



# T O O T



Volume XLI No. 10

*Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc*

October, 2005

WASHINGTON

MARYLAND

VIRGINIA

[www.potomacvalleyskiers.org](http://www.potomacvalleyskiers.org)

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## President's Message

Dear PVSers

Another month has passed, fall has slipped in, and, indeed, the cool weather of the last few days presages the season we all love, and hate. While no one looks forward to pushing the white stuff off our walkways and driveways, we love it when it's plentifully present on them mountains that we hold dear and admire always anew. We have so many great trip choices for this upcoming season that unless it's possible to take all or at least a few, it's really hard to make the choice.

That brings me to an oft-repeated subject: the expression of thanks and appreciation to our many volunteers, prominently our devoted and capable trip leaders. I frequently wonder whether trip participants really know what's involved in getting a PVS ski trip with all its nuances put together, publicized, organized with all the incipient record-keeping, money managing, and finally leading on and off the slopes? I didn't even mention the traditional pre- and post-trip parties, responding to numerous requests for customization, the creation of options for participants with special needs, and not to belittle the almost daily après-ski get-togethers with their gastronomic embellishments. It's a tough job, to be sure, and for the most part, it's a labor of love with its greatest reward the appreciation and admiration we, the beneficiaries, express and bestow upon our fellow volunteer members.

-----continued on page 7-----

### Inside this issue

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## Monthly Meeting At the Heitchue's

**Tues, Oct. 18, 2004 7:30 PM**  
**2146 Owl's Cove Lane, Reston, Virginia**  
**(703) 860-9190**

Jean and Reg have graciously consented to hold this PVS event at their delightful lake side home in Reston prior to their move. Come and meet your fellow PVSers and get the latest poop on the 2006 ski trips.

*Directions:* From the beltway, exit onto Route 267, the Dulles Toll Road. Take **the Hunter Mill** exit off the Toll Road. Go left at end of ramp for 04 miles and turn right at **the end** (You will then be on Sunrise Valley Drive). Proceed one mile on Sunrise Valley Drive. At the second traffic light turn left onto South Lakes Drive and proceed 0.6 mile. You will pass a shopping center on your right. Take the next left after passing the shopping center. This is Ridge Heights Drive. Take an immediate right on to Owl's Cove Lane. Go to the end and park in the cul-de-sac. 2146 is at the bottom of a steep driveway.

*A map can be generated by those connected to the Internet by accessing map web page*

<http://pvskiers.homestead.com/Heitchuemap.html>

Next PVS monthly meeting Tues. Nov. 15

## Reviews of Previous Events

### Oktoberfest Oct. 1 Slack/Ward Termineigh Farm



### Blue Knob – Eighth Fall Foliage Weekend Fri-Mon Oct 7 – 10

**WHERE:** Betty Lawrence's lodge at Blue Knob, Pennsylvania

**LOTS TO DO:** Hiking, flea markets, RR museum, spa, antiquing, serious eating and some partying.

**COST:** approximately \$10/person/night, two-night minimum.

Accommodations limited [Space still available due to cancellations]

**HOW:** : Betty Lawrence 703-319-1860 [lizl@verizon.net](mailto:lizl@verizon.net)



### GOLF at LEISURE WORLD. THUR, 13 OCT. 05

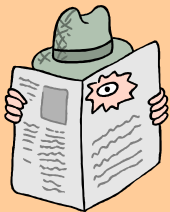
THERE IS ONLY ROOM FOR 16 GOLFERS

TIME, 1 PM ,(1300 ) HOURS, BE 30 MIN. EARLY

GREEN FEES,, RIDING CARTS REQUIRED.

CALL ,BURR SCHULER ( 703 660 9159)

OR EMAIL: [oburr2byoung@yahoo.com](mailto:oburr2byoung@yahoo.com), & or leave message



**International Spy Museum** Wednesday Oct. 27 10:00 AM (800 F St. NW)  
PVS plans to visit this popular site for espionage, deception, and intrigue. Cost: \$13 (group rate). Easily reached by Metro. Car pool to nearby garage may be arranged. Luncheon at the "Spy City Café" or other nearby establishment.. Further details in October TOOT. For additional information call Charlotte Eddy at home (703) 385-1022 or office (703) 691-0555

web site: [www.spymuseum.org](http://www.spymuseum.org)



### Chili Hike

Saturday, Nov. 12, 2005

This is the 20th anniversary of the PVS Chili Hike and it will be held on Saturday, November 12. Meet at 1:30 PM at the Great Falls Visitor's Center, Virginia side. After hiking through the gorgeous wilderness along the river and the falls just a few miles from the White House, we'll have a hot and not-so-hot chili supper at Ray and Nancy McKinley's house. The fall foliage should be perfect! All are welcome to hike (but call to sign up so that we don't miss anyone) but space for chili is limited. Call Ray or

Nancy at (703) 527-7126 to sign up for hiking and/or to reserve a place at the chili supper and also to sign up to bring an appetizer, salad or dessert. Cost for supper will be about \$8. Join us!



### National Ski and Snowboard Expo Nov 11-13, 2006 Fri - Sun

Dulles Expo Center Cost \$10 Ski Area Exhibits; Super Ski sale, Ski swap, Warren Miller movie, and more.

Further info: [www.nationalskiexpo.com](http://www.nationalskiexpo.com)

(PVS is not associated with organizers of this event)

## Local and Regional Events

### 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of POTOMAC VALLEY SKIERS

Banquet at the Bolger Center -- Saturday, Nov. 5, 6:00 PM

Our festive November 5 celebration is filled to capacity. A wait-list has been established, and waitees will be notified as soon as any vacancy occurs. We are holding their checks and will return them in the event we're unable to accommodate these members. We regret that it was not feasible to expand the room's capacity beyond what we have been able to do.

