

#### Greetings Members!

Just back from the Slopedusters' week-long skiing adventure in Telluride, I wish to share with you a couple of observations. First, is my encounter with the members of our Telluride trip under the devoted leadership of Gene and Wilma Sharer. On our only overlap day we met twice: In the morning, when I came to pick up whoever was ready to venture out and be shown some of this vast area, then again at lunchtime in and in front of the mountain's most popular restaurant. What I saw was a bunch of happy people who, seemingly, irrespective of their particular skiing abilities and general physical conditions, were gloating in this unique environment, just loving this combination of breathtaking panoramas and abundant snow cover, facilitating the activities for which all of us came. All I could think was: there must be some magic in this which turns the most serious-minded among us into something of the playful children we were yesteryear.

My other, and quite related, observation has to do with what is now confirmed as an ever increasing number of skiers whose chronological clock has long surpassed the number at which there used not to be any skiers. While I wouldn't try to analyze and opine on what makes this phenomenon possible, it's fact that an ever larger number of downhill skiers are in senior citizen territory. The National Ski Areas Association recently confirmed that 31% of us who skied last season were older than 45, compared with 21% 7 years earlier. Michael Berry, the association's president, attributed the change to generally healthier seniors, who stay active and fit well into retirement, and better equipment that makes turning much easier on aging muscles and creaky joints. Occasionally we're confronted by some hot-shot youngster whose probing looks seem to say 'what the hell are you old guys doing up here'; we shouldn't be discouraged by such provocations, and just keep proving that age no longer determines how long we're privileged to enjoy our most favored pastime. Let's all just keep getting out there and partaking in the fun.

And so we're off to entirely new terrain, the slopes of Lillehammer, and selected capitals of Scandinavia. By the time you read these lines we will have skied and seen the wonders of the Bergen fjords. Soon after it will be back home again, and getting ready for some more of this winter's delights. I'm hoping many of you are active participants, and having a great time at it.

David

Monthly Meeting



at the home of Eugenia and Phil Ufholz Tuesday, March 21 7:30 PM



Directions:

#### From Virginia

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

#### From DC

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

#### From Maryland - 270

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



#### www.potomacvalleyskiers.org

The PVS web presence has been augmented by use of the following website: <u>www.photosite.com/pvskiers</u>

Here viewers can find extended photo stories with (large) images about recent PVS events including

 Snowmass 2006
 www.photosite.com/pvskiers/Snowmass2006
 and the recent

 Zoo Walk & Lunch
 www.photosite.com/pvskiers/ZooWalkandLunchFeb2006

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Those with <u>cable/DSL</u> connections should click on "View Slide Show"

Those with <u>dial-up</u> connections should *NOT* click on View Slide Show, but should click on one of the smaller images on the web page to show it in larger size. (When you have viewed all of the smaller images, then click on "View Next Page" to access the rest.) There are several different formats and we are still exploring the best one for those with dial-up connections.)

HEXAGON Wednesday evening, <u>March 15<sup>th</sup> 2006</u>, at 8:00 PM

A hilarious show of political satire and musical numbers. It is <u>Congressional Night</u>. The show is in the Duke Ellington School for the Performing Arts in Georgetown. **Call Margaret Wyckoff with questions or to be wait-listed**. **301-589-5532**.



#### PVS BOARD - 2005-2006

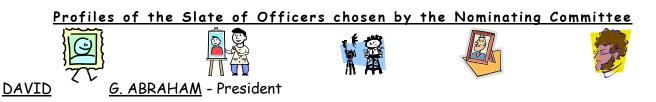
President - David Abraham Vice President -Mike Strand Secretary- Jessma Blockwick Treasurer- Ray Jones Membership- Pat Vagonis Program Cmte Chair -David Abraham Events - Ray McKinley Midweek Events - David DeVilbiss Ski Trip Cmte Chair - Bob Marx TOOT Editor - Jan Marx TOOT Proofreader- Bob Marx TOOT 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

#### Nominating Committee Report

Committee chair, Nancy McKinley., and her committee: Reg Heitchue, Bob Marx, Ray Jones, Dottie Villers and Margaret Wyckoff are proud to submit the following slate for PVS membership vote at the Annual Meeting on April 18, 2006.

> President - David Abraham Vice President - Mike Strand ExCom Members: Bob Knopes Dick Laeser David Lerner

FYI. Additional candidates may be presented on the slate if the candidate has signatures of 5 members and is approved by the ExCom before the April Toot goes to press.



