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*Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.*  
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

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### **President's Message**

Winter is a particularly good time to enjoy the pleasure afforded by wonderful food. If you are on the slopes, most ski areas have a selection of excellent restaurants. Turning closer to home, we are fortunate to have a huge array of restaurants available to us in the D.C. area.

We have three favorite restaurants that are very close to our home – La Chaumiere in Georgetown (2813 M Street, 202-338-1784), Et Voila in the Palisades (5120 MacArthur Boulevard, 202-237-2300), and Bistro LePic in Glover Park (1736 Wisconsin Avenue, 202-333-0111). We have been to these restaurants many times, and have never had a disappointing meal. Reservations are a necessity for all of these restaurants.

La Chaumiere serves classic French food in a comfortable French country inn atmosphere, with old farm tools and hunt scenes lining the walls of the restaurant. During winter months, there is a warm fire glowing from the centrally located fireplace. My favorite appetizers are the Escargots and the Baked Onion Soup; the Caesar salad – although not exactly French, is good too. For the entree, I particularly recommend the marinated salmon in puff pastry, champagne and dill sauce; the Dover sole; or the roasted rack of lamb with Dijon mustard, garlic and herb crust. In the summer, the soft shell crabs are excellent. Save room for dessert – the profiteroles (pastry puffs

filled with vanilla ice cream and topped with chocolate sauce) are the best that I have ever had, and the Grand Marnier or chocolate soufflés are alone worth the visit.

*continued on pg 2...*

## Monthly Meeting



**SUNDAY**, January 15, 2012

2:00 PM

at Bing Van Nuys'

in Fairfax, VA,

near Little River Turnpike  
and Guinea Rd

See directions on pg. 2



**Bing Van Nuys  
3904 Ridgelea Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22031**

Directions

We live about two miles outside the Beltway just off Little River Turnpike – Route 236. This same road is called Main Street in Fairfax City.

From the Beltway

Take the Beltway I-495 to Little River Turnpike – Route 236, Exit 52, and take the exit towards Fairfax outside the Beltway. Go past five stoplights. The fifth stoplight is Guinea Road where the Jewish Community Center is located. Go another 100 yards (past a fire station and the Bethlehem Lutheran Church) and take the first right into Ridgelea Drive where a red brick wall and the “Ridgelea Hills” sign is located. We are the third house on the left.

From the Fairfax City Area.

Take Main Street – Little River Turnpike – Route 236 (same road, three names), east towards the Beltway I-495 to the stoplight at Guinea Road where the Jewish Community Center is located. Make a U-Turn at the stoplight and head back towards Fairfax City. Go another 100 yards (past a fire station and the Bethlehem Lutheran Church) and take the first right into Ridgelea Drive where a red brick wall and the “Ridgelea Hills” sign is located. We are the third house on the left.



President’s Message continued...

filled with vanilla ice cream and topped with chocolate sauce) are the best that I have ever had, and the Grand Marnier or chocolate soufflés are alone worth the visit.



Bistro LePic is another French restaurant that serves many classic French dishes, including Cassoulet (duck confit, lamb, Toulouse garlic sausage, and cannellini bean stew). Although not as good as the real McCoy in Carcassonne, Bistro LePic’s version of Cassoulet is a wonderful dish for a cold winter night. I also like the salmon in a potato crust with fresh grapes and ouzo grape sauce. For appetizers, there is an excellent onion tart with bacon and a baby green salad, and a very good lobster bisque with Maryland crabmeat. For dessert, the restaurant has a selection of fruit tarts, as well as superb home-made mint ice cream.

Et Voila is a very small, and very popular, Belgian restaurant housed in a building that is no more than 12 feet wide. The décor is simple – orange banquettes and matching orange mats on the tables – but the food is exceptional. For an appetizer, try the Belgian endive salad with Blue and Chimay cheese, pecans and sliced gala apples; the pumpkin soup topped with pumpkin seeds and pumpkin oil; or the country pate served with pickled cauliflower, green salad and country bread. Outstanding entrees include the Carbonnade a la Flamande (a beer-based beef stew) served with pommes frites; the grilled trout served with leek fondue and champagne sauce; a confit duck leg served with mashed potatoes, olives, salad and a red wine sauce; and mussels (four different sauces are offered) served with pommes frites. I have rarely had room for dessert.

