

VOLUME XLIV
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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

MARCH 2008

www.potomacvalleyskiers.org

info@pvskiers.org

Greetings PVSers,

Aha! The end of the ski season is closing in upon us. Before long we will be off to golf or biking or other recreations. So, as a pick-me-up this month, I'm presenting a puzzler. Take a look at the following text in italics.

*It is about punctuality if you must
Arriving at a right instant: 7:30 PM to trust
Drop your \$3.00 kindly into a bin
Adjourning to play into social stuff that's in
Chat to savor its gist
Absorb all chutzpa and lists
Of communications and such
And companions who show much
Our group has spirit you know
But try to avoid a "no show"
Food and drink for all
Will fill us big and small*

So here's the puzzler:

1. What precisely about the above italicized text is **unique**? Something probably never seen before in this column...and likely never will be seen again.
2. And what is the clue? The text contains a clue that is directly related to its uniqueness.

With all you literary types out there this should be fairly easy (a clue right there but not the correct one).

For proper recognition in the April TOOT, send me an e-mail (hrdyna@aol.com) or a phone message (301-881-0812) with the correct answers. That way, I'll have the exact date and time of your response.

Mike, I know what's unique: it's a poem. No, that's not the correct answer.

OK Mike, it's a lousy poem. Probably, but that's not the correct answer either. Enjoy all!

Best Wishes,

Mike



Tuesday, March 18
7:30 PM
at Phil & Eugenia
Ufholz' home
Bethesda, MD





Directions

Eugenia and Phil Ufholz'
8613 Long Acre Ct.
Bethesda, MD 20817
301-469-6135.

From Virginia

From the beltway, exit River Road toward Washington. Make first left at Burdette Road (at American Plant Nursery). At stop light, make a right on Bradley Boulevard. Pass light at Fernwood. Go 0.7 mile and make a left on Valley Road (if you get to Huntington Pkwy., turn around). Immediate right on Ridge Road (pass playground on right). The house is the first on the cul-de-sac (blue siding)

From DC

Take Wisconsin Avenue. Make a left on Bradley Boulevard. After passing Huntington Parkway, make a right on Valley Road (if you get to Fernwood, turn around). Immediate right on Ridge Road (pass playground on right). The house is the first on the cul-de-sac (blue siding).

From Maryland - I-270

Exit Democracy Boulevard toward Old Georgetown Road. Make a right on Fernwood. At stop sign, make a left on Greentree. Make a right at Ridge Place. Make a left at Ridge Road. The house is the first on the cul-de-sac on your left (blue siding). If you reach Valley Road, you have gone too far, turn around.

For Sale



PVS Logo Stickers

Size: 1" X 2", dark blue letters and border.

Uses: Helmet - front, back, and/or sides; ski tips, ski tails; left ski pole, right ski pole; luggage ID tag; water bottle.



PVS stickers are available at monthly meeting or you can request them by mail. They cost 2 for \$1.00. If you send a self addressed, **stamped** envelope and your payment, the stickers will be mailed to you. Send your request to:

Mike Strand
10728 Lady Slipper Ter.
Rockville, MD 20852

Coming Event



Fred in command!

Tour Annapolis by Segway

Saturday, May 3, 2008

Something new for PVS.

Have you seen folks riding a Segway at BWI and elsewhere and always wanted to try one? This is your chance.

Barbara and Fred Leonhardt have organized a 2-hr guided tour of Annapolis on Segways for a maximum of 16 PVSers on Sat. May 3rd.

The group will be split, with the first 8 starting the tour at 10 AM and the other 8 starting about 2 PM. Each group will lunch at the lovely Carrol's Creek Restaurant in Annapolis [www.carrolscreek.com] - the PM group at noon and the AM group at 1:00 pm.

The groups will be trained by the guide on how to ride the Segways before the tour begins. We will be riding on the sidewalks among pedestrians, so you need to bring a sense of balance, agility, and alertness. If you can ski, ride a bike, or do similar activities comfortably, you can handle a Segway.