David recently retired from the consulting firm he co-founded in 1982, where he had served as its CFO, Director of Business Economics Practice, and a variety of related responsibilities. He and his spouse, Rachel, became PVS members more than 35 years ago, and have participated in numerous trips and other club activities. For the past 3-plus years, David has served as an ExCom member, vice president, and, president. He is an avid skier, biker and outdoors aficionado. His professional background encompasses engineering, economics and business management. He continues to be active in all these areas in addition to contributing to the direction of several performing arts and other charitable organizations.

#### MIKE STRAND - Vice President

Mike is from Toledo, Ohio. After college he was commissioned in the US Army - Infantry (paratrooper and ranger), got banged-up in Viet Nam, rehab in Walter Reed. Disability "retired" to Europe for 18 months (traveled world-wide). Moved to San Francisco. Eloise arrives; skiing begins at Lake Tahoe (1971). Married at Monterey (1972). Eloise back to Walter Reed (via San Antonio). Grad Degree at Geo. Wash. U. in Hospital Admin. Management work then human resources (that time "Personnel") work, 4 hospitals as HR Dir (15 yrs.), then (since 1991) as HR consultant, boss himself! Summary: 5 continents, 3 homes, 5 cocker spaniels (1969-present); skiing (1971-2004), spouse (1972-infinity), and whole lots of fun in life.

#### BOB KNOPES - ExCom

A native of Wisconsin, where the highest peak is about 700 feet, Bob came to skiing late. In the midst of a foreign service career concentrating on Asia, Bob took an assignment as cultural attaché in Rome and learned to ski in Cervinia in the Italian Alps. From Rome he returned to Asia, serving in Beijing, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, and skiing in northern Japan whenever possible. Bob was introduced to PVS about the time he retired from the foreign service in 1994, and has enjoyed the great ski trips, excellent food, and unlimited friendships PVS has provided ever since.

#### DICK LAESER - ExCom

In the late 60's, Dick's office-mate at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory talked him into helping to start the JPL Ski Club - a few months later he concluded that, as the club's treasurer, he ought to learn how to ski. It was fun. In the 70's and 80's, Dick and his family skied most of the West out of their motor home. While managing projects that explored other planets using robots, Dick was president of a gymnastics club, was on the competition staff of the '84 Olympics in LA, and rafted the Grand Canyon. Dick and his wife Sandy live on Lake Thoreau in Reston (where he's cluster association treasurer) and enjoy adventure/educational traveling (including Kenya/Tanzania, Russia, China, Botswana and the North Pole in recent years).

#### DAVID LERNER - ExCom

Dave Lerner started work as an engineer back in 1954. There he met an avid skier who introduced him to skiing, not as just a sport, but as a way of life. Dave is still enthusiastic about skiing and spends lots of time on the slopes. Dave has been a member of PVS for 6 years. Before that, he served as officer and board member for several other ski clubs. Dave has led 3 trips for PVS in addition to trips that he led for previous ski clubs. Dave's wife, Stella, is a non-skier who lets Dave go on all these trips. Dave still works at engineering. He is also a computer hobbyist and a bike rider.



<u>Additional</u> signups are being accepted, subject to matching others to fill a condo.

### Tuesday, March 28 – Tuesday, April 4, 2006 Enjoy Spring Skiing at its best with Dave Lerner and Jan Marx.

<u>Winter Park</u> 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 <u>full 6 days</u> (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. <u>The Zephyr Mountain Lodge</u> 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**.

# <u>The mountain</u> has a great selection of runs form 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.

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

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

#### Coming Events



#### Frank Shelburne Memorial Hike Saturday, April 8

Join us for the annual Frank Shelburne Memorial Hike, at Seneca Creek State Park. We will meet at 10:00 AM for 3 to 4 easy miles around Clopper Lake. From the park

entrance, follow the signs to parking at the Boat Center. We will have lunch together afterwards at a local picnic ground or restaurant. More details in the April TOOT.

Directions to Seneca Creek State Park in Montgomery County, MD:

From Washington, DC, Virginia and points south: take I-270 north toward Frederick, Maryland. Take exit 10, Clopper Road, and continue through six traffic lights. The park's entrance is marked and will be on the left (just after Game Preserve Rd., on the right).

From points north: Take I-270 south towards Washington, DC. Take exit 11, MD Route 124 west. At the light, bear right and travel two more traffic lights and turn right onto Clopper Road (Rt. 117). The park is approximately 1.5 miles on the left.

Call Carolyn Maurer or David DeVilbiss at 703-370-4865 for more information, if in doubt about the weather, or if meeting the group for lunch only.



