

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
of  
POTOMAC VALLEY SKIERS, INC  
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU

To Attend a Gala Dinner and Evening  
In Celebration of the

**FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY**  
Of the Founding of  
**POTOMAC VALLEY SKIERS**

Saturday, the Fifth of November  
Two Thousand Five  
At Six O'Clock PM

**BOLGER CENTER**  
9600 Newbridge Drive  
Potomac, MD 20854

Featuring  
Camaraderie, Dinner, Entertainment

Reception – 6:00 to 7:00 o'clock with Hors D'oeuvres and Cash Bar  
Dinner and Program – 7:00 to 9:00 o'clock.

Choice of Entrée:

Grilled Filet Mignon with Red Wine Sauce or  
Seared Florida Red Snapper Fennel Boulangere with Lobster

***BLACK TIE OPTIONAL***

**RSVP**

**\$59 Per Person**

**Early reservations are imperative.**

Please state your choice of Entrée

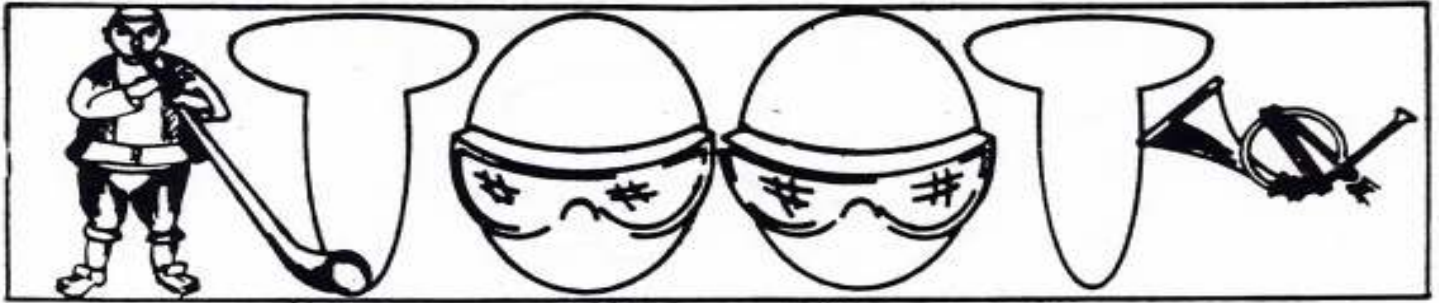
--if the filet, how you wish your filet to be prepared.

Check payable to PVS.

Mail to:  
Rachel Abraham  
6210 Hollins Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20817-2348

*For those who would like to continue the celebration, The Bolger Center PUB will be open until 1:00 AM.*

If you would like to stay the night, you can make a room reservation by calling  
The Bolger Center Hotel at 800 – 777 – 7803



VOLUME LX  
NUMBER 5

*Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.*  
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

MAY 2005

PVSers:

With your vote last Tuesday at our Annual Meeting, you decided to terminate my apprenticeship – it lasted more than 2 ½ years - and to have me take on the real job. Well, I had agreed to, and now it's time “to bite the bullet.” But before I do, it's imperative to note that I'm following a leader who's difficult to follow. In fact, individually and collectively, we owe Reg a sincere debt of gratitude for his 2 ½ years-plus of guidance and care, which have made us a better, more participatory group of friends who share common goals and values. As Reg takes a well-deserved leave from these many months of meetings and behind-the-scenes travail, we wish him continued enjoyment from his participations in our many-faceted activities.

As Reg would be prone to tell any and all, this is a club of volunteers, members who are work unselfishly to benefit their friends by spawning and organizing activities for all of us to enjoy. Just take a look at a bunch of Toots from recent months: the back page tells you all that has been on our club's agendas. I think it's a lot, and I'm dedicated and committed to keeping it that way. With an aging population, we're mindful that skiing is no longer the focal point for many of our fellow members. And so we become more oriented towards some SEE and SKI trips, numerous non-skiing activities, along with the traditional purist ski-only trips.

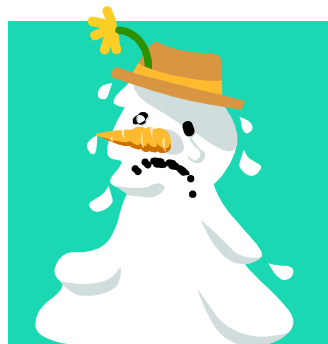
Our past successes are evidence of the efforts by this dedicated group of volunteers. I hope, in the months and years to come, we'll be able to count on a growing number of such who will be eager to think of and champion new club activities, to provide increasing variety and frequency of activities, and which are attended by increasing numbers of members.

In closing, let me encourage each and everyone to come forward and help to make this club all you'd really want it to be. You'll be amply rewarded by the pleasure and satisfaction you will reap for your efforts, and the privilege to have done good for the benefit of others.

For now, enjoy our lovely spring, and the memory of a snowy winter.

