

VOLUME XXXIX  
NUMBER 2

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.  
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

FEBRUARY 2004

**Dear Fellow PVSers:**

I am happy to report that under the leadership of Gene and Wilma, the Snowmass trip was a great success, although, unfortunately, injuries were sustained by Polli Brunelli and Mike Strand. We wish you both a speedy recovery. On the local scene, John Smith's group had a fun time at Wisp for their Demo Day. And with great promise for the Steamboat trip (underway as I type this) January 2004 should go down as a great month for Potomac Valley Skiers. February and March promise to be equally great with the arrival of two extravaganzas... Ray's and Nancy's trip to Spain and Morocco, and Glade's and John's trip to Cortina, Venice, and Vienna.

Get ready to receive the Toot electronically. This edition is being e-mailed to all whose e-mail addresses we have on file. This edition also will be mailed to everyone and this will continue unless you indicate that you no longer wish to receive Toot in the mail. I encourage all who can to decline the hardcopy version; doing so will help our club treasury to stay in the black.

The Nominating Committee, under the able leadership of Jim Slack, has completed its work. They have nominated the following members for your approval at the April annual meeting:

For President: Yours truly

For Vice President: David Abraham

For ExCom: Marilyn Clark, David DeVilbiss, and Mike Strand

Great skiing and fun times to all!!!

*Reg*

MONTHLY MEETING  
7:30 P.M.  
at  
Rosemary and Dick  
Schwartzbard's  
in Arlington, VA





**Dick & Rosemary Schwartzbard**  
**The Dakota, Apt 201**  
**1555 Colonial Terrace**  
**Arlington, Virginia 22209**  
**703 - 812 - 5234**

**FROM LEE HIGHWAY:** Heading toward Rosslyn, turn right at Quinn St. (at Colony House Furniture Store). Turn at the first left onto Key Blvd. Turn left at Ode St. Turn right at Colonial Terrace.

**FROM I-66:** Heading east, take exit 73, Rosslyn/Key Bridge, onto Lee Highway. Follow Lee Highway directions above.

**FROM ROUTE 50:** Heading either east or west, take the Rosslyn Key Bridge exit. This puts you onto Lynn St. Turn left at 19th St. (just after McDonalds). As 19th St. curves to the left and up the hill, it splits into Nash St. on the left and Key Blvd on the right; take Key Blvd. Turn right at Ode St. Turn right at Colonial Terrace.

**FROM G.W. PARKWAY HEADING NORTH:** Exit onto Rt. 50, just before Memorial Bridge. Follow Rt. 50 directions above.

**FROM G.W. PARKWAY HEADING SOUTH:** Take the Roosevelt Bridge exit. As the ramp curves to the left, take the Rosslyn/Key Bridge exit, which is a ramp on the right (and not well marked). This puts you on Rt. 50. Follow Rt. 50 directions above.

**FROM KEY BRIDGE:** Key Bridge leads onto Ft. Myer Dr. Turn right at 19th St. (at the Best Western Hotel). Turn right at Key Blvd. Turn right at Ode St. Turn right at Colonial Terrace.

**AT THE BUILDING:** There is a call panel to the right of the front door. Press "201" on the keypad to be buzzed into the building. Enter the elevator, wait a moment and you will be magically whisked to the correct level.

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**Nominating Committee Report**

The Nominating Committee offers the following slate for election at the PVS Business Meeting on Tuesday, 20 April 2004:

- For President - Reg Heitchue**
- For Vice President - David Abraham**
- For ExCom - Marilyn Clark, David DeVilbiss, and Mike Strand**

Section III.H of the PVS bylaws provides that additional nominations may be made by the signature of any five active members in good standing and be presented at a business meeting at least one month prior to the election.

The Nominating Committee thanks those who submitted names, comments, and suggestions. It greatly eased our burden and provided a clear indication of the depth of interest of PVS members in the leadership of the Club.

By the Nominating Committee of Jim Slack (chair), Jessma Blockwick, Betty Byrne, Karen Felker, Myron Marquardt, and Serge Triau.

