

President's Message

Hello again!

Happy

We welcome back our Snowmass skiers, who had a wonderful week skiing at our favorite Snowmass Mountain Chalet, under the leadership of Barry and Kathy Lake! I understand that the group celebrated the 40th wedding anniversary of webmaster Mary Ellena Ward and hubby Jim Slack during this special year. Read about this and other trip happenings later in this TOOT.

John Smith reports that in spite of his diligent weather watching we have not had adequate weather for snowmaking at our local areas, but he is hopeful for better prospects in the weeks to come. Inge Lesjak is poised to lead our club for our March trip to Val d'Isere. The trip promises to offer good skiing as well as pre-and post-trip extensions for touring. We look forward to hearing your reports and seeing your pictures.

I hope that you were able to make it to the January 28 monthly meeting/party at the party room in Nancy and Ray McKinley's Crystal City condominium.

This is a new venue for the club. Thank you, Nancy and Ray, for making this available to us. We were sorry about having to make a last-minute date change due to the traffic forecasts for events surrounding the inauguration and Women's March, but it seemed best.

Our Nominating Committee has been busy organizing a slate of officers (President, Vice President, and three ExCom members) to be voted on at the April 18 Annual Meeting. Nominating Committee Chair Reg Heitchue has selected a committee of David Warthen, Jan Marx, Melissa FitzGerald, Tom Tycz, and Mary Tycz. The final slate will be emailed to ExCom and all club members by mid-February. Many thanks to the committee members for all your hard work. If any club members wish to add suggestions for the committee to consider, please contact any of the Nominating Committee members.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our February 18 meeting at the Ufholz' home.

-Carolyn



Valentine's Day

Directions to the Ufholz home:

FROM VIRGINIA ON THE BELTWAY CROSSING INTO MARYLAND: Take River Road (MD-190 E) exit (Exit 39B) toward Washington. Turn left onto Burdette Road and proceed 1.3 miles. Turn right on Bradley Boulevard (MD-191) and proceed 1.1 miles. Turn left onto Valley Road; take the first right onto Ridge Road. Continue on Ridge to the top of the hill, 8613 Long Acre Court is on the right (the first house in the cul-de-sac).

FROM WASHINGTON, DC, ON WISCONSIN AVENUE: Follow Wisconsin Avenue, crossing into Maryland. Turn left on Bradley Lane (MD-191 N) and proceed 2.7 miles. Turn right onto Valley Road. Take the first right onto Ridge Road. Continue on Ridge to the top of the hill, 8613 Long Acre Court is on the right (the first house in the cul-de-sac).

FROM I-270 TOWARDS WASHINGTON: On the I-270 spur, take exit 1 – Democracy Boulevard. Turn left on Democracy Boulevard. Turn right on Fernwood Road and proceed 1.2 miles. Take a slight left on Greentree Road and proceed .5 mile. Take a right onto Ridge Place; take a left onto Ridge Road; 8613 Long Acre Court is on the left, the first house in the cul-de-sac.

Dear Snowmass 2017 Skiers,

Thanks to all of you for making this year's trip a great success. We had plenty of snow - maybe too much some of the time - but also bright skies and fast groomers! For those of you that can't get enough of Snowmass, there is a nice smartphone app that you can download (Aspen Snowmass App at iTunes & Google Play Stores) for both the Android and Apple. Have a safe and enjoyable time on your future trips and hope to see all of you next year!

Your Snowmass trip leaders - Kathy & Barry



Jannes G., Marianne S., Mary Ellena W., Bruce K., Jon W., & Jill N.

Come join PVS and see the Tony-award-winning musical

Ragtime!



On Saturday April 15^h at 2 pm

Based on the novel by E.L. Doctorow, about the changes in the country at the turn of the 20th century, RAGTIME is a luscious musical event. It follows three families, who are experiencing change in the country, each in its own way. RAGTIME is a spectacular show with hauntingly lovely music and winner of four Tony Awards, including Best Original Score and Best Book!

