



50th Anniversary Toot



PVS from 2010 - 2015

By Marianne Sponis, Inge Lesjak, and Nancy McKinley

On the 50th anniversary of the Potomac Valley Skiers, November 1, 2015, here we are, not so young, but together, bonded in love for the sport of skiing. And, for the camaraderie that exists among us!

The last five years have seen many similarities to the preceding forty five- – successful ski trips locally, in the west, and internationally; monthly meetings at benevolent members' homes, always hospitable with ample food and beverage offerings; continuing news and gossip with “The Knee”; leadership meetings to discuss changing needs and non-skiing activities; and, pro-active volunteers who kept the fires burning and the computers running!

Serendipity occurred in 2013. Another club, Capital Golden Skiers, came on the scene. Originally members of the Over-the-Hill-Gang chapter started in the 1980s, the club hosted skiing, biking, and hiking trips, luncheons, parties, and other activities. Formats for meetings took on a different form from those of PVS. It was the CGS leadership who met bi-monthly at the home of Gerda Picco. Members met at the luncheons, ski trips, and other sponsored activities. The club was managed for many years by John Storm, Tersh Norton, and Don Vierimaa. Ski trips were led by Paul Levy and Inge Lesjak. After long discussions, the leadership team decided to disband and seek other clubs to join. Happily, after an outstanding presentation by then PVS president, Nancy McKinley, Potomac Valley Skiers was the overwhelming choice.

Since our “mingling of members” (many CGSers were quickly recruited for various positions and projects), Potomac Valley Skiers has maintained its enthusiastic attitude and warm personality. The club meetings continue to host anywhere from twenty five to forty members monthly; upcoming ski trips are filling up; non-ski activities attract the passionate; and members continue to volunteer (hurrah!). The Jubilee celebration will find close to a hundred guests at a fabulous dinner, dance, and sharing of memories. It's a harbinger of many wonderful years ahead as we continue to attract new members and enjoy our comradeship and club activities together.

Ski slopes, here we come!

The Heart of Potomac Valley Skiers for Forty-Five Years 1965 - 2010

FROM JAN MARX IN 2010:

As I was looking through 45 years of TOOTs, I discovered all sorts of fun tidbits and many reminisces that I wanted to share with all of you. Some are verbal and some are visual.

TOOT HISTORY

There have been many TOOT editors over the years. Mike Rura was the first, with one mimeographed page entitled, “Bulletin #1.” In the first year, editorship changed often, depending on who was in town and not skiing or away on business. There were workers behind the editor - typing, erasing, and typing again. Aina Hertelis Thomas was one. In May 1967, Lilo Kinaman became co-editor. The first anniversary issue was a group effort

of 14 pages! Hank Thomas designed the cover (sailboat and mountains). There were articles about ski instruction by Ron Fett, ski patrol news by Larry Pease, a bibliography of film strips and books about skiing, and an account by Aina of her walking two miles to school on skis as a child in Latvia. February 1967 was the "Month of the Big Snowflake." The cover was designed by Nancy Monacelli. One of the flakes has our shield in it. This later became our pin. There were some months when there wasn't a newsletter because there wasn't a writer or editor. In 1970, there were many who took the job for a couple of months, after which tenure in the job lasted longer. Among those who helped with the TOOT were:

1970	Eloise Newdorp	1974	Dick & Julie King
	Jack Fox	1978	Judy Mealey
	Ginny Larson	1979-1990	Lou Beale
	Doug & Jean Toone	1995-2008	Jessma Blockwick & Jan Marx
	Marilyn & Dick Clark	2008-2009	rotating editors: Jan Marx, Marvin Hass,
1971	Sandy & Jerry Deighton		Jessma Blockwick, Dottie Villers,
1973	ExCom wrote the TOOT & Thelma Belloli typed		Mike Strand, & Kerry Hines

There were many others during 2008 and 2009 who had a hand in the publication of the TOOT, but their names were not listed in the old TOOTs and their valued praises go unsung.

In the background, of course, there were faithful copying and mailing crews. Jan and Bob Marx started with the Kings, and in recent years Bette Walker, Marilyn Clark, and Barbara Leonhardt were the workers. Now, Dave Warthen sends out the TOOTs electronically and volunteers send out three USPS TOOTs to members who do not have email.

True as much today as it was originally planned:

TOOT is "written by skiers, for skiers." It is the "bugle" that keeps us together. A box of little plastic horns was passed around at one of the first club meetings. These horns livened things up and they were taken on outings, etc. The symbol and the title "TOOT" were adopted by the members for the newsletter.

TOOT update from 2010 - 2015 by Ellie Thayer:

In 2011, a new system was initiated. David Warthen, Jan Marx, and Marvin Hass became the layout editors and Ellie Thayer assumed the duties of the TOOT coordinator. The transition to full electronic distribution, which began in earnest in 2008, continued smoothly. The present day TOOT is in color, full of photographs, and connected to the outside world with links.

Ray McKinley continued his monthly column, "The Knee," which began in 1974. Nancy Garrett ran "Cook's Corner" for nearly a decade, from 1988 to 1997. Two other regular columnists joined the ranks: David Warthen with "Members' Corner" and Rosemary Schwartzbard with "Ski Talk."

