

VOLUME XLII
NUMBER 1

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.

JANUARY 2006

WASHINGTON

MARYLAND

VIRGINIA

www.potomacvalleyskiers.org

info@potomacvalleyskiers.org

SEASON'S GREETING, and A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

Indeed, the holidays are upon us, and there's white stuff in the air. It's time for reflection, for looking back as well as ahead. For all us PVSers it's surely correct to give thanks for and acknowledge the varied programs we've been treated to throughout this often-memorable year. Our varied programs were eclipsed by our 40th anniversary celebration, an event not soon to be forgotten. Our trips program presented much variety from the tried and proved slopes of the Aspen Colorado complex to the wineries of the Northeast. Just a couple of weeks away is the beginning of our five-ski trip potpourri with choices as diverse as might typically be expected of a much larger organization.

As we look ahead, beyond the sine qua non of our club, we are mulling a variety of ideas and possibilities including some which fit the description of the motto adopted by the Google boys, "having a healthy disregard for the impossible" or attempting things that most people would avoid. So we'll be there for Hexagon's Congressional night, we'll do the hikes we've done before, and some others too, we might just get together to discuss what's moving and shaking our world, and perhaps we can invent some new ways to enjoy the camaraderie we've learned to appreciate and wish for more.

Of course, to do what we do, does and will continue to depend on the active and volunteered leadership of some, and the participation of others. I'm confident that we'll continue to benefit from the enthusiastic actions of both, and I invite all of our membership to come and be an active part of our varied menu of goodies. In closing, I wish to say a special thanks to our devoted volunteers, from the editors and producers of our much cherished TOOT, to the writers, the chairpersons, and the numerous others who made our 2005 among our best. May 06 is a healthy and happy participatory year for us all.

David

Monthly Meeting

at the home of

Joslyn Read and Michel Bonard

(June Read-Martin's daughter)

10805 Rock Run Dr.

Potomac, MD 20854

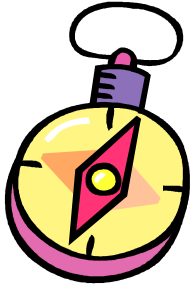
301-299-0639

7:30 PM January 17, 2006



Our popular winter Toot cover.

Directions:



From Beltway:

Take River Road toward Potomac. Go to Falls Road and turn left.
Go about 1 1/2 miles to Rock Run Drive and turn left.
10805 is a big yellow house on the left. It has a very long driveway.
Parking along Rock Run, OR, you may park in the driveway but may get blocked in if someone comes in behind you. 301-299-0639.

Changes

(Dina is back and living in her house in Frederick, MD Same phone number.)

Knox and Karen Felker
1600 Franke Drive, Apt. 303
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
843-375-5698

Dina Taylor
8403 Stonehouse Rd.
Frederick, MD 21702
301-663-6069

PVS BOARD – 2003-2004

President - *David Abraham*
Vice President – *Mike Strand*
Secretary - *Dottie Villers*
Treasurer - *Ray Jones*
Membership - *Pat Vagonis*
Program Cmte Chair -
David Abraham

Events - *Ray McKinley*
Mid-week Events – *Jessma Blockwick*
Ski Trip Cmte Ch - *Bob Marx*
TOOT Editor - *Jan Marx*
TOOT Proofreader – *Bob Marx*
TOOT Mailer -
Meeting Records - *Sara Huggins*
Historian - *Jan Marx*

EXCOM:
First Term:
Charlotte Eddy
Burr Schuler
Dick Schwartzbard
Second Term:
Mike Hatanaka
Dave DeVilbiss
Sharon Mulholland

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | <p style="text-align: center;">ZOO WALK 'N LUNCH Wednesday, Feb 8, 2006 10:30 AM Starting Point: National Zoo, Education Building, which is the first building on entering from Connecticut Ave. NW.</p> | |
|--|---|--|

Route: Join us on this popular annual February Zoo Walk followed by lunch. Hopefully, we will get to see the new baby panda as well as take a docent-guided tour. Generally there are few visitors at this time so that both the animals and docents will be glad to see you.
Transportation and Parking: The Zoo is accessible by Metro from the Red line stations of Woodley Park or Cleveland Park. Parking Options: Parking is available at the Zoo at either the area near Beach Drive (end of Zoo walk) and near the Conn. Ave entrance. Cost of parking might run \$8. Free unlimited street parking is available near Betty Byrne's house and probably on some other streets east of Beach Drive.
Lunch: A special lunch will be available at the nearby home of Betty Byrne (one mile from zoo parking lot near Beach Drive) for the first ten zoo walkers who place their reservation (no limit and no reservations needed for those participating in zoo walk only).
Information: Luncheon reservations can be made by calling Betty at (202) 483-4048. At this time in early Jan 2006, it is close to the limit. Further information can be requested by email at zoo@potomacvalleyskiers.org

WISP

January 18-20, 2006



WISP is 30 % bigger. North Camp, the back side of Marsh Mt, is now open.
They added 2 triple lifts, 1 black, 2 blue and 7 green trails.