This performance is at the historic Ford's Theatre, whose museum chronicling Abraham Lincoln's death at the theatre is open for our ticketholders one hour before the show.

Ford's Theater is located at 511 10th Street NW, near 2 METRO stops, and with nearby parking. Tickets are expected to be \$47 (over-60 rate), but the time to sign up is very limited. After the show, those interested will have an early supper at a nearby restaurant.

If you're interested, please contact Nancy McKinley at 703 595 8375 or by email at nancymckin@gmail.com ASAP and no later than February 10.

SKI TALK February 2017



Snowmass Mountain Chalet We recently returned from another successful ski trip to Snowmass at the Mountain Chalet. The trip made me proud to be part of the club. As you will read elsewhere in this TOOT, one of the highlights was celebrating the 40th anniversary of Mary Ellena Ward and Jim Slack who hosted a dinner for the whole group. Their first PVS trip was their honeymoon in 1977! How special that they continue to join the trips.

Kathy and Barry Lake were the trip leaders. They agreed to take on this task even though they had never led a ski trip before. They were mentored by Marianne Soponis, a past Snowmass ski trip leader. Without trip leaders, we cannot run ski trips. We all enjoy the benefits of the trips and the camaraderie of the group whether it is skiing with different people; going out to dinner; or just chatting at breakfast or lunch. Think about how you could help the club by volunteering to lead a trip or by assisting the trip leader. If you have a ski area you are familiar with and

would like to go with club members, let us know and we will help set up a club trip.

Let me introduce the Ski Trip Committee (STC): Rosemary Schwartzbard, Chair; Kerry Hines; Inge Lesjak; and Nancy McKinley. The STC is responsible for recommending and coordinating the trip schedule. The actual trips are run by members of the club. The trips have a primary leader, typically someone who has some experience running ski trips, but that is not mandatory. There is usually a co-leader who may also be experienced or may just be learning how to run trips. The leaders put the trip together, most often by working with a ski trip vendor.



Here is the timeline for proposals. **Preliminary proposals are due by the end of March**. This can be a half page description indicating the destination, dates and any other information that the leaders deem important. **Enhanced proposals with full detailed information are due by mid-May**. The proposals are submitted for approval at the May ExCom meeting. Trips taking place in December or January may be submitted earlier as reservations at the hotels often have to be made well in advance. Half page descriptions of approved trips are included in the June TOOT. Detailed fliers are in the July TOOT.



The Blue Ridge Ski Council trips for 2018 are:

- 2018 Western Carnival: Whistler/Blackcomb, Canada (Feb 4-11). Tour Operator: Sports America.
- 2018 Eurofest: Trois Vallees (Brides-les-Bains), France (Feb. 24-March 4). Tour Operator: Holidaze.
- 2018 Winterfest: Stowe, Vermont (March 4-9). Tour Operator: Bianchi Outdoor Adventures.



We can join the BRSC trips or go to any other destinations you

might like to visit. Please let me know your thoughts. If you have any questions about leading trips, our STC would be glad to answer your questions.

Spring 2017 Ski Show:

The Paul Weber Spring Ski Show will be on Friday evening, May 5, at the Marriott Tysons Corner. Mark your calendars and come to this event to talk to the different representatives of ski resorts and the vendors who help organize trips.

Invitation from: BRSC <u>Mogul Ski Club</u>, Sunday River, Maine, 2-26 to 3-3-17 No transportation, \$600/person @ Jordon Grand Hotel <u>markemills58@gmail.com</u>

Rosemary Schwartzbard rosemaryschw@gmail.com

PVS LOCAL SKIING

The best news for local skiing is that January is over so that we can expect less rain and colder weather from now on.



The local areas have been in pretty poor conditions for the last two weeks, due to frequent heavy rain and temperatures from 40 to 60 degrees; so, it has not been even possible to make new snow for the last two weeks.

