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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.

WASHINGTON

MARYLAND

VIRGINIA

APRIL 2003

Fellow PVS'ers---

It is that time of year when PVS elects officers for the coming year. As usual, the election will be held at the spring annual meeting. What is unusual this year is that for the first time in PVS's history, there are multiple candidates for the positions of Vice President and members of Excom. The present Excom has been busy figuring out how to deal with a real election, and has decided:

- 1) The annual meeting, at which the election takes place, will be held in May rather than April this year, and
- 2) PVS by-laws regarding the election procedure should be revised. The revision, if approved by the membership, will provide that voting be done by ballot submitted before or at the annual meeting. This will allow greater participation in the electoral process by the PVS membership. The proposed by-law revision will be voted on at the April meeting. Excom strongly urges your participation at that meeting and a vote in favor of the change (See note inside).



Happy Spring skiing!
Reg



MONTHLY MEETING - APRIL 15, 2003, 7:30 P.M.

Home of Charlotte & Jim Kline
1912 Gables Lane, Vienna, VA
703-821-9288

DIRECTIONS: From Beltway, take Rte. 123 towards Tyson's Corner. Turn left on Horseshoe Drive which is after the 4th traffic light on Rte. 123. (The turn is just after MacDonald's on your left.) Go one-half around Horseshoe and turn right on Gables Lane. The house is located on the pipestem; but please park on Gables.

	<p><i>BICYCLING GOURMET</i></p> <p>Leesburg-Purcellville</p> <p>Thursday, April 17, 2003 10:45 AM</p> <p>Starting Point: Market Station – Leesburg</p>	
<p>Route: Twenty mile round trip along the W&OD Trail between Leesburg and Purcellville. Rest stop at the new Visitor Center/Museum in the restored railroad station at the end of the Trail in Purcellville. This section of the trail passes primarily through farmland which has not (yet!) been transformed into housing subdivisions.</p> <p>Lunch at end of ride at the South Street Under Café in the Market-Station complex (Leesburg), which is also the starting ride and has outdoor as well as indoor seating.</p> <p>Directions to Starting Point: Directions: Leesburg can be reached either via the Dulles Toll Road/Greenway [tolls about \$2.50 each way – recommended] or busy Rte. 7 [Leesburg Pike]. If you take the Greenway, then follow signs when Greenway ends into Leesburg via Rte.15 (Business). Turn right at Loudoun Street and proceed two blocks, then turn right on Harrison St. Proceed one block (past Market Station) and turn right on South Street and then immediately left into the Market Station parking lot. If you take Rte. 7 [Leesburg Pike] and Rte. 7 (Business) into Leesburg bear left at fork for Loudoun Street and proceed one block to Harrison St. and turn left past Market Station to South St. You can use any of the Market Station parking lots. These are posted use by for customers only (and we are customers). Meet leaders at ride start sipping cappuccino at the outdoor tables at the South Street Under Café in Market Station. If you arrive late and group has already departed, there is no problem. Park your car and ride your bicycle one block along Harrison St. to the W&OD Trail and proceed right in direction of Purcellville. A helpful map to starting point in Leesburg can be obtained by contacting leader or by submitting request by email to info@potomacvalleyskiers.org</p> <p>Weather: Check with leaders in event of uncertain weather conditions.</p> <p>Leaders: Marvin Hass (703) 751-4737 and Betty Byrne (202) 483-4048</p> <p>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 starting point.</p> <p>Next ride: Thursday, May 22, 2003 Mt. Vernon Bike Path (Shirley Rettig, leader)</p>		

CANCELLED

Visit to Cacapon State Park, West VA; June 1-4, 2003

This planned 3-night trip to Cacapon State Park to stay in the Old Inn was announced at three monthly meetings and at the Snowmass Post-trip party. However, little if any interest in participating surfaced there or in personal conversations and phone calls. Therefore the leader, Barbara Leonhardt, decided to cancel the event to avoid risk losing her \$600 deposit from personal funds. The timing, and perhaps the idea of everyone participating in the cooking, didn't seem a "fit" for most people. Perhaps another time.

Applicant Members to be voted on for full membership

Kerry Hines

Marianne Hines

David Phillips

Pat Vagonis

Wine Tasting and Dinner

When: Saturday, April 26 Time: 6:30 until approx. 11:00 PM

Where: at Pat and Don Cope's house at the Lake

The Wine Tasting has evolved to include a full dinner. The tentative menu and wines for this year follows:

Pasta Salad with marinated calamari, tomatoes and capers

- Vermaccia di San Gimignano; a crisp Italian white wine

Poached salmon with remoulade sauce

- Mount Eden Chardonnay; one the great creamy California chardonnay's

Smoked duck breast

- Chateau de Rayne Vigneau; a wonderful rich sauternes

Wild Mushrooms in pastry shells

- Domaine Chandon Pinot Meunier from California; this is a soft Burgundian style wine

Paella, the classic Spanish dish with saffron rice, sausage, mussels, etc.