For all the diligent folks whose reservations were accepted (that's the case unless you were informed otherwise) we have provided driving directions to the Bolger Center below. Again we are sorry not being able to accommodate any and all.

*Inquiries about this event:* Rachel Abraham, (301) 530-7612 email: [rhabraham@aol.com](mailto:rhabraham@aol.com)  
6201 Hollins Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817

*Photos:* We have finished assembling these for the visual presentation.  
Many thanks to those who have submitted photos and other material.

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**DIRECTIONS to BOLGER CENTER,  
POTOMAC, MARYLAND**  
**( our festivities are in the North Building of this 83 acres campus)**

#### From Virginia:

Take 495 North (Beltway) to Exit 39 West, River Road, (Route 190) Proceed to Falls Road at Potomac Village Center (gas station on your right). Turn right, and again right at Democracy Blvd. Slow down at a left turn in the road, the entrance to the Center comes up suddenly on your right (large stone signs left and right on the entrance road). Turn left at first stop sign. At sign for LOT A turn right and proceed to entrance of North Building. Park and enter this building.

#### From Silver Spring, Points North and Center DC:

Go to Democracy Blvd and Old Georgetown Road (Old Georgetown Road is a Beltway exit). Proceed on Democracy Blvd. For about 5 miles. Do not enter at Newbridge Drive but pass that intersection and proceed to the upcoming entrance, on your left, off Democracy Blvd. And proceed as above.

The Center's phone number is 301 983-7000 and the Web site is at [www.bolgercenter.com](http://www.bolgercenter.com).

 <p>The Broadway production won 7 Tony Awards in 2005, including Best Play and Best Comedy. Now starting its second sold-out year on Broadway, this multimillion-dollar production is coming to Washington's National Theater next summer.</p>	<p><b>Monty Python's SPAMALOT Goes to the Theatre</b> ♦</p> <p>Broadway's Smash Hit June 9 or 16, 2006</p> <p><b>PVS has a unique opportunity to get tickets, and at group rates</b> at the National Theater for this smash, <b>Tony Award Winning</b> musical. We're going to one of 2 Friday Evening performances at 8:00 pm either June 9 or 16, 2006. When tickets are available (sometime this fall) we will need to act rapidly. <b>Call Ray or Nancy McKinley now (703) 527-7126 to express interest</b> (not a commitment). <b>Or e-mail to <a href="mailto:nmckinley@convera.com">nmckinley@convera.com</a></b>. Please let us know if either Friday is OK. Prices are not yet set but are expected to be around \$90 for orchestra. They are \$150 each on Broadway. The show is expected to run from June 7 to July 9, 2006.</p>
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## Reviews of Previous Events



### **FINGER LAKES WINERY TOUR**

August 2005

Paynes, Heitchues, Marxes,  
McKinleys,  
Mulholland/Leonard, Wyckoff  
, Reed-Martin  
Schwartzbards, Strands, Kay  
Christenson (Susan's friend)

Part timers :  
Clarks, Klines

*by Jan and Bob Marx*

22 PVSers and 1 guest returned from this first-ever PVS adventure with a bountiful basket of knowledge about the whole grape-growing and wine-producing-industry. With Dave and Susan's gentle tutelage, we are starting to get the hang of it

Our hosts treated us royally with excellent restaurants, multi wineries, plus the best of sights that make the Finger Lakes area famous. Even the weather was perfect. They created an intelligent and tightly scheduled itinerary but we never felt hurried. Being in the "grape" game themselves, they had many friends in the area. Even so, they took us to some vineyards where they hadn't yet been.

Most of us stayed at the Inn at Glenora which overlooked Seneca Lake; and 4 of the group were across the hill to the West of us at the "Payne Inn" which viewed Keuka Lake. Keuka Lake is called the "Lady of the Lakes" because of its natural beauty. The Indian name Keuka means "canoe landing"

Following the +/- 7 hour drive and freshening up, we jumped right in to an indepth tour of the Glenora Winery led by President, Gene Pierce. He introduced us to the machine that gently handles the grapes while spitting the stems out; and to the different kinds of fermenting vats. He favored the French oak barrels, as opposed to the American oak. Most fascinating to many of us was how they get the impurities out of the champagne and the bubbles in. Following this, he took a finished bottle outside, pulled out a short sabre and ran it up the bottle, thus decapitating the bottle causing the typical gusher of champagne. Gene repeated this "trick" or we could believe our eyes and take pictures. We then partook of our first wine tasting experience, followed by a delicious dinner at Veraisons at the Inn.

Each morning, we boarded a small bus at 8:15 to venture forth with cheerful and gallant driver, Bob. Friday's first stop was over the hill to the Payne's home and vineyard overlooking the split of the two arms of Keuka Lake. The Clark's and Klines joined us. (They were staying at the Clark's cottage on Cayuga Lake near Seneca Falls {home of Women's Rights}.) We all met the Payne's dog, Dutch and the neighborhood hound, Digger, who had a remarkable history.



Dave walked us through the rows of various types of grapes that they grow. Even within his limited acreage, different areas of the soil are better for one type over another. We tasted each kind while he told us what to be aware of. In general, his grapes were about two weeks from being ready for harvest. He showed us a refractometer; an instrument that measures light refraction in grape juice using units called Brix – an indication

## Reviews of Previous Events

of the grapes' sweetness. We learned that shale layers in that region are perfect for growing grapes. The vine roots work their way down through the cracks and layers of rock – 30-40 feet – to find water. Minerals vital to grape flavor are brought up through the roots. So, even in a drought year such as this, wine grapes are never irrigated.