< http://www.libertymountainresort.com>



Last night (Friday January 27), it was finally possible to make a couple inches of snow at Liberty Mountain and at Whitetail. The weather forecast is for the temperature to be cold enough to make snow for several hours a day for the next two weeks; so, the conditions should improve significantly in the next few days and be good from then on.





< <u>http://www.skiwhitetail.com</u>>

If anyone is interested, Wisp has been getting natural snow for the last few days, and the snow is expected to continue for several more days. The temperatures are expected to be low enough to make snow continuously for the next week.

Let's plan to get out as often as possible in February.

For local skiing contact: John Smith E-mail: johnhsmith@juno.com Phone: 301-299-8376



<<u>http://www.wispresort.com</u>>

Spaces available – it's not too late to sign up !





Getting to Know You ------

<u>Applicant Members – Jorge & Mary Rose Szoka</u> <u>Valladares Profile (Sponsor – Herb Bennett)</u>:

Growing up in the Washington area, my family's winter sport was ice-skating on outdoor ponds or indoor rinks. By late high school, the excitement of televised downhill skiing inspired me to propose a ski trip at my all girls school -but the girls weren't ready for ski adventure. When I finally took to the Washington area slopes, the local ice conditions were daunting. But I persisted and joined friends for a ski trip in New Hampshire (Mt. Sunapee), where the cold proved equally challenging. Not long thereafter, I skied out West (Aspen and Breckenridge) for the first time. A powder epiphany! Then, my first "permanent" job took me temporarily from Washington to Denver where I travelled the southwest for work. So I had opportunities to ski in Utah (Park City), Colorado (Telluride) and New Mexico (Ski Apache, Taos). While I wasn't really "black diamond" material, I thoroughly enjoyed the beginner-intermediate slopes. Marriage led me to New Mexico, which has many and varied ski areas. Notably, I first experienced the delights of cross-country skiing there.

My ski life paused for awhile when, five months pregnant with my first child, I got off a lift at Albuquerque's Sandia Peak. Gazing at the city below, I realized that it might not be such a great idea to ski down the slope. Next time I took a lift up the slope was sometime after my second child was born. With a family business and children, I skied sporadically over the next few years. Fast forward more years.... the loss of "the key man" in our family and business led me back to Washington where Jorge and I met at a Congressional field hearing on the environment. We married 2 years later. Now retired, Jorge was the Chief of Environmental Planning at the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. He is a Professional Engineer (PE) with a B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering, the latter from Catholic University. He is also a graduate of ITESM, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, in Mexico. For fun, he regularly bikes from Bethesda to National Airport and back.

I resumed skiing in New Mexico. The last time was at Ski Santa Fe where a man in a helmet mowed down several people -- including me-- on a narrow intermediate trail. He never looked back. I landed on my wrists facing uphill and had to drive back to my friend's home alone. Since writing is critical to my job, I decided that skiing alone was maybe not such a good idea. Since then, my ski life has been on hold. I keep busy with work in international energy and technology development. I have an MA in Urban Planning and an MBA, the latter from Georgetown, as well as a Diplôme in French Civilisation from the Sorbonne in Paris. Looking forward to skiing with PVS Members!

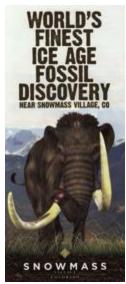
<u>Applicant Member – Kay Christensen Profile, (Sponsor</u> <u>– Rosemary Schwartzbard):</u>

I hail from Denver, CO, and am seeking to join PVS so that I can participate in its upcoming trip to Val d'Isere. Having lived in Colorado the past 25 years, I have easy access to many first-class ski resorts where I can enjoy a wide variety of groomers, bumps, glades and steeps & deeps on a regular basis. In fact, I am a member of a ladies' ski bus that travels weekly during the season to one of these resorts. We are treated to coffee & croissants on the ride to the mountains, then enjoy wine & cheese on the way home after a hard day of skiing. Vail is, by far, my favorite place to float on our famous champagne powder.

