

VOLUME XXXV *Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.* MAY 2000
 NUMBER 5 WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

Fellow PVSers:

It's the start of a new year for PVS business and I want to thank those of you who voted for me to continue in this role (or at least didn't vote against me!). It's a pleasure to be the President of such a fine group of noble souls.

Recently, Roy and Malda Elrod who were members of PVS for many, many years, located some fascinating material in their archives which they passed along to us. They found an inch-thick book of material that was painstakingly typed and photocopied (maybe mimeographed!) for new members containing club history, bylaws, membership info, ski and ski care tips, how to ski in Europe and much more. What an effort to welcome new members and get them in the mood for good skiing.

Also included in the pile of material that they unearthed was a membership list from November of 1968 when the club was only three years old. The truly unbelievable thing about that list is that 18 of those 66 people are still in the club almost 35 years later! (They're not all married to the same people, however...) Talk about a club with staying power!

New members join a venerable institution when they come to PVS. Welcome to all!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing ExComers, Bob Marx, Marty McNeill, and Jean Heitchue (who filled Jack Ragen's unfinished spot on ExCom) for the time and enthusiasm they've committed to PVS. And welcome to Sally Finan, Penny Hanshaw, and Jim Slack to the upcoming ExCom. And to everyone else: get involved!

See you at the next meeting.

MAY MEETING



When: Tuesday, May 16
Where: The Leonhardts, 606 Firehouse Lane, Gaithersburg, MD
Telephone: 301-963-8111

Directions: Take Interstate 270 North to exit 6B (West to Darnestown). Follow Route 28 West making no turns for 5.2 miles (as measured from bottom of 270 exit ramp). At signal at Tscheffely Square Rd, turn right into the main Kentlands entrance. At 3rd stop sign, turn right on Leekes Lot Way and then an immediate right on Firehouse Ln to #606 (7th house on right). Carpooling is recommended.



TOUR BROOKSIDE GARDENS MAY 8, 10:30 A.M.

Our tour of the 50-acre garden will show tropical plants such as bananas and orchids in the Conservatories. Outside gardens include Rose, Formal, Fragrance, Japanese, and Trial. We can also tour the new Visitors Center where annual flower shows are held.

We will meet in front of the Conservatories, and tour the Gardens. Participants should bring their lunch for eating with the group at the Nature Center Picnic area adjacent to Brookside Gardens. Food or drink is not permitted in the gardens. Interested PVSers should contact Rachel Abraham (301) 530-7612 or E-mail rhabraham@aol.com to let her know your coming. Admission is free, however, Rachel will get us a guide to explain the plants, and she would like us to drop a small donation in the contribution box at the end of the tour.

Directions:

From I-495, the capital beltway, take exit 31A (north on Georgia Ave./Rt. 97) toward Wheaton. Drive three miles north on Georgia Ave. to Randolph Road and turn right. At the second traffic light, turn right onto Glenallan Ave. and continue past the Visitors Center 3/8 mile on your right, and turn right 1/2 mile on your right at 1500 Glenallan Ave. into the Conservatories.



ECLIPSE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CONCERT MAY 14, 3pm, BARDLEY HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Bethesda

Join your fellow PVSers for this season's finale by this renowned orchestra. Eclipse, labeled by the Washington Post as "outright extraordinary" will play a varied program by Rossini, Faure, Weber and Bethoven's beloved violin concerto, played by the group's concert mistress, Elizabeth Adkins, of NSO fame.

It's bound to be a great experience, topped by a post-concert reception and get-together with the orchestra's founder, music director and conductor, Sylvia Almena, and her talented musicians. All this, with special PVS reserved seating for, yes, it's not a typo, \$ 10 for seniors and \$ 16 for the young set, payable at the door. **Reservations are required**, so call David or Rachel Abraham at 301 657-3070, and tell them you're coming (for those who have sent their checks, tickets will be at the door)

We'll conclude this spring outing with a visit to the Eastern Empire Buffet-Restaurant, located a short driving distance from the concert venue (directions at the concert), where a spread of some 150 items, all you can eat, awaits us.

Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church is located at 6601 Bradley Boulevard in Bethesda, about half way between River Road and Wisconsin Avenue. **Don't miss this opportunity for a great get-together, a wonderful concert in an intimate setting, and...you know what else!**

Tuesday, May 30 - Hiking and History

The 2-mile hike winds through Leesylvania State Park in Woodbridge, VA, passing ruins of the original Lee family home. There is also a site and a colorful account of a Civil War land versus river battle.

