

VOLUME XXXVI

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

APRIL 2002

Greetings, Fellow PVSrs—

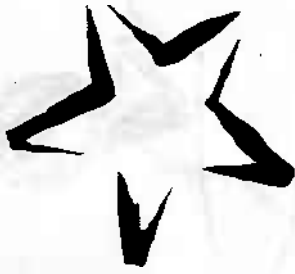
Turning a corner or passing a post that marks time's progress prompts reflections on all that fills our time. Not secondary to such a parade of reflections is the acknowledgement for all the work that makes PVS what it is for everyone participating. The only thing is to greatly thank all of you who create the continually significant active parts of this organization as it is—meetings, special events, TOOT preparation and circulation, arranging and conducting our distinctive and outstanding ski trips and all the rest of new and traditional activities. Of course, this includes the scintillating and pleasant monthly meeting hosted by Carol Bridgers recently. Thank you all.

It takes clever scheduling to get in a full season's skiing and still accommodate needed personal things, like surgeries and medical care and income taxes as was done by Mike Hatanaka, John Pulos, Serge Triau, and Margaret Wyckoff. From latest reports, all had successes.

Spring has sprung!
Lent's all done!
Final four was fun!
Daylight time has begun,
And PVSrs get one more hour of sun!

One of the great pleasures in this office was appointing Lu Beale and Jan Marx to the Board in capacities matching their personal talents, and reportedly they are about to produce a piece of work from their talents to share with all of us. Now, exercising the power of appointment again, Glade Flake is asked to join the Board when his VP term ends soon. With the concerns during the past year for legal issues, Glade can give us the benefit of his skills relevant to these issues and he has agreed to do so. Thanks a lot, Glade.

Ned
Ned Flaherty
President XXIV



ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
April 16, 2002 – 7:30 P.M.
Home of Charlotte and Jim Kline
1912 Gables Lane, Vienna, VA
703-821-9288



Directions to the Kline home: From Beltway take Rte. 123 toward Tyson's Corner. Turn left on Horseshoe Drive which is after the 4th traffic light on 123. (The turn is just after MacDonald's on your left.) Go 1/2 around Horseshoe and turn right on Gables Lane. The house is located on the pipestem, but please park on Gables.



PVS ICE SKATERS will meet on Wednesday, April 17 at

The Cabin John Ice Rink from 11-1. Questions? Call Bette Walker

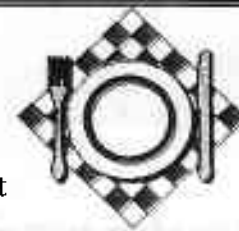
At 202-333-0766.



BICYCLING GOURMET

Alexandria and South (and return)

Thursday, April 18, 2002 10:30 AM



Starting Point: Sailing Marina [Just south of National Airport via GW Parkway and just north of Alexandria. Exit sign: Daingerfield Island/Sailing Marina/Potomack Landing.] On entering the Marina, veer to the right toward the overflow parking area. Signs are posted limiting parking to 3 hours on weekdays. However, leader will distribute permits allowing parking from 10am-3pm]. **Route:** Ride will proceed south via bike path from Sailing Marina through Old Town Alexandria and continue south on the Mt. Vernon Bike Path with both short and long options. Lunch on return leg at the Fish Market in Old Town Alexandria. This ride is structured to accommodate all levels.

Leader: Shirley Rettig (703) 836-0147 assisted by Marvin Hass (703) 751-4737. Note: starting time listed is for when we depart. Please arrive earlier to set up your bicycle, visit rest room, etc. If you arrive late, just head south on the marked bike path/route toward Mt. Vernon.

Next ride: Thursday, May 23 — Calvert County Riviera

SPRING FLING - SUNDAY APRIL 28TH

This event will be at the Bethesda Marriott Hotel. Those wishing to attend the event need to send their \$40 check to Disabled Sports USA, 451 Hungerford Dr. Suite 100, Rockville, Md. 20850 by April 12th. Your check needs to be in two weeks before the event so they can mail you your banquet ticket and the list of things to be auctioned.

The Spring Fling kicks off with the silent auction at 5 p.m. featuring ski equipment, apparel, other merchandise, and some mini local and New England ski trips. After dinner, there is the live auction which includes more than 20 trips to premier winter and summer vacation destinations. In previous years, PVSers have been successful bidders in the live auction to trips to S. America, Canada, and the western United States. They have also been successful bidders on skis, clothing, and trips to New England and Seven Springs, in the silent auction. All things are donated, and the proceeds go to help people with physical disabilities participate in recreational activities. Last years event raised just over \$50,000.

After you have sent your \$40 check to Disabled Sports USA, please call Charles Huggins (301) 424-5725 so he can reserve a table or two for PVSers.



