



TOOT



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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc

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WASHINGTON

MARYLAND

VIRGINIA

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President's Message

Greetings All, skiers and spectators alike,
 Hopefully, you're all aware of the four fabulous ski trips which were varyingly concluded over the last few weeks, with one more to go, and going as you read these lines. Not ignoring the many wonderful trips we've had in years past, this year must be regarded as a highlight of our ski trips program, with exceptionally good conditions at all our venues, and participations by a true cross-section of members and their guests. For these blessings we owe thanks to our devoted and highly competent trip leaders, our ski trip committee, and finally our congenial participants who, ultimately, make PVS trips what they really are.

As we conclude another club year, experience the completion of some ExComers terms, and look forward to elect successors, we can look back on what I believe was a very good year for the club. As I scan our monthly activities announcements in *Toot*, I'm happy to see the array and quantity of quality activities, all made possible by a bunch of leaders who go to a lot of travail for our collective benefit. To them we owe thanks, time and time again. Perhaps I should mention their names but really there are too many for this space. Surely, you know who they are, and I would encourage you not to miss any opportunity to express your sentiments whenever you encounter one of these dedicated friends.

Our annual meeting at our gracious hosts, the Leonhardts, is important for more than our votes. We'll want to take an informal survey to update us on what folks would like us do in the new club year. Perhaps you have some novel ideas and suggestions, and it would be most useful for those who will bear the responsibility for making things happen in the new club year, to learn of your thoughts first hand. So I say looking forward to and thanking you for your participation at this meeting, and throughout the year.

To more happy skiing and joyous get-togethers in the months and years to come.

David



Annual Meeting At the Leonhardt's

Tuesday April 18, 7:30 PM
606 Firehouse Lane Gaithersburg, MD
(301) 963-8111

Join us for this annual meeting at home of Barbara and Fred Leonhardt, Renew acquaintances with your fellow skiers from the past season as well as electing club officers and new members of PVS.

Directions: From I-270, take Exit 6 [Rte.28 toward Darnestown] and proceed 5 miles and then turn right at Tschiffley Square Road. Proceed and turn right at third stop sign onto Leekes Lot Way. Proceed one short block and turn right for Firehouse Lane (for those seeking parking, it might be easier to continue on Leekes Lot Way for another block and then take next two right turns so as to end up on the north side of Firehouse Lane where parking is permitted. [Leonhardt residence is on the south side. Car pooling recommended].

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Local and Regional Events



Saturday, April 8 10:00 AM

Frank Shelburne MEMORIAL HIKE

Join us for the annual Frank Shelburne Memorial Hike, at Seneca Creek State Park. We will meet at 10:00 AM for 3 to 4 easy miles around Clopper Lake. From the park entrance, follow the signs to parking at the Boat Center.

Lunch: We will have lunch afterwards at Café Mileto (in Cloppers Mill Village), 18056 Mateny Road, Germantown, MD (301-515-9370). From the park, go West on Clopper Road/MD 117, and turn left on Mateny Road to 18056.

Directions to Seneca Creek State Park in Montgomery County, MD:

From Washington, DC, Virginia and points south: take I-270 north toward Frederick, Maryland. Take exit 10, Clopper Road, and continue through six traffic lights. The park's entrance is marked and will be on the left (just after Game Preserve Rd., on the right).

From points north: Take I-270 south towards Washington, DC. Take exit 11, MD Route 124 west. At the light, bear right and travel two more traffic lights and turn right onto Clopper Road (Rt. 117.)

The park is approximately 1.5 miles on the left.

To RSVP: Call Carolyn Maurer or David DeVilbiss at 703-370-4865 or email at

Carolyn.maurer@verizon.net for more information or if in doubt about the weather. Please let us know if you will be meeting the group for lunch only after the hike so we can add to the reservation.

Thurs April 20, 2006 10:30 AM

BICYCLING GOURMET



Starting Point: Sailing Marina [Just south of National Airport via GW Parkway and just north of Alexandria. Exit sign: Daingerfield Island/Sailing Marina/Potomack Landing.] On entering the Marina, veer to the right toward the overflow parking area. Signs are posted limiting parking to 3 hours on

weekdays. However, leader will distribute permits allowing parking from 10am-3pm.

