



VOLUME XXXX
NUMBER 5

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

MAY 2004

Fellow PVSers:

For those of you who missed the Annual Meeting so graciously hosted by Barbara and Fred Leonhardt, please welcome Marilyn Clark and Dave DeVilbiss as new members, and Mike Strand as a continuing member of PVS's Executive Committee. David Abraham will continue as Vice President and yours truly will continue as President.

I wish to thank outgoing ExCom members John Smith and Barbara Leonhardt for their service, and acknowledge the ongoing service of the following individuals whose collective efforts make PVS a great club:

- David Abraham; VP and Program Planning Committee Chair
- Jessma Blockwick; Midweek Activities Chair
- John Brunelli; member Executive Committee
- Ray Jones; Treasurer
- Bob Marx; Ski Trip Committee Chair
- Jan Marx; Toot Editor
- Ray McKinley; Program Chair and member Executive Committee
- Wilma Sharer; Membership Chair
- Mike Strand; member Executive Committee and By-laws Revision Committee Chair
- Dottie Villers; Secretary and member Executive Committee

The Program Planning Committee has been very active and has planned a variety of summer activities. These include a summer ski trip to Portillo, a chamber orchestra concert, several biking trips, a likely visit to the new Air & Space Museum at Chantilly with a guided tour of this giant facility, and more. You will note an announcement by the Program Planning Committee in this Toot to the effect that some more doers would be welcomed on this committee.

Reg

Editor's note: Please note urgent deadlines and "happening-real-soon" events.

- 1- Ski trip to Chile in Aug. NOW is the time to sign up. Act immediately. NOTE Deadline
- 2- Chamber orchestra - May 9 See inside for details OR call David. Tickets still available.
- 3 -Meadowlark Gardens hike - May 11
- 4 -Radio City Music Hall in Nov. Sharer's need to know now. Family and friends welcome.

MONTHLY MEETING

At the

Vagonis'

May 18 at 7:30 PM
11925 Ledger Rock Ct.
Potomac, MD
301 - 838 - 5545

Directions to Vagonis'

11925 Ledgerrock Court

301-838-5545

From Virginia - From 495 N., take River Road exit towards Potomac. Proceed 3 miles turn right at light onto Falls Road. Go another 2.3 miles and turn Left onto *(see almost there...)*

From Silver Spring - From 495 N, bear right towards 270 N. Take 1st exit and turn right onto Old Georgetown Road. Make left at next light onto Tuckerman Lane, proceed 3.7 miles. Turn left at light onto Falls road, proceed 0.3 mi, turn right onto *(see almost there...)*

From Gaithersburg - From 270 S. take Falls Road exit towards Potomac. Proceed 2.3 miles and turn right onto *(see almost there...)*

...Almost there: Glen Road (not S.Glen Rd), go another 0.7 mi. and turn right onto Gregerscroft. Make 3rd right onto Ledgerrock Ct. We're towards the end of the court on the right.

PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE **SEEKING MEMBERS**

This **ad hoc committee**, now about a year old, has struggled to implement as many of the membership's survey-reported new activities as possible. We've fallen short though, due to an insufficient number of activists with the time and ability to champion some of these possible events. While there's work going on presently, and one exciting new event is being announced in this issue of Toot, we want to increase our activism and bring you many more opportunities for collective enjoyment.

To make this goal reality, we need your help. After all, this is a club run by volunteers, and we just need a few more who are willing to be proactive, keen and ready to make things happen for the members' benefit. **This does not require a large time commitment**; we only hold very few meetings, and it's lots of fun when you've got a great event to announce and conduct, earning the one and only reward, the gratitude of your friends.

A call (**301 530-7612**) or an email (dg3abraham@earthlink.net) will be much appreciated.

David G. Abraham
Chairman

ECLIPSE CONCERT

ECLIPSE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA SEASON FINALE

May 9, 3pm, at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church,
6601 Bradley Blvd in Bethesda. Sylvia Alimena, will perform an "as you like it"
concert, favorites chosen by the loyal audience and with some special surprises for all
kinds of tastes. A reception follows the concert.

We will have specially reserved seats, and the price of admission
is a special \$ 15per person, payable by cash or check at the door.
Please let David Abraham know (dg3abraham@earthlink.net or 301 530-7612)
so that a seat may be held for you.

CONTACT WILMA SHARER

Radio City Christmas Spectacular

Saturday, November 13, 2004



Eyre Tour and Travel
Radio City Christmas Spectacular

America's most beloved holiday theatrical, The Radio City Christmas Spectacular, starring the Rockets, returns to Radio City Music Hall featuring new elements as well as traditional favorites, such as "The Parade of the Wooden Soldiers" and "The Living Nativity".

