

VOLUME XLII
NUMBER 5

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

May 2006

www.potomacvalleyskiers.org

info@potomacvalleyskiers.org

It's a New PVS Year! At our annual meeting on April 18, in the comfortable setting of our hosts, Barbara and Fred Leonhardt's lovely home and the delicious food and drinks these generous folks provided, we said our thanks to the three terminating ExCom members, Dave DeVilbiss, Sharon Mulholland and Mike Hatanaka, and we welcomed the three newly elected ones, Bob Knopes, Dick Laeser and David Lerner. We also reelected Veep Mike Strand and yours truly for another year's term. The other formal vote elected to club membership the 11 applicants who had met admission requirements. Their names are listed elsewhere in this Toot. We look forward to their increased participation in club activities and their assumption of champion and leadership roles. The completion of these formal activities launches the club on its 41st year with a membership of 181, another 9 applicants and a few more who are in the process of submitting their applications. As Treasurer Ray Jones reported, the club continues to enjoy a healthy financial condition with adequate cash and reserves to see us through to our next renewal and dues payment cycle. We expressed our profound thanks to our meeting hosts, the terminating ExComers, and our chairpersons who make it all happen.

Both at this annual meeting, and subsequently at our April ExCom meeting, I have again addressed the question of where are we going, what is our vision for the club's future and what are the initiatives we need to take to assure its continued viability as an institution we all like a lot, which provides appealing activities, and in general meets members' reasons for being members. It is obvious to all informed observers that change has and will continue to take place as, on the one hand, the aging process brings with it changes in members' interests, and on the other hand, retirements afford greater free time and availabilities to participate in club activities in place of work regimens. Our very informally conducted survey at the meeting, attended by some 60 members, revealed increased interest in non-skiing outdoor activities such as concerts, theater, musicals, and the like, non-ski trips during the spring to fall seasons, and combination activities such as our recent trip to the New York wine country, and the upcoming Williamsburg weekend.

I should like to say that we heard you, and we have gone to work. Over the next weeks and months we will pursue new ideas for club-sponsored activities, along with our traditional winter ski trips. In fact, several prospective trip-leaders are hard at work to produce another 5 sponsored trips season. Mike Strand has consented to lead a revitalized mid-week activities program, and others will be initiating what we hope will be popular and well attended club events. As always, we need everyone's ideas, your actions to get it all done, and, of course, your participation. So, let us hear from you, as you hear from us, and have a wonderful springtime.

David

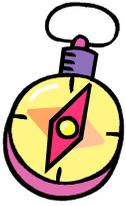


Monthly Meetings



Tuesday, May 16
at
Alice Crites
In Bethesda, MD
7:30 PM





Directions

Alice Crites - Edith Rabinovitz's daughter

10308 Rossmore Court Bethesda, MD 20814

301 530-7675

From Virginia

Take the Beltway (495N) toward Maryland.

Take exit 36 (Old Georgetown Road) and turn **left** on Old Georgetown Road (North toward Rockville.)

At the third set of traffic lights turn **right** onto Cheshire Drive

Go straight at the stop sign and then make your first **left** onto Berkshire Drive.

Take the second **right** onto Rossmore Drive.

Continue on Rossmore Drive for 0.6 miles until you get to Rossmore Court on the **right**. House is on the corner of Rossmore Dr and Rossmore Court. **10308 Rossmore Court**

From DC

Take Wisconsin Avenue to Bethesda.

Near the Hyatt Hotel, veer **left** onto Old Georgetown Road and continue for approximately 3.2 miles.

Turn **right** onto Cheshire Drive (just before the Wildwood shopping Center)

Go straight at the stop sign and then make your first **left** onto Berkshire Drive

Take the second **right** onto Rossmore Drive

Continue on Rossmore Drive for 0.6 miles until you get to Rossmore Court on the right. House is on the corner of Rossmore Dr and Rossmore Court **10308 Rossmore Court**

Congratulations and Welcome to our new members:

Mary Beale

Dave Bertagnoli

David Calloway

Carolyn Calloway

Joe Jevcak

Ingrid Monaghan

Cherie Stallman

Jean van der Tak

Bruno Walker Joanna Walker

Liz Warren Boulton

And to our new Associate Members:

Nestor Delevaux

Pat Delevaux

PVS Thanks You

A HEARTY Thank You to Jessma for her secretarial expertise these many months.
WELCOME to Mary Beale for agreeing to be our new Secretary.

