

VOLUME LX
NUMBER 3

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

MARCH 2005

Dear Fellow PVSers;

Reg wants all PVSers to be aware that, because of the efforts of several people working together, the treasury shows money is being saved by sending Toot electronically. This has been a gradual process for the senders, learning how to do it effectively, and for you sendees, learning about the capabilities of you and your computers. Since it has been more than a year since we attempted this, we are going to send the March Toot electronically to all PVSers who have e-mail using the format you have specified (if you have done that) and as a PDF file for those who have not yet chosen this new approach. You need have no fear: we also will send a hard copy to those of you who have been receiving it that way all along. We ask for your response if you are new to this process and want to receive the e-mailed version again; just contact the Marxes at jebbmarx@aol.com. (If you already get the e-mailed version and are happy with what you get, you needn't do anything.)

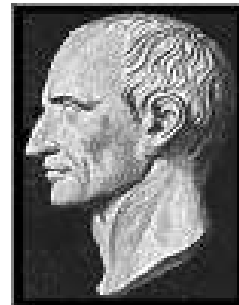
Monthly Meeting

On the Ides of March
Tuesday, March 15th at 7:30 PM

At the Home of
Fred and Barbara Leonhardt's

DIRECTIONS:

606 Firehouse Lane
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Telephone: 301-963-8111



Caesar and Shakespeare
considered *ides* to be just another day.

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 the 270 exit ramp). At the 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.

Changes:

E-mails:

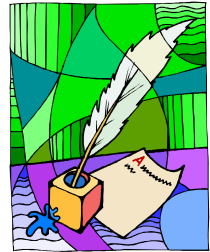
Carolyn Maurer: carolyn.maurer@verizon.net

New address:

Dina Taylor 5000 Queen Philomena Blvd., Apt. 229 Schenectady, NY 12304

New applicant member:

Liz Warren-Boulton and Joe Jevcak, 3049 Porter St., NW, Washington, DC 20008.
(Home) 202-244-5717, (Office) 202-966-4150. E-mail = elizawb@aol.com.
Sponsors, David and Rachel Abraham.