PVS GOES TO 'MAMA MIA'

Saturday, May 4, 2:p.m. All PVS seats are sold and plans made for dinner at Les Halles. If you have questions, call Margaret Wyckoff, 301-589-5532.



HILLWOOD TOUR, MAY 11, 2002

Tour the magnificent Hillwood Museum and Gardens with PVS and lunch afterwards at the Hillwood Café. The tour is at 11:00 a.m. and lunch at 1:00 p.m.

Tickets for the tour are \$8.00 for 65 and older and \$10.00 for those under 65. Lunch is \$11.43 including entrée, coffee or tea, tax and tip. Entrée choices are Curried Chicken Salad, Tuna Salad Croissant, or Fruit and Cheese Plate.

To reserve a space, send a check to Marilyn Clark, at 8953 Falling Creek, Annandale, VA 22003 for the cost of the tour and lunch (optional). Please indicate your lunch choice and make check payable to Marilyn Clark.

May Midweek Atlantic Getaway update [Wed-Fri May 15-17, 2002]



At Don and Kathy Dillon's and Betty Lawrence's
Bethany Beach area houses

Signup/further info by telephone with the Dillons
at (302) 537-7878 [email: ddillon39@mchsi.com] or with
Betty Lawrence at (703) 726-8165

Limit: approximately 26 *and currently nearly full.*

In event limit is reached, PVS'ers can still participate in all activities by
arranging own lodging at nearby beach motels (not likely to be a problem midweek in May).

Current plans under consideration include:

***Golf/tennis** Don Dillon -- *coordinator*

***Strolls/bicycling** along beach boardwalks and coastal area.
Betty Byrne and Marvin Hass -- *coordinators*

***Wednesday dinner** at the Dillon's with drinks/hors d'oeuvres
before at Betty Lawrence's

***Thursday dinner** at Bethany Beach area restaurant

***Friday Lunch** at Lewes waterfront pub/restaurant;

Cost: not yet established (but essentially on *breakeven* basis)



Space is still available for the....

3rd annual wine tasting at the Cope's, May 18, 2002

This years tasting with multiple food courses will focus on some wonderful Italian
(Tuscan) wine and food, not to mention a great California Chardonnay and a superb
Chateauneuf de Pape. It will conclude with Stilton, pears, and vintage Port.

Call Pat or Don to sign up at 540-972-9838. If you have not been there, their Lakefront
home is 15 minutes west of Fredericksburg, about an hour south of the Springfield
exchange. Cost for wine, food, and transportation (see below) is \$75 per person.

To enjoy the wines and not worry about driving afterwards, take advantage of the
transportation provided in the price from the Hampton Inn (at Rt. 95 and state Rt. 3 to
the Cope's and back to the Inn. Make you own reservation at the Hampton Inn, 540-
371-0330. Directions to the Cope's will be provided in the May Toot.



**NOTE THIS DATE! May 22--For hiking and then lunch with Bill
and Susan Brown. Event limited to 15. Details to follow in
May.**

You are invited to attend—

The annual spring dinner to be held on Saturday, June 15 at the Colonnade, 2801 New Mexico Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. at 7:00 P.M.

This elegant affair is limited to 40 people.

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



www.potomacvalleyskiers.org

Additions to the PVS Web site in March include some photos from the Chamonix trip submitted by John Smith. Additional photos from this and other PVS trips welcomed for posting on the Web Site – especially those showing PVS'ers with backgrounds indicative of the surroundings. Send images as .jpg file attachments to the PVS mailbox whose address is info@potomacvalleyskiers.org

A poem for Reg

Jim Stahler, a guest, composed a poem (A Lament) for Reg Heitchue after he injured his shoulder while skiing in Chamonix.

No matter the steepness wherever there's snow
O'er mogul and glacier brave Regie would go.
Conquering the slopes at Les Grands Montets
What happened to Regis he'd rather forget.
Regie was daring, Regie was bolder,
Regie fell down and separated his shoulder.
So cry lamentations, let tears flow free,
For unhappy Regie, our dear comrade Regie,
The rest of the week Regie's forbidden to ski.

The Nominating Committee nominates the following for 2002 elections:

For President: Ned Flaherty

For Vice President: Reg Heitchue

For two year terms on the Executive Committee:

David Abraham
Barbara Leonhardt
John Smith

The Nominating Committee consisted of Marvin Hass, Charlie Huggins, Sylvia Lukens, Dot Mills, David Lerner and Bob Knopes, Chair.

Additional nominations may be made by the signed proposal of any five active members presented to the membership at a business meeting at least one month prior to the April meeting.