Your trip includes:

- Deluxe Eyre Motor coach transportation—departing 7:00 AM—arriving Radio City Music Hall ~ 11:30 AM
Bus departure at or near the Beltway
- Ticket to the show—Orchestra—1:00 PM to 2:30 PM
- 2:30—5:00 PM Time to sight see or shop
- Bus will leave Radio City Music Hall at 5:00 PM
- Dinner at Tuto Bene Italian Restaurant—5:30 PM

Ticket Prices

\$165 per person—\$82.50 Due by June 1, 2004; \$82.50 due by September 1, 2004

Limited tickets available—purchase your tickets early! Reservations taken now! Invite your friends and family!

CONTACT WILMA SHARER

12404 Beall Spring Road
Potomac, MD 20854

Phone: 301-975-9411
Fax: 301-963-3226
Email: wilma@sharerassociates.com

 Potomac Valley Skiers



BICYCLING GOURMET

Calvert County Riviera

Thursday May 27, 2004 11:00 AM

Starting Point: Chesapeake Beach, MD



Starting Point: Chesapeake Beach, MD X 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 you to turn left on 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 & N 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 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 & N 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 & N Reel) and which is open from 1-4 PM (free admission).

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 Chrysler minivan. Route starts out flat and then becomes rolling after a few miles.

Next ride: Sunday, June 20. Hunt Country Starting point: The Plains, Virginia

LET'S VISIT SPRING FLOWERS!

>You're invited to visit the beautiful Meadowlark Botannical Gardens in Vienna, Virginia on Tuesday, May 11.

>We'll meet at the Gardens at 11 a.m. to walk through flower plantings, around lakes, and/or through woods.

>Call Jessma Blockwick (703-356-0717) for more information and carpooling arrangements.

>Bring: a picnic lunch for after the hiking.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

THE ANNUAL PVS SPRING DINNER

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2004, 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 Dottie Villers at 703-620-6402 or e-mail Dottie at dvillers@erols.com. Please make your reservation by May 20th.

Golf Outing.

We will have the PVS golf outing on Thursday, June 10, 2004, at Raspberry Falls Golf and Hunt Club, near Leesburg, VA. The entrance to Raspberry Falls is directly across Route US 15 from the Virginia side of the entrance to White's Ferry Potomac River Crossing.

For more information on Raspberry Falls, go to: <http://www.raspberryfalls.com/>

We will meet between 11 AM and 11:30 AM for lunch in the grill at the club house. Our tee times start at approximately 12:30 PM. Range balls are included in the fees, and Raspberry Falls is a walking optional course, although carts are recommended, as the course is fairly hilly.

Questions or additional information, contact Ray Jones 703 425 5839 or 703 425 4742;
e-mail: wrjones@cox.net

Put On Your Calendar:

Picnic With Kirk and Peggy at Lake Barcroft

Saturday, June 26 at the Burns' home on Lake Barcroft in Annandale.
Pot Luck. Come anytime after 11:00 AM. Picnickers will eat about 3:00 PM.

Enjoy: Boating, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, and good company.

Bring: Your dish to share, swimming gear, canoe, kayak, other water toys.

A nominal fee will be charged for drinks, plates and plastic ware.

To sign up, call Kirk or Peggy at 703 - 256 - 4443

ANNUAL MEETING

at the Leonhardt's

Boy, it was good to see everyone! We may have managed only a glimpse and a wave to some of our friends. Even with the party-flow design of the house, the 73 in attendance found themselves ebbing and flowing and sometimes missing a friend or two. Our farthest-traveled member was Charlie Gordon from Texas. A little closer were Dave Leonard from Cleveland and, Dina Taylor from Frederick. We were glad to see the McNeills, Bob walking nicely after surgery. Barbara had a wonderful selection of hot and cold "snacks" throughout the house and back deck. Yea, good weather!

Voting for the next round of ExCom members went smoothly as people brought their sealed and signed envelopes to be added to those previously mailed. The counting committee announced the results (see list elsewhere). Mike Strand presented the bylaw changes, guided the discussion, and voting ensued. All proposed changes passed. Wilma passed out ballots listing the eligible applicant members and the following are now full voting members; we welcome them:

Ivan Bekey

Marlene Bekey

Melissa FitzGerald

Richard Laeser

Sandra Laeser

Jacqueline Rosen

Maryann Rozzell

Upcoming events were mentioned as well as a glimpse of next year's ski trips. David described the ski trip to Chile in August and showed a short video about the fantastic resort.