LOST and FOUND

A pair of **eyeglasses**, black frames, was left at Marilyn and Dick Clark's house at the February meeting.
Please call her if they may be yours. 703-978-9435.

~~~~~  
**2005 PVS NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**  
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Nominating Committee Members:

Serge Triau (chair person), Mike Hatanaka, Bob Knopes, Ruth Powers, June Read-Martin, and Mary Ward.

The nominating committee is presenting the following slate of candidates for 2005, to be voted on at the PVS membership meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 2005.

President = David Abraham
Vice President = Mike Strand
Ex Com = Charlotte Eddy
Burr Schuler
Dick Schwartzbard

CURRENT PVS BOARD & OFFICERS -2004-05

EXCOM:

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: *Dave DeVilbiss*

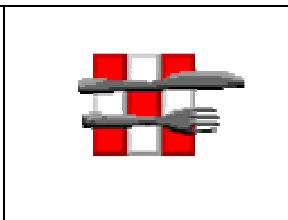
Theater Czar – *Margaret Wyckoff*
40th Anniversary Chair – *Rachel Abraham*
Ski Trip Cmte Chair – *Bob Marx*
TOOT Editor – *Jan Marx*
TOOT Proofreader – *Bob Marx*
TOOT Mailer – *Marilyn Clark*
Meeting Records – *Sara Huggins*
Historian – *Jan Marx*
Webmaster - *Marvin Hass*

First Term:
Marilyn Clark
Dave DeVilbiss
Mike Strand

Second Term:
John Brunelli
Ray McKinley
Dottie Villers



BICYCLING GOURMET
Glen Echo to Georgetown
 Thursday, March 24, 2005 10:30 AM
Starting Point: Glen Echo/Clara Barton Parking Lot.



Route: Seventeen mile round trip primarily along bike paths from Glen Echo to Georgetown (and optional miles beyond) and return. Route employs sections of the MacArthur Blvd. bike path, the C&O Canal towpath, and the Capital Crescent Trail.
Lunch in Georgetown at establishment to be announced on the ride.
Directions to Starting Point: Proceed to Glen Echo/Clara Barton Parking Lot. Closest major intersection: MacArthur Boulevard and Goldsboro Road.
Weather: Check with leaders in event of uncertain weather conditions.
Leaders: Marvin Hass (703) 751-4737 and Betty Byrne (202) 483-4048
 Note: Starting time listed above is when cyclists actually depart; please arrive earlier to allow sufficient time to set up your equipment. Rest room available at Glen Echo.
Next ride: Thursday, April 21, 2005 -- Mt. Vernon Bike Path (Shirley Rettig--leader)

Brandywine Valley Trip

June 4-5, 2005 are the dates for a PVS carpool trip to The Brandywine Valley where we will tour beautiful **Longwood Gardens**, dine at **Simon Pearce restaurant**, stay at **Mendenhall Inn** (breakfast included), and tour **The Hagley Museum** before returning home.

Cost will be \$200-250 per person depending on available group rates. Deduct \$40 per person for double occupancy. Price includes lodging, dinner and admission to Longwood Gardens and The Hagley Museum.

Make your reservation by sending a check for \$100 per person to **Marilyn Clark, 8953 Falling Creek, Annandale, VA 22003** no later than May 5. For additional information, call Marilyn at **703-978-9435**



PVS is celebrating its 40th Anniversary

Saturday, November 5, 2005
 at The Bolger Center
 in Potomac, Md.

The committee is planning a "Happy Hour" and Dinner,
 Along with some History, Entertainment and Reminisces.

The Bolger Center has hotel rooms available for those who do not wish to drive home that night.

Stay tuned!

Please mark this date on your calendar.



SNOWMASS

January 20-28/05

by Ellen Burgess

Paradise revisited - the dictionary's second meaning of paradise is a state of bliss or delight - well, our Snowmass trip was both! A few of us arrived early to beautiful conditions and when our trip leaders, Wilma and Gene Sharer appeared on the 20th, our group of 44 was complete. The Welcome Party that night at the Snowmass Mountain Chalet was almost dinner in itself. I don't mean to dwell too long on the snow conditions but they were exceptional - just picture-perfect with beautiful sunshine, March temperatures with January snow. We were blessed with a blizzard of several feet just the week before our arrival. The weather stayed absolutely perfect until we left on the 28th, just as the X-Game crowd moved in.

With my ear to the ground I learned that we had 6 Davids on the trip, that David Abraham and others went up to the tippy top - "The Cirque" - double black diamond at 12,510 feet - when Mary Ward looked over the top and exclaimed, "I like to ski steep slopes, moguls, and narrow trails but not all 3 together" as she skied away on a Blue. David Lerner received first class treatment when he returned the wrong ski's in Aspen; for details read the "Knee" column.

