

VOLUME XXXX
NUMBER 4

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

APRIL 2004

Fellow PVS'ers:

Mark your calendars... PVS's Annual Meeting and election of officers will take place on April 20th at the Leonhardt's (thank you Barbara and Fred). Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting to cast your ballot and if you absolutely, positively can't make it, please mail your ballot as described inside. The ballots will be tallied at the meeting and new officers announced at that time.

Two other important reasons to attend PVS's Annual Meeting this year: First, to vote on the seven applicant members who are eligible for full membership status. Second, to vote on changes to the By-laws that govern our club. Your Executive Committee (ExCom) has done considerable work to update the By-laws and believes that the proposed changes will clarify points that are now ambiguous and secondly, they will streamline and simplify the administrative task of running the club. Please see the proposed changes that are described inside and be prepared to cast your vote at the meeting.

PVS has had a really great 2004 ski season. Each of our four trips was hugely successful, and I congratulate the Ski Trip Committee, past and present, along with the leaders of this seasons' trips. A successful ski trip takes a good deal of planning and organization on the part of the trip leader, the magnitude of which is generally not apparent to the participants. Thanks to Gene and Wilma Sharer, David Lerner, Sally Finan, Ray and Nancy McKinley, Glade Flake, and John Smith for a job well done.

See you at the Annual Meeting,

Reg

ANNUAL MEETING
at the
LEONHARDT'S

April 20th at 7:30 P.M.

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.

THE ANNUAL RITUAL IS HERE IT'S ELECTION TIME

Surely you've already noted that the ballot for this year's officers election is included with this issue of Toot. Please do read the instructions in this ballot and follow them. Your vote is important and we urge you to send or bring your completed ballot as instructed.

Please remember that regardless of whether you mail or personally bring it to the meeting, the ballot must be inserted in an envelope on the outside of which you write your name, sign, and which you seal.

Election results shall be announced at the Annual Meeting, on April 20,
and will be published in the May issue of Toot.
Thank you for your participation.

CURRENT PVS BOARD & OFFICERS -2003-4

President - *Reg Heitchue*
Vice President - *David Abraham*
Secretary- *Dottie Villers*
Treasurer- *Ray Jones*
Membership- *Wilma Sharer*
Program Cmte Chair -
David Abraham
Events - *Ray McKinley*

Mid-week Events - *Jessma
Blockwick*
Ski Trip Cmte Chair- *Bob Marx*
TOOT Editor- *Jan Marx*
TOOT Proofreader - *Bob Marx*
TOOT Mailer- *Marilyn Clark*
Meeting Records- *Sara Huggins*
Historians- *Lu Beale & Jan Marx*

EXCOM:

First Term:

*John Brunelli
Dottie Villers
Ray McKinley*

Second Term:

*Mike Strand
Barbara Leonhardt
John Smith*

The Applicant Members and Bylaw changes submitted to the membership will be voted on by attending members of the April meeting.

VOTING ——— **Membership**

At the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 20, 2004 the following Applicant Members, who have completed all requirements for membership, will be approved by vote of the members.

Ivan Bekey
Marlene Bekey
Melissa FitzGerald
Richard Laeser
Sandra Laeser
Jacqueline Rosen
Maryann Rozzell

submitted by.....

Wilma Sharer, Membership Chair

Proposed Bylaws Amendments

At the March ExCom meeting, the ExCom approved the following amendments to the PVS bylaws. The proposed amendments are included in this copy of the TOOT to fulfill the requirement in SECTION VI of the bylaws that the proposed amendments be mailed to all active members fifteen days before the meeting at which they are proposed. The amendments will be voted on at the April membership meeting.

Amendment A:

Background:

Currently members can vote on a bylaws amendment if they are present at the meeting at which the voting takes place. Absent members get no vote for bylaws actions. Amendment A changes SECTION VI – AMENDMENTS of the bylaws to allow voting by members who cannot attend the meeting at which the voting takes place.

Current version:

Subsection A. ... "The club will mail copies of the proposed amendment along with ballots to all active members fifteen days before the meeting at which they are voted upon."

Subsection B. ... "Adoption of a proposed amendment shall require a favorable vote of two-thirds of the active members of the club present and voting."