*David*

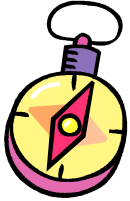
## MONTHLY MEETING



at  
**Joe Jevck's & Liz Warren-Boulton's**  
**3049 Porter Street NW**  
**Washington, DC**

May 17, 2005  
7:30 PM

202-244-5717



Joe Jevck & Liz Warren-Boulton  
3049 Porter St, NW  
Washington DC 20008  
202-244-5717

**Directions**

**NOTE:** The house is on the **north** side of Porter St, halfway between Connecticut Ave and Reno Rd, 1 block from the Cleveland Park metro station.

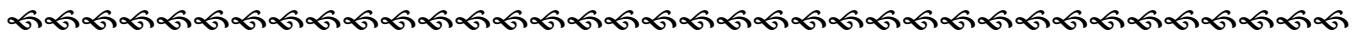
**From the North:**

Connecticut Avenue south, turn **right** on Porter St OR  
Wisconsin Ave south or Reno Rd south, turn **left** on Porter St.

**From the South:**

Massachusetts Ave, turn **right** on 34<sup>th</sup> St, turn **right** on Porter St.

\*\*\*Street parking on Porter St or at the back of the house on Quebec St. To get to Quebec St. go around the block and look for the number 3049 on the bottom of the lattice gate that will have a piece of white cloth tied to it. Enter through the back gate.



**EXCOM MEMBERSHIP CHANGE**

At our April 19, 2005, Annual Meeting, Mike Strand, an ExCom member about to begin his 2nd year of service, was elected our organization's Vice President (in accordance with the Nominating Committee's published selections). As a result of this election, Mike was compelled to resign his seat as an ExCom member (Director), continuing his service on ExCom in his new capacity as Vice President.

In accordance with our by-laws, the President selected, and ExCom approved, the appointment of Sharon Mulholland to fill the one-year vacancy.

We thank Sharon for her agreeableness to serve as an ExCom member and wish her much success and satisfaction during her term.

**CURRENT PVS BOARD & OFFICERS - 2005-06**

President - *David Abraham*  
Vice President - *Mike Strand*  
Secretary - *Jessma Blockwick*  
Treasurer - *Ray Jones*  
Membership - *Wilma Sharer*  
Events - *Ray McKinley*  
Mid-week Events - *Dave DeVilbiss*

Webmaster - *Marvin Hass*  
40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Chair - *Rachel Abraham*  
Ski Trip Cmte Chair - *Bob Marx*  
TOOT Editor - *Jan Marx*  
TOOT Mailer - *Marilyn Clark*  
Meeting Records - *Sara Huggins*  
Historian - *Jan Marx*

First Term:  
*Charlotte Eddy*  
*Burr Schuler*  
*Dick Schwartzbard*  
Second Term:  
*Marilyn Clark*  
*Dave DeVilbiss*  
*Sharon Mulholland*

Your Ski Trip Committee (STC) – Mike Hatanaka, Bob Marx, Shirley Rettig, Jim Slack, and Eloise Strand – has had an active year.

- It worked with the ExCom to provide **three** PVS-endorsed ski trip **choices** for the **2005** season, all of which had high levels of participation and skier satisfaction.
- It revised and re-issued the *Guidelines for a PVS-Endorsed Ski Trip* that the STC uses to determine which ski trip proposals to recommend for ExCom approval, and that ski trip leaders use to guide management of the trips they run. This document is available for your perusal on the PVS web site.
- It worked with the ExCom to offer an astonishing array of **five** PVS-endorsed ski trip **choices** for the **2006** season. Individual announcements elsewhere in this issue provide details of these trips. The STC hope **you will choose** to participate in **several**.
  - \* **Snowmass** – January 19 - 26, 2006
  - \* **Telluride** – February 2 - 9, 2006
  - \* **Visit Scandinavia - Ski Lillehammer** – February 17 - March 5, 2006 (this trip includes a “short” option that allows linking with the Val Gardena trip)
  - \* **Val Gardena** – March 3 - 11, 2006 (this trip is one of the BRSC-sanctioned trips for 2006)
  - \* **Winter Park** – March 27 - April 3, 2006
- It continued PVS’ long-standing relationship with the Blue Ridge Ski Council (BRSC). This participation has multiple **benefits for you** and **benefits for PVS’ ski tip leaders**
  - \* It helps PVS’ hard working **ski trip leaders** to **fill all the spaces** they have reserved by letting them advertise their trips **after August 1**, by which time the STC hopes you have made your decisions and paid your deposits to reserve a space on the ski trip(s) of your choice. Many times these “**new to PVS**” **skiers** see how great PVS is and **become members**.
  - \* It provides **more ski trip choices for you**, because **you** are eligible to participate in all BRSC-sanctioned ski trips each year as if you were a member of the club running the trip. For the 2006 ski season, this already means you can go to \* **Sun Valley** from **January 21 - 28, 2006**. -- Call Bob Marx (703-451-9158) for participation details.

**Address changes**

David DeVilbiss  
4508 Peacock Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22304  
703-370-4865

Carol Parmenter  
#1 Hamill Court. Apt.56,  
Baltimore, MD 21210  
410-433-2060

**New Applicant Members**

Ann Snyder  
131 Boone Trail  
Severna Park, MD 21146  
Home = 410-647-0784, Cell = 410-991-2250  
Email = [annonyantz@yahoo.com](mailto:annonyantz@yahoo.com) .