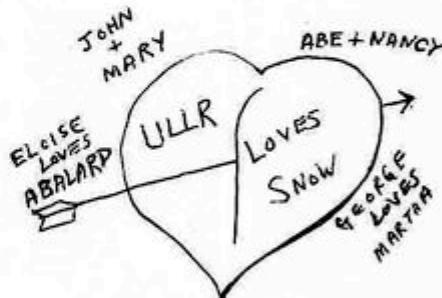
The four TOOT mastheads below show the quick progression of design ideas in 1970: The fourth TOOT masthead was designed by Hank Thomas and is used presently. Marvin Hass' computer-generated TOOT masthead appears at the bottom of this page:

POTOMAC VALLEY SKIERS

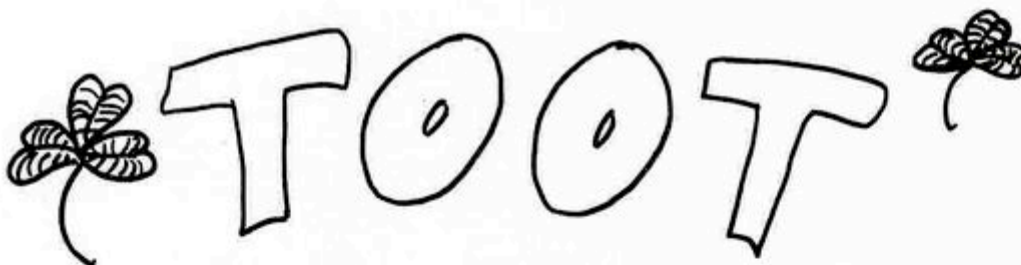


JANUARY 1970

POTOMAC VALLEY SKIERS



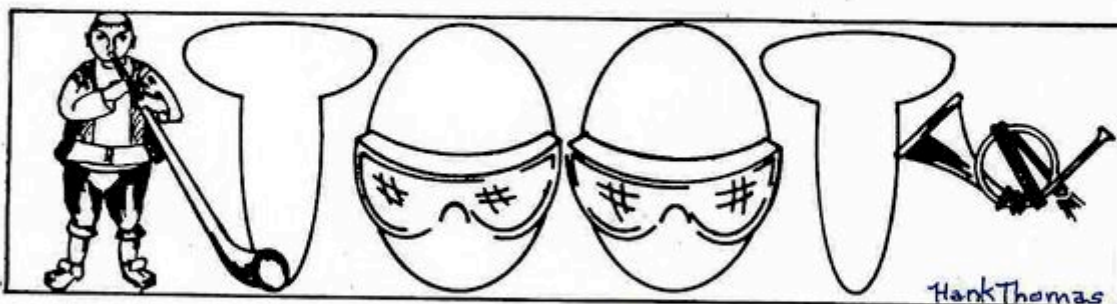
FEBRUARY 1970



Vol. V, No. 2

POTOMAC VALLEY SKIERS


March, 1970




Vol. V, No. 4

POTOMAC VALLEY SKIERS

April, 1970



TOOT



Volume XI No. 7 Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc

June, 2005

WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

www.potomacvalleyskiers.org
info@potomacvalleyskiers.org

TOOT Artwork:

In the past, much of the artwork for the TOOT was created by talented artists, such as Lu Beale. This manual artwork preceded the use of electronic, colored graphics, which we see in present-day TOOTs. Creation of manual artwork was supposed to be the good old days, but it sure took a lot of time.



September 1982

To
Kitzbühel
and
St. Anton
with
Wyckoff's



March 1989

CLUB HISTORY

The following founders are listed in the Articles of Incorporation in Washington, DC on November 16, 1965. They drafted the bylaws during the next few months.

E. Packard Anderson

C. Brooke Armat

Richard H. King

Doris Hege Mair

Michael Rura

William A. Stecher

Hank Thomas

Penny Sayre Wiederhold

These additional people are among the charter members.

Marianne Lehr Adams

Susan Brown

Max E. Bunnell

Patricia Calef Cope

Ronald R. Fett

Glade Flake

Dr. Bruce Gilmore

Ingeborg Gilmore

Charles Gordon

Byron Gutheil

Georgenne Harsh

Richard Harsh

Bruce Harstad

William M. Johnson

Ann M. Jones

Lilo Kinaman

Russell W. Kinaman

Jack Lilley

Billie J. Manring

Nancy Monacelli

Jean Old

Larry Pease

Trudy Lemke Santoro

Debbie M. Smith

Morton Stimler

Suzanne Stimler

MEETINGS

Originally, meetings were held in restaurant party rooms: the Charcoal Hearth and Arnold's Hofbrau. In January 1968, PVS held its first on-the-ski-slope meeting - at Charnita, after work, in the dark. In the summer, the club met in members' homes.

The energetic new club of proven skiers used the meetings to emphasize safety and care of equipment. There were demonstrations for sharpening skies and testing your bindings, talks about altitude sickness and keeping warm. (Aren't we glad for the high tech clothing and equipment we have now!)

In 1971, the club produced a "New Member Manual" that was **78** pages long !!! It contained the history and basics of club functioning. It was a delightful find for me, and a testament to the enthusiasm of the club. It illustrated the level of technology of the industry and pointed out that it was still a do-it-yourself sport. (Lawsuits were rare). The founding members were dedicated to education and sharing information with the group.

At that time (membership was 75), **23** members were Ski Patrollers, many of whom held offices in the National and Regional associations. Plus, eight members were Qualified Amateur Ski Instructors. Four members were qualified judges for the Basic Ski Test.

