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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.

WASHINGTON

MARYLAND

VIRGINIA

MAY 2003

Fellow PVS'ers:

PVS's annual meeting and election of officers will take place on May 20th. This year there are two candidates for the position of PVS Vice President, and seven candidates for three ExCom positions. Included in this Toot is a ballot and instructions on how to cast your vote. The Validation Team prefers to have the ballots mailed to Dottie Villers, our Secretary, in advance of the May meeting in order to verify eligibility beforehand. Please mail your completed ballot as soon as possible. If you haven't mailed it by Saturday, May 16, bring it with you to the meeting in the sealed and signed envelope to insure that your vote will be counted. The ballots will be tallied at the meeting and new officers announced at that time.

See you May 20th.

Reg

MAY MEETING

May 20, 7:30 PM

Fred and Barb Leonhardt's

606 Firehouse Lane
Gaithersburg, MD
Telephone: 301-963-8111



Directions: Take Interstate 270 North to exit 6B (West to Darnestown). Follow Route 28 West making no turns for 5.2 miles (as measured from bottom of 270 exit ramp). At signal at Tschiffely Square Rd, turn right into the main Kentlands entrance. At 3rd stop sign, turn right onto Leekes Lot Way and then an immediate right on Firehouse Ln to #606 (7th house on right). Carpooling is recommended.

NOTICE: BY-LAWS CHANGE

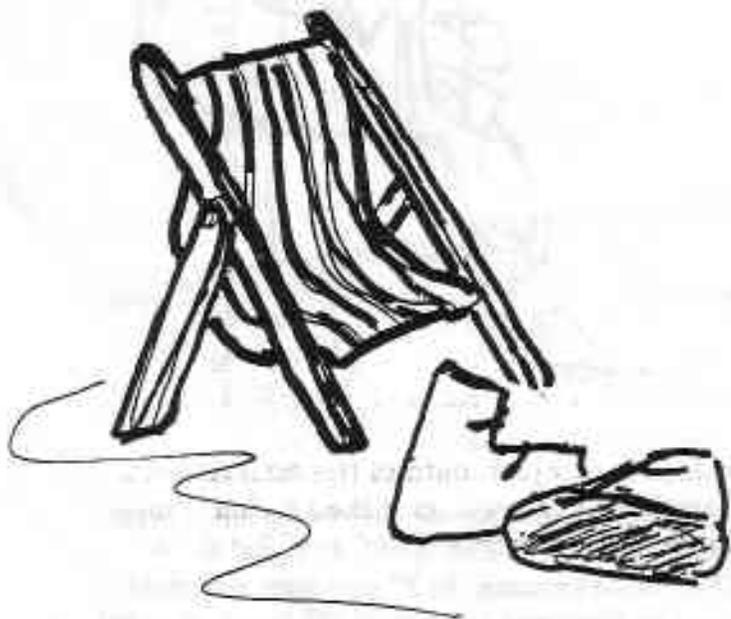
As indicated in the April Toot (see first item on page 5) a by-laws change was proposed to authorize annual election of officers by ballot, rather than our customary show of hands at the annual meeting. The change, as described in the referenced Toot did not properly reflect our intention. The draft speaks of "majority" when it really should be plurality. To clarify, the amendment proposed at the April meeting was amended, and the below reproduced wording was approved by a vote of more than two thirds of the members attending that meeting.

Section III B of the by-laws is herewith replaced with the following:

The President and Vice President shall be elected by the highest number of votes cast for those offices by the active membership on or before the annual meeting. The Executive Committee candidates shall be elected by the highest number of votes cast for the number of Executive Committee positions available by the active membership on or before the annual meeting (for example, if three positions are available, the three candidates with the highest number of votes will be elected). The term of a member of the Executive Committee shall be two years.

DAVID ABRAHAM

Goodbye,
Winter...