Jean van der Tak  
3035 Rodman Street NW  
Washington, DC 20008  
202-966-4441  
Email = [sjvandertak@msn.com](mailto:sjvandertak@msn.com)

**Message From Sheldon Drews**

*Thanks to PVsers for their cards and calls, best wishes, and hopes for a speedy recovery.  
The bypass operation appears to have been a success and recovery is proceeding in good fashion.  
Sheldon.*

(Daughters, Dena and Xandi have been here for Sheldon's “adventure” and have helped him with his recovery routine at home.)

## BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

At our annual meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup> the bylaws amendments proposed by ExCom and published in the April TOOT were approved. Soon the amended bylaws will be on our Web site.

The first amendment better defined the membership category of Absentee Member. An Absentee Member must be a former Active Member, must have their primary residence greater than 75 miles from Washington, DC, and may not vote nor hold elective office.

Those members qualifying for Absentee Member status may change their membership category at any time. Also, they may continue in or change to Active Member status. The ideal time to make a membership category change is this summer when we will be sending out dues renewals.

The second amendment created a new membership category: Associate Member. A candidate for Associate Member must have a primary residence greater than 75 miles from Washington, DC. Similar to an Active Member, he/she must be sponsored by an Active or Absentee Member, attend at least one PVS event, and be approved by members at the annual meeting. Also, an Associate Member may not vote nor hold elective office. And Associate Members do not count toward our 200 membership limit. Unlike an Absentee Member, an Associate Member never has been an Active Member and, therefore, cannot change back to Active Member status.

After approval of the bylaws amendments, the membership then voted on Active and Associate Member candidates and approved four new Active Members and two new Associate Members.

## CURRENT DUES STRUCTURE

At the April 26<sup>th</sup> ExCom meeting, Associate Member dues were determined. Following is a complete dues structure:

| <b>Biennial Dues</b> |            |         |
|----------------------|------------|---------|
| Membership Category  | Individual | Couple  |
| Active Member        | \$40.00    | \$70.00 |
| Applicant Member     | \$50.00    | \$90.00 |
| Associate Member     | \$25.00    | \$40.00 |
| Absentee Member      | \$20.00    |         |
| Junior Member        | \$20.00    |         |

## PAST EVENTS

### *Hexagon at Fifty*

I pledge allegiance to the gag  
Of the Delighted States of Hexagon  
And to the comedy for which it stands.  
One nation, it's so risible,  
With levity and jesting for all.

So opened the program notes for the Hexagon evening. Twenty-five PVSers enjoyed this birthday celebration. The dancing and costumes were even more lavish than usual, and the comedy, even-handedly aiming at every political and cultural stance, had something for everyone to enjoy.

We all left smiling.

Before the Hexagon, many of the PVSers met for dinner at the Old Europe Restaurant. Service wasn't the fastest, nor the food the greatest, -- but who can complain when the company is so great!

We owe our thanks to Barbara Leonhardt who arranged the evening, acting so early that we had the best seats in the house. Next year again, please, Barbara?

--by *Jessma Blockwick*



## Annual Meeting

Pat and Jim Vagonis graciously provided: beautiful night = use the deck. Dining room table - elegantly elevated, brocade cloth, colorful "pearl" necklaces. Variety of tasty food strategically placed around the house. There were 65 people in attendance and we used all the rooms in her spacious main floor. We sang Happy Birthday to Marianne Cook for her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday. She reciprocated and played the PVS anthem on the piano.


As spring rains bring flowers, the annual meeting brings elections. The proposed bylaws changes were read, explained, and discussed. The majority vote passed them all. President, VP, and 3 ExCom members proposed by the Nominating Committee were voted in. Wilma listed four candidates for Active Member status and two candidates for Associate Member status: all were voted in.

Desserts and coffee followed. A hearty *Thank You* to Pat and Jim.

More pictures on our web site at = <http://pvskiers.homestead.com/Apr05Mtg.html>



## COMING EVENTS

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  | <p><i>BICYCLING GOURMET</i><br/> <b>Calvert County Riviera</b><br/>         Thursday May 26, 2005 11:00 AM<br/> <b>Starting Point: Chesapeake Beach, MD</b></p> |  |
|--|---|--|

**Starting Point:** Chesapeake Beach, MD only 30 miles from Beltway. Take Beltway exit 11A (Upper Marlboro), which places you on Rte. 4 south. Stay on Rte. 4 for 20 miles (past Upper Marlboro) and you will see signs for Chesapeake Beach that will direct to Rte. 260. Follow Rte. 260 to the end (about 10 miles). When you reach the end, take a right turn on Rte. 261 south (sign to Railway Museum). Proceed south only one half mile on Rte. 261 and turn left at the first traffic light (sign to Railway Museum) and park in the big lot for the Rod and Reel restaurant on the left. Leaders will arrive by 10:30 AM; coffee and rest room available in adjacent tackle shop (rest rooms in restaurant may also be open).

