



T O O T



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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc

July 2006

WASHINGTON

MARYLAND

VIRGINIA

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President's Message

How great it is to have such a group of dedicated members! Our ExCom meeting was scheduled for last Tuesday, the day on which the heavens let go with all their might. Ten inches of rain with flooded highways and bridges, with cautionary warnings everywhere. Our committed warriors showed up, we had a quorum, and we held what probably will turn out to be a productive meeting. Special thanks go to our hosts, Sara and Charles Huggins, who hung in with us in that soggy condition and welcomed us in their richly decorated home in spite of our soiled shoes, and somewhat wet attire. The thought occurred to me: if that had been snow; can you imagine? Can you convert 10" of pure water to a corresponding quantity of snow? Though we're all avid skiers, that would have made our meeting a no go. We'd probably be still waiting for the plow!

I believe we're making good progress in our thorough examination of potential non-skiing activities. We've removed some from that list of potentials and we've added some new ones. In the next few weeks we'll have a short list of activities for which we believe there's sufficient interest to seriously look for champions and make them go. Hopefully, when we look for those champions the response will be as enthusiastic as can be.

Meanwhile, take a good look at our activities calendar. It's not too shabby. There's quite a bit to do if you wish to partake in the varied events available for the next several weeks. The upcoming all-trips party also offers an opportunity for a visit in the country with the guidance of our hosts, Kerry and Marianne Hines. And then the Annapolis excursion with Reg and Jean is also something quite special. Soon a new hike will be announced, and there are concerts, and more. Please do come and participate, enjoy your fellow members, and have yourself a summer ball.

Lastly, at the request of a couple of members we're looking at the possibility of providing increased pre-monthly meeting socializing time. So far the majority input is for leaving it at the 8 o'clock hour as it's been for many years.

I hope your summer continues happy and cool.

David



All Trips Party
At Marianne and Kerry Hines
Saturday July 15, 4:00 PM
11019 John Marshall Highway
Delaplane, Virginia

Please RSVP by July 10

540-364-4810 or mchines@starpower.net

Come for dinner, enjoy the mountain (and maybe wildlife) views, and learn all about the many great trips PVS is offering for the 2007 season.

A small fee will be charged.

Everyone is asked to bring an appetizer, salad, or dessert

Directions: 1) Starting at the Capital Beltway/Interstate Route 495, take I-66 West toward FRONT ROYAL go 42.8 miles.
2) Take exit #23 onto US 17 toward DELAPLANE/PARIS – go 0.9 miles.
3. Turn left onto VA-55 SOUTH toward FRONT ROYAL – go 2.0 miles
4. Arrive at 11019 JOHN MARSHALL HWY on the left.

For anyone interested in pre-party exploration of some of the local offering, Markham, Stillhouse, Three Fox, and Naked Mountain Vineyards, the Sky Meadow State Park, and a leg of the Appalachian Trail are within a 10-15 minutes drive of our house, and Highway 55 is a favored route for weekend bikers. Also, the two local orchards may have ripe blueberries, cherries, and/or peaches by mid-July. Have questions or want directions, please call or email.

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Future Local Events



WOLF TRAP'S ODE TO BEETHOVEN

Saturday July 8 at 8:15 PM

Beethoven

Buy tickets on your own and join Mike & Eloise Strand for a pre-concert wine and cheese party...weather permitting. For directions on how you can find the Strands at Wolf Trap contact them at 301-468-1535 or hrdyna@aol.com.



BICYCLING GOURMET

C&O Canal □

Great Falls to Seneca

Sunday July 16, 2006 10:30 AM

Route: C&O Canal Towpath from Great Falls (MD) to Seneca. 18 miles round trip completely along the tree shaded C&O canal towpath. This is a flat ride which is pleasant even in Washington's hottest humid weather. Picnic lunch on return to Great Falls. *Note. Pack and bring your own gourmet lunch or purchase at (non-gourmet) snack bar.* Rest room, water, and snack bar at ride start.