- Matanzas Creek Merlot '97 from California

Marinated tenderloin with baked noodles and cheese

- La Jota Cabernet Sauvignon '92 from California; this is complex with bold flavors at its peak

Silton and Pears

- Vintage Port

Sweets and coffee



The cost is \$75 per person. For those who wish to enjoy the wines and not worry about driving afterwards, they may make their own reservations at the Hampton Inn (540-371-0330) at Rt. 95 & 3. Roundtrip transportation from Inn to the Cope's and back to the Inn is included as part of the cost.

For those staying over until Sunday, there is some great sightseeing. The Civil War battlefields of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Wilderness are all located between the Cope's and Fredericksburg. Montpelier, Madison's home is just a half-hour to the south and Monticello is an other half-hour beyond. Also, for shops and antiques, a pleasant several hours can be spent in downtown Fredericksburg (no parking meters).

Call the Copes to sign up at 540-972-9838. Those who sign up should mail a check made out to Don Cope for \$75 per person and mail it to 216 Mt Pleasant Dr, Locust Grove, VA. 22508. Space is still available but limited to the first 20 to sign up, so don't delay.

If you are taking advantage of the free transportation provided from the Hampton Inn (at Rt. 95 and state Rt. 3) to the Cope's and back to the Inn, you should meet at the Inn office where the transportation will **leave at 6 PM**. Make you own reservation at the Hampton Inn, 540-371-0330. To get to the Hampton Inn, after crossing the Rappahanock River heading south on Interstate 95, turn east on Route 3. After a couple of hundred yards, you will see signs for the Hampton Inn set back on right side of Route 3.

Directions to the Copes: head south from the Springfield exit on Interstate 95 about 40 miles. Very shortly after crossing the Rappahanock River, turn west on US Route 3. Go west for about 14 miles. Your will need to turn left from route 3 at the traffic light to enter the gate at Lake of the Woods. Your name will be on a list at the gatehouse to get you through the gate. At the stop sign at the end of the gatehouse turn left onto Lakeview Parkway. Go barely a mile until you see a house on the right like a Swiss chalet, that will be Mt Pleasant Dr, turn right. Go several hundred yards on Mt Pleasant to 216 on the left.

DISABLED SPORTS SPRING FLING

Bethesda Marriott Hotel, April 27, 2003

There will be a silent auction and cocktails 5–6:45. Dinner and live auction follow at 7 p.m. All auction items are donated and proceeds go to help people with physical disabilities participate in recreational activities.

For further information and reservations, call 301-217-9839.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

THE ANNUAL PVS SPRING DINNER

SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2003, 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 Marilyn Clark at 703-978-9435 or Email the Clarks at clarkra@worldnet.att.net. Please call by May 15th.

**ANNUAL MOUNT VERNON BIKE RIDE
MAY 22, 2003**

Join us for this annual ride toward Mt. Vernon (mostly via bike path) with lunch at Potowmack Landing Restaurant at the end of the ride. Distance 16-24 miles.

Starting point will be the Washington Sailing Marina just south of National Airport. Please park in the overflow area which is to the right as you enter the Marina from Mt. Vernon Parkway. Leader will distribute parking permits good until 3 p.m. so you need not be concerned about signs indicating the weekday 3-hour parking limit.

Call leader Shirley Rettig at 703-836-0147.

BY-LAWS AMENDMENT AND ELECTION PROCEDURE

Pursuant to the provisions of our by-laws and our actual practice, "only the members present and voting" at our annual meeting are able to vote for the various candidates for elected PVS offices, such as the officers and Executive Committee members. With quite a number of members no longer residing in the area and others unable to attend the annual meeting, typically the April meeting, it is felt that a procedural change is warranted to enable the entire membership to participate in our annual election. The proposed change, which has been approved unanimously by the Executive Committee, and which requires an amendment to the by-laws, will henceforth provide for absentee voting. If approved by "two-thirds of the active members present and voting", ballots will be provided as an insert to the TOOT mailed prior to the annual meeting. Members then have the option to return their ballots by mail or submit them in person at the meeting. The "show of hands" procedure would be eliminated.