Hello,
Summer

www.potomacvalleyskiers.org



The PVS site now contains photos from the Whistler and Crested Butte ski trips as well as from the April Bicycling gourmet ride. In addition there is an artistic digital photo collage with a Snowmass theme created by Karen Felker. Send photos of PVS events to info@potomacvalleyskiers.org

COMING EVENTS

GAMES, GAMES, GAMES...

...aren't just for playing at ski resorts (as a goodly group of PVSers did at Snowmass this year). SO...you are invited for an evening of games—word games, poker, dictionary game, charades—what's your pleasure? Choices are up to the players.

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2003, 7:30 p.m.

Home of Jessma Blockwick
1808 Old Meadow Road, Apt. 213, The Encore
McLean, VA 22102

Party is limited to 14 people. Please call Jessma by May 14 to say you are coming—703-356-0717. A small fee will be asked for wine and goodies.

Directions: Old Meadow Road is the first street inside the Beltway off of Rte. 123 (Dolley Madison Boulevard.) Coming from the Beltway take exit to north on Rte. 123 and turn right at the first traffic signal. Coming south on 123, turn left at same light. Go about .6 of a mile to a gatehouse on the right. The Encore is the second building, left up the hill.

ANNUAL MOUNT VERNON BIKE RIDE MAY 22, 2003



Join us for this annual ride toward Mt. Vernon (mostly via bike path) with lunch at Potowmack Landing Restaurant at the end of the ride. Distance 16-24 miles.

Starting point will be the Washington Sailing Marina just south of National Airport. Please park in the overflow area which is to the right as you enter the Marina from Mt. Vernon Parkway. Leader will distribute parking permits good until 3 p.m. so you need not be concerned about signs indicating the weekday 3-hour parking limit.

Call leader Shirley Rettig at 703-836-0147.

Tour The Albert Powell Fish Hatchery And Alpaca Farm, Hagerstown, Maryland, Wednesday May 28th

We will car pool to the fish hatchery on route 66 just east of Hagerstown planning to arrive at 10 a.m. The tour should take about an hour, and then we will visit the Alpaca Farm 2 miles away. The farm tour takes about one hour, and we will eat lunch after the farm tour.

It takes about 16 months to raise a 12 inch trout weighing ½ pound, and then they are stocked statewide in appropriate Maryland waters. The raceway waters are supplied by the states second largest fresh water spring flowing at an approximate 3,000 gallons per minute at a constant 54 degrees, and ideal temperature for trout propensity.

An alpaca is a miniature llama. Alpacas are raised for their fleece. Their wool is soft comparable to cashmere and comes in many colors. Major colors are black, brown, white, and gray and the fleece can be dyed. The animals are shorn once a year in May, resulting in five to ten pounds of fleece. An alpaca's life span is approximately 20 to 22 years. A gift shop is available where hats, gloves, dolls, scarves, socks, and ties made from alpaca wool can be purchased. There is a \$1. fee for the farm tour.

Interested parties should contact Charles Huggins (301) 424-5725 for head count and to arrange car pools.

Directions: Take interstate 70 west from Frederick to route 66. This is the first intersection after you come down the mountain that has the visitors center on top. Turn right on 66 (north) and proceed only a couple of hundred yards and turn left into the Albert Powell Fish Hatchery. The Alpaca farm is a couple of miles north on route 66 on the left side just after the traffic circle.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

THE ANNUAL PVS SPRING DINNER

SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2003, 7 P.M.

This elegant affair is limited to 40 people. It will be held at the Colonnade, 2801 New Mexico Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C.

To make your reservation, call Marilyn Clark at 703-978-9435 or Email the Clarks at clarkra@worldnet.att.net. Please call by May 15th.

PAST EVENTS

Bicycling Gourmet Ride Review April 17, 2003. Although predicted weather conditions were not favorable, the actual conditions were quite good with sun though with some wind. The PVS participants (leaders Marvin Hass and Betty Byrne, David Abraham, Ruth Powers, and Shirley Rettig) and others enjoyed a brisk ride on the scenic W&OD trail from Leesburg to Purcellville and had an opportunity to visit the newly-opened visitor center in the restored old railway station, which contained a small museum illustrating the history of area. On return to Leesburg, they enjoyed a lunch *al fresco* at the South Street Under café in the Market Station complex. Two photos of this event can be found on the PVS Web Site.