**Route:** Route is on road (much on only one road -- Rte. 261), but traffic is light and drivers are polite. Ride will proceed north on Rte. 261 with short detour to use 1/2 mile of the North Beach boardwalk bike path. Remainder of route passes by a number of marinas with water views. Round trip 20 miles. Lunch at 1:30 PM at the Rod and Reel restaurant (with waterfront view) on return. Champagne and birthday cake for all present in honor of Betty's birthday (courtesy of Marvin).

**Historic Note:** At the turn of the century, a short line railroad from the DC area to Chesapeake Beach initiated operation and lasted until 1935. Photos and memorabilia from the days of the railroad and beach resort (inspired by the French Riviera) are on display at the museum, which is in the restored railway station (adjacent to the Rod and Reel) and which is open from 1-4 PM.

**Leaders:** Marvin Hass [mhass@mailaps.org] (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. Latecomers: Leader will leave map on rear window wiper of gold Chrysler minivan. Route starts out flat and then becomes rolling after a few miles.

**Previous Ride Review:** The annual April Mt. Vernon bike ride led by Shirley Rettig took place in spite of weather forecast of possible showers. Fortunately the rain held off until ride was finished and participants had largely finished their outdoor lunch at the Sizzling Express. However, they did have to pedal two miles back to their cars in the rain and got soaked doing so. But we're a tough bunch! PVSer David Warthen and co-leader Marvin Hass were among the few of the group of ten who made it all the way to Mt. Vernon.

**Next ride:** Sunday, June 19. Hunt Country Starting point: The Plains, Virginia.

# Brandywine Valley Tour

June 4-5, 2005

Join your PVS Friends for a carpool trip to the scenic Brandywine Valley, only 2 ½ hours away in Southern Pennsylvania. We'll tour the magnificent Longwood Gardens to see their spring season in full bloom. Thereafter, we'll dine at Simon Pearce Restaurant, featuring American cuisine with an Irish flair, served on hand turned pottery made on their premises. Lodging, including breakfast, will be at the Concordville Inn, a nearby inn in Concord, PA. Before heading home the following morning, we'll tour the Hagley Museum, the original factory, home and gardens of the DuPont family.

Lodging is limited. Cost is expected to be about \$175 pp, double occupancy. Make your reservation by sending a check for \$100 per person to Nancy McKinley, 2326 N. Upton St., Arlington, VA 22207-4045.

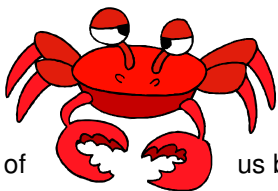
For more information, call (703) 527-7126



On **June 23**, PVS will have a trip to Baltimore to see a special exhibit of RMS Titanic artifacts.

We will have lunch in the Inner Harbor.

Call **Dave DeVilbiss** at 703-370-4865 or  
**Pat Vagonis** at 301-838-5545 for details.



**Crabfest** Saturday, September 3, 2005

This great event is back after an absence of about 5 years. It will be held by Betty Lawrence at her newly renovated Vienna (VA) home. Traditionally, Betty orders bushels of crabs and the rest of us bring salad, dessert or uncrabby food which can be grilled.

Rain date, Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. Watch for the detail in future Toots.

New York vineyard owners, and PVS Associate Members, David and Susan Payne have set up a super, one-time event for PVS. Join them and your PVS friends.

## PVS Finger Lakes Wine Tour

August 25-29, 2005

Here's the tentative plan of events:

August 25, Thursday Drive to Finger Lakes in upstate NY. Lodging (4 nights) at the lakefront Glenora Winery and Inn. On your own, **sample some of the wineries nearby**

August 26, Friday Charter bus takes us to the Payne's Vineyard for a tour. Then it's on to their **Winery** for a visit. Lunch is across the Lake at the Bully Hill Vineyard. Thereafter, we visit 2 Keuka Lake Vineyards and end the afternoon with a Twilight Cruise on Keuka Lake on Viking. This includes cruise, **wine tasting** and Appetizers. Dinner is at the world famous Esperanta Mansion. Then our bus returns us to the Inn.

August 27, Saturday Take Charter Bus to hike the Gorge at Watkins Glen State Park. Followed by a brief tour of Watkins Glen International Racetrack and an optional pace car ride on the race track. Lunch at Seneca Harbor at the foot of Seneca Lake. Afternoon: **Tastings at 3 - 5 Seneca Lake Wineries**. Dinner likely at Bellhurst Castle. Bus returns us to the Inn.

August 28 Sunday Bus to tour Corning Glass Museum or (optional) the Soaring Museum and Glider ride. Lunch at London Underground Restaurant followed by tour of Historic Market Street. Afternoon: **Tastings at 3 - 4 Wineries**. Possible sailing ride on 72' Malibar X on Lake Seneca. Dinner possibly at Red Newt Wine Cellars and Bistro.

August 29, Monday Return to Washington, DC

Package is approximately \$650 per person double occupancy. It includes 4 nights lodging, 3 day's tour bus, two gourmet dinners, one lunch, **wine tastings at 10 wineries**, cruise on Viking Cruise Line (wine tasting and appetizers), Corning Glass Museum admission, Watkins Glen Racetrack admission, 2 vineyard tours, lots more.