The cost for the tour will be \$70 and lunch will be paid individually at the restaurant. A rain date of May 10th is a possibility. Please **call Barbara at 301-963-8111** for information or to sign up.

Past Event

February Meeting

The February monthly meeting was held on a wintry Sunday afternoon in Gaithersburg at the home of hostess, Dorian Janney. Dorian's home has all the charm of a country farmhouse. In fact, the countryside is a story itself with wonderfully individual old homes separated by expanding new developments. With many PVSers away on skiing adventures, the meeting consisted of just 14 enthusiastic members. We were treated to a plentiful spread of delicious hors d'oeuvres. One of them, a golden potato puff, is destined to be the new Jalapenos Popper. Marianne and Kerry Hines came all the way from their Delaplane home, a 75 mile distance. They were warmly greeted by four of the PVS contingent (Dottie Villers, Jean van der Tak, and Nancy and Ray McKinley) who will be traveling with them on the Bulgaria - Slovenia trip that leaves on March 2nd. With many of our officers away, Nancy McKinley conducted the short meeting. Dorian was kind enough to share some of her experiences from her recent trip to Barrow, Alaska in January. Details will be in the next issue of TOOT. The meeting adjourned to the adjacent kitchen where cherry pie, date bars, homemade chocolate chip cookies, and a delicious coffee brew awaited. When we left the sun was still high in the sky. Dorian waved from her porch.

Thank you, Dorian, for a truly lovely afternoon.



In Memory of Jan Phillips



Dr. JANET B. PHILLIPS, of Silver Spring, MD, loving mother and educator, died on February 15, 2008 of complications from a bacterial staph infection. She raised six children while living in several different countries as the wife of an Air Force officer. Jan later earned her B.A., M.Ed., and Ph.D., then embarked upon her career as a college professor, teaching at Juniata College, PA, the University of Maryland, and Chapman University, CA. She taught courses in Humanities, Psychology, and Religious Studies. During this time she also earned a Master of Theological Studies degree. Jan was active in the Episcopal Church, serving on the Peace Commission for the Diocesan of Washington, DC and as an Education for Ministry mentor. Jan had an avid interest in world cultures and faith traditions and traveled extensively to all continents, up until the time of her death. A life-long learner, Jan once said, "It is a shame we don't live longer; there are still so many courses I want to take." She was an inspiration to many, especially her six children and nine grandchildren. She is survived by her sons and daughters, Nichole O'Neill, David Phillips, and Scott Phillips of Silver Spring, MD, Natalie Hocknell of Derwood, MD, Kevin Phillips of San Clemente, CA and Wendell Phillips of Laguna Niguel, CA. She also was deeply loved and will be missed by her grandchildren.



Services were held on Saturday, February 23, 12 Noon at Christ Episcopal Church Parish, 4001 Franklin Street, Kensington, MD.



PHS Board - 2007-2008

Board Members, Officers, and Chairpersons

President – *Mike Strand*
Vice President – *Dick Comerford*
Secretary – *Mary Beale*
Treasurer – *Dick Laeser*
Membership Records – *Dave Warthen*
Membership PR Rep – *Dave DeVilbiss*
Events – *Ray McKinley*
Non-ski Activities – *Mike Strand*
Ski Trip Cmte Chair – *Bob Marx*
TOOT Editor – *Jan Marx*
TOOT Proofreader – *Bob Marx*
TOOT Mailer

Webmaster – *Dave Lerner*
Meeting Records – *Carolyn Maurer-DeVilbiss*
Historian – *Jan Marx*
EXCOM:
First Term:
Carolyn Maurer-DeVilbiss
Ruth Powers
Dave Warthen
Second Term:
Bob Knopes
Dick Laeser
David Lerner

Profiles of Nominated Members

Dottie Villers - Candidate for Vice President



I grew up in Connecticut, but after college I spent a number of years living in California and Florida before moving to Virginia in 1993. I am currently retired (one year) from working as a consultant for an information technology company largely doing government contract work. Specifically I usually worked on developing training programs and documentation for various systems that government agencies purchased. I didn't learn to ski until I was 53, but I have been making up for lost time since then! I first learned to ski on local slopes, such as Whitetail, Liberty, and Canaan Valley, and took lots of classes. Besides skiing, my other interests include sailing, tennis, gourmet cooking, and travel. In the summers, I race on a 17' Thistle-class sailboat. I have enjoyed being an active PVS member, have served a term on ExCom, and have served as Secretary.