Proposed version:

Subsection A. "The club will send copies of the proposed amendment along with instructions to obtain an absentee ballot to all voting members fifteen days before the meeting at which they are voted upon."

Subsection B. "Adoption of a proposed amendment shall require a favorable vote of two-thirds of the votes cast by active members."

Amendment B:

Background:

With various amendments to the bylaws over the years, many of the clauses and subsections are incorrectly numbered. For example SECTION I – MEMBERSHIP identifies two subsection #1s, two subsection #2s, subsections A through C followed by new wording in subsections A through E. Since these bylaws are posted on our web site, we need to clean this up.

Amendment B authorizes changes to the enumeration of the bylaws to a correct sequence with no changes in wording. The Secretary, subject to review by the Executive Committee, is authorized to correct the enumeration of bylaws subsections.

Amendment C:

Background:

Currently the President appoints the Nominating Committee Chair and all the committee members (no fewer than five). Amendment C changes SECTION III – GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS of the bylaws to allow the Nominating Committee Chair to select the members of the Nominating Committee in consultation with the President.

Current version:

Subsection H. "The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee Chairman and a Nominating Committee of no fewer than five additional members at least three months prior to the election date." ...

Proposed version:

Subsection H. "The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee Chairman at least three months prior to the election date. The Nominating Committee Chairman shall select a Nominating Committee of no fewer than five additional members in consultation with the President." ...

continued...

Amendment D:

Background:

There is no provision for the Vice President (an elected position) to have a vote in Executive Committee matters. Amendment D changes SECTION III – GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS of the bylaws to allow for the Vice President to have a vote on Executive Committee matters.

NOTE: ExCom understands that an even number of voters (8) precludes a tie-breaker in the event of a 50/50 vote split. However, an odd number of voters pro/con would be realized if one member abstains or is absent from the meeting.

Current version:

Subsection A. "The club shall be governed by a President and six active members in good standing who shall form the Board of Directors, which shall also be known as the Executive Committee."

Proposed version:

Subsection A. "The club shall be governed by a President, Vice President and six active members in good standing who shall form the Executive Committee. Each member of the Executive Committee shall have one vote on the Executive Committee."

Amendment E:

Background: The bylaws list the membership categories and associated biennial dues. A change in any dues requires a bylaws amendment. Amendment F changes SECTION II - FINANCE of the bylaws to allow the Executive Committee to make changes in the dues structure with a "super majority" vote of two thirds.

Current version:

Subsection B. "Biennial dues: dues are based on the member's status at the beginning of the membership cycle. The biennial dues shall be:

Individual	\$40.00
Couple	70.00
Absentee Member	20.00
Junior Member	20.00
Applicant – Individual	50.00
Applicant – Couple	90.00"

Proposed version:

Subsection B. "Biennial are based on the member's status at the beginning of the membership cycle. The membership categories are: individual, couple, absentee member, junior member, applicant – individual, and applicant – couple. The Executive Committee may make changes in the dues structure by a two-thirds vote of all ExCom members. "

Amendment F:

Background:

There are currently 5 requirements for membership. The applicant must be sponsored by an active member, submit an application with dues, attend three club meetings, ski at least three days with a club member and/or pass the USAA Uniform Basic Ski Test, and be voted on by the members at the annual meeting. Amendment F changes SECTION I – MEMBERSHIP of the bylaws to replace one of the membership requirements (ski at least three days with a club member or members and/or pass the USAA Uniform Basic Ski Test or display equivalent skiing ability) with a more practical approach.

Current version:

Subsection B3(a)"a. Ski at least three days with a club member or members.
a. Pass the USAA Uniform Basic Skit Test or display equivalent skiing ability.

Proposed version:

Subsection B4 (after being renumbered) "Demonstrate skiing ability by skiing with a club member or members."

COMING EVENTS...

	BICYCLING GOURMET Alexandria and South (and return) Thursday, April 15, 2004 10:30 AM	
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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 and continue south on the Mt. Vernon Bike Path with both long and short options (12-24 miles). Lunch on return leg near end of ride in Alexandria at Quizno's Subs or Sizzling Express.