The manual also contained articles (written by members or from ski publications):

- How to become a member of the Ski Patrol.
- How to become a ski instructor.
- How to run an Alpine Race; also How to Watch a race. Nastar info.
- How to shape up for racing (6 pages).
- Ski injury study.
- Binding/boot friction (6 pages).
- Binding performance check list for the PVS owned "Lipe" apparatus.
(You can check your own bindings.)
- Instructions for sharpening your own skies (4 pages).
- Glossary.
- Radio ski reports - stations and times in 12 cities on the east coast.
- Wind chill chart.
- Differences in ski techniques throughout the world (6 pages).
- Car ski rack info.
- Technical info about how and why skies, boots, and bindings work.
- Buying a car; what to look for inside and out, with skiing in mind (4 pages).
- "How to Survive In Europe with a Minimum of Hassle" (7 pages).
- Invest in a ski condo.



ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS - other than skiing

Skiing was the focus, but foremost was HAVING FUN. Below are some of the activities that the club used to do or that we now do in a different style.

These events are from 1968 - 1995 and are exclusively PVS generated. Events prior to this often were with other groups, such as SCWDC, to which many also belonged.

Water skiing	Every Tuesday at White's Ferry. Boats owned by Charlie Gordon, Bill Stecher, Brooke Armat.
Sailing	Day and charter. Annapolis. Schooner & sloop with Dean Worcester. Moonlight.
Swim & cookouts	At Aina Hertelis' in SW apartment building.
Tennis	Hains Point every Sunday - 10 to 12.
Lobster Fest	Indoors. 37 lobsters; 240 clams. Played twister.
Hikes	3 in November. Progressively more difficult. Jeremy's Run and Neighbor Mt; Little Devil's Staircase Big Devil's staircase.
Christmas Party	With gluwine.
Thawing out weekend	Cape Hatteras.
Steak and Swim	Elrods the first, 1969.
Rock climbing	Pease.
Sailing	Schooner & sloop.
Lobster Fest	Great Falls, VA. Used garbage cans on park grill. 53 people.
First aid instruction	At a meeting.
Halloween Costume Ball	
Wine tasting	First - 1969.



Canoe	Overnight camping on Shenandoah.	
Rafting		
Octoberfest	Members attended a public celebration to benefit the US Ski Team several years in a row.	
Novemberfest	Public fundraiser for USST. Ham Morton on committee.	
Hikes	6 scheduled before Thanksgiving; Harper's Ferry, Dickey Ridge, Piney Ridge, Old Rag fire road, Chimney Rocks, Knob Mt.	
Car rally		
Crab & corn feed	Great Falls.	
Ski clinics	At meetings. How to sharpen, check bindings, wax. Boot info. Staying warm. Safety.	
Octoberfest	First for club - at Wyckoffs; then Evans; then Ward/Slack.	
Answering service	Call Marxes if planning a mid week ski or other activity.	
Golf	Helen Price.	
Hadler's	Picnic and sail. First 1981.	
Winery tour	Club's first. Grasley. Montbray, Byrd, Provenzza, Berrywine. Later; Linganore Winecellars and Eisenhower Farm with McKinleys; then the Finger Lakes with the Paynes.	
Mason hike	Dinner at their mountain home near Front Royal.	
National Observatory		
Bike Hike	Eastern shore.	
New Year's Eve	Barrys.	
Lincoln Memorial	Catacombs tour.	
Ice skating		
Hikes	Billy Goat Trail, Pilot Knob, Cedar Run, White Oak Canyon, Little Devil's Staircase, Old Rag, Catocotin, and Capital Crescent Trail.	
Jog-a-long	9 participants along the C&O canal; 2 real runners, others walked / hiked. This led to 1st Fun Run.	
Harvest Dinner	Skyline Center.	
Steeplechase		
State Dept. tour		
Sugaring Off	Catocotin, MD.	
Fun Run	Lake Accotink, First-1982. Clarks.	
Dessert Party		
Brian Eardley	New equipment meeting (Oct) First 1983.	
Sailplane	Warrenton.	
Montgomery Playhouse		
Cook's Corner	by Nancy Garrett. First-1988.	
Derby Party		
Chili Cook Off		
Art's Club dinner		
Bay Bridge Walk		
DOGs	Dining Out Group. Smith/Tengel.	
Spring Dinner	Colonade; Walker.	
Bike Trek	St. Michaels.	
Cosmos Club	Lu Beale's 80th.	
Blob's Park		
Pre-Mardi Gras Party		
British Embassy	Music Hall.	
Kreeger Museum	Lunch in Glen Echo.	

PVS - "dedicated to educational, social and athletic pursuits with particular reference to the sport of skiing." -- as recorded in our incorporation registry.

Potomac Valley Skiers - the Beginning

by *Founder and First President Dick King*

It all began on a European Ski trip - sponsored by The "Other Club" which, at that time in 1963, was the pre-eminent ski club in Washington, D. C.! The history of the "other club", also known as "The Ski Club of Washington, D. C." - best known by its acronym SCWDC - is that in 1935, some forlorn and lonely New Englanders who were then resident in the total D. C. area were looking for a way to pursue their beloved sport of skiing. They sought out a distant slope in Davis, West Virginia; found a long heavy rope and old motor; and VOILA!, they had a ski hill, a rope tow; AND a ski club!

BUT, this story is Potomac Valley Skiers - The Beginning. Not the beginning of SCWDC. Well, it is important to remember that it is the love of skiing that brings all skiers together around the world, on the slopes and at after-skiing events.