Kerry Hines - Candidate for ExCom



Kerry is a native of southern Virginia and graduated from the Virginia Military Institute. He met and married Marianne while stationed in Germany with the US Army. Marianne was a skier and eventually convinced Kerry to try it as well. So, beginning with a week of lessons at Red River, New Mexico in lace-up leather boots in 1972, Kerry has found sufficient ski opportunities to firmly establish the various bad habits he has incorporated into his skiing. A two-year assignment to Garmisch, Germany, with season ski passes, certainly helped perfect those bad practices, while instructing "Wonderful Wednesday" elementary school students fostered a few improvements as well. Returning to the Washington DC area in 1981, Kerry and Marianne joined the Arlington Hall Ski Club. After some twenty years service in the US Army, Kerry retired in 1986 and went to work for a Defense contracting company developing "expert" information technology systems and simultaneously pursued his studies for a doctorate degree. Falling behind on his dissertation effort, Kerry quit work in 1996 to focus on writing and defending his dissertation on Russian military history. Then, Kerry returned to part-time IT consulting, which he still does a few days a week. He also continues to devote time to historical research on the First World War and to efforts to restore some stone walls and accomplish various other improvement projects on their house and "farmette" in Delaplane.

Nominees:

PRESIDENT: Mike Strand VICE PRESIDENT: Dottie Villers

EXCOM: Kerry Hines, David Callaway, Sue Lyon

More profiles next month.



Sun Valley

by Cara Jablon



Nestor, Bob K, Bob M

Sun Valley did not disappoint the 29 adventurous PVSers who made their way on Saturday, February 9, to this remote, elegant, ski area in central Idaho. At the Boise airport, Cara and Bob Jablon were delighted to meet their youngest son, Joel, for a short visit. By chance, Joel was driving through Boise on a cross-country trip from Ohio to Portland, OR and arrived in Boise at the same time as our flight. Five members of the group, whose flights were delayed, did not arrive in time for the bus ride, but rather spent the night in Boise and drove up to Sun Valley the next morning in rental cars.

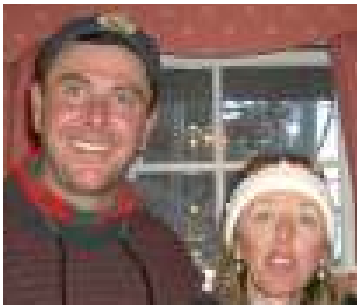


Sylvia & Betty

After our long trip through the bleak Idaho landscape, we were delighted to arrive at the elegant, sophisticated Sun Valley Lodge. Despite the midnight arrival at the Lodge, the hotel graciously provided sandwiches and fruit salad to all in our weary group. We were immediately impressed with the beautiful lobby, and rapidly received our keys to our cheerful, color-coordinated, finely decorated rooms with lovely marble bathrooms. On our pillows were little white boxes of very rich, excellent chocolate. In fact, every night, new little white boxes appeared on our pillows – probably more calories than we burned up skiing, but so good.

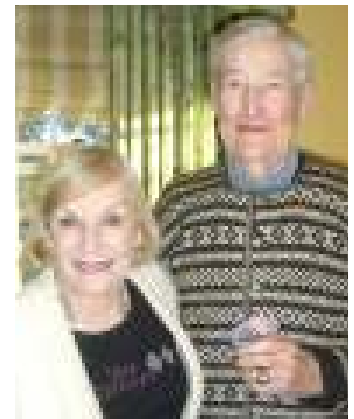
Participants in the trip included a number of family groups, namely the three-generation family of Edith Rabinovitz, her daughter Alice Crites, and grandchildren Emily and Ben Crites; Gail and Larry Pease and Gail's son Greg Gell (who lives in Portland, Oregon); and Danille Drake and her son Max Kogod (who lives in Los Angeles). Ray and Nancy McKinley, the trip leaders, enticed

Ray's sister Linda and husband Tim Shanahan (from Michigan) to join the trip. Linda and Tim were lively additions to the group and we hope to see them on future PVS trips.