**12 PVSers already signed up. Space for only 8 more!** To reserve your space, send a check for \$100 per person (Fully refundable through May 15), payable to David Payne. Mail it to Susan & David Payne, 5598 Dutch Street, Dundee, NY 14837, phone (607) 292 3701. Locally call Nancy or Ray McKinley for more information at 703 527-7126.







# MAMMOTH

By Francesca Adams



When I was young, they had ice-cream cones that held two scoops next to each other horizontally. If you picture that and put another scoop on top in the middle, you have the silhouette of Mammoth. The top scoop is all black diamonds (think chocolate chip) and the bottom two are blue and green runs. Whatever flavor of slope you want.



The trip was lots of fun. Everything that could have been done by people was done; all with kind casualness. Being met at Dulles at 6 am by two ladies (Marty and Jan) in funny hats who presented little bags of eatable goodies to each of us was just the beginning. Mother Nature, however, was very moody.

The first day, Sunday, was snowy and **windblown**. Bruno Walker, Ray Jones' friend, was blown over, while Dottie Villers and Nancy Cammarata were blown out of the lift as they tried to get off. Most everyone stopped at about 2:30, except some really strong skiers who came in the hotel about 5:00 smiling broadly.



The next day was a poster day: blue sky, warm bright sun, groomed slopes of soft snow. Thanks to Jan and Bob Marx, the ladies that skied blue and green runs were taken on a tour of nearly all of them. After lunch, we took the gondola to the very top (11,000+ feet) where we naturally had our pictures taken next to the Mammoth sign. Jan said that when they were there in the summer the sign was 25 feet in the air. We were standing on 25 feet of snow!



Marty: "I skied that!"

Maryann, Francesca, Shirley, Betty, Jean, Jan We looked over the edge and saw a run that had exactly the angle of a stepladder.

Monday night the group went out to dinner. We were a mixed group of 30 friends, including 15 PVS members and 10 ski patrollers from Massanutten and Wisp. After a really nice buffet dinner at Whiskey Creek, we all climbed into a town bus for the ride home. When the driver got to our stop (a block and a half from the hotel) she kindly took us off her route and directly to the hotel door; a generous ending to a really perfect day.



Tuesday was another story--lots of blowing snow and no visibility. Most everyone stayed close to the pool and the hot tub. Some had as their adventure of the day a fancy lunch (arranged by Judy Jones) at the Parallax restaurant at the gondola mid station stop. The gondola swayed just enough in the wind to make it a little thrill. During lunch it was announced that the gondola was closed and we would have to go down on a snow-cat. What a disappointment when the wind died down and we were forced to return by the gondola.

Lunch at Parallax - Marty, Jan, Jean, Dottie, Shannon, Ray, Judy, Sally, Francesca, Bob, Rick Sperry

The apres ski parties (arranged by Sally Finan and Judy Deitrich-Jones) were always just in time and allowed the two groups to share their adventure stories.



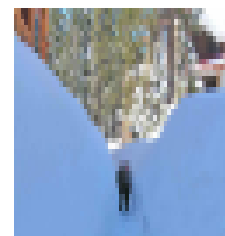
Suzanne, Jean, Dottie, Jan, Betty, Shannon Jones



Sally, Dottie, Norm Weinberg, Maryann

John and Carol Bartus found an in-town park for snow-shoeing and cross-country skiing. It was marvelously quiet among the huge red fir trees.

Wednesday, snowing but skiable. **65 inches** of new Snow fell during our week. Thursday was beautiful again until about two o'clock when a cloud just sat down on us. Thursday evening we enjoyed another great meal another great meal together in the sweet Swiss-French Alpenrose restaurant that we could walk to.



It was deep!



Greg Gell, Larry and Gail Pease

Friday (our last day) was, of course, brilliant--bright and clear—and many skied. Our bus left at three for Reno and some slick types arrived at 2:30 and made it on the bus at three.



Susan Gantz, Charlie Schwenker, and Rick Sperry

## SKI TRIPS



# SNOWMASS 2006

PVS is again heading to Snowmass and the Mountain Chalet, January 19 through 26, 2006. Join us for this perennial favorite. The trip will feature slope-side lodging with access to the extensive Snowmass trail system, and free bus service to Aspen Highlands, Ajax Mountain, and Buttermilk ski areas with interchangeable lift tickets.

A stay at the charming Mountain Chalet includes a daily family-style breakfast and lunch. Plans are being arranged that will include group dinners, après ski parties, air fare, lift tickets, and more.

For more information:

Contact trip leaders Carolyn Maurer and David DeVilbiss at 703-370-4865 or [carolyn.maurer@verizon.net](mailto:carolyn.maurer@verizon.net).