Other restaurants in D.C. that we like are Ceiba, a contemporary Latin-American restaurant at 701 14<sup>th</sup> Street (202-393-3983); Sushi-Ko, a Japanese restaurant in Glover Park (2309 Wisconsin Avenue, 202-333-4187); Ristorante Tosca for fine Italian food (with the caution that the prices are high and the portions small) (1112 F St., N.W., 202-367-1990); and, for fish, Kinkead's (2000 Pennsylvania Ave., 202-296-7700) and D.C. Coast (1401 K St., N.W., 202-216-5988).



We also go occasionally to Black Salt (4883 MacArthur Boulevard, 202-342-9101), a creative, but overpriced, fish restaurant conveniently located less than a mile from our house. Black Salt also has a fish market in the front of the store, and, in addition to fish, they often sell a wonderful Irish soda bread. Georgia Brown's (950 15<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., 202-393-4499) is another interesting restaurant, with very high calorie Southern cooking. For Indian food in D.C., I recommend Indique in Cleveland Park (3512-14 Connecticut Ave., 202-244-6600) (and its sister restaurant Indique Heights in Friendship Heights, 2 Wisconsin Circle, 301-656-4822) – the lamb shank is excellent and huge – I usually can only eat half, and I take the rest home and enjoy it for two lunches.

For a casual, reasonably priced meal, I like Chadwick's in Friendship Heights (5247 Wisconsin Ave., N.W. 202-362-8040) – it has a large, standard American food menu. I always order the ribs, which are excellent, and I can never pass up the deep dish fruit cobbler, topped with a crumb crust and vanilla ice cream.

If I can persuade my husband to go beyond the confines of the District, I like to go to Haandi in Bethesda for Indian food (4904 Fairmont Ave., Bethesda, 301-718-0121) – I think it has the best Indian food in town, and is very reasonably priced. I particularly like their Saag Ghosht, a lamb and spinach concoction, and their Onion Kulcha bread. Near Haandi is Foong Lin, which has very good Chinese food (7710 Norfolk Ave., Bethesda, 301-656-3427). The other Bethesda restaurant that I like is Persimmon (7003 Wisconsin Avenue, 301-654-9860).

We also will occasionally cross the bridge into Virginia and go to Willow Restaurant, a very attractive upscale restaurant with some creative dishes (4301 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, 703-465-8800). I note that some of the reviews of this restaurant on Open Table found the service inattentive and the food overly salty – we have not had that problem, but do not frequent this restaurant on a regular basis.



We have tried numerous other restaurants, but, in our view, many do not warrant a second visit, when we know that we can always get a good meal at one of our favorites. I hope that you will try some of our restaurant choices, and we look forward to your suggestions for new dining opportunities.

***Cara Jablon***

## PAST EVENT

### OUR HOLIDAY PARTY

by Phil Ufholz

It was the night before—only kidding. On the evening of Tuesday, December 20, approximately 40 hearty PVS folks gathered at the magnificent home of our President, Cara Jablon, and her husband, Bob, in upper Georgetown, DC. It was a combination monthly meeting and holiday PVS party.

The food was superb, of course, but the wine supplied by our gracious hosts was the best—plus Pilsner Urquell beer—can it get any better than that! Well the holiday cheer and typical PVS camaraderie, seeing old friends, was wonderful. Yours truly did a bad. Our hosts have this adorable Yorkie named Dante. He is by all accounts fearless and curious. I feed him a meatball—of course I had at least 12 of Cara's meatballs myself.



The usual reports were made—upcoming great trips to Andorra, Spain (Ray and Nancy) and Snowmass, CO, should be super. Plus, Ray mentioned some non-ski events that he is planning for all of us in the next year which will be reported in Toot.

All in all it was a wonderful typical "PVS PARTY."

Sad news tough—our wonderful longtime friend and PVS member, Helen Price, passed away recently. She was great fun to ski with.

HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON



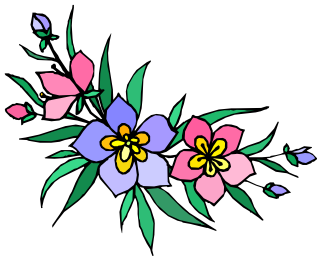
In Memoriam



Bill Anderson recently learned of Helen Louise Price's death and kindly gave me (Jan) a call.