# The Metropolitan Chorus

— Barry S Hemphill, Artistic Director

## Gala 2004

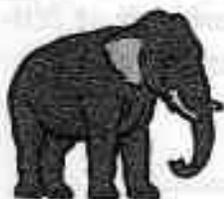
Sunday, February 15, 7:00 PM  
The Arlington Hilton  
900 N. Stafford Street, Arlington, VA

The Chorus will serenade you with love songs.  
The Night and Day band will keep you dancing.  
The refreshment buffet will tickle your taste buds.  
And don't forget the silent auction.

Conveniently located at the Ballston Metro station.

Tickets: \$30.

Call Karen Felker and she will coordinate this event - 703-931-6843



### ZOO WALK 'N LUNCH

Thursday, February 26, 2004 10:30 AM

**Starting Point:** National Zoo, Education Building,  
which is the first building on entering the Zoo from  
Connecticut Ave. NW.



**Route:** Join us on this popular annual February Zoo Walk followed by lunch at nearby *Yanni's Greek Taverna* (at about 1:30 PM). We will explore the more interesting exhibits at the National Zoo with preference given to recent additions. Generally there are few visitors at this time so that both the animals and docents will be glad to see you.

**Logistics:** *Parking:* available at Zoo, though it might set you back \$8, unless you are a FONZ member (hey, that's life in the big city!). *Metro:* the (Connecticut Ave) Zoo entrance is located midway between the Woodley Park and Cleveland Park stations of Metro (red line).

**Lunch:** We will adjourn in time for lunch at 1:30 PM at *Yanni's Greek Taverna* in Cleveland Park (1/2 block north of the Uptown Theater on northwest corner of Conn. Ave. & Ordway St.) — a neighborhood bistro appreciated by those who came in previous years (and within walking distance of the Zoo). Perfectly OK to join the group at 1:30 PM for lunch only.

**Weather:** This event is apt to take place under most weather conditions (including rain/snow).

**Information:** No reservations needed, but further information can be obtained from Betty Byrne (202) 483-4048 or Marvin Hass (703) 751-4737 or by e-mail at [info@potomacvallevskiers.org](mailto:info@potomacvallevskiers.org)

Ready to laugh and laugh?



PVS is going to see the Hexagon Revue  
"Wee Puns of Mass Distraction"  
Wednesday evening, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 PM

Each year, Hexagon puts on an original political, satirical, musical revue (similar to that presented by the "Capitol Steps"). The show is hilarious and all of the participants are volunteers. (A few PVSers have gone to the show for a number of years - it's that much fun.) We are going on the most popular night - Congressional night. The show is presented in the theatre of the Duke Ellington School for the Performing Arts in Georgetown. Our tickets are limited and are only \$20 each. Hexagon donates the proceeds to a charity, which this year is "Rebuilding Together with Christmas in April".

Before the show, we are planning to have dinner at a nearby restaurant to be decided later. If you are interested in attending this show, please call Barbara Leonhardt at 301-963-8111 or Liz Triau at 301-840-1128 to reserve your ticket and to indicate if you want to join us for dinner. A check for the ticket should be sent to Barbara.

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## Dinner and Wine Tasting

..... at the Cope's.

This annual dinner with matching wines will be held on

**April 24**

at Pat and Don Copes' home at Lake of the Woods.

Call Pat at **540-972-9838** before March 15<sup>th</sup>  
for reservations or information.







## *Our Storm-impacted January Meeting*

David G. Abraham

There are probably only two good reasons not to appear at a monthly meeting, right? One, and most important, is that members are off skiing somewhere; two is a storm which makes travel on our highways and byways treacherous. Well, we've had a bunch of members skiing in Steamboat, and we had a storm. That, though, didn't deter ten hardy souls from braving the elements, and availing themselves to be treated in an unexpected manner by our always cheerful host, Mike Hatanaka.