SCWDC sponsored a European trip in 1963 going to St. Anton, Austria and to Chamonix, France. Among the enthusiastic travelers were three guys who got to know each other and shared a new friendship. Two were New Englanders and one an eastern Pennsylvanian. Their names were Harry "Hank" Thomas, Dick King and Bill Stecher. Therein lies the beginning of a lifelong association and friendship that exists today - AND the birth of P V S! They quickly became skiing companions and good friends, starting with a mixup in accommodations the very first night (NO reservations on record thanks to a now defunct AAA Travel Company). Bill Stecher smilingly (?) slept in a bathtub that night! Following the trip, at frequent gatherings together, the three friends talked about a ski club FOR SKIERS, a novel idea. Not that SCWDC lacked skiers. No way. There were many excellent skiers there, and many others with varied levels of skill. But, the by-laws did not require skiing skills to join a ski club!?!? Hank, Dick and Bill thought there was something wrong in that process of social activity. Also, they believed strongly in the inherent value of smallness and a closer-knit group of skiing friends.

This idea spun in our heads for a year or so. When subtle inquiries and efforts to establish a "skiing requirement" in the SCWDC by-laws failed, the idea germinated. The group of three became a group of seven. The goal was the establishment of a small ski club where skiing was a standard requirement for membership. Those original seven were E. Packard Anderson, C. Brooke Armat, Dick King, Mike Rura, Penny Sayre Wiederhold, Bill Stecher and Hank Thomas.

These seven became a committee, established a set of by-laws (which included a requirement for all members to pass the U.S. Eastern Ski Association Basic Ski Test), arranged for a legal social organization status, and agreed upon a name. And, POTOMAC VALLEY SKIERS, Inc. was a reality. The time was November 1965. Twenty five years ago!



FOUNDING FATHERS

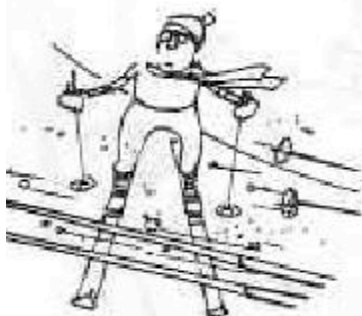
(AND MOTHER)

Potomac Valley Skiers - the Beginning

by Dick King

Our first meetings were held upstairs in a small German style restaurant and beer stube on Pennsylvania Avenue just west of 17th Street known as Arnold's Hofbrau House.

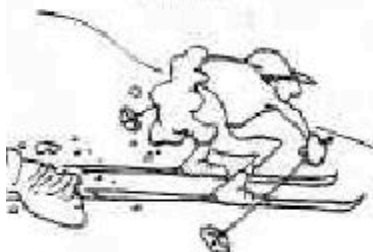
We soon outgrew that site and moved to other meeting places. Members who joined that first year were accepted as charter members of the club. Quite a few of those early birds (or, kneet people, as Ray McKinley might say) are still around today! We have mourned the passing of two founders - Brooke Armat, our first treasurer, and Mike Rura, the father of TOOT and the club's information chairman.



Schuss



Sitzmark

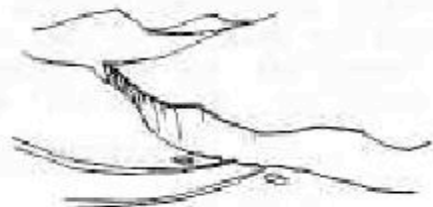


The membership was established with a limit of two hundred members to "keep the club small and close knit." And that is what it has continued to be. For many years we did not approach the 200 limit figure. We met in various restaurants and "free" rooms around the area and slowly gravitated to individual member homes as commercial locales became harder to find. We have always tried to balance the location of meetings among Virginia, Maryland and D.C. and that continues today.

Now the club has reached the mature age of twenty-five years and is charging into the 1990s. It's operation continues successful and beneficial to its loyal membership. Wonderful, hard working self-starters have kept it going in a style relished by its participants. It is a living tribute to those early years when an idea was nurtured and developed and good people supported it with their time and continuing effort. That spirit and warmth are the foundations upon which the early efforts now survive as the club pushes the membership limit of 200. The future looks bright and positive for PVS, which is what it was designed to be: a ski club for SKIERS!

There is so much more to be told about those twenty five years by this story teller and many other story tellers. These will be told over and over at other times and under other circumstances. For now, it is time to say that this is PVS - the Beginning and the Future.

HAPPY 25th BIRTHDAY!!



Drawings on this page by charter member Nancy Monacelli

An article from the November 1985 special 20th anniversary edition of the TOOT with the following introduction:

A HISTORY OF THE CREATION OF PVS WAS PRINTED IN SKIER MAGAZINE IN JANUARY 1968 AND APPEARED AS A REPRINT IN AN EARLY TOOT. WE BELIEVE IT APPROPRIATE TO REPRINT EXCERPTS IN THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY TOOT TO INFORM AND REMIND US OF OUR ROOTS AND PERHAPS AMUSE US WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT FROM THE START WE CLEARLY DESERVED THE SOBRIQUET PVS & E.

SKI CLUB OF THE MONTH *Skier, January, 1968*

POTOMAC VALLEY SKIERS

Where is a ski club as it approaches its second anniversary? Having at one time been associated with a ski club at its inception, and after having seen it fold after less than one year of operation, I was frankly curious to learn the secrets, if any, of the apparent success of an almost brand-new club. Potomac Valley Skiers is a 100% USEASA club, incorporated in November 1965 in the District of Columbia. It is devoted to “educational, social and athletic pursuits with particular reference to the sport of skiing.” And, as one member has said “We wish to further our knowledge and interest in all sports, and skiing in particular, and to do this in the company of people who have similar interests.”