Helen was a very longtime member of PVS and also belonged to SCWDC. She worked for the Federal Government.

She participated in ski trips sponsored by both clubs. She was particularly fond of those to Europe. She loved other sports as well, and Bill tells of her often in her apartment lobby with her tennis racket, golf clubs, or ice skates, ready for a day of fun. I recall her on many of our PVS events including Oktoberfests wearing her dirndl and carrying her German mug. She was a sweet lady with many interesting stories to tell.



She died on August 30, 2011 at the age of 91. A graveside service was arranged by Murphy Funeral Home and held on September 2 at Columbia Gardens Cemetery.

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**A Trip Opportunity**

*Sponsored by the Baltimore Ski Club, [baltimoreskiclub.com/](http://baltimoreskiclub.com/)*

A tour to Istanbul and Ancient Turkey

September 28 to October 7, 2012

**Contact: Christopher Pukalski 410-292-6656 /**

**[christopher.pukalski@hotmail.com](mailto:christopher.pukalski@hotmail.com)**

Or visit BRSC website--- <http://www.skicouncil.com>

## 2012 Ski Trips:



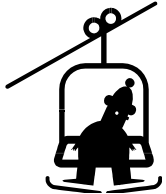
# Snowmass 2012

Wednesday to Wednesday, January 18-25, 2012



***WE ARE READY TO SKI***

**Ski four mountains for the price of one.**



The staff at our “Old Faithful” Snowmass Mountain Chalet is waiting with open arms to welcome us once again.

Snowmass offers the crème de la crème of ski-in, ski-out experience with 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.



Slope-side lodging at Snowmass Mountain Chalet includes a daily family-style hot breakfast and daily soup lunch, greatly appreciated by trip participants and other guests, many of whom return year after year. The reunions in the Hot Tub quickly refresh the memories. The spacious, welcoming lobby with oversized stone fireplace, flat screen TV and card tables for “Dave’s” games offers a comfortable gathering place. The hootenanny sing-alongs will again be a popular event.



The trip will include group dinners, après-ski parties, and other activities available in the Aspen environs.

We have finalized the trip. To inquire about the potential availability of space, email or call the trip leaders:  
Carolyn DeVilbiss at 703-370-4865 ([carolyn.maurer@verizon.net](mailto:carolyn.maurer@verizon.net))  
Sharon Mulholland at 301-330-2953 ([shank@mris.com](mailto:shank@mris.com))



March 1-12 or 16, 2012, join Nancy and Ray McKinley to See and Ski in Andorra!

**4 Spaces Now Available--Act Soon!**

**See and Ski Andorra 2012**

Potomac Valley Skiers is joining BRSC for a true gem of a ski trip—to one of the smallest and most mountainous countries in the world—Andorra, a skier's and tourist's paradise. And we'll visit spectacular Barcelona. There are optional trips: to Madrid and the Prado Museum, the medieval, walled city of Carcassonne, France with its winding cobbled streets, and turrets—a World Heritage Site. We'll have the opportunity to visit the fortress city, Toledo with its Christian, Jewish and Islamic heritage, and Segovia and Avila to see the 2,000 year old Roman aqueduct, the fairyland castle of Alcazar and more.

Skiing in Andorra is World Class, with 7,600 acres, a vertical of 3,575 feet, 111 lifts with a capacity of 156,390 skiers/hr, and 187 mi of runs.



Upper Lift Restaurant

Our 12-day, 10-night trip includes: 3 nights in historic, vibrant Barcelona; 7 nights at the 5-star Crown Plaza Hotel in Andorra's capital, with two people per 2 room junior suite. We include full breakfast and a daily 5-course themed buffet dinner! Trip includes your Emergency Medical and repatriation insurance, a pre-trip party, a welcome party, a mid-week Apres Ski party, a Grand Finale Dance in the ballroom and a post-trip party. We will also offer a 4-night post-trip extension to historic scenic Madrid including three superb tours.