Thank you Barb for your gracious hospitality for our biggest meeting of the year.

Snowmass/Beaver Creek

January 20 – 27, 2005

PVS is again headed to Snowmass and the Mountain Chalet with an optional extension to Beaver Creek. We fly on United Airlines directly into and out of Aspen where the Chalet representative(s) will meet us. For those wishing to go on to Beaver Creek, we travel by motor coach and stay at the Beaver Creek Lodge for another three days skiing, returning to Dulles Airport from Eagle on January 31, 2005. Pricing is being put together and will be available in a couple of weeks. For additional information or send a \$250 deposit to Gene or Wilma Sharer. 12404 Beall Spring Rd. Potomac, MD 20854. 301-975-9411.

February 12-19, 2005, join Nancy and Ray McKinley to Ski



Sun Peaks



We continue to look for places that PVS will love and haven't been to a dozen times. We've found a true gem, Sun Peaks, Canada--known for its sun. **Yes, the sun shines at Sun Peaks.** They boast of more sunny hours than any resort in North America! And 220" of snow and an **average mid-winter temperature of 20 to 25 degrees F.** All levels of ability. Sun Peaks is a pedestrian only village, so everything is easy to access.

Access is a piece of cake! We fly from Reagan National on Alaska Air non-stop to Seattle, leaving at a civilized 9 am. A brief layover to switch flights gets us to Kamloops, and to the resort, by 2:30 pm. Wow! We are looking at several luxury ski in/ski out hotels. Also **3 dinners, happy hours, pre & post trip parties, bus & bellman tips, etc.**

Sun Peaks has 3678 acres, a vertical of 2,891 feet, 87 runs, 10 lifts including 3 high speed quads and a charming, Tyrolean-style car free village that twinkles under the alpine starlight. Sun Peaks skis like Whistler. It's huge! But, unlike Whistler, it has **no coastal rain or fog!** And great restaurants are everywhere. For non-skiers, there is oodles to do including: sleigh rides, gallery hopping, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, back country snow cat adventures, 30 mi Nordic skiing, a new tube park, sports center, and dog sledding. **Price \$1,825-\$1,900.**

This year due to air schedules we have only 28 spaces. To reserve, send your check for \$250 per person payable to Ray McKinley (refundable through July when prices will be firm) and send it to McKinley's, 2326 N Upton Street, Arlington, VA 22207-4045. Please call us for lots more information at (703) 527-7126.

PVS Goes to Mammoth

March 19 – 26, 2005

Want the maximum skiing and greatest **VALUE** trip of the 2005 ski season? Join **Marty and Jan** as they lead PVS on its first-ever trip to Mammoth Mountain, CA – estimated cost is a bargain **\$1,300!** (Less than \$1,000 if you want the "land only" package!) The trip will fly in and out of **Reno, NV** via United Airlines and use motor coach to/from Mammoth. (Our four flight segments will get you 1/2 of the way to a free domestic round trip adventure---or further – check www.united.com/goaroundtheworld)

We will spend 6 nights (Saturday – Thursday) at the Shilo Inn on Main St in Mammoth Lakes, CA. We will ski (Wheeeeeeeee) Sunday through Friday on the expansive slopes at Mammoth. Lots for all skiing abilities. All transportation, baggage transfers, breakfast, lift tickets and gratuities included. We will have a "Welcome" wine and cheese party, two group dinners, and 3 Apres Ski parties. We will spend the final Friday night in Reno where you can try your hand (and your luck) at the gaming tables. (Or take in dinner and a show.) Send \$100 deposit (fully refundable until August 1st), payable to **PVS Mammoth 2005**, to Marty Rine, 5256 Lonsdale Ct, Springfield, VA 22151. **.Questions???** Call Marty at 703 - 978 - 0179 martyski@erols.com. OR Jan 703 - 451 - 9158

Meribel, France

March 4 – 13, 2005

The BRSC will be discussing the effect of the rapidly changing exchange rate on the Meribel trip at it's meeting on May 15th. More details will follow in the June Toot. Dave Lerner 703 – 281 - 6923



THE KNEE

By Ray McKinley

May, taxes done, skiing done for the year--Unless you're going with David

Abraham to Portillo! The world is abloom with the glorious colors of spring. Yet the Knee must discuss tough reality--the possible impeachment of President Reg Heitchue, and, perhaps more important, Fred Leonhardt's toilet. *Que pasa?*

I'll save the most important item for last, so we'll start with impeachment. This is a subject that's much more "in" than it was a few years ago. AnKneeway, at the end of the Annual Meeting, ex-President Serge Triau made a presentation to Reg--the PVS time capsule. It's a *faux* plastic--but really metal--box, looking a bit like your standard *faux* plastic--but really metal boot bag. It has been hermetically sealed (actually it was hismetically sealed) by Dr. George Hicho, a Ph.D. metallurgist who sealed our time capsule with scotch tape. But I go astray.