We will meet at 11 a.m. in front of the general store facing the river near the boat ramps, hike and then have a picnic lunch. There are additional trails for those who want more.

Take 95 South to the Dale City Exit. Take first right--and here you will see the first large sign to Leesylvania Park. Two more rights at stop lights, then one left onto Neabsco Road to the Park. There are park signs at each turn.

Let Jessma Blockwick know (703-356-0717) if you are coming, and we can put together car pools. Event is cancelled in case of rain. Call Jessma if weather is questionable.



HIKE--JOG--WALK AROUND LAKE ACCOTINK PARK

Saturday, June 10, 2000, 9:30 a.m. We'll start around the lake from 5256 Lonsdale Drive, Springfield, VA 22151.

Light refreshments will follow the hike at the home of Marty Rine. Charge \$3. Let Marty know if you are coming. Tel: 703-978-0179. Also call her if the weather seems questionable.

Directions to Marty's home: Take I-495 to Exit 5 west onto Braddock Road. Go through light at Queensberry (across from Wakefield Park), get into the left lane, go through 2nd light at Wakefield Chapel Road. Take immediate next left (no light) onto Danbury Forest Drive. Take first left turn onto Lonsdale Drive. 5256 is end unit in 3rd section of townhouses. Plenty of parallel parking available.



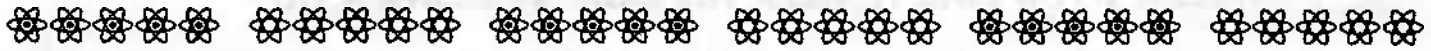
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EXCOM

First Term:
 Sally Finan
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 Jim Slack

Second Term:
 Don Dillon
 Sheldon Drews
 Charlotte Kline



August 12 - 26, 2000, join Nancy & Ray McKinley

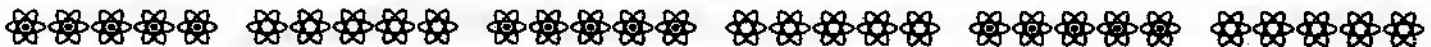
Ski and See in Argentina

Only 2 Spaces Left. Act Now!

The grandeur of Argentina's Patagonia, the Old World beauty and tango passion of Buenos Aires, and to top it all off -- great skiing! Seven days, six nights in Argentina's world-class 5,000 acre, ski resort, Bariloche. In addition to the superb skiing, you can take lake trips, tour and shop in Bariloche, and feast on the sights of Patagonia and one of the world's foremost parks. Truly something for everyone. It also includes 4 days, 3 nights in South America's most cosmopolitan, spectacular city, the Paris of the Western Hemisphere, Buenos Aires. We include **all lodging in 5 Star hotels**, daily breakfasts, 3 dinners in Bariloche, 2 dinners and a multicourse lunch in Buenos Aires, airfare from Washington DC, all transfers, happy hours most evenings, pre and post trip parties, and **three eye-opening tours in Buenos Aires**. Our 10 day package begins August 12th-and is only \$2,673 pp double. Not included are remaining meals and ski lift tickets. (\$20-25 per day)

We also offer a spectacular 3-day add-on. This will include a **day trip to picturesque Uruguay**, and a fourth night in exciting Buenos Aires. We then fly (on full-size jet aircraft), to **one of the seven natural wonders of the world, Iguazu Falls** a mile long and 10 times the flow of Niagara, dropping into foaming rainbows. We include 2 nights at the 5 Star *Internacional* with falls-view rooms, all transfers, all breakfasts, one dinner and one lunch. The cost is \$586. Our return is on August 26. We highly recommend the add-on.

We have lots more information. Call us at 703-527-7126 for more, or for a copy of our flyer.



SKI TRIPS!!!

Yes, it's time to be giving thought to next winter's trips.

The following trips have been approved by ExCom for next winter:

Jan. 22-29, 2001	Steamboat	Barbara Leonhardt
Feb. 10 - 17, 2001	Canyons Utah	Nancy & Ray McKinley
Mar. 2001	Telluride	Don Dillon
(7- day trip between Mar. 4 - 14, dates to be confirmed)		



WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO HELP THE CLUB BY BEING A TRIP LEADER? TRAINING AND MENTORING WILL BE AVAILABLE. CALL SERGE TRIAU (301-840-1128) FOR INFORMATION ON THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY.



NOTES FROM EXCOM;

===ExCom reaffirmed the requirement that applicant members must attend three monthly meetings in order to become full PVS members. Sponsors are urged to introduce the applicants to club members at meetings and events.

===There has been word of viruses being spread through PVS E-mail. Jim Slack instructs us not to open any message which has "exe" in the title.