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 rides: Sun April 28 — W&OD Trail Thurs May 27 — Calvert County Riviera


	BICYCLING GOURMET W&OD Trail – Purcellville-Leesburg Sunday, April 18, 2004 10:30 AM	
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Starting Point: Purcellville: Loudoun Valley High School Parking Lot. Take Rte.7 (Leesburg Pike) or Dulles Toll Rd/Greenway to the Rte. 7 Leesburg Bypass and continue 8.5 miles to the Purcellville exit. There should be signs to the High School from the center of Purcellville. Map to starting point: send email request to marvinhass@hotmail.com and it will be sent back via email.

Route: Ride will proceed via the W&OD Trail from Purcellville to Leesburg Market Station (rest/cappuccino stop) and return for lunch at Magnolia Mill, a new watering hole located in restored grain mill right at the end of the W&OD Trail in Purcellville. This portion of the Trail is considered to be the most scenic. There is also a small museum in the restored railroad station at the end of the Trail. Distance: 20 miles total with some gradual upgrades.

Leaders: Marvin Hass ((703) 751-4737 and Betty Byrne (202) 483-4048. 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 east on the bike trail toward Leesburg.

Next rides: Thurs May 27 — Calvert County Riviera Sunday June ?? Hunt Country

	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>www.potomacvalleyskiers.org</u></p> <p>A few photos from the Cortina and Spain/Morocco trips have been posted on the PVS web site. More are solicited: submit to info@potomacvalleyskiers.org</p> <p>On another subject, there have been a lot of viruses/worms being transmitted by email this year. We hope your computer has not been infected. Installation of antivirus software which automatically updates the definitions and installation of updates to the operating system of your computer is highly recommended to avoid problems, especially for those using the Windows operating system (most personal computers do use Windows).</p>
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Dinner and Wine Tasting.....

This annual dinner with matching wines will be held on April 24 at Pat and Don Copes' home at Lake of the Woods. If interested, call Pat at 540-972-983 about availability & reservations.

ECLIPSE CONCERT

ECLIPSE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA SEASON FINALE

You are cordially invited to join fellow PVSers (season ticket holders) for this wonderful orchestra's season finale on May 9, 3pm, at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, 6601 Bradley Blvd in Bethesda. Sylvia Alimena, music director and conductor, and her charges will perform an "as you like it" concert, favorites chosen by the loyal audience and with some special surprises for all kinds of tastes. A reception follows the concert.

We will have specially reserved seats, and the price of admission is a special \$ 15per person, payable by cash or check at the door.

We hope that many of you will choose to come. Please let David Abraham know (dg3abraham@earthlink.net or 301 530-7612) so that a seat may be held for you.

Be smart, don't miss this extraordinary opportunity for an afternoon of the best in classical music, in addition to the camaraderie of your fellow members.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

THE ANNUAL PVS SPRING DINNER

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2004, 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 Dottie Villers at 703-620-6402 or e-mail Dottie at dvillers@erols.com. Please make your reservation by May 20th.

GOLF

Ray Jones will be leading a mid-week golf outing to Raspberry Falls Golf and Hunt Club in Leesburg, VA. So, save Thursday June 10 (alternate date Thursday June 3). More details to come in May Toot.



"Avanti!" was the cry as a group of 23 bleary-eyed PVSers and guests arrived at the Hotel Bologna near Venice on Thursday afternoon, February 26. After a long but uneventful journey from Washington, most of the group immediately headed to the train station to go to downtown Venice. Some members of the group decided to meet later at about 6:00 at the famous Harry's Bar. It turns out that good skiers are not necessarily good navigators. After first taking the right train in the wrong direction, then taking the right vaporetto (water taxi) in the wrong direction and going out to sea, they arrived at the dry warmth of Harry's Bar several hours late for some of the best drinks ever served.

After another cold rainy day in Venice of great eating, drinking and shopping, we headed to Cortina for a week of skiing. We were joined by PVSers Demetrios Chaconas and Joel Edelman. Because more than half of the trip members were sailors, it was most appropriate that we stayed at the charming Hotel Ancora (the Anchor Hotel). The cuisine (or should I say cocina) was outstanding. We enjoyed superbly prepared and presented four-course dinners with an incredible dessert buffet every night.