<u>Williamsburg</u> <u>Weekend</u> PVS South has planned a fun and food filled weekend for May 5-7, 2006

Lodging will be at The Hospitality House located a short distance from the historic area with check in at 3:00 PM.

Festivities start Friday evening with cocktails at the Klines'; followed by a buffet supper at the Clarks'.



Saturday, we will meet for a tour of Colonial Williamsburg. In the evening we will have cocktails at the Sharers' followed by dinner at the Two Rivers Country Club.

The grande finale is a champagne brunch on Sunday at the elegant Williamsburg Inn.

The per person cost will be approximately \$300 (double occupancy) or \$420 (for a single). This includes lodging, 2 cocktail parties, 2 dinners, brunch, admission to Colonial Williamsburg, and the incomparable PVS camaraderie.

To reserve a space, call Marílyn Clark at 757-565-1942 or e-mail at clarkra@att.net

Hope you will join us.





#### by Eloise Strand

At 4:30 AM, Thursday morning, 2 Feb 06, twenty bright eyed, bushy tailed PVS members and friends were checking in at Dulles airport for the flight to Montrose, CO. The trip was uneventful, not a hitch, and on the bus trip up the mountain to Telluride we were delighted to see snow coming down. We were later delighted that for the next 6 days, we had bright sunny weather, absolutely perfect for skiing. At Telluride we were joined by 4 other PVS members completing a very cohesive group of twenty-four.

Our abode for the next seven days was the luxurious Wyndham Peaks Hotel with the Golden Door Spa, ski in/ski out accommodations and a most impressive boot and ski valet service. The only criticism heard of the Peaks was weak coffee...but one would certainly not call that a major complaint. Eating, sleeping, walking at 9,545 feet took a little getting used to, but no apparent problems skiing at heights of 12,000 feet or higher. Awesome!

We were met the first day of skiing by PVS President David Abraham who was already in Telluride with his long-standing ski group Slopedusters. David encouraged us to take the mountain tour and then promptly set off to take us to where the tour started. Although many in the group had skied at Telluride before, every day on the slopes was an adventure. Some went on the fast-paced, expansive mountain tours; some took lessons to ski powder; others took lessons to test new equipment or to ski double blues such as Upper and Lower Look Out, Palmyra and black diamonds such as The Plunge, Bushwacker, Coonskin more gracefully. Of course there were those who needed no help with the double blacks.

A new experience for some of us was the opportunity to take children from ski school classes up the lift. A ski instructor frequently could not take all his charges up on one chair so he would ask other skiers to



help. David and Susan Payne and Eloise Strand took up a 4 year old with an "attitude." He had skied last year so he could do everything himself—definitely did not need any help—no way don't try to keep me from falling off the lift, don't try to keep me from kicking my skis off—and don't touch me getting off the lift! We have all admired seeing those little ones following the instructors down the slopes. Well, this was an encounter with one up close and personal! Something else we learned about these little tikes. Maryann Rozzell overheard two ski

instructors in the food line at Big Billie's, that's where the kids ate lunch. One stated that the kids, even as old as 10 years, didn't seem to know their right from their left. The other instructor said that he told his students to point their skis downhill. One pupil didn't make a move so the instructor repeated the direction to point the skis downhill. The response from the child was "who is downhill? I don't know who that is." Who knows, some day these kids may be a Julia Mancuso, Ted Ligety or Toby Dawson, 2006 Olympic medal winners.

Good times were had on the slopes and off the slopes as well. Our group dinners, first at Alfred's at Sophia stop top of the gondola and the second at Harmon's in downtown Telluride... both provided excellent meals—great choices by our trip leaders. Everyone looked forward to après ski, especially the one planned for Super Bowl Sunday. We met for drinks, snacks and the opportunity to join the Super Bowl pool and to win each quarter of the game. This après ski extended from the Sharer's room across the hall to David and Carolyn Calloway's room and finally culminated with 11 PVSers at the hotel's wide-screen super bowl party. The winners of the pool were Susan Payne, Roland Brockmeyer, David Calloway, and Roland Brockmeyer again.







Many took advantage of the scenic gondola ride into the town of Telluride for sight seeing, restaurants and shopping. Now, speaking of shopping, we have a super-culture (not subculture) of shoppers in PVS. This super-culture consists of Susan Payne, Rosemary Schwartzbard, and Eloise Strand and anyone else they can get to hit the consignment shops. What exciting adventures and what glorious finds.

We must mention the pampering some of the ladies and maybe some men got at the Golden Door Spa. In addition to pools, sauna, indoor and outdoor hot tubs, many had facials, massages, manicures, oxygen therapy, acupuncture and the list goes on.