PVS BOARD MEMBERS, OFFICERS, and CHAIRPERSONS - 2006-07

President - <i>David Abraham</i>	Webmaster - <i>Marvin Hass</i>
Vice President - <i>Mike Strand</i>	Ski Trip Cmte Chair - <i>Bob Marx</i>
Secretary - <i>Mary Beale</i>	TOOT Editor - <i>Jan Marx</i>
Treasurer - <i>Ray Jones</i>	TOOT Proofreader - <i>Bob Marx</i>
Membership - <i>Pat Vagonis</i>	TOOT Mailer -
Events - <i>Ray McKinley</i>	Meeting Records - <i>Sara Huggins</i>
Mid-week Events - <i>Mike Strand</i>	Historian - <i>Jan Marx</i>

First Term:

*Bob Knopes
Dick Laeser
David Lerner*

Second Term:

*Charlotte Eddy
Burr Schuler
Dick Schwartzbard*



Wanted

Non-Ski Activity Ideas

In follow-up to the Annual Meeting's measure of interest in other (than ski) activities such as theater, concerts, non-ski trips, short trips, local events, outdoor activities, etc., we are looking for SPECIFIC IDEAS.

So we need your thoughts, plans, discussions and help to identify any and all rumors, notions, writings, duck tape*, readings, clippings, or whatever to help us generate a non-ski program of interest that contains a variety of activities for you and others in PVS.

Send via e-mail, voice, written letter or otherwise communicate your idea(s) to Mike Strand at hrdyna@aol.com or 301/881-0812 or 10728 Lady Slipper Terrace, Rockville, MD 20852

BY May 15th.

* Just checking to see if you've read this carefully.



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s

Mary Ward and Jim Slack
305 New Cameron Drive
Lexington, VA 24450

Our phone is 540-463-5071
E-mail stays the same.

Sally Finan and George Welti no longer have e-mail.

Marilyn and Dick Clark - new e-mail. ramjclark@verizon.net

Ray McKinley -- My office is moving to Bolling AFB effective Monday, 4/10. I can't tell you how thrilled I am to triple my commute and have almost no parking! My new phone number will be (202) 201-1543

Dave Phillips
9319 Creekview Dr.
Laurel MD. 20708

N
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S



Newly elected ExCom member Bob Knopes has written and published a book titled "Any Damn Fool Can Be a Farmer, Growing Up on a Wisconsin Farm", the fascinating story of Bob's youth.

Copies are available for purchase directly from the author,

A Minolta 35 mm film camera was left at the Leonhardt's after the Annual Meeting. If it is yours, please contact Barb at fbleonhardt@starpower.net OR call Jan 703-451-9158.

Editor's Note:

Jessma Blockwick

In PVS, as with her many "causes," Jessma has been a "fully engaged" member. Many of you already are aware that Jessma will be moving to Boulder, CO to be near her son and his family. Jessma has been an integral part of PVS ever since she first joined. She has been very resourceful and creative by suggesting and organizing a multitude of mid-week events throughout the years. She has readily volunteered for many jobs including substitute editor for Lu. Jessma took over as full time Toot Editor after Lu resigned in 1997. To paraphrase Dave Barry in one of my favorite columns of his, Jessma often has been my "emergency back-up" editor. I'm not playing any games (one of Jessma's favorite leisure-time activities) when I express the sentiment shared by all: we will miss seeing you on the frequent basis we have enjoyed. Best wishes as you undertake this new adventure. We all hope you will join us when in town and, certainly, on ski trips.





BICYCLING GOURMET

Glen Echo to Potomac

Thursday, May 18, 2006 10:30 AM

Starting Point: Glen Echo/Clara Barton Parking Lot.



Route: Seventeen mile round trip primarily along bike paths from Glen Echo to Potomac and return. Route primarily uses the MacArthur Blvd. and Falls Road bike paths. There is a one mile uphill which did not faze any of our participants in previous years. Coffee and carbo loading mid ride at the Vie de France bakery in Potomac Village with an (optional) end-of-ride rehydration at the Irish Inn at Glen Echo pub.

Directions to Starting Point: Proceed to Glen Echo/Clara Barton Parking Lot. Closest major intersection: MacArthur Boulevard and Goldsboro Road.

Weather: Leader will show up unless actually raining at 10:30 AM.

Leaders: Marvin Hass (703) 751-4737 [info@potomacvalleyskiers.org]

Note: Starting time listed above is when cyclists actually depart; please arrive earlier to allow sufficient time to set up your equipment. Restroom available at Glen Echo.