To describe what we found greeting us upon entry of his most beautifully appointed home, and mini-museum, is, I regret to admit, beyond my literary skills. A long dining-room table was bedecked with a plethora of goodies which reminded me of the culinary specialties of the Far East and our own West. The beautifully arranged display amounted to no fewer than 18 handpicked and mostly in-home prepared delicacies. To name just some of them, there were smoked oysters, and salmon with cream cheese, caviar on cream cheese, roast beef, salami, ham, turkey, chicken and Chinese roast pork; then there were three types of sushi, one being a California role, another a Chinese shomai role with crab meat, and very prominently home-made hot spinach nuggets, fresh out of the near-by kitchen oven. I should, also mention the humus, and the various dunks from soybean to something blending with the Chinese chicken with cashew nuts. Also not to be ignored was a variety if sumptuous looking cheeses and fresh assorted veggies? Truly too much to fathom on this cold and blustery night.

In spite of it all, we did have an attentively observed meeting. Besides recitation of a long list of upcoming events (all noted on the back-page of this TOOT), we noted our upcoming effort to have members accept their future TOOTs in electronic form, in a plain MS Word format for now. All those present were strongly in favor of this budget-preserving measure. Also noted were the selections of our current Nominating Committee. Their choices are documented elsewhere herein. We heard of the great time had by the just returned Snowmass contingent. Hopefully, the two injury-impacted skiers are getting better fast.

We adjourned to yet another mini-feast: a desert table laden with a variety of cakes and cookies, Durion, an Asian fruit frozen and tasting like a fruit ice cream, and more, all topped with a yummy blend of Colombian coffee.

I should also note that we had the pleasure of seeing co-founder Glade not only braving the elements but doing so without his cane and the now dissipated limp. Good news was reported from some of our injured reserves, including Jack Peoples and Bob McNeill.

Many thanks were expressed to Mike for his extraordinary efforts. I'm just sorry that not many more of us were present to enjoy this exceptional hospitality and the beautiful art from around the world displayed in this lovely home. Perhaps, just perhaps, there'll be another time?



# WISP DAYS

— by Joint Effort

On Wednesday, January 14, nine PVSers arrived at WISP for some delightful skiing. Mary Ward, Jim Slack, Charles Huggins, and Mike Santoro got an early start by skiing on Wednesday when the slopes were relatively empty and the temperature was moderate. Pat Tengel, John Smith, and Sara Huggins just relaxed or went to the hot tub. Harry and Katherine Lins (applicant members) joined us in the evening for the evening après ski gathering.

Wednesday night brought about 4 inches of new snow. Thursday was Ski Chalet's ski demo day, which brought out many more skiers. The temperature was more typical of January skiing in New England (about 15° to 20°) than for Maryland skiing. Harry learned that the sign at the mid station on the lift that says "Keep Your Tips Up" means both the tips of your skis and the tips of your poles. Otherwise the poles change shape in the process. By mid afternoon, the wind was up and the visibility was down so most of the skiers retired to the hot tub.

We had a very special après ski party to celebrate Jim and Mary's anniversary — complete with fine champagne. Then most of us adjourned to the Deep Creek Brewery for a fine dinner.

It continued to snow, lightly through Thursday night. Friday was a little cooler but clear and sunny. The slopes were particularly well groomed and Charles, Mary and Jim got an early start for some great skiing. Katherine and Henry were joined by their daughters, Bridgett and Monica (very first time on skis) for a fine day of skiing.

Thanks to John and Pat for leading the trip and their gracious hospitality at the après ski hours.

NICE TRIP! LET'S SUPPORT LOCAL SKIING.

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## Steamboat Springs

by Alice Swalm

Steamboat Springs is proud of its Old West history and its "champagne powder" snow, both of which were being enjoyed by the 18 PVSers who spent the week of January 22-29 at this world renowned ski resort. Even the days when too much of the famous snow fell and visibility was zero, most of our skiers took to the long and challenging runs as if the conditions were perfect. On the days when the sun shone, everyone reveled in the fresh powder and easy skiing.

Noted here and there:

Dave Lerner, our co-leader, offered the group an all-day, all-mountain tour on the first day of our trip. Among those taking advantage of this offer was Dave Warthen who learned to ski at Steamboat 6 years ago. On this tour of the area, he bravely skied two black diamond trails, one intentionally and the other because there was no other way down. Reports are that he did himself proud and skied additional blacks during the week.