Liz Triau and Fred Leonhardt skied the Naked Lady slope, fully clothed, from top to bottom without stopping. We have a couple of pool sharks in the crowd that are darn good, ask Sharon Mulholland about her partner. Even though Jessma was not on the trip, her spirit was as Dave DeVilbiss and Carolyn Maurer taught several of the group a new card game, "Phase 10." Some of us gathered at the pool and hot tub each day; never did I hear the first complaint about the slopes. Wilma was seen tossing a bathrobe from the 4th floor to the pool. Kurt Burns arrived looking like a sorry pup - the terrible flu bug - but was able to ski for a few days.



Group in the hot tub.

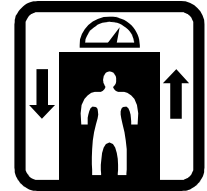
At one of our group dinners, Genee Boykin began to choke and immediately people rushed to her aid. With several doctors looking on, Carolyn Callaway, experienced in the Heimlich maneuver, was able to dislodge the object to everyone's relief - especially Genee's.



Sleigh tour of Monastery grounds

Wilma and Gene arranged for a sleigh ride and 19 of us ventured forth to Ole Snowmass with our guides: Steve held the reins and John told us about the surroundings. Four horses that looked like small Clydesdales pulled all of us in a sleigh with real slats through the snow. We saw a Benedictine Monastery in the distance while John filled us in on the details. It seems the 16 monks have a working ranch on 3,800 acres, where they harvest hay and have a Retreat Center which is very active in the summer. He also told us that one of the monks was a former basketball player from Wake Forest. The scenery was beautiful and half way through the ride we stopped at an outdoor tent for hot chocolate and cookies.

We had a private room at the Stonebridge Inn for our last dinner. It was on the 7th floor so the first group filled the elevator and we waited and waited. Finally someone told us we were already on the 4th floor so up we climbed. On the way up we keep hearing bells. When we arrived on the 7th floor we were greeted by Gene Sharer who said "the elevator was stuck between floors with 11 of our skiers on it." Inn personnel came from all quarters and finally were able to open the doors. I remarked to Gene that thank heavens he didn't have to go to the hospital this trip and he said, that Roland Brockmeyer twisted his knee and went to the hospital to check it out. He finally arrived on crutches just before dinner and said, "I looked back to see if the rest of our party was behind us on the slope, but I neglected to stop before looking back."



Now to Wilma and Gene - our slightest wish was their command - even though we were given a calendar of events, they would double check to make sure everyone got to the wonderful group dinners, etc. They took us to a new restaurant at the Snowmass Club, very swishy with delicious food. All in all, they made sure we had a most delightful time; our thanks for all their efforts. If we can have that weather back next year, I'll be the first to sign up for Snowmass again.

Krabloonik Kennels – dog sled rides, kennel tour & Lunch!

BEAVER CREEK

January 27-31/05

by Mike Hatanaka

Our first stop after Snowmass was Glenwood Springs where we enjoyed two hours of shopping, bathing in the three outdoor heated pools, or just relaxing at the Hotel Colorado. The hotel is 50 years old and it is a famous landmark. It has a commanding view of the Wampah Spa and the town center. The lunch at the hotel was simple but very good, except for Dick Schwartzbard's dry martini. The waitress did not quite know how to prepare a martini and she followed someone else's instructions. It was so bad that Dick had to send it back.



The bus took us along Interstate Highway 70 and we enjoyed spectacular views, looking down at the Colorado River and looking up at the high peaks of mountains. It only took a little over an hour to Beaver Creek.

The town of Beaver Creek is very unique as the whole town and the people make their best efforts to please the visitors. The center of the town is built on several levels and each level is connected by escalators. The streets are very clean and one seldom finds litter there. Hotels, up-scale shops and galleries surround the ice skate rink in the middle of town square. It is a picture postcard sight.

We arrived at Beaver Creek Lodge late afternoon and found the accommodations and services at the Lodge were nothing but the best. Dave Warthen and Mike Hatanaka were surprised to find themselves in a luxury suite; fire place, kitchen, two televisions, dining and living room, as well as spacious bed room with a balcony. It had enough space to have a pizza party for twelve PVSers.

Our first ski day began with snow in the morning, yielding poor visibility, but it turned out to be a clear sunny afternoon, and by lunch time everyone rushed to the lifts to reach the fresh snow while Dick and Rosemary Schwartzbard had lunch with their visiting friend at the Ritz-Carlton restaurant. After a full day of skiing, some of us soaked in the indoor/outdoor swimming pool in the Lodge. We were all invited to the apres ski party by Gene and Wilma at their suite with refreshments and tasty snacks. The topic of our conversation was the bad weather, snow and ice, in the Washington, DC area.