OUR APRIL non-annual MEETING



Even though this was not our "official" annual meeting, the Klines graciously hosted a larger than normal crowd. The dining room table held an array of intriguing dishes. Their wonderful house easily handled the flow of friends as they greeted one another. Reg and David explained the by-laws change that was being presented to the membership for approval. Nays and Yeas were tallied and amendment was approved. Up coming events were presented and the meeting was adjourned. Dessert and more chatting with friends was enjoyed by all.

>>Thanks Charlotte and Jim !! <<

~~~~~

*Here is a creative piece in honor of our trip leader, Dave. Jim Stahler has been on many ski trips with Dave including two PVS trips.*

### DOUBLE DIAMOND DAVE

by Jim Stahler

*[3-28-03 on a ski trip to Crested Butte with Potomac Valley Skiers, led by Dave Lerner]*

Here's to our leader,  
The fearless Dave Lerner,  
A master arranger  
And an expert ski turner.

Slopes made for cruisin'  
Just leave Dave snoozin'.  
He'd rather be choosin'  
Terrain far more bruisin'.

Caution signs that anxiety create,  
Make sane meditate,  
And ponder their fate,  
To Dave, they are nothing but bait.

Dave likes it steep,  
And Dave likes it deep.  
Dave rushes down  
Where angels but weep.

Double black diamonds  
That most would find frightful -  
Dave simply smiles and says,  
"Delightful".

They say, "You skied there!  
Wow, man, you must be brave".  
Nah, I'm really a chicken,  
I'm just following Dave.

## CRESTED BUTTE - 2003

Adapting to the Storm of the Century -- For Denver

or... A Study in Patience and Fortitude

by John Brunelli

"The Storm of the Century", at least as far as Denver International Airport is concerned, caused a delay in the start of what has to be described as an ultimately sublime ski experience for the 21 PVSers (and friends) who finally massed at the Sheraton anywhere from 2 to 4 days later than planned. (The one punctual arrival, Joel Edelstein, had the good fortune of departing from Boston via Houston to Gunnison on Continental Airways and so avoided all delays.) However, as all of you know PVSers are an ingenious lot and just about everyone extended his/her departure day to get a full week or so of ideal skiing.

Although Crested Butte, being on the opposite side of the Continental Divide, only received about 7 inches while Denver was measure accumulations in feet, the slopes had a base in excess of 50 inches. That coupled with superb grooming, a wide variety of green, blue, black and off piste skiing opportunities and brilliantly sunny days made the first few days after our arrivals a skiers' paradise. If there is or was a Greek god of snow (Choney, perhaps?), he certainly smiled on our group when we were at lunch one day and an unexpected snow shower began and eventually dropped about 6 inches of snow on the whole mountain. This was followed by a morning of, yet again, incomparable sunlight. That was all the inducement any of us needed to be at the lifts promptly at opening time. Everyone who wanted to get "first tracks" that day. One such day in a week is enviable but two days later Choney rewarded us again. This time the snow fell after dark, accumulated to the 11 inch mark, was light & fluffy and ended before dawn. Once again first tracks were the order of the day. We all agreed that 2 such powder days are not really excessive.

Full days were capped off by great group dinners in a Swiss chalet slope side and a town side Italian restaurant named Bacchanal which was true to its namesake's reputation and to the PVS penchant for beverages that begin life as grapes.

I'm sure that our leaders David Lerner and Bob Marx got to know more about airline rescheduling machinations and hotel cancellation policies than they really cared to, but for the rest of us, the trip was wonderful. As the last PVS scheduled trip of the year, it was a perfect ending to the ski season. It put us in the mood to contemplate next year's proposed trips. This one certainly raised the bar on expectations.