Route: Ride will proceed south via bike path from Sailing Marina through Old Town Alexandria and continue south on the Mt. Vernon Bike Path with both long and short options (12-24 miles). Lunch on return leg near end of ride in Alexandria at Sizzling Express.

Leader: Marvin Hass (703) 751-4737

info@pototmacvalleyskiers.org assisted by Shirley Rettig. *Note: starting time listed is for when we depart. Please arrive earlier to set up your bicycle, visit rest room, etc. If you arrive late, just head south on the marked bike path/route toward Mt. Vernon.*



Fri-Sun May 5-7

WILLIAMSBURG WEEKEND

PVS South has planned a fun and food filled weekend for May 5-7, 2006

**The Williamsburg
Weekend is full but**

we will take names for a [wait list](#).

Call Marilyn Clark at 703-509-5539 or Email at clarkra@att.net. Detailed information will be sent in April to those who are attending.

Lodging will be at The Hospitality House located a short distance from the historic area with check in at 3:00 PM.

Festivities start Friday evening with cocktails at the Klines'; followed by a buffet supper at the Clarks'.

Saturday, we will meet for a tour of Colonial Williamsburg. In the evening we will have cocktails at the Sharers' followed by dinner at the Two Rivers Country Club.



The grande finale is a champagne brunch on Sunday at the elegant

Williamsburg Inn.

The per person cost will be approximately \$300 (double occupancy) or \$420 (for a single). This includes lodging, 2 cocktail parties, 2 dinners, brunch, admission to Colonial Williamsburg, and the incomparable PVS camaraderie.



Fri eve June 16, 8:00 PM

NATIONAL THEATRE

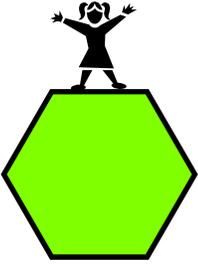
(Wait List only)

Inquires: Ray or Nancy McKinley (703) 527-7126
nmckinley@convera.com



Local Event Reviews

Hexagon show event review (March 15, 2006)



On the evening of March 15th, a happy group of PVS members converged on the Duke Ellington School of the Arts for the 51st annual Hexagon show. As expected the audience was treated to edgy political satire skillfully conveyed in song and dance routines. Neither side of the aisle was spared; no major branch of government overlooked. At the center of the opening number stood a male actor wearing a flight suit who looked exactly like our current president. With the body language finely honed, he added an authenticity and polish to the evening's performance.

Surprisingly, even subjects that were in last week's news, like *Brokeback Mountain*, Dubai, and VP Cheney's quail hunting, were incorporated into songs. The cast itself oozed with talent. The ability to sing and dance simultaneously before a large audience tends to select out all but the truly gifted. In keeping with tradition, one number showcased the ladies' chorus line. The precision and stamina of the dancers were truly impressive. However, just as the applause was dying down, another number began, this one with a male chorus line. It too was exceptional and memorable particularly for the good sportsmanship.

We have Margaret Wyckoff to thank for keeping the event in the PVS repertoire and managing the ticket sales. Thank you, Margaret.

Submitted by Mary Beale

Monthly Meeting Review (March 21, 2006)

Forty three people attended the monthly meeting hosted by long-time members Phil and Eugenia Ufholz at their charming home in Bethesda. A lot of familiar faces were there who had not been seen for years. Ironic that this writer should mention that, as a lot of members haven't even recognized me (with short gray hair), also not seen in years! Our hosts had a lovely table laid out full of wonderful snacks, dips and delicious baklava, a complement of Eugenia's Greek heritage. College-bound daughter Christina was on hand to help with the event.



Phil and Eugenia Ufholz
March 2006

Not surprisingly, prez David Abraham had some difficulty in pulling PVS members away from the snack table and the baklava and into the meeting area. Several group leaders gave brief descriptions of just finished ski trips and one upcoming one, all without injuries to report. PVS continues to have a variety of interesting ski trips to offer, with a roster of fascinating members to attend them. Nancy McKinley brought it to our attention that the club is looking for someone or someplace to host the July "All Trips Party"...anyone with any ideas please give Nancy a call. Many thanks to Phil and Eugenia for inviting our club into their home.