Barbara and Fred Leonhardt kindly arranged Saturday lunch at Allie's Cabin on the slope. Everyone skied down to the restaurant on time except Sylvia Lukens who spent the day at Vail. We had to take our boots off and use the slippers to enter the dining room, which we thought was a neat idea. The service was good but we were so hungry that we ate whatever the waiter placed in front of us before the main course. Our table was in the corner of the dining room which had grand views of the mountains and valley below.

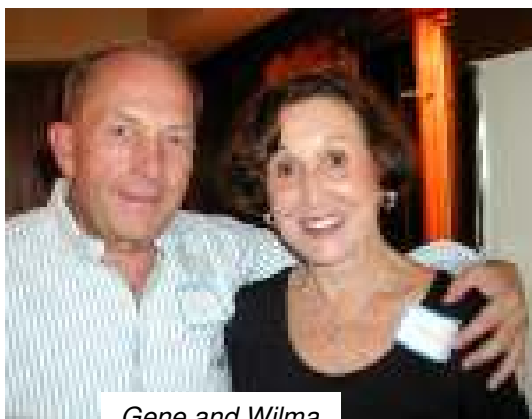


Following lunch at Beaver Creek

Alice Swalm and Jacques Hadler, long time PVS members, were on their way back to the Lodge after the lunch. While they were on down escalator, Alice fell forward. Those Beaver Creek guides standing nearby rushed and stopped the escalator. Jacques and the guides helped her and she rested for a while before she was taken to the local clinic for x-ray. She told us later that the x-rays showed no broken bones and her helmet helped her to escape serious head injury. We were so relieved when she appeared at the pizza party later in the evening.

Those black diamond skiers who followed the Ambassador Ski Tour were: Gene, Wilma, Dick and Rosemary. The leaders, a married couple, took them to ski all the mountains in Beaver Creek in two hours! The guides told them very interesting history and anecdotes along the way as well as pointing out mansions belonging to famous people, including President Ford and Tom Cruise.

Every morning Beaver Creek guides hand out a "grooming sheet/map" that tells skiers all the slopes groomed the night before. There are many green and blue slopes but our favorite is Larkspur Bowl when groomed. It is wide, smooth, and provides a very long course with good view of mountains on both sides. Without obstacles, one can really fly and enjoy.



Gene and Wilma

Sunday night dinner was at Beano's Restaurant. Gene, Wilma, Jack and Alice enjoyed the sleigh ride pulled by Cat (not the animal) in the snow. They were covered by blankets that kept them warm and comfortable. According to Alice's report, the restaurant had a huge fire place which could be enjoyed by every guest in the dining room. The six course dinner was served beautifully and Alice had squab, which she enjoyed.

Even though the Beaver Creek ski trip was short, we enjoyed the town, the people, the hotel, and the restaurants as much as the skiing. Now we understand why Barbara and Fred return year after year.

We are grateful to Gene and Wilma who planned the trip and led us to the Beaver Creek.



SUN PEAKS--WE HAD A BALL

By
Rosemary Schwartzbard



Cahilty Lodge

Long cruisers, steeps, bumps, powder, glades, Sun Peaks had an incredible variety of slopes. We had fresh powder for the first two days and then the sun came out for the rest of the week. It was truly Sun Peaks. Learning our way around the three mountains was made easy. Our guided mountain tour on the first morning was led by Nancy Greene, her husband, Al Raine, and another guide. Then there were Sun Guides who would take you wherever you wanted to go and, best of all, we had our own PVS Laeser-guided tours that left each morning at 9:00 am. Dick Laeser also guided us to the North Pole with an excellent video of his recent adventure there.



Rosemary S, Dick Laeser, Susan Payne, Eloise Strand, David Payne

Dinners and apres-ski were outstanding. Jim Bryan, a college friend of Bob and Jan Marx, joined us for a couple days and brought apples, home made wine, and vodka marinated cherries. Even Nancy Greene joined our apres-ski awards party and took great delight in it. The dinners were all good but most memorable was the Fondue at mid-mountain. We were taken up by chairlift and then had to ski down at night following a guide with a torch. It was awesome being on the mountain at night under a beautiful sky, but it also was disorienting skiing without being able to see the terrain. Byoung missed a turn and ended up in the trees. She was rescued by David Payne. Karen Knopes got bumped from the snowmobile she was on to accommodate Byoung who was shaken up but not badly hurt. Karen then had to walk down the slope with no guide.

Ladies Day was a big hit. Eleven PVS ladies signed up for a two-hour lesson followed lunch. Everyone agreed they learned new skills. Sally Finan and Rosemary Schwartzbard took the bump lesson and managed to safely get down Head Wall and Intimidator! While the ladies were at ski school, the guys bonded by racing down the mountains as fast as they could.