Well, as they say, "all good things must come to an end" and finally it was time for us to depart the Colorado Rockies and head back east. We indeed had a fabulous time: good food; good fellowship; and no mishaps on the snow or serious injuries. And our trip leaders were the best! As said earlier, our trip to Telluride was uneventful, but leaving Montrose, one of our fearless leaders, Gene Sharer, had difficulty clearing security but he finally made it through. And would you believe, Eloise Strand saw coyotes scampering off the runway as the plane departed.

#### Past Events

### Zoo Walk and Lunch

This year's annual Zoo Walk and Lunch attracted 15 PVSers on a clear crisp winter day. One big attraction was the opportunity to see the new giant panda, <u>Tai Shan</u>, who did not disappoint his many fans. He performed by climbing one of the small trees while his mother sat munching bamboo shoots, which is what pandas normally do several hours a day. [Those PVSers with cameras had a field day taking pictures of photogenic Tai Shan and his



mother.] In addition to the pandas, PVS had the opportunity to watch the elephants go through their periodic "workout" for their health and well being. Another rare animal viewed by PVSers was the Komodo dragon, a very large lizard found on only a few islands in Indonesia.

After the stroll, participants reassembled at the nearby townhouse of <u>Betty Byrne</u> in the Mt. Pleasant historic district. There they were treated to appetizers and lunch. By the

way, trip leader Betty also made an early (8:00 AM) visit to the zoo to obtain panda viewing passes for the group, then joined the group later for the stroll, and still managed to have pre-prepared a tasty and

elegant lunch for participants. Additional photos of this event can be found at the web site

http://www.photosite.com/pvskiers/ZooWalkandLunchFeb2006/

Here those with cable/DSL connections can click on "View Slide Show," while those with slow dial-up connections are best served by clicking on each of six small photos on the web page individually and then click on "Next Page" to access more photos.



Wed Feb 8, 2006



# Monthly Meeting at Mary Beale's

Thirty-three blue bootie-clad PVSers had the

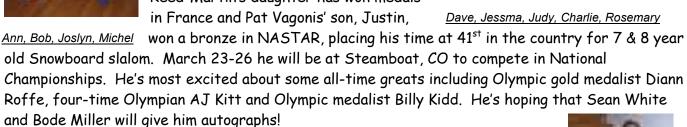
privilege to view and enjoy the ambiance of Mary Beale's newly redecorated home – what she has had done is stunning. Energetic little Josie greeted old friends and new at the door with barks and

wagging tail. Ever thoughtful Mary provided the blue booties not as an adjunct to her for



booties not as an adjunct to her former medical life, but to protect her recently refinished floors that had not fully cured yet, so recent was the renovation. Ann Snyder and Roland Brockmeyer drove in from Baltimore.

PVS offspring are winning prizes. June Reed-Martin's daughter has won medals in France and Pat Vagonis' son Justin



In the absence of the President and Vice President – both of whom were at ski areas – Dick Schwartzbard and his wry wit presided over the business portion of the meeting. He assured introduction of several applicant members, a review of upcoming events and ski trips, and offered appreciation for the extraordinary efforts of our hostess to accommodate everyone despite the proximity of renovation activities.



<u>Jessma</u>

#### Our Injured

Pat Vagonis and Sally Finan are recuperating nicely.

Dick Comerford writes: A little injury news from out west. It seems that the great snow in Colorado is taking its' toll on some of our friends who live there. Both <u>Huey Roberts</u> and <u>Nancy Lewis</u> have recently suffered shoulder problems. Huey dislocated a shoulder about 2 weeks ago; he will have about 6 weeks of rehabilitation before he can regain his activities. Nancy, on the other hand, has this past week, sustained a more serious injury. She apparently caught an edge while running NASTAR gates at Copper Mountain and broke her shoulder. She is scheduled to undergo surgery next Tuesday at the Vail hospital. She is reported to be in good spirits, but I'm sure it is quite painful. She is staying with friends in the mountains until her surgery, then home to Colorado Springs.

<u>For Fun</u>

8

#### Handful of U.S. resorts still skiers-only

Four resorts reserve their snow for skiers, carving a niche in the industryBy DOUG ALDENThe Associated PressUpdated: 1:52 p.m. ET Jan. 2, 2006

(*Editor's note –a summary*) A handful of winter playgrounds maintain that snow is for skiing - period. The FOUR areas are:

Deer Valley and Alta in Utah, New Mexico's Taos, and Mad River Glen in Vermont



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THE KNEE By Mike Strand

What a treat to guest scribe my first (and probably last) Knee. [Due to risqué content, reader discretion is advised.] So let's just describe this as a "PG" Knee. Speaking of movie ratings, have you seen the "R" picture Brokeback Mountain? Here's my synopsis: lots of scenery; lots of sheep; lots of fornication; and two really pissed-off wives.