We all hopped the bus to the McGregor Vineyard and Winery next door, with a tour from manager, John McGregor. The Payne's grape harvest is processed here. Tasting their wares took place later in the day on the boat.

That day we visited the tasting rooms of wineries surrounding Keuka Lake; Rooster Hill, Keuka Spring, Dr. Frank (the first to grow European wine grapes in the Eastern U.S.), and Heron Hill. For lunch, we stopped at the 1838 Esperanza Mansion at the north end of the west arm of the lake. The tasty and refreshing meal was served to us on the terrace; view, spectacular. Originally built by a Virginian, the structure evolved through several owners, served as the Yates County Poorhouse, a stop on the Underground Railroad, an art gallery, and a winery, and now is restored with luxurious rooms to rent.

The Viking Spirit provided us with a happy hour cruise on Keuka Lake. The McGregor's provided cheese, fruit, crackers and dip to go with their wines chosen just for PVS. Perfect weather. The lake is 187 feet deep and two miles wide at its widest point — the area just below the Payne's land. This area never freezes, thus making the Payne's land a prime vineyard location. Keuka Lake is one of the cleanest of the Finger Lakes and is rated excellent for sport fishing lake. Commercial fishing is prohibited, thus one cannot order a fresh trout dinner.

Hopping back onto the bus was not easy because we discovered that our gallant driver, Bob, had accidentally backed over the stool he had so thoughtfully provided. Oh, bother! He was embarrassed but had already figured out how to repair it. Dinner was at the Village Tavern on the Square (favored by the locals) in Hammondsport at the south end of the lake. Here we had a choice of 120 different beers plus wines from around the world. Two musicians played different tunes or whatever your request might be.

Saturday was Seneca Lake day. Seneca, or "Assiniki," means "place of stone." Resting our pallets until lunch, we headed for the town of Watkins Glen at the south end of the lake via our own vehicles. 12 of us hiked the Gorge; all 800+ steps to the top. Luckily there was a park bus to provide a ride to the bottom for those knees that couldn't take any more. It was a remarkable formation with multiple pools, cascades, and weeping walls (if this had not been such a dry summer). Touring around, we saw many little water fall sights but no water.

In town, we were shown where the original racecourse was developed in the European style— on the local roads. The Raceway was built in 1956 and hosts Formula 1, NASCAR, and other competitions. At noon, the public had a chance to drive their personal vehicle on the track behind a pace car, on the 3.4 mile course that includes the famous "boot." The Strand/Schwartzbard, McKinley, Mulholland/Leonard, and Marx/Dave Payne "wheels" participated in the 3 lap venture. Everyone looked sporty; even the Marxes in their 15 passenger van with the solar panels on top. After two laps, a stop at the pits and winner circle, we could switch drivers. Cool. Seneca Harbor Station provided a handy lunch spot with its view of the busy harbor.

After freshening up at Glenora, we learned that Bob had indeed fixed the stool so we all piled onto the bus and headed out for a tasting at Fox Run Winery. Up the road at Belhurst Castle, near the north end of the lake, we

*(Finger Lakes Wine Tour -- continued from previous page)*

met up with the Clarks and Klines for a tasting and dinner. The castle was completed in 1889. As we walked the grounds on this lovely Saturday, it was obvious that a wedding was about to take place on the front lawn. We learned that there actually were 4 weddings that day. The bride had not come forward before our tasting



## Reviews of Previous Events

began, but by the time we tasted our 4<sup>th</sup> vintage, there she was. Our dinner took place in the original castle - a step back in time. The high ceilings, rich wood paneling and carvings, fireplaces, and spacious stairways were throughout. We ate in a "tower" room with place settings of fancy china and silver. The cuisine is famous in the area and certainly lived up to all expectations.

Sunday morning Bob met us with the bus to journey to another major attraction – the Corning Museum of Glass (CMoG). A true museum, and if you like glass, a Must See. They encourage researchers, too. Many of us enjoyed the demonstration of glass blowing. The store was a museum, too. Eloise wanted to know where the Steuben seconds were located.

The town of Corning has been refurbished and offers fun stores and restaurants of which we took advantage. Back on the bus we headed north to visit the Lamoreaux Landing Winery, and the Wagner Winery and Brewery. Back in Watkins Glen, Captain Bill's Stroller gave us a look at the lake homes and bluffs from the water. Seneca Lake is the widest and deepest of these glacially formed lakes; 600 feet, 200 of which is below sea level. There is a US Naval station at the deepest part. It never freezes and offers a moderating influence on the air temperature around its periphery. This is the principal reason that the lake has evolved into a prime grape growing area. The day ended with dinner at the Red Newt Wine Cellars and Bistro. This is a chef owned establishment featuring local products plus exquisite desserts.

Thank you, Susan and David, for sharing some of your world with us.



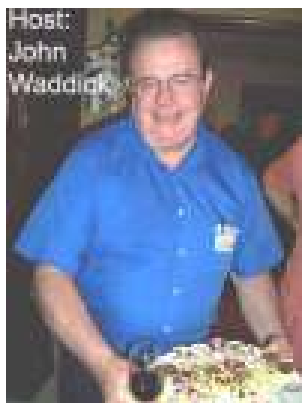
### **CRABFEST – Saturday - September 3**

After a five year absence, the crabfest was again held by Betty Lawrence at her newly renovated home in Vienna. The weather was perfect as there was just a tinge of cool under an azure blue sky. Forty-one people attended the event, bringing appetizers, salads, and desserts. Betty's remodeled kitchen, with the stainless steel appliances and ceiling lights, was the envy of the women attendees. The patio was just completed the day before the event, and new tables, chairs,

and grill had been placed on the patio for PVSers. First appetizers, and later salads, were placed on a table on the patio with desserts inside. The crabs arrived and twenty-two people devoured every single crab. Champion crab eater Charlie Taylor was missing as he and wife, Dina retired to New York a year ago. Jan Marx has slowed down on her crab eating. Maybe she misses the competition from Charlie. Nineteen PVSers used the grill to cook steaks, burgers, and sausages. Long time PVSer, John Pulos, after a little over a year retirement in New York, was glad to be back among his PVS friends. John has moved to Potomac Falls, Virginia.