April Ride Review: Couldn't ask for better weather for a ride on one of the most scenic bike paths (Mt. Vernon) in the country.

Next ride: Thursday, June 15. Vienna/Reston

January 2007



PVS is again heading to **Aspen Highlands** and the Snowmass Mountain Chalet, January 18 through 25, 2007. Join us for this perennial favorite, for its excellent skiing, and for its many other activities in the Aspen environs. Choose among four entire mountains that share a single lift ticket with more than 5,000 acres of skiing, interchangeable lift tickets, and free bus service to Aspen Highlands, Ajax Mountain, and Buttermilk ski areas. Enjoy the convenience of slopeside lodging with direct access to the extensive Snowmass trail system from the Snowmass Mountain Chalet. A stay at this charming Chalet includes a daily family-style breakfast and daily soup lunch, greatly appreciated by trip participants and other guests, many of whom return year after year.

Trip will include group dinners, après-ski parties, and other events. This year we are planning an optional excursion to the mountain village of Redstone for lunch and other activities.

Come join us! Approximate trip cost \$1,900, details to be announced when air transport is arranged.

For more information:

Contact trip leaders Carolyn Maurer and David DeVilbiss at 703-370-4865 or by e-mail at carolyn.maurer@verizon.net.

To reserve:

- Send deposit of \$250 per person to:
Carolyn Maurer at 4508 Peacock Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304 or carolyn.maurer@verizon.net
- Note "PVS-Snowmass 2007" on the memo line.

Past Events



Frank Shelburne Memorial Hike



The Frank Shelburne Memorial Hike took place on Saturday, April 8, despite the unbelievably rainy weather (following a long period of local draught). Four of us (Charlie Huggins, Shirley Rettig, Dave DeVilbiss, and myself) arrived at the planned trailhead - the Boat Landing in Seneca Creek State Park - scheduled at 10:00 AM. We agreed that the lakeside trail would be too wet for safety, so altered our route to trek for about an hour in moderate rain on paved roads in the park. After spending some time in the nature center, we convened at the Cafe Mileto for lunch with Serge and Liz Triau joining us.

WELCOME TO THE MOUNTAINS

Barb and Fred welcomed 61 happy skiing friends to their home on a perfect weather evening. Barb had a munching-friendly menu including homemade dips and spreads, shrimp, meatballs, veggies and cheeses. Drinks on the deck.



Margaret Wyckoff proudly announced that grandson, Justin Vagonis, came in 2nd place (silver) in the country for the 7 & 8 year old age group in the snowboarding competition at the Nature Valley National Championships in Steamboat Springs in March. She took him out there, because Pat was busy receiving her cancer treatments that week (from which she is totally recovered). For more information see: www.nastar.com



her



David obtained our attention and thanked all the hard working members. Elections were conducted. Pat Vagonis presented the membership with the prettiest ballots ever. All candidates for full membership were approved. Then, the officer slate was presented and voted in.

David announced that Jessma would be moving to Boulder, CO and that Mary Beale has agreed to take the Secretary's position. It was noted that Jessma edited the Toot for 10 years.

Ray listed future events and David took a poll for interest in various non-skiing activities. Ray Jones reported that our treasury is in "healthy condition." Membership is now at 187 plus 11 Applicant Members: total = 198.

Barb treated us to beautifully arranged plates of cookies and coffee.

THANKS !!! Barb and Fred





Winter Park, Colorado,

March 28 to April 4, 2006

by Liz Warren-Boulton

A break with the long-standing PVS tradition of no skier left behind occurred early in the trip. As 21 of the 22 anticipatory skiers smoothly caught their respective flights and arrived in Denver on schedule, Ken Karr, a newcomer to the group, parked his car in the remote lot then ran into shuttle bus problems and missed his flight. He's not telling what *really* happened. Interestingly, he arrived at Winter Park before the rest of the group as they made a lunch and grocery stop along the way. Accommodations were at the comfortable slope side Zephyr Mountain Lodge. I know that Room 2510 was not only well-humidified but energized by Ellen and challenged by John who completed the most complex Sudoku puzzles (with emergency consultation from Mary and Jim).

(Jan and Dick H.)