The skiing conditions were also superlative. The natives claimed that the snow this season was the best in 50 years -- fresh snow, packed powder, nice temperatures, and six straight days of sunshine and blue skies with no rain or snow. It was heavenly! Sunday and Monday were spent exploring some of the many slopes in the Cortina area: Faloria, Tofana, Socrepes, Falzarego and more. The scenery of the heavily snow-covered Dolomite mountains was breathtaking everywhere. On Tuesday, the non-skiers joined the skiers at the top of Faloria for a group lunch and to observe the locals sunning themselves in beach chairs.

Tuesday was the day of the Sella Ronda ski tour - an all day rugged tour for 32 kilometers (20 miles) around the Sella Mountains led by Alpine guide Paulo. The bus trip from Cortina through the Falzarego Pass was delayed due to an avalanche. The group skied a bit more than half of the Sella Ronda tour before being stopped by an inoperative ski lift, so they reversed course and returned to the starting point. On the way back, Demetrios turned up missing but was able to rejoin the group after a critical cell phone call to Paulo from the top of the mountain.

On Wednesday there was a bus trip to Padua, which is famous for a beautiful little chapel with interior walls and ceiling covered with frescoes painted by Giotto. Padua is also famous for its university and medical school. Several of the recently graduated dottore (doctors) were celebrating apparently Italian-style. This included an X-rated scene that I can't describe because it is too graphic for a family publication like the TOOT!

Thursday some of the skiers went on a bus trip through some spectacular scenery to the Civetta ski area -- a huge area of wide well-groomed trails, all blue and red runs, all interconnected, great intermediate territory. Friday wrapped up the week in Cortina. For the non-skiers there was an excursion to the town of Bressanone and a wine tasting at a lovely nearby abbey and winery. The hotel owner, Flavia, had invited the skiers to ski with her but she was living on a time that was 15 minutes later than everyone else and missed the whole group.

Saturday the group moved to Vienna. Ah, springtime in Vienna! We expected temperatures of 60 F, blooming flowers etc. -- but not this year. We were greeted with four days of intermittent snow and temperatures from 30-35F. We had one other disappointment in Vienna. Vienna has monuments to all the famous Austrians. We looked everywhere but never found the monument for Arnold Schwarzenegger! After four great days of sightseeing, going to the opera, seeing the Lippizans, shopping, and enjoying the great food and music of Vienna, it was time to head home.

Many thanks go to trip leaders Glade Flake and John Smith for all their hard work in preparing for and leading a wonderful ski trip. To them we say a heartfelt Italian "grazie". Arrivederci Cortina!

Spain and Morocco

by Bob Harmon

PVS is sometimes unofficially referred to as PVS&E (i.e., Skiers and Eaters), and I would say on this particular trip the "E" (together with sight-seeing) took precedence over the "S." Not that the skiing was necessarily that bad--in depends on whom you asked. After the first day on the slopes at the Sierra Nevada in Spain David Abraham pronounced the skiing awful (in so many words), while Nestor Delevaux (also in so many words) said the skiing was great. The opinions of others seemed to range between these two views.

The one and only serious injury of the trip occurred on the second day of skiing, but it didn't happen on the slopes. Ironically, Ilse Keel had chosen not to ski, but she took a tumble in her hotel room and broke her right arm (of course she is right-handed)!

During our entire stay in Spain we were accompanied by an excellent guide, Gerardo. Among the many points of interest he took us to were two of the country's outstanding architectural wonders. In Granada, where we stayed for five days, it was the Alhambra, a Moorish citadel-palace most of which dates from the 14th century--a magnificent layout of ornately decorated buildings, walls, gardens, and fountains. And from Granada we took a side-trip to Córdoba to see the former Moslem mosque, the construction of which was commenced in the 8th century. The impression of the interior is that of a forest of columns supporting two tiers of beautiful superimposed arches. An especially striking feature of the landscape between Granada and Córdoba was the mile after mile after mile of rows of olive trees stretching back over rolling hills as far as the eye could see. Before we left Spain we also went to Gibraltar, where we rode up the hill to see and photograph the monkeys--touristy but fun!