Impeachment is the subject. Serge had Reg pledge his troth to protect our time capsule until it was opened in 2020 (what a vision) or until the Ski Liberty glacier melts. Reg's troth was all he was willing to pledge. Later, Serge asked where is our *faux* plastic--but really metal time capsule? It was gone. Serge, and a chorus of PVSers (all right it was a chorus of two) started the impeachment chant. "Impeach Reg! Impeach Reg, he broke his troth" could be heard from every corner (well 2 corners). When the Heitchues left the meeting, there was still no *faux* plastic--but really metal time capsule. The constitutional crisis was avoided when a ransom note was found. Janet and Bob Marx, paid the ransom (something about "firstborn") and our *faux* plastic--but really metal time capsule was found safe, where it had been hidden, in the Leonhardts' laundry. PVS remains whole! Reg can be re-trothed. Whew.

A tip of the 'ol Knee Cap goes to Jessma Blockwick. Having written on women's issues for years, octogenarian Jessma was out marching with $\frac{3}{4}$ million of her friends at the recent women's rights rally here in DC. Right on!

We were all horrified to learn of Jim Slack's stroke. And we are all thankful that he now seems headed towards a complete recovery. Also PVS's best to caregiver Mary Ward. Horse woman Mary was never a neigh sayer.

On a recent Sunday, the Washington Post Sports section devoted 3 columns and a photo to college tennis superstar Mike Farrell. Seems that Mike, after retiring as a Maryland firefighter, taught himself tennis at age 41. He started college 5 years later and joined the Shepherd College tennis team. Since then health food addict Mike's career record is 146-33! Finishing 4 years at age 50 Mike Farrell has helped shepherd Shepherd College to its first two berths in the NCAA finals. Sound like a PVS tale? No wonder - Mike is the son of PVSer and former club Secretary, Irene Farrell Ragen. It's a deuce of a story about a man in the good racquets. I "love" it.

A third generation PVS? A tip of the ol' Knee Cap to Pat Vagonis (also known to many as Patty Wyckoff). Last year at this time, Pat was expecting. I'm still not certain what she was expecting, but she is over it. She will now host our May meeting.

And now the tail of Fred Leonhardt's toilet. The Knee had heard of this wondrous contraption. At the April meeting Fred was finally cajoled to provide a private tour. This toilet, built by a Japakneese company, TOYO, is something else. As Dave Barry says, I am not making this up. How do I explain how it works at the PG level? The system is toilet-paperless. Let's assume you are a woman (a rash assumption for half of our members). You sit on the toilet, and do your thing (so to speak). Via remote control, you tell it if you did a number 1 or 2. Thereafter, under you, a gizmo (a technical term) comes out, sprays warm water on the proper area of your anatomy and then dries the area by blowing warm air while playing, "The answer is blowing in the wind." You select the air and water temperature (Careful--not too hot). And *voila* you have done your thing. Obviously the system can also be used for... Even the Knee won't add the final thought. You can supply your own non-PG ideas!

There's much more to tell you. 'Til June.

CALENDAR:

- May 9...Eclipse Chamber Orchestra, Bradley Hills Presb Church,
"As You Like It" audience requested music
- May 11...Meadowlark Gardens walk, Reston, VA with Jessma
- May 18...Monthly Meeting at the Vagonis'
- May 25...ExCom Meeting at the Marxes
- May 27...Bicycling Gourmet. Calvert County Riviera
- June 5...Annual Spring Dinner at the Colonnade
- June 10...Golf Outing with Ray Jones at Raspberry Falls Golf and Hunt Club in Leesburg
- June 15...Monthly Meeting at the Sharer's
- June 20...Bicycling Gourmet, Sunday, Hunt Country
- June 22...ExCom at Dottie Villers,
- June 26...Picnic at Lake Barcroft with the Burns'
- July 10...All Trips Party at the Heitchue's
- July 18..."Copenhagen" at the Olney Theater

E-mail Notice

If you want to start receiving Toot electronically, please let me know.

Thanks, Jan = jebbmarx@aol.com.