Winter Park receives the largest snowfall on average in all of Colorado's ski areas. This fact was evident by the great snow cover awaiting the group - 91 inch base at the summit and 81 inches at mid-mountain. We enjoyed both winter and spring conditions with a mix of sunshine and a few inches of new snow scattered throughout the week. The first morning, trip leader Dave Lerner led a large group on a blue run tour of the mountain. An unexpected

small mogul field took some by surprise but Blue Knight Bob (aka Bob Marx) came to the rescue and helped the stranded access an alternate route. In fact, Bob "was man of the hour" several times during the week helping a number of damsels in distress out of tree wells and more and into safe territory. There were unconfirmed sightings of him levitating in a red cloak. The group sustained no serious injuries save for sore knees, tired muscles, and briskly working lungs given the peak elevation of 12,060 feet. This elevation afforded far reaching views in all directions including the valley where we could see the yellow, multi-car ski train from Denver arrive and depart on the weekend.

(Roland and Ellen)



The ski area is large with 21 ski lifts and 116 trails so none of us skied the entire mountain. Many trails were groomed on one side, while on the other the moguls were left to grow as they pleased. This made for some quite collegial skiing. Overall though there were a lot of bumps on the mountain, and about 10 of the group were game to repeatedly take them on with gusto...some with speed (and whoops from Bruno), some with style, some with tenacity, and some with luck (me), but we all made it down and the grins were big and wide. Certainly color-coordinated Orange Bob (aka Bob Knopes) was much enthused by newly gained skills and is charged for next season. One icy morning we agreed that the black bump run called Outhouse was most aptly named, but a day or so later, had evolved into a manageable challenge. Perhaps the was Trestle that four of the group did without incident not to be the guy who broke his ski under a monster seen hiking down the mountain.

(Liz and Ann)



after some sun, it most difficult run but were thankful bump and was last

Sunday we awoke to find a good four inches of powder, cool temperature, increasing blue sky, and terrific skiing - the best of the week. That morning the line for the Timberline lift (a slow double) to the summit was short so we seized the opportunity to make a few runs on and off piste with the world at our feet. Someone thought they saw Dave Lerner doing 1080s in the half pipe but others



(Rachel and Kendra) weren't sure. Dave had no comment. Monday, our last, was delightful with sunny, warm conditions but firm snow until late afternoon. That was the time to ski the Edelweiss, Columbine, Drunken Frenchman, Derailer, and of course Cranmer and

Hughes on the way to the base. Skiing on shaped skies was a breakthrough for some (Francesca tried three different varieties) while Ann pledged to try them next year. Bruno and Dave showed their skills on classy new skis. Stacy's quest for Burning Luv was unrequited but the story is not over yet. Congratulations to Kendra who won a silver medal on the NASTAR course...it might have something to do with those 41 ski days this season.



(Mary and Shirley)

The social side of things was expertly handled by Jan Marx. Every day the entire group met on the mountain at different lunch spots. This provided a great way for the group to meet up, grab a bite and, weather permitting, sit in the sun with a hot chocolate. Our favorite location was Sunspot at the top of the Zephyr Express. In the evenings three tasty group dinners

were consumed at different restaurants via a quick shuttle bus ride into the town of Winter Park. We agreed that "The Shed" was a misnomer as it offered excellent tappas for a hungry group. Great food and great camaraderie were shared by all. With such an experienced and erudite group the conversations ranged widely and world problems were solved many times over. Geoff Wadey quoted Virgil, Homer, and Lewis Carol. Whether it was his quoting the latter or the wine labeled "drink me," the next day we all seemed a little bigger as we skied The White Rabbit, Cheshire Cat, and Jabberwocky.



(Bob, Jan, Dick Harsh, Dave, David)

On four evenings, Jan and Bob hosted friendly happy hours in their condo with enthusiastic help from condo mates Shirley and Francesca. These were times to relax, share the day's experiences, and plan next moves.

One evening the group was joined by Richard Harsh a charter member of the club now living in Colorado and a member of the Winter Park ski patrol who gave some good pointers about finding the best ski trails. Jan and Bob had the good fortune to ski with Richard and this experience gave Jan the confidence thereafter to take on any run the mountain



(Jim)

with style. On the last evening, Jim Stahler regaled the group with cheerful tunes played on his penny whistle. We hope he will write up the fun poems he composed on the lifts. David and Rachel Abraham graciously thanked our trip hosts and presented each of them with a group gift - lovely American Indian painted horses. (www.trailofpaintedponies.com)

(John and John)

All in all it was a great trip and we thank our hosts Dave and Jan for their efforts. We look forward to catching up again at the post-trip gathering at Roland's home and of course to the next ski season.

More photos at: www.pvskiers.photosite.com/WinterPark06





THE KNEE

by Ray McKinley

After a super ski season, 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
the snow is gone, the slopes are green,
'tis time to put our 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.