Submitted by Betty Comerford

Local Event Reviews

Scandinavian Smörgåsbord (Feb/Mar 2006)

Right before our group departed for Scandinavia we received the joyful news that Oslo had just overtaken Tokyo as the world's most expensive city. But it seems we all shared the same attitude: well, so be it—we're only young once, so let's live it up and hang the cost!

The trip was designated as a "see and ski" trip but there was a whole lot more seeing than skiing, which was fine with us because there was plenty to see. There were guided tours in each city we visited, and lots in the way of museums, art galleries, churches, palaces, and the like. And of course there was shopping. (I have concluded that shopping is hard-wired to the X chromosome but is fairly rare in the Y chromosome!)

We started out in Lillehammer, site of the 1994 winter Olympics. There we had the opportunity to ski 5 days, but only 3 of our group of 14 skied 4 days. They declared the skiing great at Hafjell with plenty of snow and slopes. Three others skied one day and that was the full extent of our skiing!

Several of us took a side trip from Lillehammer by train, bus, and taxi to the very scenic city of Bergen. The trip itself was also scenic, especially since there was a thick blanket of new snow covering the countryside. En route a most unusual misadventure befell Ivan Bekey. Perhaps it was because the train's wheels were a bit jouncy at that point, but while attempting to squirt some caviar from a tube onto a roll, he somehow managed to squirt some up his nose. What a waste of caviar! Ray, true to form said "That's snot funny!" but Ivan's wife, Marlene, thought it was very funny!

Before arriving in Bergen we interrupted our trip to take a boat ride through Aurland and Naeroey Fjords, the latter being the narrowest fjord in Norway. It was awesome to see the high mountains rising abruptly from close to the water, with small villages tucked in amongst them here and there.

Our next destination after Lillehammer was Oslo, where in the hotel lobby Marlene by chance encountered an acquaintance she had met last year in the metropolis of Decorah, Iowa, at a

symposium on Norwegian folk art. What are the odds against that happening!? One of the highlights in Oslo was the Vigeland sculpture park, which included over 200 sculptures, mainly of the human figure, in bronze, granite, and forged iron by Gustav Vigeland, who was the architect of the park. An incredible achievement! We also saw the Holmenkollen ski jump and visited the Viking Ship Museum which houses three of the best preserved



Viking ships, discovered in burial sites dating back over 1,100 years.

From Oslo we flew to Stockholm which has an especially interesting Old Town, the site of the royal palace, the "great church," and many other centuries-old buildings. We had interesting guided tours of both the royal palace and the palace of Drottningholm, located a few miles outside the city, part of which is the official residence of the royal family. Both palaces date from the 18th century and both show the influence of the Palace of Versailles. Of special interest was the Wasa Museum, which houses the very large warship, Wasa, built in 1628 and intended to be the pride of Sweden's navy. However, being top-heavy with too many cannons on the upper deck, it toppled over and sank on its maiden voyage while still in the harbor, and was not raised until 1961! No one could be punished for the screw-up since it was designed to meet the specifications of the King, who was above the law!

European Trip reviews



After Stockholm we proceeded by overnight ferry (in reality a luxurious cruise ship) to Tallinn, the capital of Estonia. Long stretches of the Baltic Sea were completely

iced over, and it was fascinating to watch our ferry effortlessly plow through it. Tallinn seemed to be the favorite destination for most of our group. It has a very attractive medieval inner city with buildings dating from the 13th to the 16th century, and a large central square dominated by the imposing city hall. Church spires and steeples abound. Large sections of the old city wall are still standing, as are 26 of the original 45 towers. You

can still walk along some parts of the wall, and sections of it were incorporated into the walls of our hotel.

Our activities in Tallinn included a medieval meal (both menu and ambiance) in the restaurant Olde Hansa, attending a performance of the ballet "La Dame aux Camelias," by the Estonian National Ballet Company, and a visit to a Dominican monastery.

Ray and Nancy make a well-balanced team. Whatever the subject under consideration, Ray typically describes it with unbounded, exuberant enthusiasm, which Nancy often tempers with a more dispassionate, down-to-earth (and may I say usually more accurate?!) assessment! Anyway, we thank them both heartily for once again leading a top-notch trip!