Doug & Val

Other trip participants were Suzanne Boisclair, Kirk Burns, Nestor Delevaux (from Santa Clara, California), Reg Heitchue, Cara and Bob Jablon, Liz Warren-Boulton and Joe Jevcak, Bob Knopes, Betty Lawrence, Bob and Jan Marx, and Sylvia and Wally Lukens along with their friends Val Jones and Doug Seholm, who came all the way from Nantucket.



Sylvia & Wally

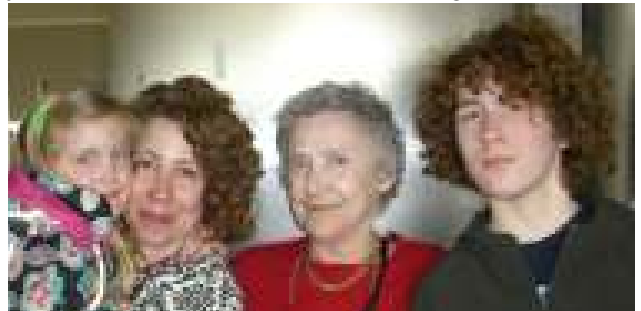
Sun Valley is renowned not only for its skiing, but also for its history. The area, which was developed starting in 1936 by Averell Harriman, the chairman of the Union Pacific Railroad, was the first "destination" ski resort in the United States (rail service was terminated in 1964) and had the first chair lift (a single chair) in the US. The resort has been the playground of the rich and famous, including Ernest Hemingway, Gary Cooper, Clark Gable, Jacqueline Kennedy, and Arnold Schwarzenegger. Photographs lining a long hallway of the Lodge provide a pictorial history of the resort and its famous guests. Sun Valley also was the site for the first few Warren Miller ski movies. The 1941 movie, "Sun Valley Serenade," starring Sonja Henie, plays continuously on one of the cable TV channels in the hotel and features the Glenn Miller orchestra. Much of the scenery in the movie is quite recognizable by today's visitors to Sun Valley.



Danille & Max

The bus route to the ski slopes goes through the town of Ketchum, a very attractive Western-style town full of excellent restaurants, shops, art galleries, and the “Goldmine” thrift shop, where several in the group found “bargains.”

Bald Mountain, the major ski area, is distinguished by fabulous views of the surrounding snow-covered, largely vegetation-barren mountains and the steepness of its slopes – a green on Bald Mountain equates to a blue in most other resorts. We were told that many of the green runs were once blue runs, but were reclassified to green by Sun Valley to achieve the appearance of “more balanced” terrain. The true green runs are located on Dollar Mountain, where Emily (6) and Val took lessons all week.



*Four Generations of skiers:
Emily, Alice, Edith, Ben*

The area around the Lodge and Inn also is of interest. In front of the Lodge is a large hot spring-fed duck pond, home to a pair of swans, a large flock of Mallard ducks, and a few Wood ducks. As we walked from the Lodge to the nearby restaurants and shops, we passed a number of very impressive life-size ice sculptures, including a large bear, a covered wagon led by a team of oxen, two lions, and an old-fashioned sled.

According to the locals, up until a few days before we arrived, the mountain had wonderful powder. We did not see any powder. No snow fell during our stay, and although we could see the grooming equipment at work every night, the snow developed more and more of a “crunchy” texture over the course of the week. Fortunately, true to Sun Valley claims, most days were sunny with a brilliant cobalt blue sky and the weather was generally quite mild.