Addendum:

### The Final Eight - or - The Extended Eight

by Jan and Bob

After more hotel negotiations, eight of us stayed three more days. We were rewarded with more sunshine, warm days but cold snow (not soft corn snow). Saturday afternoon, we had the longest Happy Hour of the trip (from 5 to 8). We also had the chance to return to the Swiss Chalet and the Bachanal restaurants to try another delicious menu selection. Coupon books offered many things including half price ski tuning so several of us can put away our skies sharpened and waxed and ready for next year. (We put a note with our skies to remind us.)

During the mountain tour at Crested Butte Jan Marx assisted a member of the Goddard Ski Club back into his Spademan bindings.

Dave, who is enamored with this mountain and was soaking up the good weather, skied until a half hour before the shuttle left for the airport.

No serious injuries in the group, however there are creative ways to deal with the minor ones. Jean Chabinski strained her wrist while handling her luggage on the way TO Crested Butte. She wanted a decent nights sleep so she taped the TV remote to her wrist as a splint.

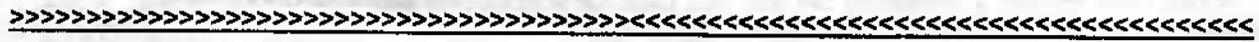
Historical Note: Crested Butte's local man, Al Johnson, used to be the mailman from CB, over the mountain, to Aspen. There is now a yearly race along the same path. While we were there, contestants started in the evening, for an all night journey, so that they would avoid the avalanche areas at the most dangerous times. This year two racers took a wrong turn, a couple of them had to be helicoptered out because of severe frost bite, a Vail man won, and the CB hopeful couldn't race because he was in jail. There were midnight fireworks when the contenders passed the ski area but none of us were awake to enjoy them.

# SKI TRIPS

## PVS 2003/2004 Ski Trips

At the April 22 meeting, ExCom approved the four proposed ski trips for next season, as follows:

Snowmass, CO Jan. 15-22, Steamboat, CO Jan. 22-29 (one can opt for either or both trips),  
Spain and Morocco, Feb. 13-29, and Cortina, Feb. 26-Mar. 6 + extension to Vienna after trip.  
One can opt to connect both European trips. An announcement for each trip is below.



### ~~~~~ Snowmass ~~~~~

January 15 to 22, 2004

Round trip air from Dulles into Eagle/Vail on Delta Airlines (backup with Northwest). Motorcoach to/from Snowmass with seven nights lodging at the ski in/ski/out slope-side Snowmass mountain Chalet. Daily breakfast and hot soup lunch, baggage handling, 5-day lift ticket good for all 4 Aspen mountains. Three group dinners and apres ski. Trip price for Snowmass only estimated to be about \$1,729 and can be combined with the Steamboat trip. The trip is not part of the BRSC trip to Snowmass but BRSC prices were extended for this trip. Land only option is being negotiated. Rooms have already been reserved in our name at the Chalet. The trip is planned for up to 50 people. Deduct \$195 per person for "no ski" packages and add \$799 per person for single sell-up package. An estimated discount of \$45 per person for seniors over 70 and over will apply.

**Get on the bandwagon early by phoning Wilma at 301-975-7-9411 and sending your deposit of \$200 to her at 12404 Beall Spring Road, Potomac, MD 20854 by June 15, 2003.**

You can also email her at [wilma@sharerassociates.com](mailto:wilma@sharerassociates.com).

Gene Sharer

### ~~~~~ Steamboat ~~~~~

January 22 to 29, 2004

PVS will be doing a prime-time trip to Steamboat. We will stay at the Sheraton and fly via Eagle-Vail airport. Cost will be approximately \$1720 for those under 65. The trip includes airfare, hotel rooms, ground transfers, and a 5 of 6 day lift ticket. There are also 3 group dinners and after ski parties. The optional full breakfast package is an additional \$112, including tips and tax.

A deposit of \$200 should be send to David Lerner, 1809 Midlothian Ct., Vienna, VA 22182.