Crown Plaza Lobby

**GREAT PRICES-\$2,560; LAND ONLY-\$1,755; SPAIN Add-\$800**

Due to cancellations, we now have four spaces available for you and your friends. Please call us for information. To reserve a spot on this memorable PVS See & Ski in Andorra trip, send your check for \$1,760 per person payable to Ray McKinley, with "Andorra" in the memo line. Include your full name on your passport, and if you want the Madrid add-on. Mail to 1805 Crystal Drive # 813, Arlington, VA 22202. Info at (703) 527-7126 or at raymckin@gmail.com.

## SKI TALK

Best wishes for a fantastic ski year. Let's make 2012 one of our best ski years ever. Here are some ski resolutions: plan to ski as often as possible; work on improving your skiing; ski the bumps; encourage your friends to join PVS; and consider leading a ski trip in the future.

Mother Nature has not been kind to skiers locally but hopefully that will change in the next couple weeks. It was one of the warmest Decembers in history and most of the local ski resorts are struggling to make snow. We are hoping for some colder weather so we can get a couple days of skiing before going out west.



### LOCAL SKIING:

**Ski Demo Day at Whitetail on January 4 sponsored by Ski Center.** With a voucher from Ski Center, you can get a lift ticket for \$20 and demo as many skis as you like. However, as I write this, both Liberty and Whitetail are closed and there is very little snow at the other resorts. It is questionable whether the January 4 Ski Center Demo Day at Whitetail will take place. Ski Center will make a decision on Monday, January 1.

**Ski Appreciation Day at Whitetail on February 1 sponsored by Ski Chalet.** Get a voucher from Ski Chalet for a \$30 lift ticket. This is no bargain if you are 65+.



John Smith will be coordinating our local ski trips. For those who wish to carpool, there will be a designated meeting place in Gaithersburg. John said feel free to contact him. He normally decides on the weekend for the coming week's schedule. You can email John Smith at [johnsmith@juno.com](mailto:johnsmith@juno.com). His phone number is 301-299-8376. David Warthen will also send an email to the people on the local ski list if a local trip is planned.

Let me know if anyone is interested in planning a two or three day mid-week trip to **WISP** in February.

### SKI TRIP PROPOSALS FOR 2013

Now that we have officially entered 2012, it is time to plan for 2013. I would like to hear from anyone who would like to lead a ski trip next year. BRSC will be going to Big Sky February 2-9 and Les Trois Vallees, France, March 2-10. If you have never led a ski trip you might want to consider leading a BRSC trip. The Ski Trip Committee would like to have some preliminary proposals/ideas by March. Send questions, ideas or proposals to me.

### BOOK

I just finished reading *The Silent Land* by Graham Joyce. It is set in the French Pyrenees around Chamonix. The story follows Zoe and Jake, a thirtysomething married couple from Britain splurging on a ski getaway that quickly turns disastrous when the two are caught in an avalanche. It is a surreal story dealing with love, loss, and skiing as they describe going back to their small village in the Pyrenees and no one is there. Not a story for the faint of heart, but a great and interesting read for any skier.

[rosemaryschw@gmail.com](mailto:rosemaryschw@gmail.com)





# Members' Corner



By J. David Warthen, Jr.  
[dwarthen@verizon.net](mailto:dwarthen@verizon.net)

## **Snowflakes:**

As we all hope for snow locally, as well as in distant ski areas, before our respective, upcoming ski trips, have you ever considered the intricacies of the snowflake?

“Snowflakes form in a wide variety of intricate shapes, leading to the popular expression that ‘no two are alike.’ Although statistically possible, it is very unlikely for any two snowflakes to appear exactly alike due to the many changes in temperature and humidity the crystal experiences during its fall to earth. Initial attempts to find identical snowflakes by photographing thousands of them with a microscope from 1885 onward by Wilson Alwyn Bentley found the wide variety of snowflakes we know about today. It is more likely that two snowflakes could become virtually identical if their environments were similar enough. Matching snow crystals were discovered in Wisconsin in 1988. The crystals were not flakes in the usual sense but rather hollow hexagonal prisms.”  
--Wikipedia

Wilson Alwyn Bentley (1865-1931) took these photographs of actual snowflakes. using a special microscope.