Gail, Larry, Greg

Some members of the group took skiing lessons – Val and Emily at Dollar Mountain, and Cara, Bob, Liz, and Joe on Bald Mountain. Both Bob and Joe were skiing much faster; Cara learned new techniques for skiing on slick snow, and Liz perfected her bump technique on the challenging “Exhibition” slope. Ben (12), who is well on his way to becoming an expert skier, received pointers from Larry, Gail, and Greg. One afternoon, the later 3, ski patrollers all, took a group of skiers on a

visit to the Ski Patrol Building, where the group purchased shirts and hats to support the ski patrol, and met the avalanche rescue dogs Tillie and Syringa. Our thanks to Greg for providing green streamers to all for our ski poles so we could identify others in the group. Only a few minor injuries occurred – Doug hurt his shoulder in a fall and Larry twisted his knee stepping into a hole off the slopes, but both were able to continue skiing. Ray had knee troubles that pre-dated this trip.



Suzanne, Nancy, Tim, Edith



*Edith executes
her tricks*

Several intrepid souls, including Bob Jablon, Tim, Edith, Suzanne, Nancy, and Jan, tried out the Sun Valley ice skating rink, adjacent to the Lodge. We understand that Tim’s fall on his ice skating instructor, a “simply gorgeous young thing,” was total happenstance.

Thanks to the selections of Ray and Nancy McKinley, our 3 group meals were a culinary delight. On other nights, members of the group followed Nancy and Ray’s recommendations and had excellent dinners at, among other places, the restaurant in the Lodge, The Ram (restaurant in the Inn), and the Trail Creek Cabin, where eleven of us rode the horse-drawn sleigh. The driver of one of the sleighs, a 75-year old gentleman named Alan Posey, professed to be a “life long environmentalist.” Mr. Posey told us that he had married an “older” woman – he was 17 and she was 18. On the trip to the restaurant, a number of foxes followed the sleds; on the return, coyotes as well as foxes could be seen.

Following dinner, some members enjoyed the drinks, live music, and dancing at Duchin's Bar in the Lodge. Expert dancers Liz, Joe, and Kirk graced the dance floor on most evenings.



Tim & Linda

Nancy and Ray graciously hosted happy hours with announcements every afternoon. On "Potomac Primary" Tuesday, Ray and Nancy held a mock vote during Happy Hour. Of the 22 participants in attendance, Obama received 10 votes; Hillary Clinton, 8; McCain and Romney, 2 each; and none for either Ron Paul or Mike Huckabee.



Cara, Kirk, Liz, Joe, Bob J

The final happy hour included an Awards Ceremony, at which all awardees received Sun Valley pins. Jan presented Nancy

and Ray with a Sun Valley door knocker in appreciation for leading a super trip at an exquisite resort.



Nancy & Ray

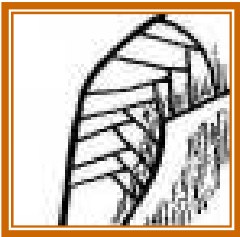
On our return bus trip to the Boise airport on Saturday morning, February 16, we viewed the surprisingly barren and desolate Idaho landscape – miles of flat plains with only sagebrush growing, treeless snow-covered mountains in the distance, and nary a soul in sight (the population of the entire state of Idaho is less than a million and a half people). Some of us noted evidence of lava flows along the highway, and close to Boise there were sightings of antelope.

What a wonderful, memorable week in Sun Valley.



*Bob K, Reg, Bob M, Edith, Liz, Nestor, Cara, Ray, Joe
Tim, Nancy, Jan*





THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley

The Knee is being written in between ski trips. What a great thing to say—in between ski trips. For the first time in several years, we have two ski trips planned. We are just back from Sun Valley and soon to be off with Kerry and Marianne Hines to Bulgaria and Slovenia. And what a great year to do it. Snow is ubiquitous! According to Charlie Huggins, Steamboat has “too much snow.” Further, the Aspen Times, according to Marvin Hass, reports that by mid February, Aspen had run out of snow dumping area for when they plow their streets! Indeed, according to weather maps at the end of February, we currently have more snow cover in North America, Mongolia and China than in any year since 1966! Let’s hear it for global warming!

The East also is overwhelmed by snow. By the first of the year, Snowshoe, WV had over 4 feet of natural snow. Even my favorite ski area, Liberty, is a beneficiary of this largesse. They had their earliest opening in a decade—on February 13! And they plan to stay open until at least March 11. Wow!