Dick King and Bill Stecher gave birth to the idea of Potomac Valley Skiers at the 1965 USEASA convention in Atlantic City. While they felt that the Ski Club of Washington, D.C. filled a great need providing, as it does, primarily a social outlet and place to meet for the Washington area’s vast young adult population who are virtual strangers

to the city (club membership numbers around 3,000), they felt also there was room for another club in the area – one devoted wholly to skiing and skiers – indeed, that there was a real need for such an organization. Thus was born the idea of Potomac Valley Skiers –an addition to, not in place of, nor in competition with the Ski Club of Washington, D.C.

The original Potomac Valley Skiers *ad interim* (prior to the first annual meeting in April of 1966) Executive Committee consisted of Dick King, Bill Stecher, Packard Anderson, Hank Thomas, Penny Sayre, Brooke Armat and Mike Rura. Doris Hege acted as the recording secretary during the months when this group was laying the foundations of PVS and taking the steps necessary for incorporation.

Hardship and bad luck often create great camaraderie between the persons who have the misfortune to share it, and this is certainly true of the beginnings of the Potomac Valley Skiers. Many of the persons who formed the base of PVS membership during the fall and winter of 1965 were part of the luckless group of skiers who found themselves in Europe for a ski vacation without hotel or other land reservations. Twenty-five persons had included the land package in arrangements for a European Ski Flight through Air India back in 1963. However, when the travel agency handling these reservations heard that the Air India plane had not and would not depart, it took it upon itself to cancel all land reservations in Europe. The agency did not reckon with the determination of a group of skiers planning and paid up to go to Europe. Those in charge of the flight made arrangements to have Air France take over the charter, and, thus, we end of story with a hardy group of skiers arriving in Europe to

discover they have no place to stay – anywhere. Fourteen of these twenty-five persons became members of PVS during its first year of operation.

PVS states in its by-laws that active membership shall not exceed 200. By the end of the first year there were 60 members and membership now totals 80. Persons interested in membership must be invited and sponsored by an active member in good standing; they must attend at least two meetings by invitation; they must take no less than three ski trips in the company of members; they must pass the Basic Proficiency Test. The membership votes on each application and five negative votes will deny membership to the applicant.

The club meets monthly with about 60 per cent of the membership in attendance. During the summer months these monthly meetings usually take the form of lawn parties at members' homes and during the fall and winter months the meetings are normally preceded by Dutch Treat cocktails and dinner. The official club bulletin has a name worth mentioning, I believe, since it seems to say a great deal about the spirit and attitude of the membership. As one member puts it, TOOT is the official bugle which sounds off every now and then and trumpets doings in the club and outside skiing world.

Potomac Valley Skiers is definitely what it claims to be – a club of ski enthusiasts. The club celebrated its founding by a two-day ski and get-acquainted trip to Seven Springs, Pennsylvania, and which included inter-ski club racing events with a ski club in Baltimore. (By the way . . . the ski club in Baltimore was creamed and 'tis the same ski club mentioned earlier which folded prior to the end of its first year of operations . . . do you suppose there is any correlation?) The first

PVS on-the-hill program to get started was its competition program, and the club aims high with its relatively small membership, encouraging participation in local and regional races as competitors as well as officials. In 1966 PVS took a New England ski trip and scheduled the Basic Proficiency Test for all those on the trip. All but one person took and passed the test.

I believe you can always separate the social, party-minded persons from skiers, but I have yet to discover any way to separate the enthusiastic, hard-core skiers from a good party. Potomac Valley Skiers is no exception. Stretch your imagination and figure out how 55 members and guests consumed, in one sitting, 72 lobsters, 350 steamer clams, 10 pounds of butter, the usual assortment of salads and desserts, and inevitable malt and hops! PVS “carried on” at monthly summer meetings at various member homes.

They spent a good deal of their summer together – sailing on a regular basis, camping and hiking, water skiing and golf. They organized regular weekly tennis matches on Sunday mornings during the summer and even participated in a weekly rock-climbing clinic conducted by member Dick Harsh.

The Potomac Valley Skiers may not be growing at a fast rate numerically, but the spirit and enthusiasm of its membership, which began at such a high level, continues to grow and strengthen in its integrity.



DID YOU KNOW?

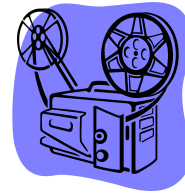
- ~ One reason for our founding was SCWDC's poor organization.
- ~ Marvin Hass was on that poorly organized European flight that united our founders.
- ~ Original membership requirements (different from today) were:

- take three ski trips with members.
- pass the US Ski Association Uniform Basic Ski Test. Some items were:
 - Kick turn, left and right
 - Linked stem turns with traverses
 - Side step
 - Stop
 - Herringbone
 - Sideslip, left and right



~ One also could take the Standard and Advanced Test.

- ~ Meetings served soft drinks, beer, and pretzels/chips only.
- ~ Speakers, movies, or slide shows at most meetings.
- ~ The club bought a 16 mm movie projector for \$248 in 1971.
(We still own it. Any suggestions?)