Ingrid Monaghan, Bob Marx, Dick L, Jan M, Ann Snyder, Nestor Delevaux

Jessma got the "I skied the pants off Nancy Greene" award. After a wardrobe malfunction, Nancy loaned Jessma ski pants. After not skiing last year, Betty Lawrence was in great form ending her week by going down the black run, Sting. Polly Brunelli "powdered her nose" on West bowl. Eloise liked racing around the trees on Mount Morrisey. Susan Payne got the best Valentine gift ever – Burnin Luv skis with flowers painted on them. Mike Strand explored the mountain by dog sled, groomer and snowmobile. The dog sled was the winner even though he was dumped twice. Dick Schwartzbard and Kirk Burns also groomed the slopes



Ray, Nancy Greene, Al Raine, Our Nancy

What really distinguished this trip from others was having the opportunity to ski with and talk to Nancy Greene and her husband, Al. Nancy met us at the airport and was at the door to say goodbye when we left the hotel. Nancy was on the mountain most days and groups could ski with her. They were both extremely hospitable and really reached out to the group. How often do you get to ski and hang out with an Olympic skier?

Our only difficulty was leaving Kamloops. It took two hours to go through security in this tiny airport. They were checking everything! Three of the most dangerous looking women in the group (Nancy McKinley, Cherie Stallman and Rosemary Schwartzbard) were selected for a full body and bag search. While we did not get to our hotel in Seattle until 8:00 pm, that did not deter many from enjoying some of the fine restaurants in town. Overall, the trip was truly outstanding.

Thank you Ray and Nancy for finding this hidden gem. I would recommend it to anyone.

MEETING AT THE CLARK'S

by Nick Chybinski

Our February meeting was held at the beautiful home of Marilyn and Dick Clark. These charming hosts always make a special effort to assure everyone is welcome and comfortable, and to provide a great selection of goodies and refreshments.

The day was sunny and warm and the turnout was great. Thirty-seven PVSers attended our happy monthly event. Several members who had not been seen in a while were in attendance and it was good to see them in good health and spirits: Genee and Charles Boykin, Tony Drago, Joan and Glade Flake, Bob Harmon, Dorie and John Waddick, and many more. Sadly, this may have been the last meeting for Karen and Knox Felker; they are moving to South Carolina, a beautiful new community near the ocean. Best of luck in your new home, Karen and Knox! We will miss you.

Our sincere thanks to Marilyn and Dick for their wonderful hospitality.



REMEMBER: For more pictures of events and trips, look on the PVS website.

<><>Scott Smith of [DC Ski](http://www.dcski.com), an online ski information site, purchased PVS member, Ron Fett's archived article from the Washington Post and used that to help create a new entry for the [Lost Ski Areas](http://www.dcski.com) page. <http://www.dcski.com>
This is Smith's article in part:

Mid-Atlantic Lost Ski Areas: Mattaponi Croom, Maryland

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW Want to go downhill skiing less than 30 minutes from the heart of DC? Well, you can't — not anymore, at least. But in the 60's, you could, at the Mattaponi Ski Area near Croom, Maryland. DC Ski Reader [Marvin Hass](#) uncovered this lost ski area, and pointed us to an article written in the *Washington Post* by [Ron Fett](#) in 1967 providing some details about the area.

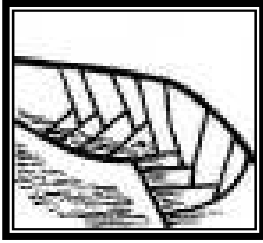
Mattaponi had two tractor-powered rope tows that were 800 and 400 feet in length. According to Ron's article, the area had "broad, gentle slopes" and billed itself as "The Place to Start," targeting beginners. It had floodlights for night skiing, and used snowguns to make snow. During the summer of 1967, the ski area built a new warming hut, and dug out a small skating rink at the top of the slopes. The owner-developer was Elwood Sager, who learned to ski as an undergraduate in Hanover, NH. The main house at Mattaponi was built in 1745 and owned by Robert Bowie, an early Maryland Governor.

During the summer, Mattaponi offered activities such as fishing, boating, horseback riding and tennis. During 1967, a nine-hole golf course was under construction. Ron also notes that several sky diving groups used a landing strip on the property. (The Start of the "year round resort?? Editor, Jan.)

OTHER LOST AREAS details on the website.

In Maryland: Braddock Heights Ski Area, Oregon Ridge, Possible Area Near Deep Creek Lake, Ski College Mountain.

In Virginia: Afton Alps, Cascade Mountain Resort, Mountain Run, Rappahannock Ski Area, Seven Devils, Shawnee Land, Ski Cherokee.