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Room per night for Wed the 18 th & 19 th | \$59 plus taxes & fees |
| Voucher for Thursday lift ticket | \$2.00 (free over 70 years) |
| Après ski supplies per person | \$6.00 (approximately) |

*This is your chance to demonstrate the latest skies, free of charge, and a lift ticket for \$2.
Pool and Jacuzzi available so bring swim suits.*

Contact Jan Marx (703-451-9158 OR jebbmarx@aol.com) if you are going so she can plan Après Ski on Wed and Thurs nights. Buy your own vouchers from Ski Chalet-----**GET THEM NOW.**

Rooms paid individually. For each room, call WISP Hotel 1-800-462-9477 to reserve your room; **Ask** for the Ski Chalet demo day rate, and pay one night's deposit with credit card or check. The rate includes 1 to 4 people per room. We can try to match individuals with roommates if you wish. **Rooms go fast so CALL NOW if you think you want to go. Cancellation is 14 days prior to first night's stay.**

Lift tickets are obtained individually at the ski area on Thursday with your ski voucher. Week day tickets are \$39, weekends are \$52. Those over 70 years ski free but must show ID for ticket.

Meals are paid individually. All rooms have a refrigerator. There are 2-3 places to eat in the hotel. There are several good restaurants in the area for dinner Thursday evening.

Additional plans. If you wish to stay additional days, work with the hotel.

At least one fellow skier from the Capital Golden Skiers will be joining us. YOU COME, TOO.

PVS is going to the Hexagon Show Again

Wednesday evening, March 15th 2006, at 8:00 PM

Each year, the Hexagon Club puts on a hilarious show of political satire and musical numbers.

Similar to that by the "Captol Steps." All of the show's participants are volunteers and proceeds are donated to a charity. We are going again on **the most popular night - Congressional night** - since it was great fun last year. The show is in the Duke Ellington School for the Performing Arts in Georgetown. **We have just 20 tickets and each is \$20.00. We expect to sell out soon.**



There will NOT be an organized dinner before the show this year. However, from 7:00 - 8:00 PM there is a variety of snacks and goodies available for purchase in the lobby.

If you are interested in attending this show, please send a check for \$20 per ticket to Margaret S. Wyckoff (made payable to her)

8100 Park Crest Drive Silver Spring, D 20910

In case of cancellation, a refund will be issued ONLY if a substitute is found. For questions, call Margaret at 301-589-5532.

🌿🌿🌿 ◆ *PVS Goes to the Theatre* ◆ 🌿🌿🌿
Broadway's Smash Hit



The Broadway production won 7 Tony Awards in 2005, including Best Play and Best Comedy. Now starting its second sold-out year on Broadway, this multimillion-dollar production is coming to Washington's National Theater next summer. It will be sold out as soon as tickets are available. **PVS has a unique opportunity to get tickets, and at group rates** at the National Theater for this smash, **Tony Award Winning** musical where we are currently on the initial list to order group tickets. We're going to one of 2 Friday Evening performances at 8:00 pm either June 9 or 16, 2006. When tickets are available (sometime this fall) we will need to act rapidly. **Call Ray or Nancy McKinley now (703) 527-7126 to express interest** (not a commitment.) **Or e-mail to nmckinley@convera.com**. Please let us know if either Friday is OK. Prices are not yet set but are expected to be around \$90 for orchestra. They are \$150 each on Broadway. The show is expected to run from June 7 to July 9, 2006.

🌿🌿🌿 ◆ *PVS Goes to the Theatre* ◆ 🌿🌿🌿

Sad News

Dina Taylor's husband, Charlie (81), passed away Dec. 15, 2006 in Frederick, MD. Funeral services were held on Dec. 19. They were married 54 years. Those of you who knew him, may recall that he was a knowledgeable and kind man who could tell a good story. It is reported that he could fix anything, loved woodworking and bowling.

Dina suggested memorial contributions could be made to the diabetes research or cancer research programs of your choice.