Unfortunately, Pres Mike and Eloise Strand, report that the weather at Wintergreen, at the end of February, was “fairly warm.” Now you know where the name Winter “Green” came from! However they were making snow virtually every evening. And the cover is good.

We have just participated in a first-ever event for PVS. Sunday afternoon meetings, where one can see to get to the locations, in the winter. It is now up to the ExCom to decide if this will become a regular happening. But guess what? There were no ExCom members at either of the meetings. Pres Mike Strand was at Wintergreen, and Veep Dick Comerford was in Colorado. Most other ExComers were off on various other ski sojourns. One might think that PVS was a ski club...

Over the years, the Knee has awarded Kneedles to various members who have deserved them. Of late we haven’t had any awardees. But that has changed. Today we have a Kneedle of the Month. It goes to Sharon Mulholland. PVS decided to do Winter meetings at 2:00 PM on Sunday afternoons. Sharon sent

an e-mail to Carolyn Maurer-DeVilbiss. “Two o’clock is too late. Let’s try to do them at least a half hour earlier.” ExCom listened and moved the meetings to 1:00 PM. Notwithstanding, Sharon didn’t attend either meeting. And, Sharon, the fact that you were skiing at Vail is no excuse whatsoever!

For the multitude of you who asked for a bit of historknee—alright it was one person after several glasses of wine. Ankneeway, this marks the Knee’s 29th year--having started in 1979. This was well before most of us could vote. Alright, before three of us could vote. There were two reasons for the name: I had just twisted my Knee in Aspen. And there was a gossip column in the old Washington Star called “the Ear.” I figured this column would be at a considerably lower level!

For the first year, the Knee was written anonkneemously, under the pseudokneem, Big Foot. Was that my pen name? No, my pen name was Mont Blanc. Actually, my pen name was Bic, but for a ski column, Mont Blanc sounded considerably eruditer.

Because of the weather, some of us have been skiing locally. Sally Finan spent two days at Blue Knob. Sally said they earned their “Blue” name. The high one day was a mere 6 deg. That’s Fahrenheit, not Centigrade. Brrr!

Dottie Villers and Melissa FitzGerald went to Wisp for two days. But they were rained out. Marianne and Kerry Hines had much better luck on a mid-week trip to Timberline.

Perhaps you would like to try my great new idea for those who are afraid to stand up on their skis. Kneeskis.

You may have seen this before, but it’s worth repeating. Towards the end of a weekend ski day at Snowmass, David Abraham skied up to Barbara Leonhardt and asked her if she could ski “one more run.” Yes she nodded. They skied down to the “six-pack” lift—which the Knee believes, analogous to the term “hi speed quad,” should be called “high speed sex.” Ankneeway, David discovered that it was an unknown Barbara Leonhardt-look alike. They skied three runs, and double black diamond skier David was hard pressed to keep up. Right on!

Ubiquitous PVS—Almost. The week between Christmas and New Years, June Read was on an ecotourism trip to Costa Rica. Which is Spanish for Ric doesn’t have his engine in gear going downhill. At the same time, Suzanne Boisclair and Betty Lawrence were on a similar tour there. The three never saw each other!

Calendar 2008

Mar	18	Tue	Monthly Meeting at Ufholz' - 7:30
Mar	25	Tue	ExCom Meeting at Warthen's - 7:30
Mar	29	Sat	Snowmass Post-Trip Party at Leonhardt's - 3:00
April	15	Tue	Annual Meeting at Heitchue's Party Room - 7:30
April	20	Sun	Sun Valley Post-Trip Party at McKinley's - 4:00
April	22	Tue	ExCom Meeting at Beale's - 7:30
May	3	Sat	Segway tour of Annapolis
May	20	Tue	Monthly Meeting at Pete & Alice Crites'
June	17	Tue	Monthly Meeting at Callaway's



Ski Trip -- 2008



Balkans - March 2-13 - Marianne and Kerry Hines



Jan and Bob Marx
8312 Oakford Dr.
Springfield, VA 22152