To reserve:

- Send deposit of \$250 per person to:  
Carolyn Maurer at 4508 Peacock Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304.
  - Note "PVS-Snowmass 2006" on the memo line.
-

# Telluride 2006

Telluride, Colorado, February 2-9, 2006

A first class trip with 7 nights lodging at the ski-in/ski-out Wyndham Peaks Resort and Golden Door Spa at the Mountain Village, which includes access to the 42,000 square foot Spa and Ski Valet. An all Western experience! All taxes and daily maid service fees included. A Velvet Glove welcome wine and cheese orientation party included with a five day ski pass. Sixth day ski pass optional for an extra fee. Two group dinners, two après ski parties, pre and post trip parties and hotel baggage valet included. We depart on United Airlines #399 Washington Dulles 6:15 AM, arrive Denver 11:31 AM; depart Denver 8:55AM # 6293 and arrive Montrose 9:57 AM. Roundtrip van to Telluride and return to Montrose. (The Telluride airport is closed 60% of the time for weather in February.) We depart Montrose on United flight #6293 10:30 AM on the 9<sup>th</sup> and arrive Denver 11:31 AM; then depart Denver on flight #316 at 12:30 PM arriving Dulles 5:50 PM.

All the above for \$1,988 per person, double occupancy. Land only price \$1,588. Trip insurance is highly recommended; rates are not yet available. A minor price adjustment is possible based on potential airline fuel surcharges. Trip leaders are making a survey trip to Telluride in June. The back bowl(s) have now been connected to the front resort by lift. Gondola ride from the Village to the Town of Telluride approximately 13 minutes. Half of each slope is groomed; even the most difficult. Degree of difficulty approximately equal between green, blue and black. Join Gene and Wilma for this deluxe February Western ski experience. If you don't have a cowboy hat, get one!

## Val Gardena

March 3 - 11, 2006

Dick Comerford will be leading the PVS part of BRSC's Eurofest trip.



## Winter Park

March 27-April 3, 2006

Extend your ski season by discovering (or rediscovering) Winter Park, Colorado. This is an immense ski area that is one of the closest resorts to Denver. Winter Park has a 3,060' vertical, 20 lifts (8 high-speed quads), and 2,770 skiable acres. Terrain is well varied with a wide choice for every skiing preference.

We will stay at the uxorious ski-in/ski-out Iron Horse hotel at the base. Price will be approximately \$1,300 pp, double occupancy, and it includes BOTH breakfast and dinner every day. Of course, this includes air and ground transportation and a 5-day lift ticket. Deduct \$108 if you are over 70.



Call **Dave Lerner** at 703-281-6923 for more information.



February 17-March 5, 2006, join Nancy and Ray McKinley to Ski

## See Scandinavia, Ski Lillehammer

Join us on a 17-day, 4 or 5 Country Scandinavian see and ski tour. This trip will be suitable for skiers and nonskiers. Fly from Dulles to Oslo with [touring in and around Oslo including a visit to the Viking Ship's Museum with 3 preserved Viking long ships from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries](#). We'll also visit the Edvard Munch museum and see his paintings—including "The Scream," and many of Oslo's other sights.

Thereafter it's off to the home of the 1994 Winter Olympics, picturesque, charming Lillehammer, Norway. We'll stay in the quaint downtown area, on the *Storget*, the pedestrian mall. Skiing will be at *Hafjells*, location of the Olympics ski events. **Hafjells has over 15 miles of runs, high mountain slopes and sheltered forest terrain, powder runs and packed slopes for all levels. It has 9 lifts and over a 2,800 foot vertical.** Nonskiers will visit Lillehammer's museums including the Olympic Museum and the "*Volksmuseum*" where 200 buildings, some from the 15<sup>th</sup> Century have been brought, completely furnished, and assembled into "villages."

Then we're off to Scandinavia's 14<sup>th</sup> century capitol, Stockholm, built on 14 islands, centered on the fortress *Gamla Stan*, now a warren of narrow, cobbled streets lined with shops and boutiques. An 11-day package, leaving after a day in Stockholm, will accommodate those wishing to join the BRSC Val Gardena trip. We remain and tour Stockholm's attractions including the restored 16<sup>th</sup> century warship, Gustav Vasa, and historic old town.

From Stockholm, we are still considering options. We will certainly take an overnight cruise across the Baltic Sea either to Tallinn, the capital of Estonia; Helsinki or Copenhagen. Tallinn is a beautifully preserved medieval city including 29 12<sup>th</sup> Century watchtowers, topped by pointy red roofs. In Copenhagen, Hans Christian Anderson's city, we will visit the Dutch Renaissance Rosenbourg Castle and the Carlsberg Museum and Brewery. Helsinki, Finland is the newest of the Scandinavian capitals, founded in 1550, and completely rebuilt in 1812.

**INTERESTED? Call us (703 527-7126) to say which cities/countries you would like to visit.**

We expect the 17 day trip will cost around \$3,000. Prices and details of which countries we visit will be finalized after our visit, in early June. **Due to the logistics of this trip we have only 30 spaces.** To reserve, send your check for \$350 per person, payable to Ray McKinley (refundable through Aug 1), and send it to McKinley's, 2326 N Upton Street, Arlington, VA 22207. Please call us for more information at (703) 527-7126.



### PAST EVENT

#### Columbia Ski Club Inaugural Gala



The Columbia Ski Club celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> year, Saturday, April 23. It was a black tie affair with a champagne reception, light buffet dinner, music, and dancing.

The formal program was only 5 minutes long and consisted mostly of introductions of club officers and special guests from other clubs. Mike and Eloise Strand, who attended to represent PVS at this gala, were introduced as part of the program. Then it was "party time" with live music from a 4-piece band plus 3 singers.