Trudy Santoro writes:

I deeply and sincerely appreciate the kindness and concern shown by so many PVS members. The prayers, cards, cancer donations, their presence at the viewing and the funeral, are things I shall never forget. Everything happened so quickly that I never thought I could get through it all. John and I sincerely thank you.



Val Gardena & Munich

March 3 – March 14

- ❖ 16 people have signed up for the trip to Val Gardena and Munich --We can still accommodate a few more – call quickly!
- ❖ Betty and I just returned from a trip to Germany and Italy to visit the trip sites.
- ❖ A short travelogue:

It is cold in Val Gardena; they were making snow and planned to open for skiing by the 26th of November. The mountains are beautiful, and I now understand why it has received such good press. School is taught in both Italian and German, so everyone is bilingual, English is widely spoken as the normal foreign language. I didn't get to use my German because their English was far superior.

The hotel in Santa Cristina looks great and has a fantastic reputation; it conveniently has a bus stop right at the front door for easy commuting.

We loved the old city of Bolzano; every turn was another post card look.

We visited the museum that housed Oetzi, the 5,000 year old ice man who was found in the Alps in 1991. It is a worth at least a day of your time.

Munich also was great. Our hotel is a block and a half from Marienplatz, so it is centrally positioned. The outdoor bier gardens were closed because it was cold and snowy, but they should be reopened by our return in mid March. Betty and I had Weiner Schnitzel 3 times in 3 days. We, as usual, enjoyed the city. There is a lot to do and see, and the food is great.



Come join us March 3 – March 14, for 7 days in Val Gardena with super skiing, and 3 days in Munich. \$2,166 gets you great sights, good times, and lots of fantastic food. Start your diet when you return.

For more information call 571 426-3098 or e-mail me at

dick.comerford@adelphia.net



WINTER PARK RESORT
COLORADO'S FAVORITE®

Needed: One Male and One couple.

Tuesday, March 28 – Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Enjoy Spring Skiing at its best with Dave Lerner and Jan Marx.

Winter Park is one of Colorado's oldest and largest ski resorts and we will be spending 7 nights at the luxury Zephyr Mountain Lodge at the base of the lifts. The package also includes round trip air transportation on United, lift tickets for a full 6 days (not the usual 5), ground transfer on a deluxe chartered bus, 3 group dinners, after ski parties, a pre-trip party, baggage handling at the resorts, and tips and current taxes for all of the above.

The Zephyr Mountain Lodge is Winter Park's premier ski-in ski-out lodging accommodation. It is an all-condo property and we have reserved two bedroom – two bath units with a fully equipped kitchen. One bedroom has a king bed, and the other has twin beds. (Living room hide-a-beds will NOT be used.) All units have VCRs and free high-speed data ports. ***We may be able to accept additional signups if we can get units at the Zephyr Mountain Lodge.**

The mountain has a great selection of runs from easy cruisers to challenging steeps on the newer Mary Jane area. There is a 3,060 foot vertical drop covering 2,770 acres. There are 24 lifts, including 8 high-speed quads. Snowmobile tours, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and ice skating also are available.

Value pricing is part of the Spring scene and we are able to offer the entire package for only \$1,160. There will be a substantial discount for senior lift tickets (details not yet available).

A full trip flier is available on the web at: <http://members.cox.net/dlerner1/WinterParkFlyer.html>

Call Dave Lerner at 703-281-6923 for more info or send e-mail to dslearner@ieee.org or Jebbmarx@aol.com

February 17-March 6, 2006, join Nancy and Ray McKinley for an 18-day

Scandinavian Smörgåsbord!

Scandinavia shines in the winter! The major tourist attractions—even the outdoor parks—remain open and invite visitors to enjoy without the crowds of summer. Our winter's trip will be perfect for skiers and sightseers alike covering the highlights of three different countries, in 5 Star Luxury--a true Scandinavian Smörgåsbord. Maybe our best trip ever! Scenery is fantastic and every day starts with a superb, full, Scandinavian breakfast. Our ski area, *Hafjell*, at **Lillehammer**, is the location of the major 1994 Olympic ski events, with over 15 miles of runs for all levels, 12 lifts and a 300-foot

Hurry! Only 1 Room Left

Local... Lillehammer... museum... stroll along... the explosive *Stroget* walking street. Then, on to captivating **Oslo** staying 3 nights at the 5 Star Bristol Hotel, a deluxe property right next to Oslo's theatres, boutiques and best restaurants. Those on the 11-day package will return home after Oslo.

