



VOLUME XXXX  
NUMBER 9

*Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.*

September 2004

WASHINGTON

MARYLAND

VIRGINIA

### Message from the Chair of the Ski Trip Committee

This message is presented in the normal space reserved to display the President's message. This has been done for a variety of reasons: First, the Ski Trip Committee (STC) says a **GIANT THANK YOU** to the trip leaders who put together this season's grand array of trips. Second is to let you know that lack of sign-ups has resulted in the need to cancel the originally planned trip to Meribel, France (see announcement elsewhere in this issue). Both the President and the STC find this **sad** – and we are concerned because PVS is **"The Club for Skiers."**

The STC asks for your ideas as to things we could and should do to correct this situation for next season. Should the STC focus more on: Destination choices? Trip price? Ski-in/ski-out convenience? Or ????? Please let any member of the STC (Bob Marx, Mike Hatanaka, Shirley Rettig, Jim Slack, or Eloise Strand) know your suggestions to help with the planning for next ski season. Meanwhile, if you haven't yet signed up for one of the three remaining PVS ski trips in the 2005 ski season (see announcements elsewhere in this issue), please call the leader of the trip you have been meaning to sign-up for, and **do it now**.

Cheers,

*Bob Marx*

## MONTHLY MEETING

at the Strand's

Mike and Eloise live at  
10728 Lady Slipper Terrace  
Rockville, MD  
301 - 468 - 1535

**"Please note that during this meeting a special recognition event will take place. We hope that many of you will attend and help laud our awardee."**



**Directions to the Strands' home:**

**From Virginia:** Take Beltway I-495 to I-270. Take first exit onto Democracy Blvd (East). Follow Democracy Blvd to Old Georgetown Road (left turn at light). Follow Old Georgetown Road North to 4<sup>th</sup> light, Tuckerman Lane. Turn right on Tuckerman to the first right turn on Gloxinia and enter the "Cloisters."

**From Maryland:** Take Beltway or Wisconsin Avenue to Old Georgetown Road. Turn right on Tuckerman Lane to first right turn on Gloxinia into the "Cloisters."

**The Cloisters:** After you have entered the Cloisters sub-division, cross Valerian Lane to the stop sign one block later at Valerian Lane (the Lane does a loop.) Turn right on Valerian Lane one block to first right turn on Lady Slipper Terrace. Follow Lady Slipper to its end at the cul-de-sac to 10728. **NOTE:** 5 cars can easily park in our driveway without blocking our neighbor's access. In the cul-de-sac, park headed into the curb. Before the cul-de-sac, park parallel to the curb.

301 – 468 - 1535

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**Changes and New Membership Info:**

**E-mail changes=**

Ellie Thayer = [ellie.thayer@comcast.net](mailto:ellie.thayer@comcast.net)

Therese St. Louis = [theresesaint@earthlink.net](mailto:theresesaint@earthlink.net)

Walter and Annemarie Brenner = [twobrenners@alamedanet.net](mailto:twobrenners@alamedanet.net)

**Our new applicant member =**

Ingrid Monaghan  
8522 Beech Tree Road  
Bethesda, MD 20817  
301-356-0752  
[1monaghan@mindspring.com](mailto:1monaghan@mindspring.com)

**Editor's Note:**

Special thanks goes to Marvin, our summer editor (and sometimes fall, winter, and spring as well.)

Also to Bob Marx and Dave Lerner for their technical expertise. Without it, the e-mailed Toot wouldn't be able to be read in all the different formats and you wouldn't see all the great pictures and graphics (or not, if that is what you chose).

## Forthcoming Local Events

### IS THE WASHINGTON POST NEWSROOM ANYTHING LIKE WE SEE IN THE MOVIES?

Come and find out on Monday, September 13 at 2 P.M.

PVS will have a guided tour of the newsroom on that date. We need to have at least ten people to be given the tour. Please let Jessma Blockwick know you are interested as soon as possible (703-356-0717).

The Post is located at 1150 15th Street, N.W. not far from the Metro Center Subway stop.

For those interested, we can arrange to meet for lunch at 12:30.

#####

### Tour the New National Air and Space Museum (the Udvar-Hazy Center) near Dulles Airport

If you act quickly, space is available for 2 or 3 more participants. Although final count is due Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>, we might be able to add a few by Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>.

Join PVS's group of 25 for a docent-led tour of the Air & Space Museum in Chantilly, VA on **Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM**. The tour will last 1 ½ - 2 hours and will be followed by an optional self-pay lunch at the food court in the nearby Wegman's mega-market. The Museum and tour are free but parking at the museum is \$12/car. If you care to join us, please contact Barbara Leonhardt at 301-963-8111 or [fbleonhardt@starpower.net](mailto:fbleonhardt@starpower.net).