Starting Point: Great Falls Park, MD Meet in parking lot. Bring Golden Eagle Pass for free parking (otherwise \$5).

Note: Starting time given above is when group departs. Please arrive earlier to set up your bicycle, pump up tires, visit rest room, etc.

Leader: Marvin Hass (703) 751-4737
[marvinhass@hotmail.com]

Previous Ride Review: The June 16 Bike Ride from Vienna to Reston with stopover at Lake Fairfax and lunch at lakeside Lake Anne Center was blessed with perfect weather and delightful *al fresco* dining.



ANNAPOLIS BAY PICNIC at HEITCHUE'S

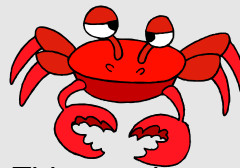
**Saturday August 12, 2006
(late afternoon)**

Event is limited to 25 people. Must call Reg or Jean to reserve a spot. Currently wait list only.

Main course and beverages will be provided. A small fee will be assessed.

Call 703-437-7611. Tell them if are bringing an appetizer, salad, or dessert.

Directions will be provided in the August TOOT. Parking is limited. You may park in the marina lot and walk only 0.3 miles to their place.



CRABFEST

**Saturday Sept 3, 4:00PM
Rain or Shine**

This popular event will now take place at Betty Lawrence's home in Vienna for the second year, Traditionally, Betty orders bushels of crabs. And the rest of us bring salads or desserts. If you wish, by can also bring "un-crabby" food that can be grilled (grill provided).

RSVP Betty by Tues Aug. 29

(703) 319-1860 or lizl@verizon.net
(Small fee for beverages, etc. and market price of crabs)

Parking: Street parking available (**SAFETY NOTE: Please** have every person get out of the car on the street side due to deep culverts, no sidewalks, and no shoulders OR drop off any passengers in circular driveway in front of house.)

Directions: Easiest (\$1.00 toll): Take Dulles Toll Rd (Rte 267) 5.5 miles west from Beltway to Hunter Mill Rd. exit 14; left (south) onto Hunter Mill Rd. (Rte 674) and follow it (you will have to make left turn after 1/3 mile to remain on Hunter Mill Rd. at T) 3.4 miles to Vale Rd.(Rte 672). Turn left on Vale Rd and proceed 1/5 mile to Trott Ave and turn left and then take next right (one block) onto Woodrow St. Proceed one block to corner of Woodrow St. and Gerken Ave. Betty's house is on the corner. NOTE safety concerns above.

Alternative: Take Rte. I-66 to Nutley St North Exit and proceed 1.1 miles (crossing Rte.123-Maple Ave) until it ends at Malcolm Rd. Turn left on Malcolm Rd (Rte 672) and remain on it when it changes name to Vale Rd (remains Rte. 672). After proceeding about one mile, turn right onto Trott Ave and then take next right (one block) onto Woodrow St. Proceed one block to corner of Woodrow St. and Gerken Ave. Betty's house is on the corner. NOTE safety concerns above.

10,000 Woodrow St., Vienna, Virginia
Telephone: 703-319-1860



A FEAST FOR THE EYES and EARS, PERHAPS THE PALLET TOO
A BLOCKBUSTER CONCERT BY NATIONAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, and a GUIDED TOUR OF THE REGION'S MOST BEAUTIFUL CONCERT HALL
Saturday September 16 700: PM



The date is September 16, and the venue is the just one year old Music Center at Strathmore in Bethesda. On that date National Philharmonic Orchestra, under its renowned Music Director and Conductor Piotr Gajewski (an immensely talented and insightful conductor, *Washington Post*) inaugurates its second season at the spectacular Strathmore concert hall with a program to please any and all music lovers: Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No.2, and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5, with the local piano virtuoso Brian Ganz (last night's recital offered strong evidence that he's a great one, *Washington Post*) at the keyboard. We have arranged for a private guided tour of this incredible facility with its nearly 2,000 comfortable seats, an elaborate teaching and rehearsal annex, and a spectacular setting in the midst of a bustling city, yet giving the impression of and the feel for an island all its own.