*Submitted by Charles and Sara Huggins*

### **MONTHLY MEETING – Tuesday - September 20**



The first meeting after the summer recess was held again at the home of John and Dorie Waddick located in Alexandria just off Shirley Highway. Those who had been at this abode in previous years have looked forward to see what new improvements have been added. Last year it was a faux

brick driveway. This year it was new landscaping in the front. Many thanks to the hosts for providing this idyllic location for a PVS meeting. Forty current members and seven applicants were present. At the meeting the forthcoming local events were reviewed along with updates from the ski trip leaders. Some ski trips still have some space available and those wishing to participate should contact the leaders pronto or the space will be

## Reviews of Previous Events

released. As can be seen from the descriptions in this issue, a number of local events are being offered again this year in addition to a number of new ones. Then Membership Secretary Pat Vagonis introduced the new applicant members and brought us up to date on the renewal process.

Over 90% of the current members have renewed so far, which certainly is a vote of confidence in the way things are going. President David Abraham mentioned that he and members of the ExCom hope to stimulate even more local activities and seek input and cooperation from the members.

### **BICYCLING GOURMET - Thursday - September 22**



***PVSers at Bon Air Rose Garden]***

Fortune smiled on the bicyclists who were granted perfect weather for a bicycle ride in Arlington along Four Mile Run (to those who haven't learned the local lingo, "run" is the term used for "creek" outside of the Old Dominion). Arlington Country is perhaps the most bicycle friendly jurisdiction in this area. The Four Mile Run valley actually contains two parallel bike/ped paths. The group of sixteen (including four PVSers) essentially went west on the older, more scenic, and hillier Four Mile Run bike path to the Bon Air Rose Garden and then east on the flat W&OD Trail for an *al fresco* lunch at the Aladdin Eatery in Shirlington. Although many in the group have lived in this area a long time, this was new territory for them – one of the additional advantages of cycling with us and finding out about places in this area that you never were aware of – such as the Bon Air Rose Garden shown in the above photo. *Submitted by Marvin Hass – ride leader*

### President's message (continued from Front page)

While I'm on this subject I should also note the many other volunteers who keep our varied programs in such good shape, who make them truly varied with participation opportunities for most tastes, for activities away from the slopes, both in- and outdoors. Not infrequently the load for one or the other of our devoted "activists" gets to be a real burden, and it's then that we wished to have a few more of those good souls on whom our leadership can call for an assist. Please think about this all, make your thanks known, and lend a hand, if you can. You too will be thanked, and you will have the

added satisfaction of having made us an even better club.  
Have a great fall, and start thinking snow!

*David*

**WANTED: WISP DEMO DAYS**  
**TRIP LEADER: Jan 19, 2006**  
**Contact: Dave DeVilbiss (703) 370-4865**

#### **CURRENT PVS BOARD MEMBERS, OFFICERS, and CHAIRPERSONS - 2005-06**

President – *David Abraham*  
 Vice President – *Mike Strand*  
 Secretary – *Jessma Blockwick*  
 Treasurer – *Ray Jones*  
 Membership – *Pat Vagonis*  
 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 – *Sue Lyon*  
 Meeting Records – *Sara Huggins*  
 Historian – *Jan Marx*

First Term:  
*Charlotte Eddy*  
*Burr Schuler*  
*Dick Schwartzbard*  
Second Term:  
*Dave DeVilbiss*  
*Sharon. Mulholland*  
*Mike Hatanaka*

## 2006 Ski Trips



Bailey, the door dog  
with Barbara L.

Left: The staff at the Chalet is very friendly, especially the door dog, Bailey

# SNOWMASS 2006

**PVS is again heading to Snowmass and the Mountain Chalet, January 19 through 26, 2006. Join us for this perennial favorite, both for its skiing and many other activities in the Aspen environs.** Choose among four interconnected mountains with over 5,000 acres of skiing, interchangeable lift tickets, and free bus service to Aspen Highlands, Ajax Mountain, and Buttermilk ski areas. Enjoy the convenience of slopeside lodging with direct access to the extensive Snowmass trail system from the Snowmass Mountain Chalet. A stay at the charming Mountain Chalet includes a daily family-style breakfast and daily soup lunch, greatly appreciated by trip participants and other guests, many of whom return year after year.

**Comprehensive trip price of \$1900 includes air fair with flight into Aspen, ground transfer to and from SMC, 7 nights' lodging, taxes and maid service, breakfast and lunch, après ski parties including welcome wine and cheese party, two group dinners, hotel baggage handling and tips, 5 days' lift tickets, pre-trip and post-trip parties, and more. Land only price is \$1422. Other adjustments are available for sixth ski day, Silver Pass, non-skiers or alternate air. Trip insurance available and highly suggested.**

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

To reserve:

- Send deposit of \$250 per person AND APPLICATION to:  
Carolyn Maurer at 4508 Peacock Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304 or [carolyn.maurer@verizon.net](mailto:carolyn.maurer@verizon.net)
- Note "PVS-Snowmass 2006" on the memo line.