The Columbia Ski Club has 500 members (a lot of singles) and offers 10-11 ski trips annually.

*This is the first of a series of occasional articles about the non-ski travel experiences of PVSers. If you have an interesting travel experience, contact the editor of this series: Mike Strand, 301-468-1535 or hrdyna@aol.com.*

## **RUNNING AND EATING ON THE CANAL DU MIDI**

By Rosemary Schwartzbard

The Canal du Midi goes from Toulouse to the Mediterranean, and was completed in 1681. It took 14 years to build and is a marvel of construction with its many locks and aqueducts. It was used to transport wine, coal and cereal until the 1970's. Now the barges carry tourists through the beautiful canal to the small medieval towns along the way. My husband and I and another couple rented one of these boats and did our own navigation, cooking and lock handling.

After overnighting in Toulouse we took the train to Carcassonne and then a taxi to Trebes where we met our friends and picked up the boat. We rented from Saturday to Saturday and spent the first night on the boat in Trebes. We started out leisurely the next morning. One thing about boating on the canal is that it is truly leisurely. The speed limit on the canal is 8 km and getting through the locks can be a very long process. Most days we covered less than 10 miles; only one day did we do around 20 miles. We started out about 9 am, stopped for lunch at the nearest town midday and then went on to whatever the next town was to dock for the night. We were usually at our destination by 4 pm, giving us time to explore the town.

Since I was in training for the Marine Corps Marathon, I thought it would be fun to run along the towpath on the canal beside the boat. My goal was to run every day for at least five or six miles. That way I would get at least 30 miles of running during the week. One of my better ideas was to take walkie-talkies so I could communicate with the boat from the path. I decided to start from Trebes so while my husband and friends pulled out from the dock on the boat that first day, I put my running shoes on, took my walkie-talkie and water and was on my way. I got about a half-mile before coming to the first lock. Being on shore was helpful since no one had to get off the boat to get the lines. The first lock was a triple so we learned early on how to do it.

After getting through the locks I ran to the next town, Marseillette, where we had a fantastic lunch. It was a Sunday afternoon and our first venture on the canal. The town was a few blocks up a hill. We stopped at a Café/Bar and were told they were "out of food" and sent us away. We then saw a sign for La Muscadelle, a restaurant that was about a half mile away. The walk there was well worth it. We were happy to find a lovely garden, with friendly staff and had a terrific lunch of breads, salad, foie gras, and pate. We discovered that we could have docked the boat next to the restaurant if we had gone a little further. Unfortunately, after the rich French food and vin blanc, I decided not to run to the next town. We covered about 11 miles that first day and I ran about 6 of them.

We docked near a little town called Pulcheric which was over a mile from the boat. That evening we just had wine, cheese and fruit on the boat. We chatted with an English couple who converted an old barge into a lovely home and spent six months on the canals of Europe. Since it was my job to get fresh croissants every morning, I began my day by running into the town, finding the Patisserie and running back to the boat with the fresh baked goods. So I covered a couple of miles before the boat took off. I then ran another 3 miles before lunch at the next town. While there were no water stations along the canal, I did run by tables set up by the local winery with wine to buy!!! Also, most locks had tables set up with wine for sale.

The next day was my longest run, about 9 miles. I did not stop after lunch. I ran from the town, Homps to Paraza. The trail varied greatly. There were a lot of rocks and uneven terrain. The running was always interesting. It was usually on the canal that was shaded with plane trees on both sides. I just had to watch my step because of the tree trunks, rocks and grass. We arrived in Paraza late afternoon and wandered around the town that was built into a hill. At the dock was a restaurant called Café du Port. My husband wandered in and began asking the owner about the food in his faltering French to be answered back in a New York accent. The owner lives in Soho six months of the year and runs the Café during canal season. The food was excellent and we enjoyed chatting with Eric, the owner, about restaurants in New York. I ate more foie gras.

The next day we covered close to 20 miles (our longest distance). I probably ran about 6. We went through a lot of locks and several towns. We rushed to Ventenac because the guidebook said they had a Wednesday market. After wandering all through the town, no market was found so we toured the local winery and went on to Le Somail where we had two great experiences. In this little town on the canal was a huge bookstore with 50,000 volumes of ancient books, posters, magazines and photos. It was fun to explore. We then had a gracious lunch of salads and pate. The highlight was the dessert of meringue, cream, and almonds, Ile Flottante (floating island).

We went through several locks each day which could take hours, especially if you get there at lunch time and they are closed. Even the automatic locks close for lunch, which I found out this day. I was getting quite proficient at lock handling and liked being in control of the switches. It was confusing when I could not get the "automatic" lock to work until we discovered it was closed for lunch. Fortunately, we had a baguette, cheese and pate and were able to lunch on the boat until the lock opened.

My biggest adventure was on day six, our last day. We had to cross the Albi River and my reading of the map led me to believe I could get across on foot over a bridge but I got stranded on the riverbank. The walkie-talkies saved the day and the boat backed down the river to rescue me from the bank to the surprise of the fishermen watching. Fortunately, we had a proficient and good-humored captain. I probably ran at least 7 miles that day.