	<p><b>BICYCLING GOURMET</b>  <b>W&amp;OD Trail -- Biketoberfest</b>                  Thursday, September 23, 2004 10:30 AM                  Starting Point: VA Rte. 28 &amp; W&amp;OD Trail Parking Lot.</p>	
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**Route:** Twenty mile round trip ride on the flat W&OD trail from Sterling to Leesburg (rest and cappuccino stop) and return with short detour near end to the Old Dominion BrewPub for lunch. This is a BrewPub in a "hidden" location which is very popular with area cyclists. You can sample at least a dozen varieties of fresh beers/ales (including a special brew for Oktoberfest as well as root beer) and dine on hearty pub food. Lunch is expected to start no later than 1:30 PM. This ride is mostly on a flat bike path; participants can choose to cycle either a shorter or longer distance.

**Directions to Starting Point:** *VIA Rte. 7* (Leesburg Pike). From the Beltway go 15 miles west toward Leesburg; Exit right on VA 28 South (Sully Road) and proceed 2.4 miles and turn right at traffic light into parking lot 1/4 mile just before the W&OD Trail Overpass (visible from road).

*VIA Dulles Toll Road:* From the Beltway go 12 miles to Rte.28 North (Sully Road). Proceed 3.6 miles to the W&OD Trail Overpass and continue. Just beyond the overpass, turn left (traffic light) from Rte. 28 into parking lot. (less traffic this way, but costs 85 cents toll).

**Leaders:** Marvin Hass (703) 751-4737 and Betty Byrne (202) 483-4048

**Note:** Starting time listed above is when cyclists actually depart; please arrive earlier to allow sufficient time to set up your equipment. Nearest "facilities" are 2 miles beyond starting point. (PortaPotty). Rest stop with running water facilities at Leesburg rest stop. If you arrive late, just proceed west on the Trail.

## Forthcoming Local Events

### **Oktoberfest Saturday October 2**



**When:** SATURDAY, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. Rain or Shine  
**What:** 26<sup>th</sup> annual PVS Oktoberfest featuring beer, sausages, sauerkraut, pretzels, potato salad, & pflaumen kuchen. Oompah music, too, for dancing of feet, clapping of hands, and cavorting of spirit.  
**Call:** Mary Ward & Jim Slack at 703-754-8814 or [MaryAndJim@termineigh.com](mailto:MaryAndJim@termineigh.com) by Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> of September to reserve your place (limited to 60), to choose low-fat or high-test wurst, and to sign up for bringing a potato salad, kuchen, or other Bavarian delectable. No-shows will be responsible for their share of the cost.  
**Cost:** Approximately \$8.00 per person.  
**Bring:** Your own eating utensils and plate. Your favorite beer mug is, of course, always welcome.  
**Optional:** Lederhosen and Dirndl. Even Pferdekleidung.  
**Where:** Mary Ward & Jim Slack's Termineigh Horse Farm, Catharpin, Va.  
**Directions:** In the September TOOT.

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

**WHERE:** Betty Lawrence's lodge at Blue Knob, Pennsylvania  
**LOT TO DO:** hiking, flea markets, antiquing, railroad museum, Spa  
**COST:** approximately \$10/person/night, two nights minimum.  
Accommodations limited  
**HOW:** Call the hostess with the mostest, Betty Lawrence at (703) 319-1860.

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### **SAVE THIS DATE!**

Friday, October 29 for the annual *Frank Shelburne Memorial Hike*.

Shirley Rettig will lead this event. Look for details in the October TOOT.

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### ***NEW YORK RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR***

**Saturday November 13, 2004**

We have 44 PVS people (including friends, relatives and grandchildren) going by bus to Radio City on November 13 to attend the annual Christmas Show at Radio City Music Hall. This spectacular, starring the Rockettes, includes the traditional favorites "The Parade of the Wooden Soldiers" and "The Living Nativity". We have a waiting list in case of cancellation. If interested, call Wilma Sharer, 301-975-9411, or e-mail [wilma@sharerassociates.com](mailto:wilma@sharerassociates.com). This is an outstanding one and a half hour show with no intermission. Dinner at Tutto Bene Italian restaurant will follow the show before returning to Maryland.

## PAST EVENTS

### FUN WITH THE HEXAGON...

So the Cabinet was having a meeting and they were discussing Dick Cheney's angina, and the President said.....OOPS! Better not in a family newsletter! So how about this one:

At the beginning of the cafeteria line, there was a tray of apples with a sign over it saying, "Please take only one apple. Remember, God is watching you." At the end of the line was a tray of cookies. Over them, someone had placed a sign saying "Take as many cookies as you want. God is watching the apples!"