We will have reserved seats in the Promenade section, and we'll be treated to a brief private reception with refreshments before and during the intermission of the concert. Our negotiated deal for all these goodies is a per person price of \$47.-. A meeting to begin the guided tour on that Saturday evening at 7pm is planned, with the concert beginning at 8pm.

This is an unique opportunity, and surely a most enjoyable late summer evening. Because there's only a limited number of seats reserved for us, we ask that you please send in your check promptly. Make it payable to David G. Abraham, and mail it to him at 6201 Hollins Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817-2348.
(For sake of full disclosure, David, who has arranged for this event, is an officer and director of National Philharmonic).

STRATHMORE FREE SUMMER MUSIC



Nearly every Wednesday summer evening at 7:00 PM, Strathmore offers free concerts. Bring a blanket or short collapsible chair, your own food and drinks, or buy from available sandwiches, sodas, wine and beer. For more information about the concerts go to www.strathmore.com

July 5: Amy Beth Horman, violin; Corey McVicar, piano; Rachel Young, cello—Beethoven, Brahms and Mendelssohn.

July 12: Debi Smith and Billy Coulter Band—"highly hilarious female folkestra" plus "roots-pop" with a passionate organic sound.

July 19: Brennen Leigh*—a "young Tanya Tucker" is an award-winning bluegrass/country singer.

July 26: Trout Fishing in America—LA Times: "...some of the most lyrically creative, musically sophisticated, vocally muscular music-makers in the family music business."

August 2: The Whitworth Brass*—classical and opera favorites lead by Roger Whitworth, principal horn for the National Guard Concert Band.

August 9: Chopteeth Afrofunk Big Band*--This 14-piece afrofunk orchestra builds on some of the funkier, most hip-shaking' West Africa popular music on the planet.

August 23: Tribute to Neil Young—Musicians come from far and wide to pay tribute to this incredible singer/songwriter.

* Indicates concerts Mike and Eloise Strand plan to attend...they usually arrive early: 6:00PM or so.

Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro garage parking is \$4 but you must use a Metro SmarTrip card (available at the Metro station) to exit the garage.



2007 Summer Ski Trip

NEXT SUMMER--August 9-25, 2007, join Nancy and Ray McKinley to
See & Ski in Argentina, Brazil

The grandeur of Argentina's Andes, the Old World beauty and tango passion of Buenos Aires, and to top it all off – a 3 day add-on to magical Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. 8 days and 7 nights in Argentina's world-class 40,000 acre, 4,100 ft vertical ski resort, Las Leñas, and 5 days, 4 nights in South America's most cosmopolitan city, the Paris of the Western Hemisphere, Buenos Aires. And we include an option for a three day add on to South America's Carnival town—Rio de Janeiro. Join us and enjoy.

While North America suffers summer, enter Argentina's Las Leñas, the largest lift-serviced skiing area in the entire Western Hemisphere. **This South American resort stretches across 40,000 acres of the Andes and is outfitted with 13 lifts, 40 miles of trails, and 4,100-foot vertical drop from its 11,253-foot summit.** By comparison, Las Lenas is seven times the size of Vail. There's oodles of skiing for everyone.



Las Leñas' single huge mountain is divided into two main areas. The lower section's nine lifts connect a variety of groomed trails, which are ideal for beginners and intermediates. Experts seeking the perfection that has made Las Leñas world-famous continue above the tree line – huge bowls, steep chutes, panoramic views, and fresh powder await. **There are also a significant number of blue pistes above the tree line.** In keeping with its European roots, the village at the mountain's base opens early and closes late. It has a multitude of fine shops, restaurants, bars and discos. With copious snow, and superb skiing for all levels, Las Leñas is a truly great place to spend a week in August!