After Oslo, we fly to Scandinavia's largest and oldest capitol, **Stockholm**, Sweden built on 14 islands, centered on the 14th century, captivating *Gamla Stan*, a former fortress now a rabbit warren of narrow, cobbled streets, with shops and boutiques selling the very latest in *haute couture* to antiques.

From Stockholm, we take an overnight cruise across the Baltic Sea on a huge cruise ship-600 feet long with 12 decks, ballrooms, multiple restaurants and private suites-to historic, medieval **Tallinn**, the capital of Estonia, part of the former USSR. We're certain you'll love it. Its mostly-intact city wall has 29 stone 12th Century watchtowers, each topped by a red tile roof. With cobblestone streets and lots of unique shops, it's a great place! We cruise back to Stockholm and sadly, return home on March 6.

What about temperature and light? In Lillehammer, March temperatures average 30° F daytime and 25° F at night. In the other capital cities, on the water, the temps are warmer. In Stockholm, in March, sunrise is at 6:30 am and sunset at 5:40 pm for a total of 11 hrs and 10 min. This is only a few minutes less sunlight than Big Sky, Montana on the same date.

The full, luxury 18-day trip is \$3,896 pp, double occupancy, including airfare, hotels, all breakfasts, dinners in Lillehammer and two overnight cruises. Our 11-day package, returning to the US on February 28, costs \$2,723. We look forward to a great See and Ski Trip and hope you'll join us! For more info call us at (703) 527-7126. Or e-mail nmckinley@convera.com. To sign up, send your check for \$2200 to Ray McKinley. Mail to McKinleys, 2326 N. Upton Street, Arlington, VA 22207-4045.

December monthly meeting Roundup.

by Ilse Keel

December, and our mind turns to the holidays and festivities, and so it was that once more 36 members gathered in the charming home of our gracious PVS member, Judy Macaluso, for an encore Christmas meeting. Her home was decorated in the style of the season and so were our spirits and our "vocal chords." The song sheets for holiday favorites were distributed. We started with Marianne Cook's PVS song which led us into a heartfelt, holiday chorus that could readily compete with the Vienna Boys Choir (maybe the delicious wines and cocktails fostered our enthusiasm!!).



Mike, Dottie and Edith

The business meeting was kept very brief by David; the trip leaders for the upcoming five major trip events gave their presentations; do they ever sound exciting and are almost totally booked!



Bob and Jim

The holiday buffet, with contributions from our members, lacked nothing in diversity and good taste, in addition to being lavishly decorated. There were hams, turkeys, and meatballs; vegetable, bean, and pasta salads; chips and guacamole, and a variety of pies, cookies and cakes.

We all left satisfied of spirit and stomach and appreciated the overture to the Christmas season.



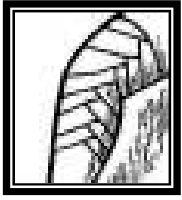
Thank you, Judy!

Fun Stuff

Refrigerated Recreation

When planning your next ski sojourn, consider the Gulf Emirate of Dubai. It might seem like an unorthodox vacation destination, but Dubai boasts the world's largest indoor snow park. The slopes, which cover an expanse of desert sand the size of three soccer fields, are covered with manufactured snow year-round, reports BBC News. The snow is made by shooting water at high pressure into an atmosphere maintained near freezing by coolers below and above the park. The park's features include tobogganing, icy bobsleigh runs and a ski school. And for the entrance price of \$35, visitors can avail themselves of all necessary clothing and equipment, including knee-length padded coats for any Arabs who prefer to frolic in the snow wearing their traditional kandouras. Skiing in the robes, however, is strictly forbidden.





THE KNEE

By Ray McKinley

I wish you a most joyous 2006! As the Knee moves into its 27th year, let me again be the first, and likely only, one to wish you a Happy Knee Year. It will be tough to top last year's brilliant knee puns, but I'll continue to try. The Knee isn't complaining. It's just diffkneecult coming up with witknee (a mountain in Califorkneeia which is the tallest in the US, except—I note—for Mt McKinknee), zaknee, funknee puns.

I was terribly disappointed in the Knee Years Day Bowl match ups. OK, in the Rose Bowl we did have Southern Califorkneeia, but vs. Texas (Texkneenas—nah!). Missing were perennial powerhouses, Kneebraska and Minkneesota (which is really a small sota.)