***NOTE: Single female is needed due to a cancellation!***

# Telluride 2006

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 meals, two après ski parties, pre trip party and hotel baggage valet included. We depart on United Airlines #399 Washington Dulles 6:15 AM, arrive Denver 8:05 AM; depart Denver 8:55 AM # 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 now available. A minor price adjustment is possible based on potential airline fuel surcharges. Trip leaders have made a survey trip to Telluride. The back bowl(s) have 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. The trip is now fully subscribed, reservation on the waiting list in then event of cancellations. Join Gene and Wilma for this deluxe February Western ski experience. If you don't have a cowboy hat, get one!

For more info, call Wilma Sharer at 301-975-9411 or email at [wilma@sharerassociates.com](mailto:wilma@sharerassociates.com).

We have planned a fantastic week with great skiing, outstanding accommodations and great food (and wine). Get aboard on the waiting list in case we have a cancellation.



## 2006 Ski Trips

February 17-March 6, 2006, join Nancy and Ray McKinley for an 18-day

### Scandinavian Smörgåsbord!

Scandinavia shines in the winter! The major tourist attractions—even the outdoor parks—remain open and invite visitors to enjoy without the crowds of summer. Our winter's trip will be perfect for skiers and sightseers alike covering the highlights of three different countries, in 5 Star Luxury—a true Scandinavian Smörgåsbord. Maybe our best trip ever! Scenery is fantastic and every day starts with a superb, full, Scandinavian breakfast. Our ski area, *Hafjell*, at **Lillehammer**, is the location of the major 1994 Olympic ski events, with over 15 miles of runs for all levels, 13 lifts and over a 2,800-foot vertical.

Sightseers can visit Lillehammer's many museums including the Olympic Museum and stroll along the famous star of the Olympics, the expansive *Stroget* walking street. Then on to activating **Oslo** staying 3 nights at the *St. Olaf Hotel*, a deluxe property right next to Oslo's finest shopping and dining. Then home after Oslo. We're certain you'll love it. Its mostly-intact city wall has 29 stone 12<sup>th</sup> Century watchtowers, each topped by a red tile roof. With cobblestone streets and lots of unique shops, it's a great place! We cruise back to Stockholm and sadly, return home on March 6.

# Hurry! Only 2 Rooms Left

From Stockholm, we take an overnight cruise across the Baltic Sea on a huge cruise ship-600 feet long with 12 decks, ballrooms, multiple restaurants and private suites-to historic, medieval **Tallinn**, the capital of Estonia, part of the former USSR. What about temperature and light? In Lillehammer, March temperatures average 30° F daytime and 25° F at night. In the other capital cities, on the water, the temps are warmer. In Stockholm, in March, sunrise is at 6:30 am and sunset at 5:40 pm for a total of 11 hrs and 10 min. This is only a few minutes less sunlight than Big Sky, Montana on the same date.

The full, luxury 18-day trip is \$3,896 pp, double occupancy, including airfare, hotels, all breakfasts, dinners in Lillehammer and two overnight cruises. Our 11-day package, returning to the US on February 28, costs \$2,723. We look forward to a great See and Ski Trip and hope you'll join us! For more info call us at (703) 527-7126. Or e-mail nmckinley@convera.com. To sign up, send your check for \$2200 to Ray McKinley. Mail to McKinleys, 2326 N. Upton Street, Arlington, VA 22207-4045.

### Val Gardena & Munich March 3 – 14, 2006



From the JP Moser guide: 23.11.2004

"Hotel Diamant is a holiday oasis in the heart of the Gardena Valley!

Generous premises, a familiar atmosphere and an agreeable ambience distinguish the Hotel Diamant. A very interesting symbiosis - the high comfortable Hotel with the belonging Vital Centre Dona Dindia, fulfilling your every wish, and the fantastic surrounding mountain landscape of the Dolomites create the special charm and the unique flair- that will captivate you from the first day. Here it is very easy to rise every day of your stay to a festive moody day.

There are 9 room categories for both business and leisure travelers but especially for those looking high standard in the roomy offer. The bedrooms, comfortable and wide, with either four poster beds or bunk beds, feature their own balcony.

The culinary highlights are remarkable, which they will give you pleasure all around the clock: if it is simply a snack taken in a romantic corner of the 8000 m<sup>2</sup> large private parc or the pleasure breakfast buffet or the excellent dinner in an peculiar ambience... they will always take care to let you have the best!

Last but not least, wellness and beauty are two of the strong points of this property; the "Vital Centre Dona Dindia" with indoor swimming pool (29°) and many other facilities such as the new and elegant sauna landscape with Tyrolean sauna and panorama window, the steam bath with aromatic fragrances, the bio sauna with mountain herbs smell, the Kneipp foot bath and a lot of space for relaxing."

**We have 12 spaces left. Hopefully, the pool temperature is in centigrade. We will NOT have bunk beds!**

Dick Comerford is leading the PVS part of BRSC's Eurofest trip to Val Gardena. Inquiries and comments are welcome.

Tel: (703) 777-9374 [dick.comerford@adelphia.net](mailto:dick.comerford@adelphia.net)

## 2006 Ski Trips/Calendar



**WINTER PARK RESORT**  
COLORADO'S FAVORITE®

Tuesday March 28 – Tuesday April 4, 2006

Enjoy Spring Skiing at its best with Dave Lerner and Jan Marx.

Winter Park is one of Colorado's oldest and largest ski resorts and we will be spending 7 nights at the luxury Zephyr Mountain Lodge at the base of the lifts. The package also includes round trip air transportation on United, lift tickets for a full 6 days (not the usual 5), ground transfer on a deluxe chartered bus, 3 group dinners, after ski parties, a pre-trip party, baggage handling at the resorts and tips and current taxes for all of the above.

The Zephyr Mountain Lodge is Winter Park's premier ski-in ski-out lodging accommodation. It is an all-condo property and we have reserved two bedroom – two bath units with a fully equipped kitchen. One bedroom has a king bed, and the other has twin beds. (Living room hide-a-beds will NOT be used.) All units have VCRs and free high-speed data ports.