We'll include all lodging in 4or 5 Star hotels, daily breakfasts, and all Dinners at Las Leñas 2 dinners in Buenos Aires, all transfers, happy hours, airfare from Washington DC, pre and post trip parties, and eye-opening tours in Buenos Aires including a trip to one of the gaucho Estancias a parillada featuring all the finest of cuisine and entertainment. In Buenos Aires we'll also do a not-to-be missed, first-class tango show and dinner.

We have a spectacular 3-day add-on. **It includes round trip air to Rio, 4/5 star lodging near Copacabana and Ipanema Beaches.** We'll tour the city; visit Rio's signature Sugarloaf Mountain, the statue of the Christ, and more.

Schedule: We leave from DC on Thursday eve, August 9, 2007, arriving in Buenos Aires Friday morning. And surprise, there's no jet lag, as they are in our time zone. We spend Friday in Buenos Aires, and leave Saturday for Las Leñas. We spend the next seven days enjoying Las Leñas and its vistas and wonderful snow.

On Saturday, Aug 18 we return to Buenos Aires for five days of sightseeing and gustatory delights. On Tuesday, Aug 21 those not continuing to Rio fly back to Washington, DC. The rest of us fly to Rio, Brazil's wonderland. Enjoy the beaches, and the sightseeing. We return to Buenos Aires on Friday Aug 24 and fly back to DC overnight arriving on Saturday, Aug 25, 2007.

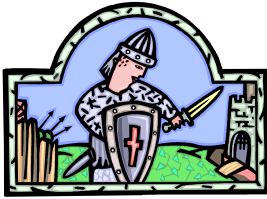


Cost: We don't yet have a firm cost. However, since the Argentine peso is very weak, we expect the cost for the 14 day trip to be about \$2,700-\$2,900. To add 3 nights in Rio, Brazil should be, including airfare, \$700-\$900.

Our See and Ski trip is for everyone. Space is limited for this trip of a lifetime. To hold a space, send a check for \$100 per person, to Ray McKinley. Mail it to 2326 North Upton Street, Arlington, VA 22207-4045. This deposit is refundable until October 2006 when we will finalize costs our trip. Call us at 703-527-7126 for info.

Past Event Reviews

Spamalot where they Ham (it up) a lot.



A mob of 43 PVS members and guests descended on the National Theater to witness the zany fun of **Spamalot**.

Some of us partook dinner at Les Halles before the show. The restaurant had the spirit by offering a special Spamalot menu. Some of the offering were: "Knights of the Round Table" Charcuterie Plate = spam, prosciutto, pate, rillette, and smoked ham; "Bring Out Your Dead" soup of black trumpet mushrooms; Braised "Killer" Rabbit in Natural Juice; and "African Swallow," spinach salad with roasted quail and warm bacon vinaigrette. Any of these dishes could be washed down with Holy Grail Ale - quite good, actually. All of these

titles were much more meaningful to us after the performance.

The musical was well costumed, well sung, and the stage sets were dramatic, too. Now, true Monty Python fans may have understood all of the references alluded to, but us normal folk could fully appreciate some of the humor. True MP style and goofiness was presented with gusto. Many of us agreed that by the second half we were really enjoying it.

Thanks, Ray and Nancy, for affording the opportunity of an unusual theater experience.

Submitted by Jan Marx

Monthly Meeting at Keel's



Forty PVSers attended the June meeting at Ilse Keel's home in Potomac, Md. Margaret Wyckoff was the co-hostess. The meeting was held on the large stone patio in the back of the house which overlooked a

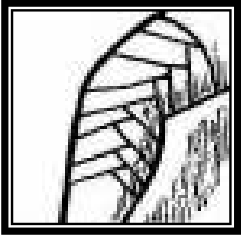
beautiful landscaped garden of azaleas, hostas, and astilbes. Many PVSers toured the garden. We were served veggies and chips with dips, nuts, baked hors d'oeuvres, and cookies.