Submitted by Bob Harmon



Photo on left: Trip leaders Nancy and Ray with well known Swedish product (does not imply any endorsement by PVS).

VAL GARDENA (March 2006)

Eight PVS members started out their trip to Val Gardena early with a start in Paris headed by Glade Flake. The remaining group of 8 went on to Munich out of Dulles Airport, to then board a bus to Val Gardena and join the rest of the BRSC group.

Our lodging at the four star Hotel Diamont proved to be wonderful in many ways, especially for food. After a fabulous served dinner that was chosen at breakfast, there was a big dessert buffet, which included Italian gelato. Glade Flake had to endure our laughter at his full plate from that table. He eventually bought a charming Bavarian style cane with a pickaxe handle that would help him walk off his indulgence. He also spent time buying very nice jewelry for wife Joanie, to whom he lost a bet.



European Trip reviews

Ski bus transportation from the hotel to the slopes and shopping proved to be a challenge, more for some than others. Some of us missed our stop more than once and wound up back at our origination, offering a lot more sightseeing than planned. (We don't want to mention names, but Shirley Rettig and her niece, Beverly would admit to it, not once but twice).

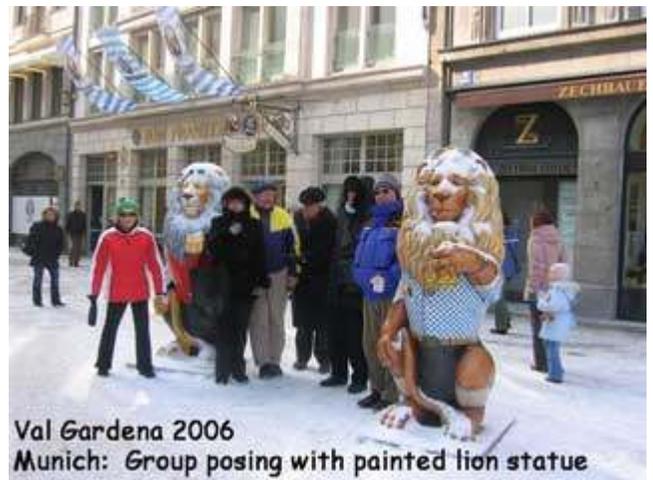
The views around Val Gardena are spectacular. Some of our group had previously visited Val Gardena some 20 years ago, including John Pulos, Shirley Rettig and Bill Anderson. It is a truly beautiful area, very Tirolean, with wonderful shops full of local woodcarvings, cuckoo clocks and Italian wares. There were large statues everywhere carved of wood, and huge frozen fountains. Tours during our week in Italy were in Bolzano, Venice and Verona (where some of our group had their own self-guided experience).

There were lots of shopping opportunities on this trip. Sylvia Lukens was the queen of shopping, admiring fashion in Bolzano and Verona. Husband Wally didn't seem to mind. Joan Flake and Tina Henley were on a mission to buy 12 purses for friends back home, picking up a few necklaces of edelweiss and snowflake design along the way. The Italian government thanked them all for spurring their economy. Pat Tengel lost her glasses early in the week, having to wear sunglasses for the duration of the trip, day or night. This excited some locals who thought they had a movie star in their midst. Bob McNeill was not without problems, having lengthy passages through security caused by his new knees and hips, and having to consider skiing blind-folded to combat his fear of heights. John Smith skied as a killer bee in a yellow and black outfit with a helmet that had antennae. Brian Henley took advantage of daily ski lessons, which he felt were beneficial. He could have saved money by talking to the trip leader first, who had a great tip on a pelvic thrust technique for skiing.

John Pulos was invaluable to the buying of wine for après-ski parties, with his vast language skills and knowledge of good local wine, which the trip leader's wife then carried in a backpack back to the hotel. He opted to bypass Munich at the end of our trip for his homeland of Greece.

The skiers had good snow and lots of good runs in Val Gardena. One was the Sella Ronda,

which Dick Comerford and Judy Macaluso mastered, as well as the Saslong World Cup downhill run. Judy was lucky to have boots to ski in, as she kept forgetting to retrieve them from the baggage carousel. She kept herself in shape by ending up the trip on a bike ride with Mike's Bike Tours around Munich on snow, while the rest of us enjoyed the treasures of the Munich Residence Museum. The group also enjoyed good German beer with wienerschnitzel or pigs knuckle in some of the restaurants near Marienplatz in Munich. Hotel Mercure was conveniently one block away from the main pedestrian walkway through the old section of Munich. Painted lion statues were



Val Gardena 2006
Munich: Group posing with painted lion statue

everywhere, providing a lot of photo ops.