## *Mike, what's Brokeback Mountain got to do with the Knee or PVS?*

We really don't want to go there!

Hey, here's the latest "poor man's" security system from Wal-Mart:

- 1. Buy a pair of men's work boots (Aisle 17).
- 2. Put them outside your front door on top a copy of "Guns and Ammo." (Aisle 5).
- 3. Put a dog dish beside it...a really big dog dish (Aisle 23).
- 4. Leave a note (Aisle 3) on your front door that says: "Bubba, big Ben and I have gone to get more ammunition—back in an hour or so. Do not disturb the pit bulls, they are mad because they just got neutered."

Mike, when we gonna see the PG stuff?

Hey, here are some things to do at Wal-Mart when your spouse/partner is taking their sweet time:

- 1. Move a "CAUTION-WET FLOOR" sign to a carpeted area.
- 2. Set all the alarm clocks in house wares to go off in 5-minute intervals.
- Get 24 boxes of condoms and randomly put them in peoples' carts when they aren't looking.
- 4. While handling guns in the hunting department, ask the clerk if he knows where the anti-depressants are.
- In the auto department, practice your "Madonna look" using different size funnels.
- Go into a fitting room and shut the door and wait a while; and, then yell, very loudly, "There is NO toilet paper in here!"

Mike, enough of that "sorry-weak" PG stuff...how about something relevant to PVS?

Hey, Wal-Mart announced that they will soon be offering customers a new discount item: Wal-Mart's own brand of wines. The world's largest retail chain is teaming up with E&J Gallo Winery of California to produce the spirits at an affordable price (in the \$2 to \$5 range).

After extensive tasting, here is the latest line of offerings with "independent" comments and serving recommendations:

Big Red Gulp: The ultimate after-dinner liquor. Guaranteed to resolve any meal indigestion. Wipes out that ugly food aftertaste. Serve with your toothpick course.

NASCARbernet: (For those of you that love Retsini.) Here's a multi-octane variant that provides a "wake-up" smack to your taste buds that won't go away early. Chips and pretzels help to counter its impact...lots of chips and pretzels...and beer too...lots of beer.

Peanut Noir: This one really sticks to your palate. The vintage is crunchy over the tongue with an aftertaste reminiscent of school days. Serve with white bread and jelly.

Nasti Spumante: A sparking variant, with no other redeeming features...other than the bubbles. (We sub-label this one the "bubbles from hell.") Buy this one for a bubble bath.

Chateau Traileur Parc: Chill this one as cold as you can get...then put plenty of ice in the glass. Serve with instant dinners or take-out burgers and fries...if you taste it, then it is not cold enough!

Grape Expectations: This is one is for layingdown...forever.

Kneeley-Chateu Prunesque: This one keeps you regular...on a consistent monthly schedule. Sparkling with wit, full of information, smattering with humor and ...it's dependable!

The beauty of Wal-Mart wine is that it can be served with either white meat (Possum) or red meat (Squirrel).

OK Mike, I think you did enough damage to the Knee column to last a while. This will give Ray a challenge to repair. Time to end this.

Hey, I took the Knee to another level! And none of those annoying knee-isms! Ground breaking! A new approach! An opportunity for greater things to happen!

Say good bye, Mike.

#### Calendar 2005-2006

Mar 9 Thursday, ExCom = Combined Feb/March at Strand's Snowmass post-trip party at Mar 11 Jean van der Tak's. 4 to 7 PM Mar 15 Hexagon Mar 19 Winter Park pre-trip party at Lerner's. 2:30 PM Mar 21 Monthly Meeting at Ufholz's Telluride post-trip-party at April 1 Swartzbard's. 5-9 PM Frank Shelburne Memorial Hike April 8 April 15 Scandinavia post-trip party. April 18 Annual Meeting at Leonhardt's April 20 **Bicycling Gourmet - Mt. Vernon** bike path April 25 ExCom at Abraham's Weekend in Williamsburg May 5-7 Friday - Spamalot - National June 16 Theatre

#### 2006 SKI TRIPS

March 3-11 Val Gardena space available March 28-April 4 Winter Park need a single female. Additional sign ups possible.

**NOTE:** <u>Marvin Haas</u> is editing the <u>April Toot</u>. Please send all articles or blurbs, etc to him at <u>toot@potomacvalleyskiers.org</u>



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