I have previously participated in a couple of PVS trips as a guest of Rosemary (Sponsor) & Dick Schwartzbard, my next-door neighbors when I lived in North Arlington from 1980-90. I look forward to sharing food, drink & fun experiences with all of you while enjoying the slopes at Val d'Isere.

<u>Snowmass Ice Age Museum:</u>

While participating in the Aspen/Snowmass 2017 ski trip, I visited the temporary Ice Age Discoverv Museum in the Snowmass Mall. This dig (discovered in 2010 at the Ziegler Reservoir) is only 0.5 miles from Snowmass and is one of the finest archeological sites at this altitude in the world. It is a great way to pass the day when the weather is not pristine on the slopes. Eventually, there will be a permanent museum at the base where the gondola and six-pack originate.



See - <<u>http://www.snowmassdiscovery.org</u>>

TOOT Distribution to 165 Members:

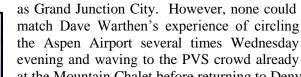
-pdf: 144; USPS: 3 **Thanks to:**

- -TOOT Coordinator E. Thaver
- -TOOT USPS B. Leonhardt, J. Read, & L. Triau - Layout Editor & Electronic TOOT - J. D. Warthen Roster Changes: (contact dwarthen@verizon.net)

Snowmass 2017 - January 11-18

The PVS trip to Snowmass 11-18 January was, on the one hand, much like previous trips – well-planned, a familiar mountain with mostly good ski conditions, strong PVS participation by 32 persons, and thoroughly enjoyed by the group. On the other hand, the trip had its unique aspects, none quite so prevalent as the mysterious appearance and disappearance of various things during the course of the trip – one trip participant appearing over Aspen Airport and then disappearing into the night; a set of glasses disappearing and then being discovered on various pillows; robes with room keys disappearing from the rack at the hot tub and being found with the wrong owner; the cap disappearing a bus stop in Aspen, continuing right past the waiting PVS group, and disappearing in the darkness

Winter Storm Jupiter had a serious impact on the travel of trip participants, as the various experiences included delayed flights, prolonged airport layovers, and rerouted flights, with the last leg of travel completed by bus from other area airports such





Our Fearless Leaders Barry & Kathy Lake



at the Mountain Chalet before returning to Denver for the evening. Dave finally completed his journey from Washington Dulles to Aspen Eagle around midmorning on 12 January.

Jupiter likewise brought some rather extreme weather to the Snowmass slopes - winds at 40+ mph, which caused the closure of all lifts except the Elk Camp Gondola, Alpine Springs Chair, and Village Express. These conditions

constrained the skiing of Rosemary and Dick Schwartzbard, who were the first group members to arrive on 9 January. The recurring and frequent snowfall brought a total of around 20 inches, which provided good skiing conditions on Friday and subsequent days with periodic light snowfall at higher elevations. Sunday and Monday mornings began with heavy fog that had mostly cleared by lift opening time. Finally, the progressive improvement of the weather provided great ski conditions on Monday and Tuesday (16-17 Jan). Those people leaving on 18 January unfortunately missed a fantastic day with bright sunshine, a clear blue sky, perfect snow conditions, and a ride up the Sheer Bliss Lift around 10:00 am with the air filled with "diamonds from the sky" - small ice crystals that created a rainbow or parhelion.

Leaders, Barry and Kathy Lake, organized numerous activities for the group, which provided frequent opportunities for socializing off the slopes. Wednesday was a welcome party sponsored by Snowmass Mountain Chalet with a selection of drinks and snacks, followed Thursday evening by a PVS wine and cheese party hosted by Kathy and Barry. Saturday, the group was treated to a broad variety of delicious pizzas, paired with wine, beer, and soft drinks, and the opportunity to watch the NFL playoff telecast or enjoy a variety of board and card games. In addition, Bonnie Sweeney conducted an impromptu physical therapy session and called for the assembly of the "joint group" – membership in which required a least one replacement joint.