As far as the Knee can tell our latest skier this season is Judy Macaluso. And she did it right! The last week in April, Judy went heliskiing in the Adamants—the mountains next door (or better next mountain) to Canada's Bugaboos. Right on.

As this season ends, it's exciting to know that Bob Marx and the Ski Trip Committee is about to recommend 5 trips for the winter of 2007 to Colorado, Montana, Canada, Austria and Utah—and another one, to Argentina and Brazil, for the summer of 2007. Wow!

Probably my favorite ski story of the season happened on the Telluride trip. (Tell-my-ride?) Early on the trip, Dick Laeser was returning on the gondola from town, after dinner. The only others on the gondola were some scruffy looking older guys. Dick started a conversation. They were from the DC area on a club trip--and at the same hotel. It turned out to be David Abraham, Reg Heitchue and Dave Leonard! "And who are you?" he was queried. Dick then introduced himself. "I don't know you," said Pres. David. You will, said Dick Lerner. I'll be on ExCom next year. And it came to be.

Jackson Hole will never be the same. After a 30 year run, the Jackson Hole Gondola is closing. It would cost tens of millions of dollars to bring it up to today's safety codes. So it is being torn down. Next year it will require three chair rides to get to the top. In "several years" there will be a new lift to the top.

While skiing at Winter Park, Jan and Bob Marx met up with Dick Harsh a PVS charter

member now in the Denver area. Dick is doing just dandy, but because of rotator cuff surgery last summer is now a patroller Emeritus. Dick took Bob and Jan on a few runs and provided them with a "Moguls for Geezers" lesson. Kneet!

The Knee's Poles Apart award clearly goes to Myron Marquardt. He and Fumiko went to the Arctic last August on a summer tour. When they planned an Antarctic trip, Fumiko had had it up to her earmuffs of "penguins and polar bears." So this January, Myron and Charlie Gordon flew to Buenos Aires, then on to Ushuaia, in southern Argentina to board a ship to Antarctica. In less than 6 months, Myron did both poles. Funny, Myron, you don't look Polish.

Last month's hostess, and superb maker of baklava, Eugenia Ufholz, spent a month-plus in her native Greece with daughter Christina. They stayed in her family's Athens quarters which were only two blocks from the Athens Metro. They had a ball.

Looking for a new way to spend your money? Try the new Ritz Carlton Aspen's new time-share. But because it's expensive they now call them interval ownerships. You can own four weeks in their smallest unit, a studio, for a mere \$950,000. It's not all that bad—when you arrive, they have stocked the fridge for you!

Two days after hosting PVS' Annual Meeting, Fred and Barbara Leonhardt were off to Hilton Head for a golf week. The Knee wonders, is there a Hilton Tail??

Veep Mike and Eloise Strand are just back from renting a villa for two weeks in my favorite place in Italy—Tusca-knee (Yes it really is spelt that way!) Unfortunately, Mike came back with the flu—but not with a flusie knee (Yes it really is spelled that way!)

In early May Marlene and Ivan Bekey are off to the lake country in northern Ital-knee. It's a combination business (Ivan) and pleasure (Marlene) trip.

John and Polli Brunelli were recently on a trip to China. I asked the Ski Trip Committee's newest member, Polli, what she thought of Red China? She quickly answered, "Red China goes fine on a yellow tablecloth."

The Knee isn't supposed to know this, so I'll disguise the names. Membership Chair Pat V's mother Margaret W took Pat's son to Steamboat this winter. Unfortunately, Margaret lost her grandson. It turned out fine when the grandson turned up in Red China.

Late breaking news: Don Dillon is recovering but slowly from back surgery. He had to cancel the Williamsburg trip. Icky pool!

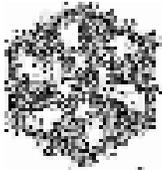
Calendar 2006

May 5-7		Weekend in Williamsburg – wait listed
May 16	Tue	Monthly Meeting at Alice Crites'
May 18	Thurs	Bicycling Gourmet
May 23	Tue	ExCom at the Abraham's
June 15	Thurs	Bicycling Gourmet – Vienna / Reston
June 16	Friday	<i>Spamalot</i> – National Theatre – wait listed
June 20	Tue	Monthly Meeting at Ilse Keel's
July 15	Sat	All Trips Party at Hines' in Delaplane.
July 25	Tue	ExCom at Huggins'

Val Gardena pictures can be found here:

www.pvskiers.photosite.com/ValGardena

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



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Springfield, VA 22152