Dave Payne and his wife, Susan, provided an amusing account of two skiers riding on the same bus trying to communicate via cell phone. The caller at the front of the bus kept saying "I'm on the bus," while an echo kept coming from the rear of the bus: "I'm on the bus." This conversation continued until all the other passengers began chanting: "I'm on the bus," at which time the two callers realized, to their chagrin, that the two of them were, indeed, on the same bus. Their good sense of humor and friendly ways endeared Dave and Susan to us all and we look forward to the time that these two applicant members may become regular members of PVS.



Kudos to our co-leaders Sally Finan and Dave Lerner who skied all the runs in all conditions, even skiing through the trees in deep powder, and still had enough energy to host the happy hours and dinners after hours.

We heard that Fred Leonhardt gave his wife Barbara \$2 to give at Mass as an intercession for new powder. They both learned to be wary about what they prayed for! The next day we had at least 12 inches of fresh powder and the skiing was not easy!

Thanks to Bob Marx, who hasn't yet forgotten his days with the U.S. Census Bureau, for providing the following statistics: The most popular of men's names on this two week PVS extravaganza was David. However, the Steamboat trip had nearly twice the percentage of Davids as did the Snowmass portion: 16.7% (3 of 18 participants) at Steamboat vs. a mere 8.9% (4 of 45) at Snowmass. And only one of these Davids was on both trips! The Snowmass report explains how we learned to recognize and to become acquainted with each of them.

George Welti confessed that he had left home without his ski pants. Not surprisingly, Sally would not permit him to ski until he had purchased a new pair. One gagster suggested that George should have stopped at Snowmass where he could have skied the Bare Bottom run and gotten rosy cheeks.

Ask Rosemary and Dick Schwartzbard about skiing with the Over The Hill Gang. We understand that Rosemary loved the nonstop runs down Black Diamond trails, but Dick finally admitted he should have been with the group that stopped occasionally. We remind Dick that in PVS there is no requirement that you ski till you drop!

Barbara Leonhardt kept her promise to Lu Beale that she would ski the Why Not trail for her. Lu, who skied at Steamboat for many years, was especially fond of this trail, and those of us who know Lu and who loved to ski with her, will now remember the Why Not trail as Lu's Trail.

Thanks are due to those in the Helping Hand Department. Rosemary Schwartzbard and Janet and Bob Marx were often seen helping our leaders prepare for and clean up after our happy hour parties.



Intrepid skiers Liz and Serge Triaou who drive a rental car over Rabbit Ears Pass from Snowmass to Steamboat were heard worrying about taking it back to Denver because of the intervening snow storms. Fortunately, they had no problems, and were eating lunch in the airport by the time the rest of us arrived. However, they had left so early in the morning that they did not see the many deer and elk, as well as the golden eagle, that the rest of the people saw on the way to Eagle airport.

And, at last, a special thank you to our two leaders, Dave and Sally, for a wonderful trip. You both worked hard to make this week at Steamboat Springs one to remember, and we all appreciate the good time we had there.

## CHANGES

Mahallati .....new e-mail = lmahallati@earthlink.net

Slack.....new e-mail = Jim@Termineigh.com

Ragen .....new e-mail = ireneragen@cableone.net

Hensley.....all new = hdhilh@hotmail.com

Ward.....new e-mail = MWard@Termineigh.com

Howard and Jean Hensley  
530 Stanley Avenue  
Clarksburg, West VA 26301  
(304) - 624 - 4367



## THE KNEE

By Ray McKinley

Here in the D.C. area, it already has been a winter to remember!

We had the coldest night in 10 years—it got to 7 deg, and four others below 15 deg. The Knee's knees are turning blue! And now 'tis February, the month of hearts and love. If you love snow and skiing, this has certainly been your year. In January, Salt Lake City reported measurable snow on 28 straight days! Oodles of snow (a technical term) out and about, almost everywhere—except on Barbados. And if you read Bill Hager's latest travel journal, also in Accra, Ghana.