“The snowflake is often a traditional seasonal image/motif used around the Christmas period, especially in Europe and the United States, representing the traditional White Christmas.”

--Wikipedia

*Happy New Year, Blue Skies, & Snowflakes Galore!*

## **TOOT Staff:**

We are seldom all together in one place, but we managed to achieve that rare distinction recently, at the Holiday Party, hosted by the Jablons last month. Pictured are Marvin **Hass** (Layout Editor), Ellie **Thayer** (Proof/Content Editor), Jan **Marx** (Layout Editor), and Dave **Warthen** (Layout Editor). Why so many Layout Editors? – to spread out the fun, although some would say the burden ;-)

Just about every month of each year, this staff presents to you the TOOT for information, interest stories, events and ski trip announcements, etc.



Although things get rather hectic at the end of each month with e-mails flying back and forth, we really enjoy the challenge of putting together a nice product for your perusal. We are as varied in our styles as one can get, but that is what keeps TOOT fresh each month. At times, we feel that we have learned far more than we ever wanted.

May we also draw attention to, and thank Barb **Leonhardt** for distributing the USPS TOOT to 8 of our members who do not have e-mail.

We hope that you enjoy the TOOT each month as much as we enjoy putting it together for you.

## **TOOT Distribution to 141 Members:**

-pdf: 109; Text (Att.): 2; USPS: 8

**Roster Changes:** (notify [dwarthen@verizon.net](mailto:dwarthen@verizon.net))

## **Thanks to:**

- TOOT Content/Proof Editor – E. **Thayer**
- TOOT Layout Editor – Jan **Marx**
- TOOT USPS – B. **Leonhardt**

--D. Warthen - Electronic TOOT



# THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley  
[RaysKnee@gmail.com](mailto:RaysKnee@gmail.com)

Again, let me be the first, and perhaps only one, to wish you a Happy **Knee** Year.

I can now report on late-breaking, personal news. Once again the **Knee** has tossed the ol' **Knee** cap into the Presidential campaign. I tried it in 1996 and in 2004, and I lost. But the time, I believe, is now ripe. I intend to be a one-issue candidate.

I'm completely and totally against heat and humidity. (This will have more appeal in late summer.) The solution to the problem, which all of the politicians and major political parties have ignored, is quite simple: Eliminate July and August from the calendar. Scientists scoff—it would shorten the year. Herein is the beauty of the **Knee's** plan. I'll add two new winter skiing months--between March and April. After three earlier months of skiing and tired muscles, the tentative names for the months are Thor and Thorer. It's a truly brilliant idea—if I do say so myself. (And I do.)

The name for the **Knee's** party is equally brilliant. It will be called Party for the Veneration of Snow. Great abbreviation!

I was terribly disappointed in the **Knee** Year's Bowl match ups. OK, in the Holiday Bowl we did have Califorkneeia, but vs. Texas (Texkneeas—nah!). Missing were perennial powerhouses Knebraska and Minkneesota (which is really a small sota).

Missing from the PVS Holiday Party at the Jablons' were new members Jack and Linda Sloan. But they had a great excuse. They were with their family skiing at Breckenridge. Right on! Did you ski earlier? Please let the **Knee** know.

**Gown Overboard!** Betty Byrne was invited to a shipboard wedding of her relative. When Betty inquired about dress, she was told she would **kneed** a new formal gown. Damn, Betty was planning to wear a tuxedo.

Ski Club News: According to Charlie Huggins, SCWDC spent some twenty-two thousand dollars on advertising for new members. As you recall, SCWDC stands for Some Club in Wilmington Delaware C.

Getting well: Reg Heitchue is slowly improving after his neck surgery. He still can't stand for long periods of time. Ellie Thayer is now fully recovered from her hand surgery.

The **Knee's** knee: This column is so named because the author twisted his knee whilst skiing in Aspen 34 years ago. Leaving for an Italian vacation in September, the author tripped over an open suitcase and landed fully on his kneecap. The result—a broken patella (kneecap). So the **Knee** will be joining the non-skiers in Andorra. Note that this paragraph is in the third person—so as not to personalize it. Notwithstanding, it's a bummer.