Following is the text of the proposed by-laws amendment. It will be presented at and voted on at the April 15 meeting. To facilitate the possible use of the absentee vote process, ExCom has resolved to postpone this year's election to the May meeting. Hence, if the by-laws change is approved at the April meeting, ballots will be mailed with the May TOOT.

ExCom members will be happy to answer any questions.

By David Abraham and Mike Strand

Replace Section III B of the By-laws with the following wording:

"The President, Vice President and three members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by a majority of the ballots submitted by the active membership on or before the annual meeting. The term of a member of the Executive Committee shall be two years."

PVS MARCH MEETING

A happy group of PVSers showed up at the beautiful Potomac home of the Vagonis's for the March meeting. Pat Vagonis greeted the group, assisted by her two beautiful small children. Her husband couldn't be there because he is a volunteer fireman serving on Tuesday nights (a salute to him!)

Many of the PVSers remembered Pat as a small child who went on many of the trips Margaret and Bob Wyckoff led—and became an excellent skier in the process. Interesting note: In a small room off the living room stood a grand piano. It was a gift to Pat from our own Marianne Cook.

A most bounteous feast of Mexican dishes was spread out in the dining room and all partook of it happily. As well as the later desserts. Pat is still an applicant member so it was especially generous of her to host such a delightful evening. Many thanks, Pat!

THE WHISTLER BACKCOMB

by Rosemary and Dick Schwartzbard

Trip Leader Ray told us we kneeded to write this!!! The trip started with Canadian security deciding that Mike Strand was too sober. They made him drink the schnapps he was carrying to prove it was not a lethal substance. Judy Jones did not fare as well on the return trip when security confiscated her Baileys even though she volunteered to drink it on the spot. They even confiscated Ray's sewing kit. Travelling is getting to be more of a challenge. However, thirty-three people from D.C., Maryland, Virginia, Upstate New York, California, Colorado, Chicago, Washington State and Nevada managed to all meet at Whistler. The Whistler and Blackcomb ski area exceeds 7000 acres and some of us tried to cover all of it. We had almost everything in weather--two absolutely gorgeous sunny days; two absolutely dismal foggy days and two with a mix of clouds and sun with one day of powder. We managed to have it all except rain.

The biggest surprise was how much Whistler reminded us of the Alps. Once you get up to Harmony Bowl, above the tree line, there is a wide expanse of fantastic skiing both on and off piste. One of the best adventures was going to Blackcomb Glacier by taking several lifts, a T-bar and then taking off your skis and climbing uphill to ski into a fantastic bowl and over a lake. David Abraham led a 9 o'clock group each morning and alternated mountains each day. Some people took the daily, free mountain tour several times. Then there were the "Left Overs" as dubbed by Barbara Leonhardt. Nancy Lewis was especially excited about skiing the bumps in the back bowls on the powder day. Aaron Schwartzbard took a day off from skiing to run up Whistler mountain to train for a 100-mile mountain run but the ski patrol thought otherwise and made him download on the gondola. Eloise Strand enjoyed her lunches on the mountain when she was able to find Mike's Hard Cranberry Lemonade! Most improved skier award went to Ivan Bekey who has not skied for several years but still has beautiful style. Nestor Delevaux' skis did not arrive for two days so he rented shaped skis and when his old straight skis did arrive he had a hard time handling them. Ray handled the ice on the mountain quite well, but was not as skilled on flat land resulting in a sprained wrist. Trip Leader Nancy learned that she skis much better with her boots buckled!

Each day we all made an effort to meet on the mountain for lunch. *Apres ski* parties were scheduled every evening with a variety of wine, cheeses, patés and other snacks prepared by Nancy. In addition, three absolutely wonderful dinners were included. My favorite was the seafood buffet at the Wildflower Restaurant at the Chateau Whistler. It included a variety of oysters, clams, mussels, salmon, tuna and other fish prepared in a variety of different ways. It was much more extensive than any seafood buffet we have ever experienced and the setting was absolutely elegant. The dinners at Araxi and la Rue were also spectacular. As Ray would say, "Not so shabby, eh?" Also "not shabby" was our lodging at *le Chamois*—a mere snowball throw from the lifts. We each had a spacious bedroom, an equally large living room, two full baths and great views from picture windows.

The day in Vancouver rounded out the trip. Everyone seemed to enjoy this very beautiful, cosmopolitan city. A couple MEN went on a shopping spree at Tilley's outdoor-wear store. Getting back to Reagan National was the biggest challenge. The baggage belt broke in Toronto, delaying our luggage which resulted in a missed flight for many members. But we all made it home safely and would give the trip an A+. Thanks Ray and Nancy for making it all happen and providing a great experience for us.