A very special Sunday was spent at cloister, Andechs, on the outskirts of Munich, where a small number of monks make a large amount of really good beer. John Smith hired a bus for the day to transport us there and back. Some of our group attended mass and had lunch there, and then all were treated to an afternoon tea with a bounty of home-made desserts at the home of Hildi, a German friend of John and Pat. Hildi lives very close to Andechs, and had joined our group at Hotel Diamont in Val Gardena for the week of skiing. Many thanks to her for her generosity and kindness.

This three day windup in Munich was a great relaxing way to end a great trip. Thanks to all who joined us in this venture. A post-trip party is planned for May.

Submitted by Betty Comerford



THE KNEE

By Ray McKinley

A tip of the 'ol Knee Cap to last month's guest Knee, Mike Strand. He created a great new style of Knee. It was kneat! Thanks Mike.

But now the Knee is me and I am he. I promise fewer wine puns and more whine puns. However, I have to mention wine and Walmart—where, incidentally, over half of the families in the US shop at least once a week. Walmart has opened a new store in an upscale area near Dallas. It sells sushi and \$500 per bottle wine. It's true, even the Knee couldn't make that up!

Twenty PVSers had a ball at the Hexagon comedy show. Thanks to Margaret Wyckoff, who set it up. The Knee's favorite line was, "To help eradicate Bird Flu, President Bush has approved bombing the Canary Islands."

The Knee asked Marvin Hass, this month's TOOT Editor, and computer wiz if he has been in the computer business for long? Replied Marvin, I've only been a computer programmer since '55. I bet he means 1955!

It was wonderful of Mary Beale to still host the March meeting when her floors weren't completely ready for tromping on! It's above and beyond the call of duty. Mary handed out blue paper "booties" for everyone's feet. She got them at a medical supply store.

Several PVSers have now attended an avalanche school. They are taught how to push out from under the snow. The Knee believes that the best way is to carry a can of dog food. After the avalanche hits you, tear off the cap, and the St Bernard's will find you immediately.

At the last ExCom meeting, Mike Strand made the humus he was taught to make at the Aspen cooking school. He made it cold turkey!

At our Annual Meeting at the Leonhardt's we get to vote on Californians Nestor and Pat Delevaux to be our second couple in a new class of membership—associate members (ones who are sociated with a part of the body). Dave and Susan Payne our wine growers (not whine growers) from NY are the other couple.

Nestor reports that his sister Maryse Delevaux is halfway through her chemotherapy

for brain cancer and holding up very well. Her tumor has shrunk by 80%. Fantastic! You have all of our best wishes and prayers, Maryse.

As you can see, it's April, the cherry blossoms are now abloom with the vibrant pinks of spring. An old song noted, "Those April showers, they bring May flowers." Aside from being grammatically incorrect, the song neglects ski areas. There, April showers, bring May skiers, eager for a few last runs. Indeed, Liberty Mountain has just extended its glacier ski season to May 30. (Would the Knee lie to you?)

A few tidbits (the present tense of which is tidbites) from our Williamsburg members. Jim and Charlotte Kline are just back from a trip to Florida to visit Charlotte's daughter. And Marilyn Clark has joined the Williamsburg Choral Guild—a group dedicated to trying to establish the Caribbean atoll-making creature in the Old Town Square--so it will have more substance.

Elsewhere in this issue Bob Harmon has a super write-up of our trip to Scandinkneevia. Let me add a few tidbits.

Norway isn't cheap. Oslo just replaced Tokyo as the world's most expensive city. This was brought home to us when, after a week of skiing, Reg Heitchue sent out some underwear and a pair of pants for cleaning. His final bill was a mere \$91. Ouch!

Ivan Bekey was almost kicked out of Norway for snorting an illegal substance—caviar. Please read Bob Harmon's write-up for an explanation.