40 Years -----Jim Slack & Mary Ellena Ward

Sunday was Jim and Mary Ellena Ward's 40th Wedding Anniversary Celebration <<u>Pictures</u>> with chicken gumbo and cowboy stew (which Jim renamed Green Bay stew in honor of the just-concluded NFL playoff victory over Dallas) from the Soup Pot, a large mixed greens salad, and a selection of wines and soft drinks. They shared with the group their experience and tribulations on their honeymoon PVS trip in 1977 to Austria with the Wyckoffs, when they discovered that their assigned room was equipped with a single bed and a cot and the Customs concerns about procuring a needed repair part for a "bootleg" Fiat automobile. While the group enjoyed salad, soups, and drinks, Jim and Mary Ellena conducted a drawing for a number of door prizes. Marianne Soponis reviewed the report of the trip from the 1977 TOOT and shared some thoughts on marriage: "It's always safe to tell secrets to your husband. They'll never tell anyone because they've stopped listening half way." AND, "If you are wrong and shut up, you are wise. If you're right and shut up, you're married." Jim and

Mary Ellena were presented a book of photographs of Aspen/Snowmass that all of the trip participants signed.

Jon Wechsler planned an all-day trip to Aspen and Aspen Mountain for Monday, 16 January, which subsequently was cancelled because of forecast bad weather, but then a small group of five made an afternoon trip. They enjoyed a gondola ride up the mountain and shopping in Aspen. On Monday evening the Mountain Chalet again hosted the group for a Wine and Cheese Party.

After finally arriving at the Mountain Chalet, Dave Warthen lost his reading glasses, which somehow, over the course of the next day, found their way to David Payne's bed and then to Bruce King's pillow. The "ghosts of buyers lost" are apparently resident in the Mountain Chalet. Sue Lyon enjoyed peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for lunch at the Mountain Chalet until she discovered that a loosened cap on her tooth had disappeared after she bit into one of her creations. She is now somewhat less of a fan of that chewy combination. Jannes Gibson thought that Kal Nossuli had a good idea for keeping his room key in the plastic nameplate holder suspended on



a string around the neck - that is, until she fell while skiing and discovered that the mountain had swallowed her room key.

Another key problem evolved from a relaxing hot tub session following a great day of skiing. When Kathy Lake went to leave the hot tub she discovered that her robe, which she had very carefully put on the first hook, was gone. No problem, right, a white robe is a white robe - that is, unless your room key is in the robe pocket! Kathy took the leftover robe, which had a room key in its pocket, and Barry's key to get into her room. Suspecting that Jon Weschler had taken her robe, Kathy called Jon to ask if he had trouble getting in to his room. Well, Jon had had problems with his key and had asked the front desk to get him a new one! After a lengthy explanation to a confused front desk, everyone got their proper key, but we don't know about the robes.

After enjoying a meal at The Hickory House in Aspen, eleven PVS skiers waited

at the bus stop, only to have two Snowmass buses pass them by and drive off into the darkness. Rumor has it that Rosemary and Dick

Schwartzbard were on one of the buses and encouraged the bus to continue on! Apparently it was "good to shiver off some of those calories!"

The Orthopedic Ski Quintuplets Encouraging Others: Alice M., Marianne S., Bruce K., Blanca H., & Dave W. Blanca will surgically join us in May.

A small group of PVS skiers had Sunday lunch at Gynn's on the mountain, during which Dick Schwartzbard waxed philosophically about the various choices and decisions one must make during one's lifetime. He emphasized that in his case he had chosen to have a full head of hair rather than learning to ski well. Anyone who has skied with Dick Lau, toward whom Dick S's comment was directed, knows well what choice the former Dick made (if uncertain, check the picture). The group was bused to the Snowmass Club for a most enjoyable farewell dinner celebration on Tuesday evening. The food was good, the wine flowed, and it was easy to tell from the steady din within the room that everyone had a great week and was having a delightful evening.

Thank you, Barry and Kathy, you led a great trip. We look forward to your leading an equally fine return trip to Snowmass in 2018.