THE KNEE

by

Ray McKinley

With all of the turmoil going on in PVS (as well as in Iraq), I was directed

not to crusade and to only fill the Knee with "Sweetness and Lightness." Not much fun!

Sweet and light. Sweet and light. Other than me, I can think of nothing that is sweet and light. I know! Cotton Candy. Problem resolved, and the Knee can go (sweetly) on.

One thing that certainly wasn't sweetness and light was goings-on on our Crested Butte trip. The group, under the tutelage (or is that TOOTeledge) of David Lerner and Bob Marx was to leave on Wednesday morning (after the "sweetness and light" PVS meeting Tuesday evening) via Denver. Not! Denver was in the throws (snows?) of the worst storm in almost a century.

Nancy Lewis reports that Denver Airport received 41" and was closed for three days. Part of the roof tore off and thousands were stranded. Winter Park had 120" of snow (as in 10 feet!). Crested Butte, quite surprisingly had airports and roads open and received 0" of snow (as in zero inches—*nada*).

The first PVSers got in two days late—on Friday. Others, including Bob and Jan Marx didn't arrive until Sunday. And some didn't return until April! (This, by the way, explains why this TOOT was generously edited by our previous TOOT editor, Jessma Blockwick who kindly volunteered so that the presses could roll.)

When PVS arrived at Crested Butt—I must have meant to say—Butte, unlike any other ski area, the mountain "generously" offered them no refund (as in zero—*nada*) or compensation for the days they were snowed out. Crested Butt did let them stay extra days, as the hotels were not filled. But the price they were offered for the extra days was more than Trip Leader Dave Lerner found on the internet. In the future I would definitely avoid the sweetness and light of good old Crested Butt.

A PS to this, some snow did fall during the

PVS stay. And the skiing was "pretty good."

I saw that just before the Iraq war started, Pres Bush appointed former Pres Bill Clinton to be our Ambassador to Temptation Island.

From the Knee's Not Pointless Department Congrats to Marilyn Clark, she entered a new piece of needlepoint in the Woodlawn (who would want a wood lawn?) Needlework Contest. She won 2nd Prize. Get the point?

'Too many PVS injuries this winter, to discuss here! You can, sadly, read the details in the plethora (that's more than 2) of injury e-mails. A few, ahem, breaking developments: After breaking her ankle at Vail, Betty Lawrence was in a walking cast and cane. Two weeks later she went to Blue Knob!! She didn't ski—she moved furniture.

Last week Jessma Blockwick was on a hike with Lu Beale. The official story is that Jessma "fell" and sprained her ankle and cracked a rib. Really what happened was Lu tripped Jessma and then kicked her. Would the Knee lie to you?

The newest destination resort may well be BC's Sun Peaks. It's near Kamloops, in British Columbia Formerly Tod Mountain (Tod, meaning death in German, was a bad name!), it was bought and renamed by a Japakeese company, Kneepon Cable. They have already put \$100 million into upgrading, including a great new hotel, hired Olympic Gold Medallist Nancy Green as Director of Skiing and are starting to advertise.

On returning from Whistler, we had a delay and missed our connecting flight. Most of us stood in line to rebook. However, Eloise Strand turned over her ticket to Mike, and Eloise went shopping!

PVS Trivia: The March PVS meeting was wonderfully hosted for us by Pat Vagonis (aka Patty Wyckoff), who way overfed us on Mexican treats. The following week, Margaret Wyckoff hosted the ExCom—again with too much food. This is the first time we have ever had a Mother/Daughter consecutive hosting. OK, so it won't make Guinness!

And Finalknee, PVSers say the darndest things. A while back, Pres Reg noted "I have a memory problem, but only about things in the past."

CALENDAR

- Apr. 15 ... Monthly meeting at the Klines', p. 1**
- Apr. 17 ... Bicycling Gourmet, p. 2**
- Apr. 22 ... ExCom at the Marxes'**
- Apr. 26 ... Wine Tasting & Dinner at the Copes', p. 3**
- Apr. 27 ... Disabled Sports Fling, p. 4**
- May 17 ... Blue Ridge Ski Council meeting**
- May 20 ... Monthly meeting at the Leonhardts'**
- May 22 ... Bicycling Gourmet, p. 4**
- May 27 ... ExCom at the Abrahams'**
- May 31 ... Spring Dinner at the Colonnade, p. 4**
- June 18 ... Bicycling Gourmet, Calvert County Riviera**



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