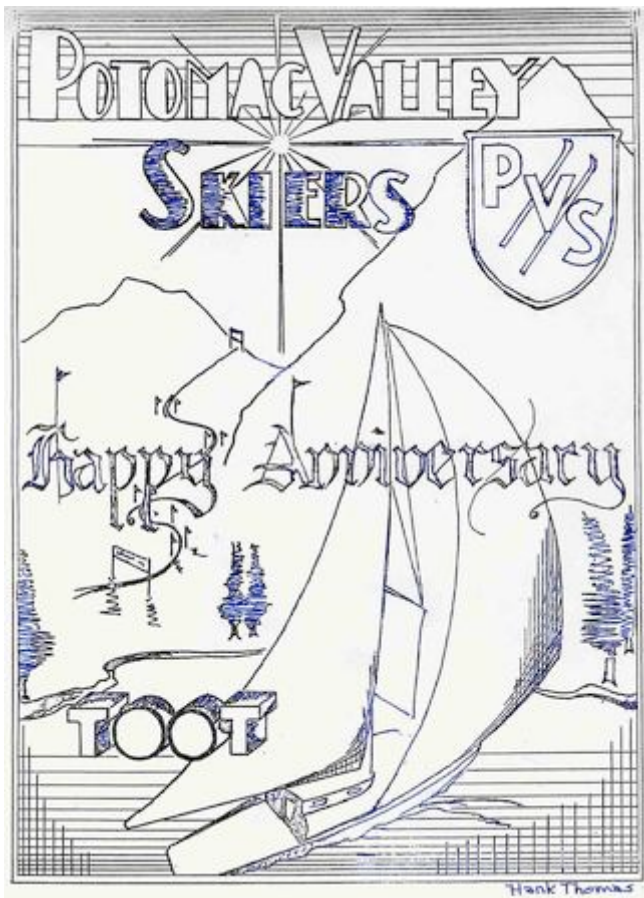


- ~ Dick King suggested the name Potomac Valley Skiers.
- ~ The 1969 lobster fest at Great Falls. Galvanized garbage cans were used to cook the critters. The Marxes couldn't see throwing them away, so took them home...
They are still around!



~~~~~

*The following three pages show the covers or invitations to the former anniversaries:*



- 4 -

## 15<sup>th</sup> PVS ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE

— SATURDAY — NOVEMBER 8TH  
6:30 pm. — 11:00 a.m. (maybe later!)

NEWMARK COMMONS CLUB HOUSE  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND  
(directions below)

**FABULOUS FOOD AND MUSIC**

**MATT — the DEEJAY — & SOUND STAGE FAME**

all the sounds you WANT to hear

BIG BAND — DISCO — LATIN — POLKA — ROCK — YOU NAME IT!

"He knows how to spin 'em to turn 'em & keep you dancing"  
BRING SPOUSE OR FRIEND OR JUST YOURSELF!

**MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW BY CALLING BETTE WALKER**

Telephone 554-4766 (if no answer, call 988-9255 — a recording device)

PRICE — \$4 — \$8 — depending on number of participants —

**Y'ALL COME!!**

**DIRECTIONS:** Take Beltway Exit towards Frederick onto #270  
From # 270 take Montrose Road Exit, turn left on Montrose  
and continue to its end at Seven Locks Road. Turn right  
and follow Seven Locks Rd to its end where turn right on  
Falls Road. Continue short distance (overpassing #270 again)  
and bear right at Y onto Maryland Ave. and then take an  
immediate right onto Potomac Valley Rd.  
Follow Potomac Valley Rd about half a mile until it ends at  
Newark Esplanade (street). The club house is straight ahead  
but to get to parking, turn right and follow New Mark Esplanade  
around the curve to the left and you'll find parking on the  
left.



The Executive Committee  
of Potomac Valley Skiers  
cordially invites you to  
attend a dinner  
in celebration of  
the twentieth anniversary of  
"The Club For Skiers"  
Sunday, the tenth of November  
Nineteen hundred and eighty five.  
Six o'clock cocktails  
Seven o'clock dinner

Black tie optional

R.S.V.P.



KU 77



The Executive Committee  
of Potomac Valley Skiers  
cordially invites you  
to attend a dinner  
in celebration of  
the twenty-fifth anniversary of  
The Club for Skiers

Saturday the third of November  
Nineteen hundred and ninety  
Fort Mc Nair Officers' Club

Six o'clock cocktails

Black tie optional

R S V P



The Executive Committee  
of Potomac Valley Skiers  
Cordially Invites You  
to Attend a Gala Dinner and Evening  
in Celebration of the  
**THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY**  
of the Founding of  
**POTOMAC VALLEY SKIERS**

Seven O'Clock Saturday the Seventh of October  
Nineteen Hundred and Ninety Five

Naval Medical Center Officers Club, Bethesda

Featuring  
Camaraderie, Cocktails, Dinner, Bolfo Entertainment.

Black Tie Optional

\$ 40 Per Person

R & V P

Information

by September 20, with check payable to P V S to  
Martin Clark  
8950 Falling Creek Road  
Annapolis, Virginia 22003

please telephone either  
Martin Clark (301) 938-9435  
Joan Blake (301) 762-6890  
Ray McKinley (301) 927-7226

PLEASE NOTE...A PROMPT REPLY  
WILL BE VERY HELPFUL!!!

**PVS 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner**  
Saturday, November 4, 2000, 6:30PM  
Bolling Officers' Club

Cocktail hour (cash bar)  
Hors d'Oeuvres

Appetizer  
Entrée with vegetables  
Salad  
Wines

Dessert  
Coffee

DOOR PRIZES

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1968 Washington Post

# Skiers Have to Ski To Be Members Of Potomac Valley

By Ron Fett

Potomac Valley Skiers is a local group of serious-minded outdoorsmen who believe that members of a ski club should ski as well as talk about the sport and wear its fashions.

To accomplish this, they put into their constitution a requirement that new members must pass a basic ski proficiency test and must go on at least three club-sponsored outings before they are eligible to join.

The club, which is celebrating its third anniversary this month, was organized by "a few former leaders of the big ski club in town who felt a certain loss of identity, or perhaps direction, in that 3000-member conglomerate, according to president Larry Pease of Rockville.



Fett

"We wanted a smaller group of active skiers who would be knowledgeable in the sport, and who want to travel and work and ski together."

The caliber of recruitment is indicated by the fact that more than half the 70 members are qualified ski patrolmen, instructors, uniform test judges or alpine racing officials.

"We have a constitutional ceiling of 200 members, and we are in no hurry to reach that figure," Pease said. "Almost all our members have retained their affiliation with the Ski Club of Washington, so we have not turned our backs completely on bigness."

PVS was incorporated in the District on Nov. 16, 1965. Founding members were Dick King, Bill Stecher, Packard Anderson, Brooke Armat, Doris Hege, Mike Rura, Penny Sayre and Hank Thomas.

The club meets once a month throughout the year, usually in the homes of members. The meeting next Tuesday at 711 Carter rd., Rockville, in Pease's base-

ment, will feature a workshop on preparing equipment for the coming ski season.