Our president was absent, and v. p. (Mike Strand) started the business part of the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Mike asked the members if they would like to start the future business part of each meeting at 8:00, 8:15, or 8:30. The vote was nearly identical for each of the three times. Each of the trip leaders then discussed the seven upcoming ski trips for

2006/2007. Pat Vagonis will lead the annual three day trip to Wisp which features a Thursday demo day in January. Other upcoming events were discussed, and PVSers were reminded to sign up. Mike Strand has been working on future events, and we should see some interesting new events evolve.

Thanks go to Ilse and Margaret for providing us a great opportunity to enjoy the beautiful summer evening weather with lots of space to converse on the patio. It sure beats a crowded room on a summer night.

Submitted by Charles and Sara Huggins



THE KNEE

By Ray McKinley

It's muggy July. But in Las Leñas, Argentina, a single, silvery snow-flake now flutters down from the nighttime sky. It lands silently on the blissfully cool ground. Then comes another hexagonally perfect ice crystal, and another. Soon the slopes are soft, fluffy whiteness. Conifers, are almost white, with branches snow laden. Rocks and bushes alike become indistinguishable, like white powderpuffs. The days are serene; the nights are soothingly cool. And the world is at peace.

A reminder in the heat and humidity of summer of what is PVS's recognized favorite season. Winter.

Great news--for a change. Dottie Villars is not leaving the area. She visited both Tucson and Albuquerque. She found them to dry, and with no place for sailing. Dottie, you could sail on the sand!

There's Viagra in them thar hills! That's according to Marvin Hass and ABC News. Yup, at high altitudes Viagra increased the lung capacity of athletes by up to 40%. Dare I say, this increased their performance?

A very Happy Ankneeverary to Deer Valley. This is their 25th birthday. Perhaps they will pour everyone a Stein.

And a very special tip of the ol' Knee Cap to Liz and Serge Triau. They just celebrated their 50th Ankneeverary. According to Serge, he was barely into his forties when they got married. And Liz was enthusiastic. "We've now had six years of wedded bliss!" The joyous couple celebrated their Golden Eve with dinner at *la Ferme*. Right on! (and on, and on, and on)

A non-skiing tidbit. Do you know how rich Warren Buffet is? He is so rich that he can hire Bill Gates to give his money away.

Our September hostess, Dorie Waddick has joined the Red Hat Club. And she has convinced Rosalie Chiccotelli to become a member. Dorie has risen through the ranks and is a Vice Princess. No, I'm not making this up.

Dick and Marilyn Clark were in DC for a visit, staying with Margaret Wyckoff. Marilyn was pleased because she had discovered a hosta farm in Williamsburg. It hasta be hosta!

According to June Read, who was there, congrats are due to ex PVSer Carol Bridgers. She just got married. Carol's 6' 1" grandson, resplendent in his Naval Academy formal uniform, ushered. Kneat! June has recently returned from celebrating in Milwaukee, where her daughter received her PhD. Write on.

In the 40's, ski injuries were 6 per 1000 skier days. By the 60's it was 7 per 1000 days. But last year there were just 2.5 injuries per 1000 skier days. So why all the hassle about the dangers of skiing?

Back in the (Rehoboth) saddle again is Sue Walsh. She's here from Arizona for the summer. And she has an unusual vacation planned—to Viet Nam. Sue will go with her daughter to bring home her daughter's adopted Viet Nameese child. I'll Sai when she is gon.

I'll not mention Britany Spears. Oops!

Pandamonium. Be certain to see Fred Leonhardt's wonderful National Zoo photos of Washington's newest most charming Panda, Tai-Shen. Fred took them with his new digital zoom Nikon. I simply can't bear it

Some 40 of us attended a performance of the outrageous Broadway smash hit Spamalot. The Knee got a chance to catch up with some rarely seen PVSers. Trudy Santoro looked wonderful, attending with her son and daughter-in-law.

The designer of PVS' Christmas cover, Nancy Monacelli, and Ron Fett enjoyed the show. Two years ago, after doing it for 26 winters, Ron Fett retired as a Vail ski instructor. He was wearing his retirement gift, a \$1,000 Gold Rolex. For the last two winters, Ron's skiing has been in the Caribbean. Cool!