The scenery in Spain was spectacular. To single out one example of many I would mention the ravine below the town of Ronda. Ronda is a town like many another in Spain until you come to an overlook in a town park, from which you can look down into a valley hundreds of feet below with winding roads, a stream, occasional houses, cultivated fields, terraced olive and almond tree orchards, and behind it all a range of mountains as a backdrop. An incredible view!

From Spain we took a ferry to Tanger in Morocco, where we picked up another excellent guide, Ishmael, who was with us for the rest of our trip. On the following day we proceeded on to Fes, stopping en route to visit the fascinating old Roman settlement of Volubilis, dating back to the first century AD. That's about as far south as the Romans got in western Africa, according to my historical atlas.

From Fes we went on to Marrakech in due course. In both Fes and Marrakech we visited the local "souks," market places reminiscent of the bazaars in the Middle East. The souks consist of tangles of narrow, winding streets lined by (seemingly) thousands of shops huddled shoulder to shoulder. The streets of the souks are crowded with pedestrians and heavily-laden donkeys and mules for which you have to constantly make way--a point which was forcefully brought home to Jean Heitchue when one of the heavily-laden donkeys stepped on her foot!

In the souks we visited a number of craft shops, most notably carpet manufactories where several of our group did their best to boost the Moroccan economy. Those who shopped were well advised to put their haggling skills (euphemistically referred to as "negotiating skills") into practice, which wasn't really that difficult--you had but to head out the door when the salesman, as likely as not, would come running after you to offer a better deal.

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One evening in Marrakech we went for dinner to Chez Ali, and what an extravaganza! On the long walk from the entrance to the grounds to our assigned tent we were regaled like visiting royalty by several groups of musicians wearing their regional costumes. During the typical Moroccan meal there was folk music and dancing (for which some of us were called on to be audience participants). Following the meal the entertainment continued in an outdoor arena, consisting of a mélange of more exotic dancing, sound and light, fireworks, and acrobatics on horseback performed by Berber horsemen.

We had just one day of skiing in Morocco, and that was at Oukaimeden in the Atlas Mountains. Getting there required about an hour's drive up and up and up a very twisty road without much in the way of barriers on the shoulders--not a trip for persons with acrophobia! The skiing possibilities were modest--there were a couple of poma lifts and a chairlift. But 8 inches of new snow had fallen during the night so conditions were fairly good, and those who skied enjoyed it. The chairlift was some distance from the pomas, but donkey drivers were on hand to convey skiers to the chair. One of the drivers sported a Washington Redskins jacket!

We all survived the earthquake which occurred while we were in Fes, though most of us felt a moderate shaking in our beds in the middle of the night. The epicenter was about 200 miles to the northeast, and tragically it took upward of 600 lives.

One surprising bit of information I learned on the trip was the fact that Jeanette Albersheim drives (or did drive until recently) a Harley-Davidson. Somehow she doesn't seem like the H-D type! Ask her about it sometime!

I think it surprised most of us that it was so chilly in Morocco, though Ishmael told us it was normal for the season. I noted that Marrakech lies at about the same latitude as Savannah, GA, so it would seem as though we might have expected somewhat warmer weather!

This year's *National Ski Club Newsletter* made mention of our trip as the most adventurous they had heard about across the country. Neither Spain nor Morocco would be the place to go for the most fabulous ski vacation of a lifetime, but we knew that from the outset. I suspect that all 27 participants would agree that the trip was quite special--the serious skiing can wait for another time! Many thanks to Ray and Nancy for doing a great job in organizing and leading a very enjoyable trip.

more PAST EVENTS...

WEE PUNS OF MASS DISTRACTION

by Marilyn Clark

This was the title of Hexagon's 49th annual political satirical review which was attended by 22 PVS'ers on March 10 at Duke Ellington School of The Arts.

It was Congressional Night and some 10-12 members of Congress, including Eleanor Holmes Norton, presented some of the jokes. Subjects were lead in DC water, war in Iraq, mad cow disease and almost anything currently in the news.

In addition to the satire there was some good music presented by the only all white Gospel Choir and a well coordinated chorus line.