On week nights during the winter, the club sponsors regular "evenings on the snow" at nearby resorts. It also prints an "area-of-the-weekend" listing where members can gather to ski together.

Through affiliation with the U.S. Eastern Amateur Ski Association, the Pennsylvania Ski Federation and the Blue Ridge Ski Council, its members are eligible to participate in a dozen or more charter flights to Europe and the West. One group has rented a house in Davos, Switzerland, for two weeks in February.

## Nautical Terms

**Pitch**—The distance a hull would travel forward with one revolution of the propeller if there were no slippage. This is determined by the angle of the propeller blades.

Summer activities include tennis, sailing, rock climbing, surfing, camping, golf, water skiing and hiking. The club's newspaper is called "Toot," an "official bugle that trumpets the doings of the membership."



**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
of  
**POTOMAC VALLEY SKIERS, INC.**  
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU

To Attend a Gala Dinner and Evening  
In Celebration of the

**FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY**  
Of the Founding of  
**POTOMAC VALLEY SKIERS**

Saturday, the Fifth of November  
Two Thousand Five  
At Six O'Clock PM

**BOLGER CENTER**  
9000 Newbridge Drive  
Potomac, MD 20854

Featuring  
Camaraderie, Dinner, Entertainment

Reception - 6:00 to 7:00 o'clock with Hors D'oeuvres and Cash Bar  
Dinner and Program - 7:00 to 9:00 o'clock.  
Choice of Entrée:  
Grilled Filet Mignon with Red Wine Sauce or  
Seared Florida Red Snapper Fossil Bouillabaisse with Lobster

**BLACK TIE OPTIONAL**

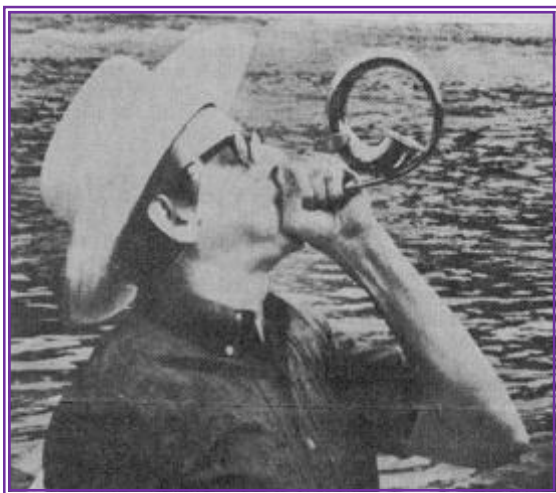
**RSVP** **\$59 Per Person**

**Early reservations are imperative.**  
Please state your choice of Entrée  
-if the filet, how you wish your filet to be prepared.

Check payable to PVS.

Mail to:  
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For those who would like to continue the celebration, The Bolger Center PUB will be open until 1:00 AM  
If you would like to stay the night, you can make a room reservation by calling the Bolger Center Hotel at  
800 - 777 - 7803



PVser, Jim Key "TOOTs" the news on a canoe trip on the Shenandoah River. July 20, 1970

## *Downhill, All the Way*

By Lucrece Beal

Special to the Washington Post

John Newdorp is standing at the top of the mountain. He adjusts his goggles, slides his skis back and froth, plants his poles.

“Go,” says the starter.

John shoots forward, triggering the timing wand, and heads for the first gate in the



slalom course. The turns are rutted and soft, but John skis with his style and finishes 13<sup>th</sup> in the group of 40 racers. John is 79 years old.

Dean Worcester is next to start. He, too, carves stylish turns and finishes 7<sup>th</sup>. Dean is 74.

I am next to the last out of the gate. I leap forward, a tornado of zeal and determination. I end up DNF. Did Not finish. Halfway down the mountain, I rip off the 6<sup>th</sup> gate and slide, gate in tow, into the woods adjacent to the course. I am 75.

The race was at Mt. Sutton and the racers were members of the Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc. (PVS), a 25-year old Washington area club limited to 200 members, who were spending a week in the Province of Quebec.

There were 49 of us on the trip. Discreet inquiries made to determine who rate senior-citizen discount lift tickets revealed that of the group, 28 were over 60; 15 of those over 65, 8 of those over 70, and five of those were over 75.

Just who were those fogies I was with on the slalom course in my first race ever?

John Newdorp, a retired medical care administrator from Catonsville, MD, started skiing at age 46 and competed successfully in downhill and slalom races. He now skis recreationally as often as possible. “Age,” he says, “is not important unless you are a cheese.”



To keep in shape, John, runs marathons and does white-water canoeing. “But,” he declares, “nothing can match the exhilaration, the joy of skiing.”

Dean Worcester, a retired engineer now living in Annapolis, has skied since his Dartmouth days in the '30s. He was a downhill racer in his youth. Now, with competitive racing behind him, he skis several weeks a year for the sheer fun of it. He rows daily on the Severn River to keep in shape.

I keep in shape by running up and down the stairs looking for my glasses.

Twenty-five years ago, at age 50, I went on a learn-to-ski week in Canada. The Washington Post later published a series of articles I wrote on the experience. The theme was: “You’re never too old to learn to ski.”

Having just celebrated my silver anniversary with a week at Mont Sutton in



Canada I am updating that message. The theme now is: You're never too old to quit skiing."

In the ski movies and advertisements, skiers are always lithe, gorgeous, and radiant with youth. Maybe they started out that way, but as the poets say, the river of time flows on, and those beauties and hulks grow older. And wearier. And stiffer.

Yet some ski on. On the recent Mont Sutton jaunt, those 28 over-60 skiers, when their joints begin to ache and their muscles cramp, chose to sit in chairlifts, not rocking chairs. They intend to keep bombing the slopes until, like Douglas MacArthur's old soldiers, they just fade away—probably into a whiteout.