Overall we cruised about 62 miles and went through 27 locks. I figure I ran about 35 to 40 miles that week and I had a terrific time finding my way, running on the beautiful canal, working the locks, viewing the vineyards, the medieval towns, the aqueducts and the bridges. All of this probably looked the same as it did in the 1600's. It was truly like being in another era. As for training, where else could you run along viewing all of these wonders with your family and friends following nearby on a very comfortable boat ready to pick you up at any time.





# THE KNEE

By Ray McKinley

Last month the Knee discussed the difficulty of beginning a column. This month, it's a piece of cake. The reason? PVS elections.

After two years of contested elections we are once again back to our normal election procedures. The Knee missed the politics of a true election. Missing were the trading of compliments and attacks, the thrusting and the parrying, the banners, campaign buttons, platforms, speeches and all the hoopla. We didn't have the thrill of victory or the agony of defeat. (My last ski boots gave me the agony of de feet) Rather it was...It was the technical term escapes me. Ah, yes, this election was boring.

We defined the term absentee member (as a member who is missing a tee). And we created a new class of member—an associate member (one who is sociated with a part of the body). We unanimously voted in six new members including, Dave and Susan Payne, our first two Associate Members a new Pres, Veep and 3 new ExComers. Reg Heitchue invited all of those voted on back into the room noting that "The white smoke went up." Overall it was a kneet ankneeeual meeting! (Yes, I realize that I'm pushing a bit with that.)

Probably the happiest person at the meeting was Betty Lawrence. The next day Betty was to get her sink and stove back in her remodeled kitchen. Now she'll be able to cook up more great PVS events!

It was also a great event for Marianne Cook. She had her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday at the meeting. After singing Happy Birthday, Marianne went to the piano and played and sang the song she wrote for PVS. Right on!

From the Knee's Very Small World Department: Last month I reported that Bill Hager passed through Washington enroute to still another of his scenic vacation spots—Afghanistan. The same day, some of those on

the Mammoth Ski Trip, including Janet and Bob Marx, met in Reno with Bill Hager's wife, Kathy Quinden. Kathy is the member of the family who doesn't write travelogues.

Following last month's first-ever Big Ski Corporation Does Something Right Department, we have another one. A woman, who asked to remain anonkneemous, was skiing at Squaw Valley. On her last day there she left her drivers license in the restroom (I have no idea why). The following day she called Squaw Valley lost and found. No they didn't have it. But it was because Squaw Valley had already dispatched it by overnight express to her home. Right on!

Emmi Plowman's funeral was a celebration of her incredibly active life. Some 20 PVSers attended the ceremony at Arlington Cemetery. Emmi was buried on a beautiful spring day beneath a redbud tree in full bloom. Annemarie Brenner flew in from Calif. to attend. After the funeral Annemarie spent some time reminiscing with other PVSers including Bette Walker and Marion Webb—both very close friends of Emmi

We are also losing other long-time PVS members. Marilyn and Dick Clark plan to sell their Annandale home of 40 years and move to Ford's Colony, near Williamsburg. They will be neighbors of Charlotte and Jim Kline, and Don and Marijane Harper. We will all miss the participation of the Clarks. They attended, and set up and ran, so many events for us.

Congrats to PVS. For the first time in a decade, Membership Chair, Wilma Sharer noted that PVS is full, at our 200 member limit. The 200<sup>th</sup> member is Ann Snyder, who skied with us at Sun Peaks. Welcome Ann!

April was Rotator Cuff Surgery Month for PVS. Ellie Thayer had hers on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Ivan Bekey followed on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Both are doing dandy, and expect to rejoin the Washington Nationals' pitching staff soon!

June PVS hostess, Karen Knopes has been flying more than the birds she watches. Karen flew to Florida to meet with 6 girlfriends to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> High School reunion. The next week, it was off to Chicago with hubby Bob for a performance of Wagner's Ring Cycle. This is a fancy, long version of a bicycle—with sound!

## CALENDAR

|           |      |  |
|-----------|------|--|
| May 17    | Tue  | Monthly Meeting at Liz Warren-Boulton's and Joe Jevck's; 7:30 PM |
| May 24    | Tue  | Ex Com at Margaret Wyckoff's; 7:30 PM                            |
| May 26    | Thur | Bicycling Gourmet = Calvert County Riviera                       |
| June 4-5  |      | Brandywine Valley, PA Trip                                       |
| June 21   | Tue  | Monthly Meeting at Bob and Karen Knopes'; 7:30 PM                |
| June 23   | Thur | Baltimore visit to RHS Titanic artifacts exhibit                 |
| June 28   | Tue  | ExCom at TBD; 7:30 PM  |
| July 16   | Sat  | All Trips Party at Sharer's                                      |
| Aug 25-29 |      | Finger Lakes Wine Tour   |
| Sept 3    | Sat  | Crabfest at Betty Lawrence's Rain date, Sept 4                   |
| Oct 1     | Sat  | Octoberfest at Slack/Ward's                                      |
| Nov 5     | Sat  | 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party at The Bolger Center          |

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