Before the show, several of us enjoyed dinner and conversation at Old Europe German Restaurant in Georgetown. Surprise of the evening was finding on street parking at two locations in Georgetown.

Many thanks to Barbara Leonhardt for putting together a most enjoyable evening. Let's do it again next year.

GAMES GALORE

by Ruth Powers

Eight games-loving PVSers assembled at the home of Chief Games Player, Jessma Blockwick, on March 19 to match wits (and have fun). The Dictionary game called forth our word analysis and imagination skills. From there we progressed to Cranium, which called for a variety of artistic skills (acting, drawing, modeling, and musical), as well as quick thinking. After a delicious (low fat) dessert, the late crowd moved on to another word game. Since the hour was late, we gave ourselves a little extra time to come up with the winning words. After a delightful evening, we all agreed that we should make this a regular PVS event.

Bike Trip – Glen Echo to Georgetown and beyond,



Bicycling Gourmet Ride
March 25, 2004
Glen Echo, Maryland
It's not just pedaling and chow!

Photo on left shows David Abraham listening to a cycling architect and resident of the area (In red jacket) telling about his recollections of this former amusement park in front of the newly restored Spanish Ballroom.

By the way, David turned 80 earlier in March 2004 and celebrated by toming the slopes of Utah (Alta and the Canyons) as well as ever in spite of mushy spring snow conditions.

Membership

—We have two new applicant members:

Ellie Thayer and Jack Chapman,
5406 N. 26th Street, Arlington, VA, 22207.
Home: 703-534-3061, Office: #202-312-3489.
E-mail: eleanort@cafc.uscourts.gov and jchap1238@aol.com.

Change

Kerry and Marianne Hines
11019 John Marshall Highway, Delaplane, VA. 20144
Home: 540-364-4810.

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 ● **SAD NEWS:** It was learned that Tom Aquilar's mother died on March 11, just shy of
 ● her 100th birthday. Tom, a long-time PVS member, has been her care-giver for the
 ● past several years. Our thoughts and sympathy are with
 ● Tom and his family.



THE KNEE

By Ray McKinley

April, the first blossoms are now abloom with the vibrant colors of spring.

An old song noted, "Those April showers, they bring May flowers." Aside from the song being grammatically incorrect, it neglects ski areas. There, April showers, bring May skiers. Indeed, Ski Liberty has just extended its glacier ski season to May 20. (Would the Knee lie to you?)

Notwithstanding, for most of us, ski season is winding down. But PVSers are just winding up. But before new news, here's some updates of older items—and PVS is loaded with older items! Sal and Lee Mahallati suffered some major damage from Hurricane Isabel. A shed was moved some 20 feet. The Knee and Nancy are now almost repaired from our encounter with a tree.

In December, Dick and Marilyn Clark were in Arizona on a visit and had dinner with Sue Walsh. And in the last cold spell, Lu Beale had the pipe to an outdoor faucet freeze. Instead of flooding outdoors, it went indoors, to her basement, and took out part of her basement ceiling. It was cold but not cool.

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 on the surroundings? Simple, early in the season, when snow is abundant, it is saved and stored in a snow bank.

And here's the answer to another oft-asked question. What is the difference between a vacuum cleaner and a snowboarder? It's where you attach the dirt bag! The Knee is not political, but speaking of dirt bag snowboarders, the Washington Post published a photo of John Kerry in Colorado. He was on a snowboard! There go his hopes of garnering the PVS vote!

Some tidbits about Morocco: First let me assure you that PVS has gone worldwide digital. We were in Fes, Morocco during a significant earthquake. Nancy called Lu Beale on her worldwide digital cell phone, leaving a message that we were all OK. Lu sent an e-mail to Jan Marx who was skiing in Colorado. Jan sent out an e-mail to all in PVS saying that we were all fine after the earthquake and wishing us well. The following morning, David Abraham visited an internet café near our Hotel, read Jan's e-mail and announced to all of us that we were OK! The moral of the tale—some tales have no morals.

The Spain Morocco trip ended up with a night in Old Town, Frankfurt Germany. Both Jim Slack and Mary Ward and David and Rachel Abraham contacted German friends and met them in Frankfurt.