This is the fifth year Gaithersburg resident Jack Peoples, 62, has led a group from PVS to Mont. Sutton. After rearing seven children and 36 years as a pharmaceutical salesman, Jack is now living his life's fantasy. In his first year after retirement, he skied 22 different mountains and developed a talent for leading ski trips. He and his assistant, Charles Huggins, from Potomac, like leading seniors. "They rarely bitch," says Jack. "They are flexible and they are usually experienced skiers."

At Mont Sutton this year, we have perfect conditions. A deep base. New snow almost daily. All 53 trails and glades are open.

As usual, we occupy the Auberge La Paimpolaise, located on the slope and just a brief climb from the nearest lift. We take all 30 rooms and innkeeper Rolland and his staff of 40 cater to our every whim. There aren't many. We're just glad to be back one more year running the slopes all day and raising hell all night. Raising hell?

Let's face it, there is not a whole lot of night life at Mont Sutton and what there is of it is do-it-yourself. For us, it was a bingo and pajama party, which turned out to be one of the most successful events in the history of PVS trips.

The bingo was a first for the group, and the leader swore it would be the last. I mean you could hardly stand the excitement. The competition became so intense and tempers so frayed that Silver Spring psychiatrist Paul Yessler, 67, offered a free hour of consultation to the most disturbed. When the frenzy grew worse, he made it a free group-therapy session for all.

I guess you had to be there.

The highlight of our social week was the pajama party to which everyone came attired in his sleep clothing for an evening of disco dancing. Well, really, the things people sleep in on a ski trip!

Bill Anderson, 61, a fourth-generation Washingtonian, came attired in a raccoon coat straight out of the Roaring Twenties. He danced with abandon and was a big hit. A 75-year-old woman wore her red-striped thermal uppers and lowers. She said she'd spent thousands of dollars on bad dresses in her lifetime and it wasn't until she appeared in her red-striped underwear that she was a belle.

As I said, you had to be there.

Frank Shelburne, 76, a retired congressional shorthand reporter who took up skiing at age 50 and skis three to five weeks a year, says, "PVS is like the college fraternity I never belonged to and coming to Sutton is like Old Home Week."

Shelburne skis from lift opening to closing, and stays with the après group until lights-out.

Every day, Bowie resident Hank Thomas, 75 and retired from the U.S. Weather Bureau, and his wife, Aina, a retired dentist, ski the baby slopes. Hank has been skiing for 35 years and Aina, born in Latvia, skied almost before she walked.

Now Hank suffers from lupus and arthritis so they ski the easy slopes. "I'm not after any merit badges," he says: "I just want to live to ski another day." "It will be a long time yet before we hang 'em up," Aina declares firmly. Next month they



plan to ski with the club in Italy and France. On the other side of the mountain, Kirk Burns, 70, and wife Peggy are leading a contrail of PVSers

down the black trails. Kirk Burns, a retired American University professor who started skiing at 46, says: "Next to the discovery of the opposite sex, skiing was the most important discovery of my life." He never tires of it. ..

Peggy Burns, with three daughters and five grandchildren, thinks skiing is the perfect family sport. "Where else can young and old be outdoors together, having fun all day long?" Back at the Paimpolaise, after three or four hours on the slopes, hungry skiers are pouring into the dining room to refuel for the afternoon. They talk of skiing. It never-ends.

Seniors Mary Jane McCarthy, Bette Walker and Dorothy Mills have skied nonstop all morning. Their faces are flushed with the cold and exhilaration.

McCarthy, retired from the Public Health Service, has been skiing more than 20 years. The widowed mother of six daughters, she declares, "I'm not sure I could have survived to my golden years without skiing and the friendships made on the slopes."

Walker learned to ski in Europe where her Marine Corps officer husband was stationed

for seven years. Widowed now, she takes yearly ski trips."

Dorothy Mills, retired from government intelligence service, has been skiing since 1955. A pianist and gardener, she also hikes, ice skates, swims and plays; tennis."I think I would give them all up," she says,' "before I'd give up skiing."

The days fly by and finally it's the final afternoon and time for the last run. The skiers gear up and stagger- outside, where it's now 12 degrees and snowing.

"All skiers are crazy," says 68-year-old Charles Gordon cheerfully. "I mean you gotta be crazy to suffer all this misery."

"Yeah," agrees 78-year-old Franklin Fiske, as they board the chairlift and ascend to make one last run.

*Information from Marilyn Clark, PVS membership chairman, (703) 978-9435*

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*Lucrece Beale is a retired Associated Press newswoman and freelance writer living in Washington, D.C.*