Marilyn Clark
8953 Falling Creek Court
Annandale, VA 22003-4108

**A MIDSUMMER SKIING TRIP – THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME
PORTILLO, CHILE
AUGUST 6 to AUGUST 15, 2004 (8-16 with option)**

This truly exceptional ski trip represents a package which includes just about everything, and all at a fabulous price. Portillo, Chile, is South America's premier self-contained ski resort with 800 acres inbounds area with additional wide-open bowls and chutes beyond the resort border. Last year Portillo was hammered with more than 450 inches of snow; the average is 240".

Hotel Portillo is located on the edge of the haunting green Lake of the Incas which, together with the towering Andes, provides an unparalleled setting for skiers. The hotel itself is a haven for up to 500 guests, and incorporates every modern amenity which only the best can provide. From a main dining room serving 4 sumptuous meals daily to a sauna and massage room, a game room, a discotheque, a beauty salon, heated outdoor pool, gymnasium – aerobics/Yoga room, ski shop and a cinema, a clinic with two physicians and two nurses on duty at all times, and there's still more. A cybercafe, equipped with high-speed Internet access is available at nominal charge. The hotel is located about a 2 ½ hours bus ride from the Santiago airport.

What's all Included? Round trip air with a very convenient schedule on Delta from either BWI, IAD or DCA with Friday evening departures, airport transfers, seven nights lodging at the Hotel Portillo in valley rooms, double occupancy, four meals daily, including après ski tea, unlimited 8-day ski pass, complimentary use of all facilities including pool, fitness center, aerobic and yoga classes, cinema, game room, and still more. A Chilean wine festival and ski race are also included. Chilean airport departure tax is not. Notably, this 8-day skiing adventure entails only 5 working days.

What's the Price? For all this the package price is an extremely reasonable \$ 2,495 per person. Without airfare and transfers the deduct is \$ 845, and a highly recommended optional overnight at the Santiago Hotel Plaza San Francisco (5-star) with breakfast and next day transfer to the airport (for those who want to get a close-up view of Santiago), the add-on is a mere \$119.

A deposit of \$ 500 is required by May 3, a \$ 1,000 payment by May 15, and the balance by June 15. Cancellations will require charges of \$250 if made 91 days prior to departure, \$ 500 if 61 to 90 days prior, and full forfeiture if less than 60 days prior to departure. Travel insurance is available at rates from \$ 90 to \$ 180, depending on traveler's age.

Questions and Reservations: Call David G. Abraham at 301 530-7612 or dg3abraham@earthlink.net. Send in your deposits with the reservations and disclaimer form. FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED, space is limited

FINE PRINT

Partial or full payment for a reservation on this Chile trip shall constitute consent to all provisions stated herein.

PVS, its officers, its representatives, its agents or its members shall not be responsible for personal injuries, property damage, or loss, delay, or the change of itinerary to any person or trip participant which arises out of the action of any air carrier, hotel, or other persons rendering any services, accommodations and transportation arrangements being offered, or by reason of any circumstance.

PVS designated Trip Leaders, should circumstances demand, have the right to substitute hotels of similar or better category and to change transportation schedules. In the event of such changes, no refund or credit will be provided if accommodations, services, and transportation arrangements are of comparable or better quality or standards to those which were to be provided and are during the same approximate period. Any such change shall not modify the cancellation provisions of the Trip Agreement. No credit will be allowed or refund given for any service included as part of the trip and not used by individual participants unless agreed to by the Trip Leaders in advance. If the trip is cancelled for any reason whatsoever, PVS shall only be responsible to make a maximum effort to obtain the refund of all payments previously made for the trip from the person to whom the payment was made and there shall not be any further obligation on the part of PVS, its officers, its representatives, its agents or its members. Trip participants on this PVS sanctioned trip shall ski at their own risk and therefore PVS, its officers, its Board of Directors or its members, and Sportours, the wholesaler, shall not be responsible for any personal injury, property damage or injuries to others by a participant on a PVS sanctioned trip.

In the event that an odd number sign up for the trip, the last single to submit a deposit will be asked to assist in finding a roommate or to pay the single supplement.

Name(s) _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Roommate Pref: _____ e-mail _____ Phones (H) _____

Check all that apply: Air _____ Land _____ Santiago Add On _____ Single _____

Supplement _____ Trip Insurance _____ Departure/Return Airport:
BWI _____ DCA _____ IAD _____ Other (poss. Extra charge) _____

I have read the FINE PRINT. Signatures (If couple, both must sign)

x _____ x _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT(NAME AND Tel No.: _____