PVS Wine Tasting and Dinner.Held on April 1, 2000. And That's No Joke!

The day was graced with sunshine as 22 PVSers happily journeyed by car-pool to "Lake of the Woods" in Virginia to the beautiful lake-front home of Pat and Don Cope - a place of character and exceptional charm.

Several history buffs sniffed out points of interest in Fredericksburg to visit en-route: The Rising Sun Tavern and the home of George Washington's mother.

Upon arrival at the lake, we were shown to our comfortable lodgings by PVSers Dorie and John Waddick. After settling in, we met at the Copes and enjoyed the tranquil view of the lake from the deck - sighting mallard ducks and woodpeckers plus many gorgeous flora and fauna. We enjoyed a trip to Don's wine cellar to view an outstanding collection of wine, chosen to compliment any meal or occasion.

A feast then commenced with canapés and salad enhanced by Don's selection of superb wine. The delectable courses and wines produced the smacking of lips and happy "Um-m that's good". With special frosting on the cake - dessert being Stilton w/pears, viands that words cannot adequately describe. Fine chocolates disappeared like ice on a dike in summer - so pleasing we forgot counting calories.

Sunday AM (April 2). Some PVSers headed back to their homes up north while others tarried for a succulent brunch buffet at the club house.

Many thank yous to Pat and Don to make this PVS event so memorable!!

.....Carol Bridgers



GOURMET BIKE RIDE

The weatherman smiled on the Bicycling Gourmet bike ride and sent us beautiful weather and gave us a bumper crop of more than 20 riders. Among them were 7 PVSers, including leader Shirley Rettig, Marvin Hass, Betty Byrne, Ruth Powers, Jan Marx, Barbara Leonhardt, and applicant member Mike Hatanaka.

Most riders made the 25-mile round trip to Mt.Vernon, but a few gardening enthusiasts stopped at the half-way mark, to visit the gardens at the American Horticultural Society.

On the return trip we stopped at the Food Pavilion at the dock in Old Town for lunch. It was a great ride, and thanks to Marvin Hass for making arrangements and getting us parking permits for the Sailing Marina parking lot, ensuring that our cars were still there when we returned!

.....Shirley Rettig

FOR THE THIRD YEAR!!!

Charlotte and Jim Kline hosted PVS for its annual business meeting. Members cheered when they were reminded of this. Then immediately plunged into eating baked brie, cheeses, veggies, meat balls, artichoke dip--and this was only the first course! Jim was busily grilling hamburgers and hot dogs, which were then served with salad, cole slaw, pasta, potato salad.

At last President Nancy McKinley managed to corral people for the business meeting, which elected the slate of officers as presented. (See elsewhere for a listing of the new ExCom) The following people were welcomed into full membership:

- Walter Brenner
- David Lerner
- Martha Rine
- Eugene and Wilma Sharer
- Barbara and Jonathan Wilson

This was the last night for adding items to the Time Capsule and a number of interesting items were placed therein: Jan Marx brought T-shirt and PVS hat and some pictures; Jessma Blockwick added the PVS songs and a 25th anniversary cup; Dina Taylor had a picture of the first PVS whitewater rafting trip. Aina Thomas added a treasure trove of items, among them a silver-plated cup awarded to PVS at a Ski0Rec, a 1968 "Skier" magazine which featured PVS as the ski club of the month. A rumor circulated to the effect that Bob McNeill is going to bury the capsule on top of Ski Liberty, but George Hicho said he was taking it to the Bureau of Standards for the sealing.

It being an evening of cheers, huzzas were sounded for Marvin Hass for his creating the PVS Web site. More hearty thanks to the Klins, and everyone departed full of delicious food and fun conversations and assurance that another successful year had been added to PVS history.



ICE SKATING

Did we select the wrong date for the PVS ice skaters to get together to view and skate at the beautiful new Cabin John ice skating complex located behind Montgomery Mall? Only six skaters showed up, but skate they did for two hours, after which they adjourned to the Corner Bakery adjacent to the Mall for lunch. The Corner Bakery is a very nice cafe for dining either inside or outside, with a menu of soups, salads, sandwiches, Italian foods, and all kinds of scrumptious pastries and desserts. Highly recommended for the next time you are shopping at the mall. A good time was had by all who attended!

.....Helen Price



THE KNEE

by
Ray McKinley

"Tis May, tis May the lusty month of May," sang (sort of) Richard Burton in the play Camelot. This May there's not a lot of lusty news for you, but there's lots of it.

Let me be the first one to wish you a Happy New Year for 2001. (And, I bet I am!)