Twelve PVSers enjoyed a picnic on the lawn at the Mason District Park (beautifully dry since the hurricane had gone elsewhere) and then moved on to enjoy the jokes, skits, and dancing of the Hexagon company. And for free! Who could ask for a more relaxing evening? ~~~~Jessma

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### TuBING

<> <> <>

Charley proved a PVS bane!

The forecasters PROMISED very fierce rain.

Though it barely drizzled,

The tubing trip fizzled

Thanks to the rogue hurricane.

<> <> <>

by - Mary Ward

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### Wine Tasting Party

### Wine Tasting Party

A wine tasting party was held at the home of Judy and Ray Jones the evening of Saturday August 21. There were 20 PVS members and friends in attendance. The wine tasting was presented by sommelier Andrew Schneider, CSW for Pica Deli Gourmet and Wines of Arlington and Reston – Gabe, Frank, and Ron Pica proprietors. Australian wines from several regions of the continent were featured. We tasted one sparkling wine, two white wines, two red wines, and one Port. Hors d'oeuvres were shared between tasting courses, and beef tenderloin accompanied the red wines. The Port tasting followed dessert and coffee. The wine menu for the evening was:

- Greg Norman (Yes, the golfer) Estates – Sparkling Chardonnay/Pinot Noir
- Cape Mentelle (Western Australia) Sauvignon Blanc Semillon 2003
- Balnaves of Coonawarra Chardonnay 1999
- Palandri (Western Australia) Shiraz 2001
- Cape Mentelle (Western Australia) Cabernet Merlot 2002
- Benjamin Australia Tawny Port

The wines are available from Pica Deli, with price ranges from \$14 to \$26. Case discounts are available. Consensus was that all were good, but the favorites that emerged among the group were the Sauvignon Blanc, the Cab Merlot, and the Port.  
*by Ray Jones*

### PORTILLO, CHILE AUGUST 2004

by Jim Arnold and several conspirators

On August 6, 2004, nine PVSers and the tour operator descended on the Atlanta airport for an overnight flight to Santiago, Chile.

Next morning, in Santiago, we landed in the Van for Portillo, near the summit of the Andes. After two hours, we entered "Los Caracoles" (the snails), a series of 30 hairpin turns, filled with slow moving trucks heading for Argentina. About half way up we hit snow and at curve 28, we reached Portillo, a totally self-contained resort with a beautiful 450-bed hotel and a plethora of facilities to make every stay an adventure.

Accommodations, food and skiing were very good but, due to warm temperatures, the snow receded rapidly at the lower levels. To delay the retreat of the snow, there was an army of workers, we called them the basket brigade, moving large baskets of snow from off piste areas to the lower slopes. We also shared the slopes with the Chilean Army on training exercises.

Special features of the area are the four and five person pomas. These are fast moving lifts, serving the steepest slopes, and demanding some real guts to get on and off. It was also the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Chilean Wine Week with wine tastings each night. Most of what we got to savor was quite good, and a welcome introduction for the sumptuous dinners that followed daily.

On Sunday we had our obligatory first day falls when Marianne caught a ski tip just before the chairlift's dismount, and her chair partners then followed compulsory falls off the chair. But all recovered very nicely and the gorgeous skiing day continued in full swing. Notably, we were blessed by avoiding visits to the resorts well staffed on-site clinic.

On Tuesday (10 Aug) we broke from our regular mid-day routine for a delightful lunch at Tio Bob's, the only food service on the slopes. Tio Bob's provides a fantastic panoramic view of the valley of Hazana del Ineas and the high ridge of the Andes. The one-price menu includes a wide choice of grilled meats, soup of the day, and a generous salad bar. We were sure the ingredients of the latter were fresh after observing a young man riding up the ski lift ahead of us and delivering a large bag of tomatoes to the restaurant. Despite some confusion over the use of complimentary vouchers we received in the hotel, we enjoyed a refreshing and photographic noon break.

Thursday afternoon we returned to Tio Bob's for a 3:30 pm Los Vascos Winery-sponsored tasting. Our wait for the hotel staff to off load themselves and cases of wine glasses off the chairlift ahead of us created a buildup in the lift line and a wait of over 3 minutes --- the longest of the trip.