-- Marianne & Kerry Hines



Our new friend, Applicant Member – Bruce King

January 28, 2017 Monthly Meeting

In the Party Room at Ray and Nancy McKinley's Condominium



By two o'clock on Saturday afternoon, the sun was streaming through the large... windows and PVS members and two guests were streaming through the door of the McKinleys' party room ready to socialize. Three of us diligently counted and recounted heads and came up with 39, 40, or 42 attendees. Hostess Nancy McKinley counted 42, so that is deemed the official count. The room was spacious and mingling was easy. The food was delicious; much of it made by Nancy. She served, among many other things, her famous (by now) pepperoni rolls and homemade cheese crackers.

There was much chatter about the recent Snowmass ski trip and the upcoming Val d'Isere trip. John

Smith finally "promised" that local skiers would have snow to ski on. Attendees eagerly signed up to see *Ragtime* at Ford's Theatre in April, an outing that will be led by the McKinleys.



Carolyn DeVilbiss chaired a short business meeting. The topic of finding members to host meetings and lead events was discussed. Marianne Soponis suggested that PVS might have occasional lunch meetings at restaurants where everyone paid for their own lunches. She asked for an informal show of hands by those who agreed with this idea. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Nancy **McKinley** stated that the responsibilities of hosting a meeting in a home could be shared by, for example, asking volunteers to bring the food and beverages.



Nancy

The meeting ended with more socializing and hunkering down over the dessert table. Thank you, Nancy and Ray, for hosting a lovely meeting.

--Submitted by Ellie Thayer

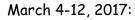




PVS Calendar 2017:

Feb	18	Sat	General February Meeting, 2:00 PM, Ufholzes, Bethesda, MD		
Feb	21	Tue	ExCom Meeting, 7:00 PM, Telephonic		
Mar	18	Sat	General March Meeting, 2:00 PM,TBD	14	
Mar	21	Tue	ExCom Meeting, TBD		
Apr	15	Sat	Ragtime at Ford's Theatre, 2:00 PM, McKinleys, Washington, DC	VALENTINE'S DAY	
Apr	18	Tue	Annual Meeting, 7:30 PM, Heitchue, Reston, VA		
May	05	Fri	Paul Weber Spring Ski Show, 6:30-9:00 PM, Marriott Tysons Corner, VA		
May	07	Sun	Eclipse Chamber Orchestra Concert, 3:00 PM, George Washington Masonic Temple,		
			McKinleys, Alexandria, VA		

PVS Ski Trips 2017:



Val d'Isere, France (Inge Lesjak/Jerry Poley)



Local Skiing:

John Smith will be coordinating the best weather day and destination for each week. Members will be notified and can let John know if they are interested in going.

Potomac Valley Skiers	www.potomacvalleyskiers.org
BRSC Sanctioned Trips	
DC Ski Online News	
Best of Times Ski Club	

ExCom

Officers:	Chairpersons:
President – Carolyn DeVilbiss	Ski Trip Committee – Rosemary Schwartzbard
V. President – Marianne Soponis	Events – Ray and Nancy McKinley
Secretary – Ellie Thayer	Membership Records – Dave Warthen
Treasurer – Dick Schwartzbard	Membership PR Reps – Inge Lesjak &
Ex Officio -	Marianne Soponis
Board Members :	TOOT Coordinator – Ellie Thayer
<u>First Term</u> :	TOOT Layout Editors – Jan Marx, Marvin Hass,
Barry Lake	& Dave Warthen
John H. Smith	TOOT (E-Distribution) – Dave Warthen
Ellie Thayer	TOOT (USPS Distribution) – <i>Barb Leonhardt</i> ,
<u>Second Term</u> :	June Read, Liz Triau
Herb Bennett	Webmaster – Mary Ellena Ward
Marna Blanchette	Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</i>
Nancy Pigman	Historian – <i>Jan Marx</i>

HAPPY Valentine's Day