As he ages, the Knee now believes that the proper place for snow is on the slopes—not on my driveway. I've written my Congressman. But with no response. He was out skiing!

More ubiquitous PVS: (Am I the only one who learned that word from advertising? Nucoa margarine was, "The new ubiquitous comestible.") Skiing in Utah, David Abraham ran into applicant Barb Hulick

Here is the Knee's safety item—for snowboarders. L. L. Bean (which is Spanish for The *frijoles*) now offers boarders foam padded briefs! Good for a cush tush.

Charlie Huggins reports on Demo Day at Wisp. This year one (meaning not one from PVS) could demo snowboards as well as skis. According to Charlie, snowboards are getting longer and skis continue to get shorter. So some snowboards were longer than skis. But who gives a cush tush!

Jessma Blockwick was chatting about skiing in Spain with former member Eleanor Peterson. Eleanor reminisced about an earlier Grasley trip there. It was so sunny and hot that additional head covering was necessary. I can't cap that.

New members Ivan and Marlene Bekey are taking cooking lessons at *l'Auberge Chez Francois. Tres bien.*

Perhaps you would like to try my latest idea for those who are afraid to stand up on their skis. Kneeskis.

It was Pres Reg Heitchue's birthday at the January ExCom meeting. David and Rachel Abraham surprised Reg, and the group by bringing a gorgeous birthday cake.

The Ski Trip Committee had a difficult time scheduling their planning meeting. Chair Bob Marx and the rest of the committee have all been off skiing.

Our nominating committee, chaired by Jim Slack, have completed their task. And they did it by having all of their meetings electronically! Got mail?

If you go to Snowmass and are a PVSer, it might be best to stay off a run called Green Cabin. On the last day of our Gene and Wilma Sharer-run Snowmass trip, Mike Strand fell at the bottom of Green Cabin. His bindings didn't release and he tore both his ACL and MCL. (Been there, done that, ain't fun, Mike) Earlier in the week, at the top of the run, Polli Brunelli fell and broke the bone between her shoulder and elbow. The bone is called the humerus. But Polli didn't find it very. She still managed to make it to all of the *apres ski* and group dinners. The only good thing (and it is a very minor good thing) is that both Polli and Mike got to go to the front of the line at airline check in.

Trivia: The Wall Street Journal reports that about 40% of skiers coming to Colorado develop some sort of altitude sickness. And the Post says that 6% of the people in the D.C. area ski. That's 20% higher than the rest of the country.

Going to China? They are building the first "Endless ski run." The slope will revolve beneath the skiers permitting uninterrupted turns—until fatigue sets in.

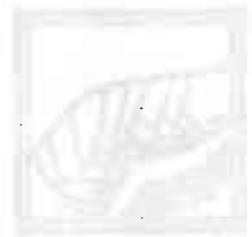
Converts to absentee membership are Howard and Jean Hensley. They are now living in Clarksburg, WV. While in town recently, they visited Lu Beale.

Going to Morocco? According to Maryse Delevaux, the latest Warren Miller flick features daredevil skiing there.

Much more next month.

**CALENDAR:**

- February 10...Ski Trip Committee meets at the Marx'
- February 13 - 29...Spain and Morocco Ski Trip
- February 17...Monthly Meeting at the Schwartzbard's
- February 26...Zoo Walk 'N Lunch
- February 28 - March 10...Cortina Ski Trip
- March \*\*\* 2...February ExCom Meeting at the Jones' - NOTE change of week
- March 10...Hexagon Revue at Duke Ellington Theater
- March 16...Monthly Meeting at George Welti's & Sally Finan's
- March 23...ExCom Meeting, TBA
- March 25...Bicycling Gourmet, Glen Echo-Georgetown
- April 17...Spain-Morocco post-trip party at the McKinley's
- April 15...Bicycling Gourmet, Mt. Vernon Bike Path
- April 20...Annual Meeting at the Leonhardt's
- April 24...Wine Tasting Dinner at the Cope's
- May 9...Eclipse Chamber Orchestra, Bradley Hills Presb Church,  
"As You Like It" audience requested music.
- May 27...Bicycling Gourmet. Calvert County Riviera



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