Kneenuf! On to the real purpose of this column—you. Let me remind each and every one of you how important you are. First you are my subjects. Without you there would be no kneesworthy events to report on. Secondly, you are my (loyal?) readers. Without you there would be no kneed for a knee. Keep up the silliness.

At age 92, and legally blind, Marianne Cook flew to Vienna (no, not the one in Virginia) by herself to spend the Holidays with friends. Had she been here, Marianne would have been pleased that we all sang the song she wrote at our December holiday meeting.

West Virginia residents, Howard and Jean Hensley were back in town briefly looking for homes in the Arlington area.

Suzanne Boisclair and Betty Lawrence spent the Knee Year skiing at the Big White resort in Canada. Where is that? It's near Fernie, British Columbia. (See, the Knee is a font of really helpful information!) They left shortly after Betty Lawrence got her stolen Audi back. It had been missing almost a month. Betty was joyful that the car was in good shape and had suffered little damage. You know the old saying, A stolen Audi gathers no Fernies—or something like that!

A tip of the ol' Knee cap to Wisp Resort. The resort celebrated its 50th ankneeversary in mid December. Wisp rolled back prices to 1955. A two-day lift ticket was \$7. (That's for 2 days!)

Karen and Knox Felker spent the holidays in their new North Carolina abode. They drove down in early December after closing the sale of their Baileys Crossroads condo. There were several days of panic as Karen worried that her foreign buyer, after making some improper last moment demands, would back out. It ended fine.

Bob Harmon is back from a Vermont photo tour. They photographed, according to Bob, fall settings so he can paint them. But we really know the real purpose of the trip is for Bob to brush up on his New England accent-eh?

Mary Beale is hosting our February meeting. Prior to that, she is having her kitchen redone. According to Mary, the house is some 60 years old and all of the appliances were the original equipment. And wood-burning ovens just aren't all that practical these days. Termites!

Recently, Marty Rine looked out the front door of her Springfield townhouse and saw a six point buck. Oh deer!

Pres. David and Rachel Abraham recently attended their son's 50th birthday. It was held in St. Croix. David reports that skiing was "lousy."

PVS psychologist Rosemary Schwartzbard volunteers with the Red Cross mental health unit. She spent 9 days working, and living, in a shelter in Gulfport, Mississippi. Rosemary was glad to return home. The conditions were hot, humid and all around wretched. And, she reports the skiing was "lousy."

Here's an unexpected development. The results of the membership survey are now all in. We listed ski areas where we would like to take a trip. Charnita (aka Liberty Mountain (sic)) was not on anyone's list. Give me death or give me liberty! (FYI Wisp was mentioned twice.)

The December meeting at Judy Macaluso's was grand. Red and green finery was nearly ubiquitous. The Knee wore contrasting red and green kneecaps. Judy's central location brought out many. However, due to accidents, coming in from the west wasn't fun.

Kerry and Marianne Hines spent 2 hours coming from Delaplane. Mary Ward and Jim Slack were on the road some 1.5 hours from Catharpin, and Dick and Betty Comerford spent 1 ¼ hours from Leesburg. On the other hand, DC resident Betty Byrne walked.

Lots more kneet stuff next month.

Calendar 2005-2006

Jan 10 December/January ExCom at Marx's
Jan 7 Snowmass pre-trip party at Ruth Powers', 4-7 PM.
Jan 14 Telluride pre-trip party at Kerry & Marianne Hines, 3:00 PM
Jan 15 Scandinavia pre-trip party at McKinley's. 4:00 PM.
Jan 17 Monthly Meeting at June Read-Martin's daughter's
Jan 18-20 ****WISP Demo Day trip**
Feb 8 Zoo walk
Feb 21 Monthly Meeting at Mary Beale's
Feb 28 ExCom - location TBD
Mar 15 Hexagon
Mar 21 Monthly Meeting at Ufholz's
Mar 28 ExCom - location TBD
April 15 Scandinavia post-trip party.
April Frank Shelburne Memorial Hike
April 18 Annual Meeting at Leonhardt's
June 9 or 15 Friday - *Spamalot* - National Theatre

**Change of postal or
e-mail address:**
Call Pat Vagonis at
(301) 838-5545
or send e-mail message to
pvagonis@comcast.net

2006 SKI TRIPS

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------|---|
| January 19-26 | Snowmass | wait listed |
| February 2-9 | Telluride | wait listed |
| Feb 17-March 5 | Scandinavia | space may be available |
| March 3-11 | Val Gardena | space available |
| March 27-April 3 | Winter Park | need a single male. Additional sign ups possible. |



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