Here is a sad Tale of the Tail. Mary Ward, returning from a business trip to Australia, took a couple of days to ski at Mt. Bachelor. Sadly, she tried snowboarding, fell and broke her tail bone. She is now up and walking, albeit still a bit gingerly.

Mary, it could have been much worse if Jim Arnold's proposal was enacted. Jim is no fan of snowboarders. So he is trying to start a new Alpine Biathlon program. Special lift tickets include a rifle and a point system dependent on the vulgarity of the snowboarder. Jim is still refining the details.

If you missed John Newdorp's great 90th Birthday, you really missed it. Many of the true luminaries of organized skiing in DC were there--some from SCWDC. As readers know, that stands for Some Club in Wilmington, Delaware C. We learned that John was President of SCWDC in 1962. Also attending was Gorman Young who was SCWDC President in 1951 (when he was 15!)

Occasionally I forget what I've written in this column. Could it be amnesia?

Let's talk about the season's latest skiers. Let's talk about the Knee. On a business trip to Denver, I skied lovely packed powder at Keystone on April 9. (As you may recall, that morning DC awoke to a dusting of powder.) That was two days after Nancy Lewis skied at A-Basin. Anyone later?

Bad News: Downloading at Keystone late in the day, I counted those going up: 23 on skis, and 30 on snowboards. Ouch!

More ski news from my 2 weeks there. By 2010, 2 of 3 jobs at ski resorts will be unfilled. The Colorado Supreme Court said skiing recklessly is criminal. A speeding Vail skier crashed into another skier, killing him. The defense: not guilty,

reckless skiing isn't in the statutes. The court said otherwise. Right on. Copper Mt. and Winter Park are offering a joint season pass. You could buy next year's for a mere \$349, but only during April. A-Basin, Breckenridge and Keystone trumped them. They offered a joint, 2001 season pass for only \$299--and it includes 10 days skiing at Vail! Easterners get ripped off. In season, at the ticket booth, a 5 day Vail lift ticket is \$302.

Because of this (??), Maryse DeLevaux has just sold her DC home and is moving to Denver.

A report on the PVS wounded. Both John Matthews and Bob McNeill are doing "Super." Indeed, (and in fact) Bob is walking a mile a day. And John Smith was at the Annual Meeting at Jim and Charlotte Kline's eating "real" food. John (di)jested, "Sure beats three weeks on a diet of ice cream and scotch." Cheers!

Bill Anderson refers to this column as Aunt Blabby! I'm blabbing to everyone that I resent that.

Now that ski season is over--except for Ski Liberty, where the conditions are normal (i.e. mud)-PVS is traveling. Back from Paris is Betty Lawrence who watched her daughter's first ever marathon--in a not too shabby 4h 7m! Mike and Trudy Santoro just back from China, with a kneet photo, on our web-site, of Trudy on the Great Wall.

Back from Russia, where he was an observer at their elections, is Bob Knopes. Bob, incidentally, is in the midst of a licit relationship with Adele Waggaman. They are in-laws. And Serge and Liz Triau are off to Arizona, where they plan to visit Sue Walsh and Irene and Jack Ragen.

Really ubiquitous PVS: Recently, the Knee was on a business trip on the same plane with John Waddick. Also that day I saw Howard Hensley having an outdoor lunch and getting ready for a 3 week business trip--to Macedonia. Earlier, at my dentists', I met June Reid as we both contributed to his children's college fund! 3 meetings in one day!

At the ExCom meeting at Sheldon Drews', Serge Triau was discussing the difficulty of lengthy discussions. After five minutes, intoned Serge, some start to doze off. Shortly thereafter, as Serge continued to talk, Glade Flake fell asleep! It's true.

CALENDAR

- May 6 ... Disabled Sports Spring Fling, p. 3
- May 8 ... Tour of Brookside Gardens, p. 2
- May 14 ... Eclipse Concert and dinner, p. 2
- May 16 ... Monthly meeting at the Leonhardts', p. 1
- May 18 ... Midweek Bike Ride, Middleburg, p. 3
- May 23 ... ExCom at the Marxes'
- May 27 ... Annual Spring Dinner, p. 3
- May 30 ... Hike in Leesylvania Park, p. 4
- June 10 ... Hike around Lake Accotink, p. 4.
- June 20 ... Monthly meeting at Betty Lawrence's
- June 22 ... Midweek Bike Ride
- July 20 ... Midweek Bike Ride
- July 28 ... Golf at Leisure World
- Nov. 4 ... 35th Anniversary Dinner

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