Bob Harmon, who did a superb job of writing up the trip, sadly had a cold for most of the trip. It limited his sprightliness. And be sure to ask Jeanette Albersheim why she was named "Thunder Momma" in Marrakech.

One minor casualty on the trip was Rachel Abraham. She managed to have a major bridge come off during a Spanish dinner. On return she visited at her dentist to have the bridge reglued. He noticed Rachel's (liberated—ahem) pen from our *Costa del Sol* hotel, and said he owned a time-share next door! The moral: A bridge uncrossed is a bridge unglued.

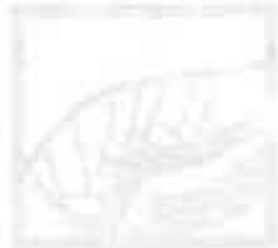
Jessma Blockwick tried to plan a PVS event to learn about the Hubble telescope. All the dates had 60+ person waitlists. Boo!

Several months ago the Knee reported that Howard and Jean Hensley had moved to West Virginia. They are now back in Arlington where they are house-sitting for six months for friends. Their daughter, Kelly has now been married for 4 years. And Jean and Howard are now grandparents. The moral: West Virginia may be almost heaven, but...

Ski Liberty's vertical increased 3" after a ski patroller dropped a Viagra tablet.

CALENDAR:

- April 17...Spain-Morocco post-trip party at the McKinley's
- April 15...Bicycling Gourmet, Mt. Vernon Bike Path
- April 18...Bicycling Gourmet - W&OD Trail - Purcellville to Leesburg
- April 20...Annual Meeting at the Leonhardt's
- April 24...Wine Tasting Dinner at the Cope's
- April 27...ExCom Meeting at the Heitchue's
- May 9...Eclipse Chamber Orchestra, Bradley Hills Presb Church,
"As You Like It" audience requested music.
- May 18...Monthly Meeting at the Vagonis'
- May 25...ExCom Meeting TBA
- May 27...Bicycling Gourmet. Calvert County Riviera
- June 5...Annual Spring Dinner at the Colonnade
- June ??...Golf Outing at Raspberry Falls Golf and Hunt Club in Leesburg
- June 15...Monthly Meeting at the Sharer's
- June 22...ExCom Meeting TBA
- July 10...All Trips Party at the Heitchue's.



E-mail Notice

If you haven't been receiving our Hotmail emails and the electronic TOOTs (several versions), I DO NOT have your correct email address.

Please let me know what that address is if you want PVS notices and/or electronic TOOT.

Thanks, Jan = jebbmarx@aol.com.

Marilyn Clark
8953 Falling Creek Court
Annandale, VA 22003-4108

PVS 2004 Election Ballot(s)

Please Vote

This ballot is for the use of club members for their election of officers to serve in their stated positions for terms beginning with the 2004 annual meeting, presently scheduled for April 20, 2004. In order for the votes reflected in this ballot to be counted, **it is imperative that this ballot be enclosed in a sealed envelope with voting members' name(s) stated in the return address space, and their signatures affixed also.** Ballot inspectors will verify voters' eligibility and prevent duplication of votes. To signify your vote, please place an X in the box opposite candidates' names. Please note that two ballots are provided to permit votes by two family members (please remember that signatures of both members are required on the envelope).

There are two ways to submit this ballot. Members **not planning to attend the annual meeting in person**, shall mail their ballots, **not later than April 15**, to the following address:

Dottie Villers, Secretary
Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
2217 K Lovedale Lane
Reston, VA 20191

Members attending the annual meeting in person shall bring their ballots, enclosed in a sealed envelope, as above, to the meeting and hand it there to Dottie Villers. Voting by voice vote will not be permitted. All properly completed and valid ballots shall be counted by a trio of vote counters at the meeting and the results will be announced at the meeting.

PVS 2004 Election Ballot

President

◆ Reg Heitchue

Vice-President

◆ David Abraham

EXCOM Members (Vote for three)

◆ Marilyn Clark

◆ David DeVilbiss

Jack Peoples

◆ Michael Strand

◆ Identifies the candidates selected by PVS Nominating Committee.
Other candidates nominated by at least 5 members as prescribed in the PVS by-laws.

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