THE KNEE

By Ray McKinley

We are two-thirds of the way through the ski season.

Lots more time for us to

revel in our favorite sport. So we should all get out there and enjoy it.

Do you know what ski season is? Cool.

Welcome Back! Tom Aguilar had not skied for ten years, as he took care of his aging mother. She passed away last year. This winter Tom is back to his favorite sport and hasn't forgotten a thing. He's skiing like a banshee!

PVS has been going through some belt tightening efforts to avoid raising dues. Before a final analysis, Treasurer Ray Jones believes that we have saved enough to avoid a dues increase. The big savings: Back to snack food at our meetings, and having TOOT sent via e-mail rather than having printing and mailing costs. Ray says you can help by getting TOOT via e-mail. Tell Jan Marx if you would like to switch to the colorful, electronic TOOT.

The night before leaving for the Sun Peaks ski trip, John and Polli Brunelli attended a 4+ hour performance of Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde*. They were at the airport by 7:00 am the following morn. Yawn!

Speaking of operas, PVS's President elect, David and Rachel Abraham are headed to Austria's Arlberg Mountains to ski. However, on the evening of their arrival they will attend the Zurich opera jet lag and all. Yawn 2! The Knee guesses that opera does that to you.

Didn't that last paragraph have a great segue? Several have recently asked the Knee, "What's a segue?" It weighs about a pound.

Catching up on back issues of ski magazines: A cute ad for Fischer Skis in most of the ski magazines a few months back:

"2% of Americans have sex twice a day.

2% of Americans have IQ's over 145.

2% of Americans ski on Fischer skis.

Coincidence?"

It's a tad late for this Valentines Day. But next year ask new Williamsburg resident Charlotte Kline to make you a paper heart out of a dollar bill. What a widely useful skill!

Recently, Ski Liberty, whoops that's now called magnificent, 1100 foot Mount Liberty, received some really heavy snow. How heavy was it? It was so heavy that Liberty had to close the glacier because of the avalanche danger. You can ask Ski Liberty patrollers Jim Wingrove and Bob McNeill. Both were part of the group that had to roll down the glacier head over heels to eliminate the threat. They did, so the avalanche danger is past and the world is saved. This is completely true. The Knee would never, ever fib about Liberty.

Skiing isn't fast enough. After returning from Sun Peaks Dave Phillips and Sue Lyon headed to Daytona Beach for motorcycle racing

During a group ski lesson, Rosemary Schwartzbard took off down the hill before the Instructor. Hubby Dick chuckled commenting, "You only have to see this for 2 hours, I have it for a lifetime!"

Also at Sun Peaks, non-skier Mike Strand tried dog sledding. As the dogs surged, Mike was thrown from the sled. Perhaps the dogs were rushing back because they got a considerably "huskier" offer? Arf, Arf!

Speaking of dogs (If I do say so, another brilliant, one pound segue), Janet and Bob Marx will pet sit Lu Beale's dog, Josie. This is whilst Josie's current mistress, Mary Beale is off to Vail for her first Western ski trip—with Barb and Fred Leonhardt. Nothing pet-ty about that.

Here's a truly classical story. Earlier in his life, Jim Slack played Beethoven's Emperor's Concerto on the piano from memorknee.

According to a nameless PVS wag, the Indian word for lousy hunter is "vegetarian."

The same person, who requested anno-knee-mity also said Bush wanted to name Clinton to be ambassador to Temptation Island. And "they" call it PMS because Mad Cow Disease was already taken!

As they say in France, *je suis finknee*.

CALENDAR

Mar 5 Sat Mammoth Pre-Trip Party at Welts/Finan; 4:00 PM
Mar 5 Sat Snowmass Post-Trip Party at Sharer's, 7:00 PM
Mar 15 Tue Monthly Meeting at Leonhardt's; 7:30 PM
Mar 16 Wed Dinner &/or Hexagon Show, 5:30/8:00 PM
Mar 22 Tue Ex Com at Triau's; 7:30 PM
Mar 24 Thur Bicycling Gourmet = Glen Echo to Georgetown
April 19 Tue Monthly Meeting at Vagonis', 7:30 PM
April 21 Thur Bicycle Gourmet = Mt. Vernon Bike Path
April 26 Tue Ex Com at Abraham's; 7:30 PM
May 25 Thur Bicycling Gourmet = Calvert County Riviera
June 4-5 Brandywine Valley Trip
Nov 5 Sat 40th Anniversary Party at The Bolger Center



[2005 Western Ski Trip](#)
Mar 19-26, 2005 Mammoth

Change of postal or email address:

Call Wilma at (301) 975-9411
or send email message to
wilma@sharerassociates.com

E-mail Notice

If you want to start receiving Toot electronically, please let me know.
Thanks, Jan = jebbmarx@aol.com.

POTOMAC VALLEY SKIERS Website ~~~~~ www.potomacvalleyskiers.org

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Annandale, VA 22003