Our June hostess, Ilse Keel was really getting "cultured." She had been to the KenCen, to see the Kirov, the previous evening.

And new members Bruno and Joanna Walker decided at the last minute to bring their kids to the sold out show. They found balcony seats on the internet.

New club secretary, Mary Beale had to cancel at the last moment. The funeral of her aunt, columnist Betty Beale, was the same day.

Margaret Wyckoff said she doesn't do jokes. She then asked, why was the tomato blushing? Because it saw the salad dressing. As stated, Margaret doesn't do jokes.

Spamalot wasn't the first Broadway for Dick and Sandy Laeser. They were back from the Great White Way where they saw 6 shows in 5 days. The result: sore ifs, ands and butts!

Calendar/PVS Club Info

CALENDAR (2006)

Local Event Calendar	Ski Trip Calendar (Western, Euro, South America)
July 8 Sat Strand's at Wolf Trap	Dec 9-15, 06 Steamboat (Dick Comerford)
July 15 Sat All Trips Party at Hines' (Delaplane, VA)	Jan 18-25, 07 Snowmass (C.Maurer/D.DeVilbiss)
July 16 Sun Bicycling Gourmet (C&O towpath)	Feb 3-10 07 Big Sky (PVS/BRSC-M.Rine/J.Marx)
July 25 Tue ExCom at Mary Beale's	Feb 17-25 07 Sun Peaks (Ray/Nancy McKinley)
Aug 12 Sat Annapolis Bay Picnic at Heitchue's	Mar 3-10 07 Schladming (BRSC G.Flake/J.Smith)
Aug 22 Tue ExCom at Schwartzbard's	(Athens Feb 26 – Mar 3; Vienna Mar 11-13)
Sept 2 Sat Crab Fest at Betty Lawrence's	Mar 17-24 07 Snowbird/Alta (Mike Strand)
Sept 16 Sat Strathmore Concert, Reception, Tour	Aug 9-25 07 Argentina (Ray/Nancy McKinley)

August TOOT: Marvin Hass will be editor for the August TOOT issue and was the editor of this July issue. Copy can be submitted to toot@potomacvalleyski.org and it will be forwarded to the editor of the month. Jan Marx will resume as editor for the September issue,

Web Site: www.potomacvalleyski.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.

<p>Change of postal or e-mail address: Call Pat Vagonis at (301) 838-5545 or send e-mail message to pvagonis@comcast.net</p>	<p>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.</p>
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PVS Roster Changes

Last Name, First Name	Item to be changed	Status
Heitchue, Reg and Jean	Home telephone number (703) 437-7611	Active
Mullen, Sallie	Home telephone number: (301) 983-6636	Applicant
Villers, Dottie	Email address: dottie.villers@cqifederal.com	Active

PVS BOARD MEMBERS, OFFICERS, and CHAIRPERSONS - 2006-2007

President - <i>David Abraham</i>	Webmaster - <i>Marvin Hass</i>	<u>First Term:</u>
Vice President - <i>Mike Strand</i>	Ski Trip Cmte Chair - <i>Bob Marx</i>	<i>Bob Knopes</i>
Secretary - <i>Mary Beale</i>	TOOT Editor - <i>Jan Marx</i>	<i>Dick Laeser</i>
Treasurer - <i>Ray Jones</i>	TOOT Proofreader - <i>Bob Marx</i>	<i>David Lerner</i>
Membership - <i>Pat Vagonis</i>	TOOT Mailer -	<u>Second Term:</u>
Events - <i>Ray McKinley</i>	Meeting Records - <i>Sara Huggins</i>	<i>Charlotte Eddy</i>
Non-skiing Activities - <i>Mike Strand</i>	Historian - <i>Jan Marx</i>	<i>Burr Schuler</i>
		<i>Dick Schwartzbard</i>