The mountain has a great selection of runs from easy cruisers to challenging steps on the newer Mary Jane area. There is a 3060 foot vertical drop covering 2770 acres. There are 24 lifts, including 8 high-speed quads. Snowmobile tours, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and ice skating are also available.

Value pricing is part of the Spring scene and we are able to offer the entire package for only **\$1160**. There will be a substantial discount for senior lift tickets (details not yet available).

A full trip flier is available on the web at: <http://members.cox.net/dlerner1/WinterParkFlyer.html>

Call Dave Lerner at 703-281-6923 for more information or send email to [dslearner@ieee.org](mailto:dslearner@ieee.org) or [Jebbmarx@aol.com](mailto:Jebbmarx@aol.com)

### CALENDAR (2005-06)

Sept 27	Tues	ExCom	at Ray Jones'
Oct 1	Sat	Oktoberfest	at Slack/Ward's
Oct 7-10	Fri-Mon	Blue Knob	Fall Foliage
Oct 13	Thurs	Golf	at Leisure World
Oct 18	Tues	Monthly Meeting	at Heitchue's (Reston)
Oct 25	Tues	ExCom	at Mulholland's (Gaithersburg)
Oct 26	Wed	Spy Museum	
Nov 5	Sat	40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party	at the Bolger Center (evening)

Nov. 12	Sat	Chili Hike
Nov 11-13	Fri-Mon	Ski Expo
Nov 15	Tues	Monthly Meeting at Monaghan's (Bethesda)
Jan 19-26		Snowmass
Feb 2-9		Telluride
Feb 17-Mar 5		Scandinavia
Mar 3-11		Val Gardena
Mar 27- Apr 3		Winter Park
April		Frank Shelburne Memorial Hike
June 9 or 15	Fri	Spamalot - National Theatre

#### Change of postal or e-mail address:

Call Pat Vagonis at (301) 838-5545  
or send e-mail message to  
[pvagonis@comcast.net](mailto:pvagonis@comcast.net)

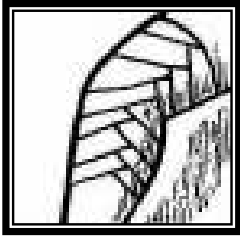
#### E-mail Notice

If you want to start receiving Toot electronically, or change the e-format you receive, please let me know.  
Thanks, Jan = [jebbmarx@aol.com](mailto:jebbmarx@aol.com).

#### Activities of other organizations which may be of interest to PVSers.

• PATC Easy Hikes These hikes, led by PATC members, take place every Wednesday with start points in the Washington, DC. area and are open to all. Meet around 10:00 AM at the trail head, and hike about 5 easy miles. Bring lunch and water. Several PVS members regularly attend. For details and carpooling, call David DeVilbiss or Carolyn Maurer at 703-370-4865

• Capital Science Evenings sponsored by the Carnegie Institution are a series of free public talks designed to help "make modern science more accessible to the general public." The talks are held at the Carnegie Institution, 1530 P St., NW (corner of 16th and P). For details on the Nov. 10 lecture, call David DeVilbiss (703-370-4865).



# THE KNEE

By Ray McKinley

It's October. Fall is upon us—although it's hard to tell by the weather. I recently read that weather forecasters are using a new methodology to predict a very snowy winter. It's called pinecone counting. A lot of pinecones is Mother Nature's (perhaps I should use the non-sexist "Parent Nature's") way to tell the squirrels to stock up as it will be a wingdinger of a winter. Scientists have correlated the amount of pinecones directly with the amount of snowfall. Although they don't tell us how the pine trees know how much snow 6-9 months in advance.

I checked out the theory with my young pine tree. Of course it's only Knee high (though not related to the soda). Last year it had no cones and we had scant snow. This year, its third, it also has no pinecones. It snow joke!

We all had a blast on the Finger Lakes tour set up so masterfully by Susan and David Payne. The Paynes have their own vineyard overlooking the lake. There, David told us that all of the best wines use hand-picked grapes. They had tried using foot-picked, but it just didn't work out. I toed you so. Dick Schwartzbard said bringing the original grapes from France was de-vine inspiration. It was the yeast he could say.

While up there Dick Clark attended his 55<sup>th</sup> High School reunion. He met a friend who was arrested with him for drag racing. Vroom!

More of us are movin' on. Recently retired Jim Slack and Mary Ward have their Catharpin home for sale. So this is our last Oktoberfest there. They plan to move to Lexington, VA, where they can do more with horses. And Jeanette Albersheim is moving, this month, to Colorado. PVS will miss all three.

Jean Heitchue had a big celebration for a big birthday. It took place on two days, in Annapolis and then in Reston. The Knee won't tell what Birthday it was but it ends in zero. Oh, well I never could keep a secret, Jean is 30.

As a volunteer mental health worker for the Red Cross, Rosemary Schwartzbard, was interviewed on CBS TV after Hurricane Katrina. Rather than watch herself on TV, Rosemary was at Betty Lawrence's eating crabs.

Sylvia and Wally Lukens again spent this summer in very brown Cape Cod. They've had no rain in July or August or September until Hurricane Ophelia brought some relief.

Both Alice Swalm and Jessma Blockwick are spending the end of September, and October visiting relatives in Colorado.

Arizona's Jack & Irene Ragen are visiting for PVS's 40<sup>th</sup> AnKneeverary bash. Kneet.

Skiing and Real Estate do mix. June Read-Martin and Sharon Mulholland met in the early 80's when June sold a property locally. As a bonus, she got a free week in a condo in Silverthorn, CO. June took Sharon, and they have been skiing together since.