Applicants who have fulfilled membership requirements and will be voted on at the April meeting:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Rosemary Schwartzbard
Richard Schwartzbard | Sponsored by the Dillons |
| Robert Schafer | Sponsored by Jeannette Albersheim |
| Dottie Villers | Sponsored by Jeannette Albersheim |
| David Warthen
Marsha Warthen | Sponsored Barbara Leonhardt |
| Francesca Adams | Sp onsored by Betty Byrne |
| Demetri Chacones | Sponsored by Emmi Plowman |
| Sharon Mulholland | Sponsored by Barbara Leonhardt |

Chamonix/Prague 2002

Chamonix is truly an extraordinary place. Not only is it a world class ski resort but it is spectacularly beautiful. Nestled at the base of Mont Blanc, Europe's highest peak at 4810 meters, it offers beautiful views of mountain peaks and glacier ice falls. We were able to enjoy this beauty immediately upon our arrival as the bright sun and warm temperature beckoned us to explore Chamonix.

Those traveling from Washington had an uneventful trip, other than the traffic we encountered as our bus approached Chamonix. The Mont Blanc tunnel that connects the Chamonix valley with Italy was reopening the day we arrived, having been closed for three years following a deadly fire. This event brought out many people, and demonstrators protesting the opening of the tunnel to trucks only added to the congestion.

The Morzine contingent (Leaders Joan and Glade Flake, Suzanne Boisclair, Walt and Annemarie Brenner, John Smith and Pat Tengel) were not as fortunate, having encountered problems with their reservations (or lack thereof) on Swissair. Their problems began at Dulles and continued to the Geneva-Prague segment. Seems as if the Swissair computer that issued the reservation hadn't talked to the central computer. The Morzine contingent was, however, rewarded with excellent skiing while there.

Despite the poorest snow cover in 15 years, skiing at Chamonix was very good and we had our pick of the many areas easily accessible by bus from our hotel: LeTour provided us with many blue and red runs, La Flegere and Le Brevent with blacks, Les Grandes Montets with high altitude glacier skiing, and Aiguille du Midi with a scary ridge descent and a 20 km run to the valley floor. Some of the PVS group including David Lerner, Jim Stahler, Bob Marx, Mary Ward, and Reg Heitchue were assisted by guide Philippe Henry on some of the more challenging pistes.

Thursday evening featured a lovely dinner and dancing for the entire BRSC group of 125. The PVS contingent put on a very strong showing on the dance floor with solid performances by Gene and Wilma Sharer, Jim Stahler, Dottie Villers, Walt and Annemarie Brenner, Kerry and Marianne Hines, and Maria and Dewey Coggins.

Those going to Courcheval with the McKinley's included Shirley Rettig, Marilyn Olen, Sylvia and Wally Lukens.

Notable and quotable----

**Suzanne Boisclair had a nasty fall at Morzine that kept her off the slopes at Chamonix.

**Reg Heitchue dislocated his shoulder at the top of Les Grands Montets. He was well cared for by guide Phillippe but unable to ski after day two.

**Gene and Wilma opened their room to the group for après ski festivities which all appreciated.

**Charles Boykin's knee behaved admirably well after a two year ski hiatus occasioned by an earlier injury.

**Emmi Plowman thought Swissair lost her skis when they didn't come out with everyone else's. Turns out they were lost in the Swissair baggage room.

**Marilyn Olen celebrated a big (just how big is classified) birthday in Chamonix by going out on the town.

**Nat Seeman was very observant of our dinner menu at the Alpina. He noted that Wednesday's menu included "scallops Nuts".

**Sylvia Lukens almost treated Swissair to a bottle of duty-free scotch.

Note to Betty Lawrence and John Pulos--- We missed you both and regret you were not able to join us.

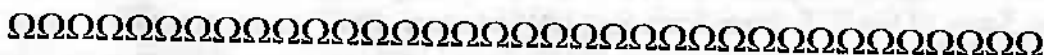
Prague

As we flew from Zurich to Prague we could see the weather change. Clouds were the norm for the two days we spent in Prague. The PVS'ers were delighted to see Elvis had been resurrected at the Prague airport. The PVS contingent was joined there by a large number of other BRSC'ers, about 65 in all. Our hotel, the Don Giovanni, was excellent. While not centrally located, it was an easy ride on the subway. The subway operates on the honor system but enforces this with random ticket checks and the imposition of fines for those who violate the honor system.

Prague is an incredible city with a great deal to see. We were fortunate to have had two outstanding guides arranged for us by the trip provider, Central Holidays. Other highlights of our Prague experience were the excellent restaurants and the evening concerts.

Our leaders for this wonderful trip were Jim Slack and Mary Ward. We owe them a debt of gratitude for having pulled off a very complicated, yet very successful trip under challenging circumstances. Jim and Mary, we appreciate your hard work and diligent efforts.

Reg Heitchue



===PAST EVENTS===

No snow this time—just rain!