The deposit is fully refundable until August 1. David Lerner and Sally Finan are your trip leaders. The airport and schedule are arranged to permit a back to back trip with the Snowmass trip. The cost of one round trip airfare will be deducted for people taking both trips. Separate deposits are required for each trip.

**Call Dave at 703-281-6923 or Sally at 703-716-9023 for more information.**

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A Once in a Lifetime Chance—February 13-29, 2004; join Nancy and Ray McKinley to Ski and See

# SPAIN & MOROCCO

A fabulous 16-day, 2 continent Ski and See tour. Or you can do just a single continent. 4 and 5 ★ luxury throughout. Fly from Dulles to Malaga, Spain. Ski at *Sierra Nevada*, near Granada, a huge 6000-acre, 4300-ft vertical ski resort topping out at 10,800 feet. Spend time in Granada, home of the *Alhambra*. Non-skiers will be busy touring to a number of exciting locales including Seville. All will have time on the Costa del Sol.

Second week: tour to Gibraltar and on to Morocco. We will spend a night in Tangier, two in Casablanca and then on to Marrakech to ski in the Atlas Mountains at the *Oukaimeden* ski resort. It has pistes from 7,800 to 9,600 feet and is the home of "Africa's longest chair lift." We will stay in "1001 Nights" splendor and tour the *Medina* (old town) and various *Souks* (markets). All breakfasts, many dinners, transfers and baggage handling are included. Full 16 day trip is a true bargain at \$2,200-\$2,600. A complete package for non-skiers is available.

This year space is extremely limited. To reserve a space, send your check for \$250 per person payable to Ray McKinley (refundable through July when prices will be firm) and send it to McKinley's, 2326 North Upton Street, Arlington, VA 22207-4045. Please call us for lots more information at (703) 527-7126.

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## ~~~~ VENICE, CORTINA AND VIENNA ~~~~

February 25 to March 10, 2004

The trip will begin on Feb 25, 2004 leaving from Dulles at 6:10 PM by Austrian Airlines and arriving Venice on Feb 26, 2004 to stay at the Bologna Hotel (4 star hotel) for 2 nights with buffet breakfast for a cost of \$250. On Saturday, February 28, 2004 we will bus to Cortina for seven days of skiing with BRSC staying in a 4-star hotel which will include breakfast and dinner. There will be an orientation party on the arrival and on most evenings a wine/cheese get together. Lift tickets are not included but last years Dolomiti Super Ski Pass for 6 days costs \$175 for adults and those who were born before 1942 was \$149 (this includes all bus transportation between the ski areas). There will be available optional activities and excursions while in Cortina for skiers and non skiers. The price for Cortina is approximately \$1500 including insurance, airport taxes, air & bus transportation, and gratuities. Following skiing in Cortina there will be another add-on to Vienna for 4 nights at the Schoenbrunn Palace Hotel (4 star) with a buffet breakfast included approximately \$400. Returning to Dulles from Vienna on March 10, 2004. The entire trip of 14 days will cost approximately \$2100 with double occupancy. Single supplements will be available within a few weeks as well as firm prices for the above. There is a limit of 25 participants.

Please send a deposit of \$100.00 which is refundable till August 1, 2003, to  
**Glade F. Flake, P. O. Box 60347, Potomac, MD 20859-0347.**  
The assistant trip leader is John Smith.



# THE KNEE

by

Ray McKinley

This is an important month for our ski club. For the first time ever, we have an

Alternate slate of candidates from those selected by our Nominating Committee. Because of this it is most important that you vote. Please follow the instructions. Properly sign the envelope and mail your ballot. Or bring your ballot to our meeting. Ballots will NOT be available at the meeting.

After a wretched winter, May, abloom with the vibrant colors of spring, causes the Knee to wax poetic (not his skis). Rhyme comes to mind. And I become... poetknee.

*'Tis May, 'tis May, the lusty month of May*