When Dick and Marilyn Clark arrived in Williamsburg, their house wasn't quite ready. So they stayed with Jim and Charlotte Kline.

Our October meeting will be held at the Reston home of our previous president Reg. and Jean Heitchue. It will be the last meeting there as they have sold the house. They were thinking of selling soon. But a realtor stopped by with a "very comfortable" offer before it went on the market! (This even beat Gene and Wilma Sharer. They put their Potomac home on the market and had two offers in 20 hours!)

But I kneed to tell you a different, true story about Reg Heitchue. It's called "The Ex President gets goosed." Seems the Heitchues, living on the water, have a longstanding problem with Canada Geese. The problem isn't really with the geese, but with their so-called leave behinds—which if you don't get the picture, comes from their behinds. Reg has tried everything, scarecrows, noise, unpleasant smells, etc. All have provided no relief. One morning Jean was walking up the drive with their handy-man Ken. There was a goose, dead from natural causes, on the side of the driveway.

Ken had an idea that might resolve the problem. He told Jean he would take care of the goose. Later, Jean saw and didn't like Ken's idea. The goose was strung up, by its neck, in their back yard. That evening, Reg called Ken to get it down. Ken was sick the following day, and the following morning a Policeman knocked on the door and asked Reg, "Is this your home?" Reg now has a summons to appear in court. It is a misdemeanor, punishable by a \$500 fine, to hang an endangered (*sic*) Canada Goose by your home. You can find out, at the October meeting, if the Heitchues are convicted criminals! And it turns out that hanging a dead goose in your yard has no effect whatsoever on keeping other geese away. It snow joke!

ONE CLUB OF THE NORTH



# POTOMAC VALLEY SKIERS



Club members: Pat Gold, Peggy Jones and Gary Harrell at Alta, Utah.

By Anne S. Cooper

WHERE is a ski club as it approaches its second anniversary?

Having at one time been associated with a ski club at its inception, and having seen it fold after less than one year of operation, I was frankly curious to learn the secrets, if any, of the apparent success of an almost brand-new club Potomac Valley Skiers is a one hundred per cent USEASA club, incorporated in November, 1965 in the District of Columbia. It is devoted to "educational, social and athletic pursuits with particular reference to the sport of skiing." And, as one member has said "We wish to further our knowledge and interest in all sports, and skiing in particular, and to do this in the company of people who have similar interests."

Dick King and Bill Stecher gave birth to the idea of Potomac Valley Skiers at the 1965 USEASA convention in Atlantic City. While they felt that the Ski Club of Washington, DC. filled a great need providing, as it does, primarily a social outlet and place to meet for the Washington area's vast young adult population who are virtual strangers to the city (club membership numbers around 3,000). they felt also there was room for another club in the area—one de-voted wholly to skiing and skiers—indeed, that there was a real need for such an organization. Thus was born the idea of Potomac Valley Skiers—an addition to, not in place of. nor in competition with the Ski Club of Washington, D.C.,

It is interesting to note, as a matter of fact, that 95 per cent of the Potomac Valley Skiers are also members of the SCWDC indicating, perhaps, that most of us like to participate on a "grand scale" as well.

The original Potomac Valley Skiers ad interim (prior to the first annual meeting in April of 1966) Executive Commit-tee consisted of Dick King, Bill Stecher,

Packard Anderson, Hank Thomas, Penny Sayre, Brooke Armat and Mike Rura, Doris Hege acted as the recording secretary during the months when this group was laying the foundations of PVS and taking the steps necessary for incorporation.

Hardship and bad luck often create great camaraderie between the persons who have the misfortune to share it, and this is certainly true of the beginnings of the Potomac Valley Skiers. Many of the persons who formed the base of PVS membership during the fall and winter of 1965 were part of a luckless group of skiers who found themselves in Europe for a ski vacation without hotel or other land reservations. Twenty-five persons had included the land package in arrangements for a European Ski Flight through Air India back in 1963. However, when the travel agency handling these reservations heard that the Air India plane had not and would not depart, it took it upon itself to cancel all land reservations in Europe. The agency did not reckon with the determination of a group of skiers planning and paid up to go to Europe. Those in charge of the flight made arrangements to have Air France take over the charter, and, thus, we end our story with a hardy group of skiers arriving in Europe to discover they have no place to stay—anywhere. Fourteen of these twenty-five persons became members of PVS during its first year of operation.

PVS states in its by-laws that active membership shall not exceed 200. By the end of the first year there were 60 members, and membership now totals approximately 80. Persons interested in membership must be invited and sponsored by an active member in good standing; they must attend at least two meetings by invitation; they must take no less than three ski trips in the company of members; they must pass the Basic Proficiency Test. The membership votes on each application and five

negative votes will deny membership to the applicant.

The Executive Committee is an elective body consisting of the president and six members of the board of directors (three of these are elected for two-year terms.) The ExCom appoints the vice president, secretary and treasurer upon the recommendation of the president (the secretary and treasurer need not be members of the Executive Committee). Any vacancy on the ExCom is filled by appointment by two-thirds majority vote of the remaining members. The president or any member of the ExCom may be recalled through a proposal of either the majority of the ExCom or by a petition signed by twenty members of the club, and passage of such proposal or petition is accomplished by a three-quarters majority vote of the members of the club present and voting at a regular or special meeting of the club.

The first PVS president was co-founder Dick King, followed last year by Bill Stecher, the other co-founder. This year's president is Brooke Armat. The club has outstanding proven and potential leaders as seen in the fact that its membership includes three past presidents of the Ski Club of Washington, D.C.: Jewell Blankenship, Packard Andersen and Jack Fox. The membership turnover rate is extremely low at less than five per cent. By the same token, its growth rate is also very low. It would appear that PVS has no interest in growth for its own sake, but carefully screens all interested persons and makes no effort to solicit members.

