, its officers, executive committee, Extravaganza leaders, and volunteers from liability damage and claims arising from injury sustained by me or property damage related to any activity or event.
4. I agree that I am not entitled to any credit or refund for any included trip service that I do not use.
5. Having read this agreement, I fully understand its terms, and understand I have given up substantial rights by signing it. I intend this to be a complete and unconditional release from all liability.

Participant #1

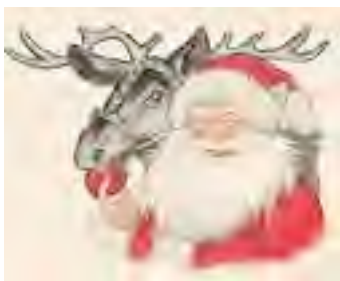
Name(s) as on your Official ID: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____
Address: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell phone: _____
E-mail Address: _____

Participant #2

Name(s) as on your Official ID: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____
Address: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell phone: _____
E-mail Address: _____

Total Amount of Deposit Enclosed with Application: \$ _____

**Make Check Payable to: Susan Payne (put PVS FLWC 2010 on the memo line)
Mail to: Susan Payne at 5598 Dutch Street, Dundee, NY 14837**



Happy Holidays



THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley
RaysKnee@gmail.com

Wow! It's December and ski season is finally upon us. Most places outside the beltway have been in the 20s, albeit not until after Thanksgiving. We've had lots of snow in the NE and out west. Last month the Knee reported on all of the ski resorts that were to open in November. Oodles of them are now open.

But the best early season ski news came in a Nov 7 e-mail from Blackcomb/Whistler. They were opening the earliest ever—on November 14. This is significant as Whistler, come February, 2010, will host the 2010 Winter Olympics—the Knee's favorite sport. Yeah!

If you please, the Knee just realized that it has been three or four years since I wished you Merrknee Christmas and a Happy Hanknee- kah! This year, as you sit around the fully-garlanded Christmas Knee, remember the gifts were brought to you in a reinkneedeer-pulled, shyknee sleigh. In the lead was Rudolph the red kneed reinkneedeer.

Ubiquitous PVS Part Q—or so. PVS is everywhere! Last month I reported that Fred and Barbara Leonhardt went to Germany to pick up Fred's new Mercedes. At Dulles, awaiting their flight to Frankfurt, they saw Ray and Nancy Garrett at the gate. Ray and Nancy were enroute (the Knee loves to use foreign words) to Barcelona to take a Mediterranean cruise. On arrival in Frankfurt, the four had lunch before heading their separate ways. Right on.

We all grieve with our friend Bob McNeill on the unexpected loss of Marty. She was to go back into the hospital for some additional treatment. But when they did further testing, her cancer had returned pervasively. We'll all miss Marty's joyous smile and her perseverance of Bob's many ski trips.

The biennial change of the guard has occurred! The eagerly anticipated letter from Membership Chair Dave Warthen arrived last month. PVS membership cards were here. The highlight of our PVS biannual membership ritual is when our new, clean PVS membership cards arrived. I'd eagerly sign the new card, search through my wallet to find the old soldier, now

wrinkled and limp from some two years of nearly constant use (the uses are innumerable - including brushing off light snow and jimmying locks), and out with the old and in with the new.

We have lost so many PVSers in recent months, that it's wonderful to see some evidence of a change. Could a new baby PVSer be in the future? Although nothing is showing yet, at a recent event, Joan Flake was in a lovely, tailored, gray jersey maternity dress. Yes, maternity--as in pregnant. Joan said it belonged to her daughter, Jennifer. She also forbade the Knee from spreading any rumors, so please don't tell anyone else. Notwithstanding, hearty congratulations to all involved!

Speaking of babies, which the Knee clearly wasn't, Mary Beale now has a second miniature dachshund. In the middle of the PVS meeting she hosted, Mary had to leave for a few minutes to take the "babies" for a walk. Right on!

The newest member of ExCom is Liz Warren-Boulton who was appointed last month. Liz missed her first meeting with a lame excuse. She was sailing in the Caribbean. Right on! Or should that be starboard on?

A hearty tip of the ol' Knee Cap goes to PVS's latest nonagenarian. Yup, it's Suzanne Boisclair, who looks and acts at least 30 years younger. Only within the last few years has Suzanne given up windsurfing. Right on.

According to Marvin Hass, skiing's venerable Warren Miller has just turned 85, so he's a perfect candidate for PVS. And Warren has completed his 60th ski movie. "I'll still ski every day it's sunny," Miller said, and noted that he considered himself lucky that the skiing industry was on "an expansion curve" when he took up the sport. He said that, although the boom in popularity during the second half of the 20th century was typically attributed to three advances — the motorized ski lift, Head skis ("because they turned a lot easier") and plastic ski boots, — he has his own theory.

"I always thought it was when Maria Bogner invented stretch pants and put romance into skiing," adding that the style is due for a comeback. "There are a lot of good photographs around of stretch pants." Right on--and left on!

Great Thanksgiving Adventures: Jack Chapman and Ellie Thayer spent their holiday by taking a long weekend in Amsterdam. They spent last Thanksgiving in Brussels. That's a kneet idea. Perhaps next Thanksgiving they should try a visit to Turkey.

Calendar and Information

Local Event Calendar				Ski Trip Calendar	
Dec	8	Tues	Nov/Dec ExCom (<i>Thayer</i>)	Dec 12-19	2009 Steamboat (<i>D.Comerford</i>)
Dec	15	Tues	Christmas Party (McKennis)	Dec 22	2009 Ski Liberty (<i>C.Huggins</i>)
Jan	3	Sun	Snowmass Pre-trip Party (<i>Powers</i>)	Jan 13-20	2010 Snowmass (<i>C&D. DeVilbiss</i>)
Jan	24	Sun	Jan AFTERNOON Meeting (Villers)	Feb 18-25	2010 Jackson Hole (<i>Villers/Rine</i>)
Feb	28	Sun	Feb AFTERNOON Meeting (Holts)	Mar 6-14	2010 Bormio, Italy (<i>D.Comerford</i>)
				Aug 26-28	2010 Fingerlakes (Paynes)

PVS Roster information updates

Change of postal or e-mail address, telephone numbers, TOOT email format, etc.

Call David Warthen (301) 774-2653 or send e-mail message to dwarthen@verizon.net

Roster Changes:

Knox and Karen **Felker** (**Address Change**)

339 Wittenburg Way

Inman, SC 29349

864-804-6232, karknox@charter.net

Glade **Flake** (**New e-mail address**)

gladeflake@comcast.net

Joan **Flake** (**New e-mail address**)

joanflake@comcast.net

Leona **Mahallati** (**Reinstated Member**)

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TOOT Distribution to 147 PVS Members:

pdf: 77; USPS: 34; MS-Word: 22;

Emb. Text: 1; and Text (Att.): 2

PVS thanks Kerry **Hines**, Temporary Editor, for an excellent December '09 TOOT issue.