*And skiers, skiers everywhere,*

*Have put their skis away.*

*To go rollick in the hay.*

*And perhaps to ski another cold day.*

*In a month that begins with a "J."*

*Enough already! Alright! OK?*

Luckily, the Knee doesn't wax poetic very often.

This part of the Knee should be called the Shoulder. Our President, not George, but Reg Heitchue, has had his ailing shoulder repaired. It was wrecked tree skiing in Steamboat earlier this year. Despite a major tear, his surgeon (who also works on the Redskins) was able to fix it using only arthroscopic shoulder surgery. (Arthur has been busy with his scope!) It did, however, take six different incisions. According to Reg, the secret to a rapid, painless recovery comes from Kirk Burns—"Ice." Reg had special ice packs on the shoulder 20 minutes of every hour for the entire first day. And he slept without painkillers.

After 3-4 weeks of healing Reg will go into serious physical therapy. Whilst doing this he will also be doing lower body training for his next adventure. In October, our Pres plans to go to one of my favorite places, Kneepal, and go trekking. The plan will take him, without supplementary oxygen, over 18,000 feet. Gasp!

Here's a kneet knew Knee feature. It's

called "Ask the Knee," where you ask the Knee your most perplexing ski-related questions. Our first question: Why, late in the season, is there snow on the ski runs but not elsewhere? Simple, early in the season, when snow is abundant, it is collected and stored in a snow bank.

The answer to another oft asked question comes from Nancy Lewis. What is the difference between a vacuum cleaner and a snowboarder? It's where you attach the dirt bag! Blame Nancy.

Congratulations to Dorothy Mills! She sold her Arlington home with just one Open House. There were multiple offers, and Dot got some \$80,000 more than she asked. Charlotte Eddy was Dot's agent and did yeoperson(?) work to get everything ready. Dot will remain local and move to Goodwin House. Packing is a pain!

A third generation PVS? A tip of the ol' Knee Cap to Pat Vagonis (also known to many as Patty Wyckoff). Pat is now expecting. I'm not certain what she is expecting. Maybe I'll learn.

Part of Arizona's PVS contingent, Irene and Jack Ragen, will soon be in town for the graduation of a grandchild. They expect to be at the May PVS meeting. Right on.

Annemarie and Walt Brenner, back here from Oakland for a few months, were at the April meeting and will also be here in May.

I think that this is really kneat. Our trip committee has a Chair, Barbara Leonhardt, and 4 members. Three of them went on two or more PVS trips this last season. We clearly picked the right people for the committee!

A tip of the ol' Knee cap goes to Jessma Blockwick for standing in for the Marxes and putting out the last TOOT. (My spell check just decided that "Jessma" isn't an English word. It should be "Jesus.") Jessma will get another chance in a few months. Now that Bob Marx is retired, he and Jan will go to Minkneesota for two months. Jessma and perhaps PVS webmaster Marvin Haas will assume the editor duties.

Given that the Knee is non-political, I must not say "Vote for me and the entire Nominating Committee slate." Whoops! (sort of)

**CALENDAR**

- May 17-18...Blue Ridge Ski Council meeting - delegates go to Annapolis
- May 20...ANNUAL Meeting at Leonhardt's
- May 22...Annual Mount Vernon Bike Ride
- May 27...ExCom at Abraham's
- May 28...Fish Hatchery and Alpaca Farm Tour
- May 31...Spring Dinner at the Colonnade
- June 18...Bicycling Gourmet - Calvert County Riviera
- June .....Monthly Meeting at Sharer's
- July 16...Bicycling Gourmet: Great Falls (MD) to Seneca (C&O Canal towpath)

**THE LONELY GLOVE**

Jim Stahler

[Winter, 2000, on a ski trip, in a chair lift]

A glove alone, upon the snow.  
 How it got there, I don't know.  
 Who may have lost it? No one knows.  
 But we may be sure his poor hand froze.

Bette Walker  
 #806  
 2801 New Mexico Ave., N.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20007