Many want to ski the fastest, or ski the highest. But David Abraham, Reg Heitchue and ex PVSer Loly Perez-Colon got to ski the *cul de sac*. It seems that, like Snowmass, at Lillehammer, many Norwegians build their houses adjacent to the slopes. David, Reg and Loly were on a smooth run when they realized there were houses on both sides and in front of them. They had to hike back up the road.

Finalknee Edith Rabinovitz almost set normally conservative Estonia on its ear when she arrived for breakfast one morning dressed only in her underwear. Okay, so they were long and black, and looked, claimed Edith afterwards, "like slacks." It isn't true, as you may have read in many of the newspapers, that Estonia has PNGed Edith.

PVS Club news

CALENDAR (2005-06)

April 1 Sa Telluride post-trip-party at Schwartzbard's. 5-9 PM
April 8 Sa Frank Shelburne Memorial Hike
April 18 Tu Annual Meeting at Leonhardt's
April 20 Th Bicycling Gourmet - Mt. Vernon bike path
April 22 Sa Scandinavia post-trip party.

April 25 Tu ExCom at Charlotte Eddy's
May 5-7 Weekend in Williamsburg
May 16 Tu Monthly Meeting (Bethesda)
May 23 Tu ExCom at the Abraham's
May 18 Th Bicycling Gourmet
June 16 Fr *Spamalot* - National Theatre

PVS News: Elections will be held at the April annual meeting.

► The following candidates for PVS Officers were selected by the Nominating Committee
No candidates were nominated by petition. Profiles of the candidates appeared in the March issue of TOOT.

President: David G. Abraham

Vice President: Michael Strand

Executive Committee (ExCom): Bob Knopes, Dick Laeser, David Lerner

The following changes in membership status will be voted on at the Annual meeting

► **Applicant members proposed for Active [local] membership** (sponsor[s] in parenthesis)

Mary Beale (Bob and Jan Marx)

Dave Bertagnoli (John Brunelli and Polly Brunelli)

David Callaway (Gene Sharer and Wilma Sharer)

Carolyn Callaway (Gene Sharer and Wilma Sharer)

Joe Jevcak (David Abraham)

Ingrid Monaghan (Ray McKinley)

Cherie Stallman (Polli Brunelli and John Brunelli)

Jean van der Tak (Mike Hatanaka)

Liz Warren-Boulton (David Abraham)

Bruno Walker (Ray Jones & Ray McKinley)

Joanna Walker (Ray Jones & Ray McKinley)

► **Applicants proposed for Associate membership** [sponsor in parenthesis]

Nestor Delevaux (Maryse Delevaux)

Pat Delevaux (Maryse Delevaux)

May TOOT: Jan Marx will resume as editor for the May issue. Copy can be submitted to Jan (jebbmarx@aol.com) or to toot@potomacvalleyskiers.org. This April issue was edited by Marvin Hass and proofread by Bob Marx (while at Winter Park).

Web Site: www.potomacvalleyskiers.org Photos or various club events are now being posted as "slide shows" using the web site www.photosite.com/pvskiers Links appear on the PVS web site. The photos display in large sizes and can be quickly viewed either automatically or individually.

Change of postal or e-mail address:

Call Pat Vagonis at (301) 838-5545

or send e-mail message to

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.

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

Ski Trip Cmte Chair - Bob Marx

TOOT Editor - Jan Marx

TOOT Proofreader - Bob Marx

TOOT Mailer -

Meeting Records - Sara Huggins

Historian - Jan Marx

First Term:

Charlotte Eddy

Burr Schuler

Dick Schwartzbard

Second Term:

Dave DeVilbiss

Sharon. Mulholland

Mike Hatanaka

WINTER PARK late March 2006 Photos



Group of 13 (minus Bob Marx who was taking the picture, out of 22) that accompanied David Lerner on his "mountain tour" our first morning
(Front row, L to R: Shirley Rettig, David Lerner, David Abraham, Jan Marx, Kendra Palmer, Roland Brockmeyer. Second row, L to R: Liz Warren-Boulton, Ann Snyder, Bruno Walker, Bob Knopes, Francesca Adams, Jim Stahler.)



Zephyr Lodge at Winter Park PVS stayed here

These photos were sent by email from Winter Park by Bob Marx