The club meets monthly with about 60 per cent of the membership in attendance. During the summer months, these monthly meetings usually take the form of lawn parties at members' homes, and during the fall and winter months, the meetings are normally preceded by Dutch Treat cocktails and dinner. The official club bulletin has a name worth mentioning, I believe, since it seems to say a great deal about the spirit and attitude of the membership. As one member puts it, TOOT is the official bugle which sounds off every now and then to trumpet doings in the club and outside skiing world.

Potomac Valley Skiers is definitely what it claims to be—a club of skiing enthusiasts. The

club celebrated its founding by a two-day ski and get-acquainted trip to Seven Springs, Pennsylvania, which included inter-ski club racing events with a ski club in Baltimore. (By the way ... the ski club in Baltimore was creamed, and 'tis the same ski club mentioned earlier which folded prior to the end of its first year of operation ... do you suppose there is any correlation?) The first PVS on-the-hill program to get started was its competition program, and the club aims high with its relatively small membership, encouraging participation in local and regional races as competitors as well as officials. In 1966 PVS took a New England ski trip and scheduled the Basic Proficiency Test for all those on the trip. All but one person took and passed the test,

One member of PVS is this year's chairman of the USEASA Amateur Instructors Committee—Packard Anderson—and the club can also boast six Qualified Amateur Instructors <that means they could conduct classes for the EN-TIRE membership and still have only about ten persons in a class). Another member, Glade Flake, is chairman of the USEASA Avalanche Committee, and four members are qualified to wear the Circle A avalanche patch with two members being also qualified instructors.

Approximately 30 per cent of the PVS members are active registered ski patrolmen, There are 18 Senior Patrolmen, eight locals and four National Ski Patrol-men (Glade Flake, Jewell Blankenship and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Pease), In addition, Potomac Valley Skiers boasts the following: Regional Chairman, Southern Appalachian Region—Larry Pease; Section Chief, Mason-Dixon Section—his wife, Billie Pease; Section Chief, Potomac Section—Dick Harsh; Advisor for Testing and Training—Al Fleig; Advisor for Administration—Glade Flake; Advisor for Public Relations—Bill Jarrett And would you believe . . . Patrol Leader of Skyline Ski Patrol—Jewell Blankenship; Assistant Patrol Leader of Washington Ski Patrol—Jack Fox; former patrol leader—Bill Stecher; former section chief—Bob Broad, This club does a lot of skiing!

I believe you can always separate the social, party-minded person from skiing, but I

*This issue of TOOT has been edited by and mailed by Marvin Hass. The permanent editor, Jan Marx, will resume her duties for the November issue. Copy for TOOT can always be sent to [toot@potomacvalleyskiers.org](mailto:toot@potomacvalleyskiers.org)*

have yet to discover any way to separate the enthusiastic, hard-core skier from a good party. Potomac Valley Skiers is no exception. Stretch your imagination and figure out how 55 members and guests consumed, in one sitting, 72 lobsters, 350 steamer clams, 10 pounds of butter, the usual assortment of salads and desserts, and inevitable malt and hops! PVS "carried on" at monthly summer meetings at various member homes. They spent a good bit of their summer together — sailing on a regular basis, camping and hiking, water skiing and golf. They organized regular weekly tennis matches on Sunday mornings during the summer and even participated in a weekly rock-climbing clinic conducted by member Dick Harsh.

The Potomac Valley Skiers may not be growing at a fast rate numerically, but the spirit and enthusiasm of its membership, which began at such a high level, continues to grow and strengthen in its integrity. My favorite story, which illustrates the willingness of each member

to participate to the fullest with spirit and imagination, involves Past President Bill Stecher and his family. At the October meeting last year, Bill informed those present that he might not be at the November 16 meeting because of his wife Elke's pending delivery. Their baby daughter, in good PVS fashion, arrived conveniently on the morning of November 16, and Bill was present at the meeting that evening where he informed one and all that his daughter was to be named Penelope Virginia Stecher and called PVS for short. Bill later admitted that that was carrying loyalty, commitment and participation a little too far and that the new Stecher was really to be called Barbi!

*(Author's note: it's still the same old writer ... just a new name ... which is also my explanation for no October or December article. Sorry, but SOME things DO come before skiing!—Anne Shaefer Cooper.)*

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As part of the commemoration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Potomac Valley Skiers, the article above, which appeared in Ski Magazine (January 1968) has been reproduced in order that current members may obtain some flavor of the nature of the Club during its first few years of existence. A number of those mentioned in this article are still members of Potomac Valley Skiers including Glade Flake and Larry Pease as well as Pat Calef Cope and Aina Hertelis Thomas, who appear in the photo at the beginning of the article.

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**A&E Network on Monday officially announced the development of a new reality TV series in and about Aspen conveniently called: "ASPEN." (for 2006 season)**

The A&E press release went on to describe the series this way:  
"From the day the mountain opens in November to the closing party in April, 'ASPEN' is Rocky Mountain high drama and high comedy as it follows relationships that come and go over a full ski season. Real-life characters include: the hot young Australian brothers who work as ski instructors by day and high-priced babysitters by night; the sexy and single hostess of the hottest après-ski bar and restaurant in town; the mega-rich heiress who tortures her parents by hanging out with the ski bums instead of the dreary sons of billionaires; and the ex-paramedic who is now captain of the Aspen Ski Patrol. 'ASPEN' may appear to be a story of the "haves" and "have-nots" - more than 70 percent of Aspens' work force cannot even afford to live in Aspen! - but it readily becomes clear that at least some of the ski bums have it all over the snowbird socialites." *(Aspen Daily News September 26, 2005)*