We were treated to an array of delicious *entremes* -- beef and chicken kabobs, shrimp, empanadillas, and breaded shrimp with BBQ sauce -- and an impromptu conga line that formed and danced on the roof of the restaurant. Although Dave Lerner got doused with wine by a passing waitress carrying several boxes of used wine glasses (he says!), we still packed three more runs into the day before the lifts closed at 5:00 pm. During those runs it was noted that the skiing abilities of certain trip members appeared to be improved by a visit to the Bacchus Temple

Our accompanying tour operator, Effie, an excellent expert skier, made out especially well when her (or His?) newly acquired friend turned out to be a super-skier.

On our last evening David A was rewarded by a visit to the locals' bar with the waiter dumping a whole tray of drinks on him. He recovered nicely though wet and smelling of alcohol.

On Saturday, August 14, we loaded back into the van for our return to Santiago. By the bottom of "Los Caracoles," the air was noticeably thicker and easier to breathe. After a two-hour shop and eat stop in the restaurants infested center of Santiago, we reached our hotel, a beautiful and very accommodating 4-star property, located right in the heart of this sprawling city. During the pm we tested the city's very comfortable rubber-tired subway system, and proved that even 5 PVSers can fit in a mini-cab. Sunday, we had a guided tour of Santiago in the morning. In the afternoon, we visited a street fair, the Chilean National Museum of History and just explored. At 5:00 PM we left for the flight back to summer.

The check-in process was horrendous but we all made it. After another all night flight, we returned to Atlanta where we parted for our four different flights to four different airports. A very memorable first trip to this spectacular all accommodating resort and beautiful metropolis was much enjoyed by all. Sincere thanks are due to those who made it possible; their efforts were notable throughout.

## **SNOWMASS/BEAVER CREEK 2005**



**Meribel, France**      **March 4 – 13, 2005**

This trips has been cancelled.



# MAMMOTH

***PVS Goes to***

**Saturday, March 19 to Saturday, March 26**

**At least 10 of us are signed up for the maximum skiing and greatest VALUE trip of the 2005 ski season? Join Marty and Jan as they lead PVS on it's first-ever trip to Mammoth Mountain, CA.**