What a brave hostess Carol Bridgers is! The last time she had a PVS meeting (twas January) there was such a snowfall that few PVSers were able to venture out. Who would think she would volunteer again? But she did—and this time had a rainy night. 33 PVSers and applicants made it this time, and were greeted with a hot appetizer (chipped beef, cream cheese, sour cream?) that all raved about. Of course there was more—sandwich wraps were pronounced delicious—and there was rare trifle for one dessert!

The business session was fairly short, so there was plenty of time for talking and sharing stories—and eating, of course.

There were delighted comments on how convenient Carol's home is. If we arrange beautiful weather, will you do this again in the future, Carol? Anyway, many thanks for this time.



THE KNEE

by

Ray McKinley

As you read this, the Knee is completing our French-Greek ski trip, and unable to prepare a timely column. Herewith is a rerun of a special Knee on the history of PVS, written for our Silver Ankneeverary in November, 1990. It is important for you to know the true story...

I've been wondering--why are we called Potomac Valley Skiers? Have you ever skied the Potomac Valley? I haven't.

I'm not even certain there is a Potomac Valley. Could it be near Rudy Vallee? There is a group of runners named Potomac Valley Seniors. They're all over 40. Over 40!! Also, there is a Potomac Valley Bank. It's nowhere near 40. And then there is us--we are now 25. Twenty five years of skiing the nonexistent Potomac Valley. And we are all (well) over 40.

Our name should say something about us, but ours doesn't. We could be Washington DC and Environs Skiers...despite a wretched acronym.

But who cares where we are from? We are a ukneeque (oops!) group of individuals, and our name should reflect our singularity. I've given the matter considerable thought and analysis (a full 90 seconds) and decided that since we are a group of caring, sharing, long-time skiers, we should change our name to Knowledgeable, Nice, Exciting, Expert Skiers.

It is long, but it has a lovely ring--and a truly super acronym. Try it out.

What I'm leading up to is to provide you, for the first time, the true story of our name. This task took months of work and filing of "Freedom of Information" queries. But now it can be told. So sit down in a comfortable chair and read on...

Once upon a time (as these stories go) a group of friends regularly got together in Miami to water ski. They skied every weekend, summer and winter (because summer and winter are not all that different on Biscayne Bay). They also made semiannual forays to the Caribbean for a

full week, never more, never less, of waterskiing.

After years of this routine, some were getting bored and wanted something different. They opted for two consecutive ski weeks in Europe--a radical change. Many thought it a dumb idea, but the group persisted.

Considerable work was done to assure a cost effective trip. They flew Air India during the cheapest time--the last two weeks in January.

On arrival in a very cold Europe, their German host was incredulous. "VATER SKIING?" You can't go vater skiing in winter! It's too cold. You will freeze. Oh, you poor vater skiers.

Hans suggested they might want to try snow skiing because it was, after all, frozen water.

Kneedless to say, the Poor Vater Skiers, as they came to call themselves, tried snow skiing--and they loved it. But there was a major problem. How could they go back to Miami and face their peers? They would be vilified by their detractors who would never let them forget they were so stupid as to forget that in some parts of the world there is a season called winter during which you cannot water ski.

One member of PVS, to which, out of embarrassment, Poor Vater Skiers had been shortened (rest assured that none ever wanted to hear Poor Vater Skiers again), had an idea. They could move, en masse, to the far north, drop vater skiing, and become real, snow skiers.

Someone had heard of the mythical Potomac Valley, near Washington DC. That far north, they could ski 8-10 months a year, keep the PVS initials and become Potomac Valley Skiers.

To avoid their less than auspicious past, the new PVSers created an elaborate ruse about their beginning--being stranded on an SCWDC ski charter. They swore to secrecy all of the original, water skiing, PVSers (designated by the code Charter Members). Henceforth, they would totally deny "Vater Skiing."

No matter what you may hear about the history of PVS you can prove the veracity of my story. Just ask any Charter Member about Poor Vater Skiers. He will deny it. QED!

CALENDAR

- Apr. 16 ... Annual Business Meeting at the Klines', p. 2**
- Apr. 17 ... PVS Ice Skaters, p. 2**
- Apr. 18 ... Bicycling Gourmet, p. 2**
- Apr. 23 ... ExCom**
- Apr. 28 ... Spring Fling, p. 3**
- May 4 ... PVS goes to "Mama Mia", p. 3**
- May 11 ... Hillwood Tour, p. 3**
- May 15 ... thru 17, Atlantic Getaway, p. 4**
- May 18 ... Annual Wine Tasting at the Copes', p. 4**
- May 21 ... Monthly meeting at the Leonhardts'**
- May 22 ... Hike and Lunch with the Browns', p 4**
- May 28 ... ExCom at the Heitchues'**
- June 15 ... Annual Spring Dinner, p. 5**
- June 18 ... Monthly meeting at home of Ray and Judy Jones**

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