PVS' **Knee** Hampshire (oh, I love that!) contingent, Jim Arnold, just received a letter from the IRS saying that he had \$122 too much income. So he's being taxed \$40/month next year to make up for it. *Que pasa?* Jim also had a very White Christmas.

Up until fairly recently—OK, it was 1978--PVS used to have our February meeting with nighttime skiing at the Charnita ski area (now Ski Liberty). Bringing back those "good times," this year several, including patrolman Jim Wingrove, plan to ski at Liberty. The official name is now Liberty Mountain. But my "Strunk and White," won't let me lie and call an 800-ft pimple a "mountain." Indeed, the ice there appears to have been made in the seventies!

Going back a bit further, 78 years ago in January, 1934, the first ski lift in America went into operation at Woodstock, Vermont. It was a 150-foot long rope tow powered by the rear axle of a Ford Model A truck. Well, we've made some progress. Liberty now uses a 1981 Datsun!!

New member John Holt, who is retiring in April, led his first ski trip, to *val D'Isere*, some 40 years ago. He also had his first nude sauna. John, here's lookin' at you!

World traveler Rosemary Schwartzbard recently returned from her first ever trip to Los Angeles. When asked how it was, she sang "LA is a great big freeway."

Other PVSers have also been out in the world. Recently retired Polli and John Brunelli returned from a trip to Paris and the Brittany coast. And Betty Lawrence and Suzanne Boisclair really enjoyed a trip to Panama, visiting the canal and the remainder of the country.

After the quake rescheduled their spring trip to Japan to see her son, Carolyn and Dave DeVilbiss had "glowing" things to say about the country. Darn, it's hard to pun on tsunami!

**2012 Calendar**

Jan 7	Sat	Snowmass Pre-Trip Party; 11:30 AM (Eadie, Reston)
Jan 15	SUN	Monthly Meeting; 2:00 PM (Van Nuys, Fairfax)
Jan 24	Tue	ExCom Meeting; 7:00 PM (Teleconference)
Feb 12	SUN	Andorra Pre-Trip Party; 2:00 PM (Jablon, DC)
Feb 19	SUN	Monthly Meeting; 2:00 PM (Gibson, Potomac)
Feb 21	Tue	ExCom Meeting; 7:30 PM (Jablon, DC)
Mar 20	Tue	Monthly Meeting; 7:30 PM (Ufholz, Bethesda)



**Coming Soon -- PVS' Own LOGs (TBA)**

*Good bye 2011*



**Ski Trips**

January 18-25, 2012 Snowmass (Carolyn DeVilbiss & Sharon Mulholland)  
 March 1-12 or 16, 2012 Andorra (Ray & Nancy McKinley)

**Useful Ski "Links"**

Potomac Valley Skiers	<a href="http://potomacvalleyskiers.org">potomacvalleyskiers.org</a>
Capital Golden Skiers	<a href="http://capitalgoldenskiers.com">capitalgoldenskiers.com</a>
BRSC Sanctioned Trips	<a href="http://skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm">skicouncil.com/tripsbydate.htm</a>
DC Ski Online News	<a href="http://dcski.com">dcski.com</a>

**PVS Board - 2011-2012**

**Officers, Board Members, & Chairpersons**

President – <i>Cara Jablon</i> Vice President – <i>Jan Marx</i> Secretary – <i>Mary Beale</i> Treasurer – <i>Dick Laeser</i> Ex-Officio – <i>Sharon Mulholland</i>	EXCOM: First Term: <i>Melissa FitzGerald</i> <i>Reg Heitchue</i> <i>John Holt</i> Second Term: <i>Mary Beale</i> <i>Dick Laeser</i> <i>Dick Schwartzbard</i>
Ski Trip Committee – <i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i> Events – <i>Ray McKinley</i> Membership Records – <i>Dave Warthen</i> Membership PR Rep – <i>Carolyn DeVilbiss</i> TOOT Layout Editors – <i>Jan Marx, Marvin Hass, &amp; Dave Warthen</i> TOOT Content/Proof Editor – <i>Ellie Thayer</i> TOOT (Electronic distribution) – <i>Dave Warthen</i> TOOT (USPS) – <i>Barb Leonhardt</i>	Webmaster – <i>Dave Lerner</i> Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</i> Historian – <i>Jan Marx</i>