The entire Ski Mammoth Mountain package is **\$1,350.**

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

~~~~~What a great end of the season, bargain trip; full of extras AND western skiing!!~~~~~

**World-class Mammoth Mountain averages one of the longest seasons in the world, opening in early November and often keeping the lifts running well beyond Memorial Day. Steep chutes, wide-open bowls, impeccably groomed trails. LOTS** of skiing for all levels on 3,500 acres of snow. 15% expert, 20% advanced, 40% intermediate, 25% beginner 27 lifts including 2 gondolas.--- Average snowfall = 385"--- Base elevation is a comfortable: 7,900 feet; the top elevation is 11,000 feet: and 3,100 vertical feet.

**THE TRIP INCLUDES:**

- ~ Round trip United Air Lines from Dulles to Reno - as an added advantage, United has an incentive package,
  - 2 round trips out of the D.C. area from present to April 30, 2005 = one free ticket anywhere in the continental U.S.
  - ~ Round trip bus from Reno to Mammoth Lakes
  - ~ 6 nights at the *Shilo Inn* on Main St in Mammoth Lakes (breakfasts included)
  - ~ 1 night at the *Sands* in Reno (Maybe you can win and pay for the trip!)
  - ~ 5 day lift tickets, out of 7 possible skiing days – *option for the 6<sup>th</sup> day.*
  - ~ Welcome wine and cheese party
  - ~ 2 group dinners; 3 Après ski parties
  - ~ Baggage handling, transfers, and hotel gratuities
- >>>>>Send \$250 deposit, payable to **Marty Rine**, to: <<<<<<
- >>>>>**Marty Rine, 5256 Lonsdale Dr, Springfield, VA 22151** or call **703-978-0179** <<<<<<

**Marty Rine = [martyski@erols.com](mailto:martyski@erols.com)**

**Jan Marx** can be reached at **[jebbmarx@aol.com](mailto:jebbmarx@aol.com)**.

**CURRENT PVS BOARD & OFFICERS -2004-05**

**EXCOM:**

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

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

**First Term:**

*Marilyn Clark*  
*Dave DeVilbiss*  
*Mike Strand*

**Second Term:**

*John Brunelli*  
*Ray McKinley*  
*Dottie Villers*



Good grief! 25 years of KNEEdling PVSers. Do we KNEED more of that?  
KNEEDless to say, "AbsoluteKNEE!"

## THE KNEE

By Ray McKinley



25 YEARS

Herewith some mystifying musings, my magnificent metaphors and melancholy murmurs (no monotonous meanderings) from your mighty, mangy main man—er Knee person.

In response to countless (assuming 3 is countless) inquiries, I'll answer some of the frequently asked questions (FAQs) about this column. "What is the Knee?" Now that's a silly question. It's a Joint between the thigh and the calf. "How was the name Knee selected?" There was a Washington Star column called "the Ear." We figured that this column would be at a lower level. Besides, who can imagine doing tibia puns?

"How long has the Knee been around?" The Knee has never been around. I've always been a square. The first Knee came in January 1979. Imagine, over 25 years (or 2.5 decades) of kneepuns. Now that's a historknee! "What's the Knee's philosophy?" Never look back and NEVER read your own columns.

At a recent event, Jackie Rosen and Kirk and Peggy Burns discovered that some 20 years ago they were neighbors. They even went skiing to Mt. Sutton together and shared baby sitters!

Be certain to ask Sally Finan about her ski trip to Bolivia some years ago. There she skied rope tows on a glacier at 17,000 ft. Wow!

Congrats to Lu Beale. She is now a nonagenarian. I can't even count that high!

And a special tip of the ol' Knee Cap to 91 year old Marianne Cook. At the end of September, she is off to Vienna (Austria—not Virginia) unaccompanied.

Just back from a 17 day Holocaust Tour are Dick and Rosemary Schwartzbard. They visited Berlin, Vienna, Prague, Nuremberg, Krakow,

Budapest and several concentration camps. Perhaps their highlight was lunch with the 94 year old woman who sheltered Ann Frank

For the first time in a decade, PVS was set to go tubing on the Shenandoah. But the river was closed to tubers that day due to Hurricane Charley. A real bummer! Kudos to Shirley Rettig for setting it up, nonetheless. Maybe next year...

Sometimes I can't remember if a certain item has been in the Knee. I call it amkneesia. My solution is to use a lot of kneemonics.

Charlotte Eddy is back from a week in Virginia Beach with her daughter—also Charlotte, who now lives in Germany. *Sehr gut!*

Excomer Dave Devilbis and Carolyn Maurer will be heading to Maine at the end of the month. There, Dave will be PVS's Maine man.

Good news from PVS Colorado. Penny Hanshaw is recovering from last year's injuries. She has been out on horseback, and she was just at Telluride (tell my ride?) and got a season pass for the upcoming season. Right on!

Howard and Jean Hensley are in the process of moving back from West Virginia. They now have an apartment in Ballston. For those who lost track, daughter Kelly has been married 4 years and had a baby in February.

Congrats to Marvin Hass. He was named Bicycle Trip Leader of the Year by the Potomac Peddlers. I guess Marvin has come full sprocket!

Salley Finan and George Welti were about to head to Florida when George had chest pains. It turned out to be a heart problem. After surgery, George is fine. But no skiing this year. Yucko.

Irene and Jack Ragen were back in town recently where they met with several PVSers.

According to Jessma Blockwick, the Aspen parking meters now take credit cards! Yup.

Back from their Finger Lakes cabin, Dick and Marilyn Clark spent their 46<sup>th</sup> Ankneeverary in NY's 1000 Islands. They stayed in the boat house B & B where they were engaged. Awwww.

Now, in closing, the Knee again leaves you with a few additional definikneotions:

Ankneedotes: 1. Annie describing her grand kids and 2. What this column is all about.

Geknee: From a magic lantern.

Kneeon: My writing—as the kneeon skiing.

Symphoknee: My favorite type of music.

Gene kneeology: The study of your knee's ancestors. Kneenuf!

# CALENDAR

## 2004 CALENDAR

- Sept 13 Mon. Tour of Washington Post Newsroom
- Sept 18 Sat Air/Space Museum at Dulles Airport
- Sept 21 Tues PVS monthly meeting at Strand's
- Sept 23 Thurs Biketoberfest
- Sept 28 Tues ExCom at the Abrahams
- Oct 2 Sat Oktoberfest - Catharpin, VA
- Oct 19 Tues PVS monthly meeting
- Oct 9-11 Fall Color Weekend at Blue Knob - Betty Lawrence
- Oct 18 Tues Monthly meeting at the Waddick's
- Oct 26 Tues ExCom meeting at the Heitchue's
- Oct. 29 Fri Frank Shelborn Hike

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

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| <p><b>Change of postal or email address:</b><br/>Call Wilma at (301) 975-9411<br/>or send email message to<br/><a href="mailto:info@potomacvalleyskiers.org">info@potomacvalleyskiers.org</a></p> |
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| <p><b>E-mail Notice</b><br/>If you want to start receiving<br/>Toot electronically, please let me know.<br/>Thanks, Jan = <a href="mailto:jebbmarx@aol.com">jebbmarx@aol.com</a>.</p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|