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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

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President's Message

PVS: AN AVATAR OF DEMOCRACY

Before ski season, we have more time to read learned treatises than afterwards when we are on chair lifts. I admit that some may be able to read on lifts - those who are especially sure footed (to enable them to download) and sure handed (to enable them to turn pages or open electronic book readers while wearing ski gloves and holding poles). However, lacking these skills, I must read treatises before ski season. Through the TOOT, I dutifully report my observations (TOOT editors dutifully warn that others may call them opinions – forfend!).

In case any TOOT readers may have missed what is happening, the treatises say uniformly that our Country is going to hell. (This is not a religious statement – just a report of the writings of *Academicia* as disseminated by the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *New Yorker*, the *New York Review of Books* and major literary reviews.) An example is October's *Atlantic*, which is devoted to the question stated on its cover in **BOLD FACE**, “IS DEMOCRACY DYING.”

Of course, in sympathy with its Washington, D.C. members, who lack Congressional representation, PVS members' expectations for democracy might be low. Those of us who went to school would know that the President is the product of skewed Electoral College voting; the Senate is selected by states having widely differing populations, but equal votes; House membership is gerrymandered and money-influenced; and necessary legislative proposals are subject to blocking superior to that of our very best football teams.

However, we have the Potomac Valley Skiers, a building block of democracy. Assessing the problem of Democracy, Yoni Appelbaum, Senior Editor of the *Atlantic*, concludes in *Losing the Democratic Habit* that because of the dwindling of local communal organizations like PVS, Americans are no longer practicing democracy on a continuing basis as part of their daily lives. He states that these organizations embody democratic norms; they have purposes and modes of operation that underlie Democracy.

From early childhood, Americans learned to be citizens by creating, joining, and participating in democratic organizations....In the early years of the United States, Europeans made pilgrimages to the young republic to study its success. How could such a diverse and sprawling nation flourish under a system of government that originated in small, homogeneous city-states?

One after another, they seized upon the most unfamiliar aspect of American culture: its obsession with associations. To almost every challenge in their lives, Americans... voluntarily bound themselves together, adopting written rules, electing officers, and making decisions by majority vote... “Children in their games [were] wont to submit to rules which they have themselves established, and to punish misdemeanors which they have themselves defined,” wrote Alexis de Tocqueville in *Democracy in America*....

MONTHLY MEETING

SUN & SKI

November 11th 6:00 PM

Sunday

6280 SEVEN CORNERS CTR

FALLS CHURCH, VA 22044-2407

703-521-1700



By the latter half of the 19th century, more and more of these associations mirrored the federal government in form: Local chapters elected representatives to state-level gatherings, which sent delegates to national assemblies....The model proved remarkably adaptable. In business, shareholders elected boards of directors in accordance with corporate charters, while trade associations bound together independent firms. Labor unions chartered locals that elected officers and dispatched delegates to national gatherings. From churches to mutual insurers to fraternities to volunteer fire companies, America's civic institutions were run not by aristocratic elites who inherited their offices, nor by centrally appointed administrators, but by democratically elected representatives.

Mr. Appelbaum laments that Americans have deserted their habit of voluntary participation, weakening the habits of participatory democracy. Similarly, Robert Putnam in a noted 2000 book, *Bowling Alone* (which is quoted by Yoni Appelbaum) argues that the decline of civic groups and organizations undermines our social structures and democracy itself. Although they may be overstated, Mr. Putnam and Mr. Appelbaum have a point that voluntary associations fulfill Democratic purposes and help develop Democratic norms.

PVS is a ski club. Although some of our members are not currently skiing, all have connections to skiing. These include past skiing and relationships with current skiing members. The club affords members skiing opportunities, including organized trips both to ski country and to local ski areas; information about ski locations and equipment; easy access to our monthly skiing newsletter – the *TOOT* (including the President's Message); and varied ski-club functions. PVS acts to enhance our skiing relationships.

Although club activities focus on skiing, the issues in *Losing the Democratic Habit* accentuate the strong and positive aspects of PVS members coming together from varied backgrounds, beliefs and interests. PVS members have skiing in common, but differ in our other identifiers. We have different politics, religious identities and degrees of religious interest, national and ethnic roots and other facets of our being, although our members uniformly have a heavy quotient of decency.

A core American belief is that we are – or strive to be -- a national community in which all can contribute regardless of background, allowing common action, strong achievements and individual satisfactions without our energies being expended on unnecessary internal strife. To the extent that it embodies these precepts, PVS ineluctably connects with the communities and values that are the Nation.

It is fitting that I correct past columns' errors. For example October's President's Column should have been titled, **SKIING's WORDS**. May's column, *WINTER IN VERMONT* conveys a greater error as events have come to pass.

I wrote: "We could not go to Vermont without making a purchase. A gallery across from the [Ludlow] Downtown Grocery has fierce but somewhat satiric metal animals that were visible through the windows. But the gallery was closed."



I report that our house now has a Reindeer, Stag, Horse and Moose from Ludlow Vermont's Depot Street Gallery, that are photographed adjacent to this article. These animals are protected by two powerful dogs, including a fighting (actually, a usually sleeping Yorkshire Terrier).



Next Meeting

Sunday, November 11, 2018 Meeting at Sun & Ski
6:00 - 8:00pm

Hey, hey,

have you heard the latest about ski equipment?



PVS held our fall ski equipment meeting last year at Sun & Ski. It was a success and we are going to repeat it.

PVS has again arranged to have our November meeting at the Sun & Ski store where we will hear about the latest trend in skis, boots, goggles, and other noteworthy gear.

Even if you aren't looking for new equipment, come and get acquainted with the store, meet some of the staff, and join in the discussion.

Sun & Ski is offering our group 10% off any purchases and 25% off any service work if you would like to drop off any equipment for service that night as well for pick up at a later date.

Sunday, November 11, from 6pm-8pm

6280 Seven Corners Ctr Falls Church, VA 22044-2407 Phone: 703-521-1700

The store is located in the Seven Corners Shopping Center in Falls Church, which is at the intersection of Route 7 (Leesburg Pike) and Route 50 (Arlington Blvd.). It is on the lower level (Rt. 50 side) and has plenty of parking in front of the store.

There will be no \$3.00 door fee for this meeting.

We will have snacks and beverages available, and short meeting before the main event.



Coming Event

Join PVS to see the Tony-award-winning musical

Billy Elliot!



On Saturday, December 1 at 2:00 PM

All 11-year-old Billy wants to do is dance. While the 1984 UK miners' strike squeezes his family and splits his town, Billy's passion for ballet first divides, then ultimately unites, the community - and changes his life in extraordinary ways.

Based on the powerful and acclaimed film, *Billy Elliot* swept the Tony, Drama Desk, and Olivier Awards for Best Musical by combining a dynamic score by the legendary Elton John with sensational dance to create a heartwarming, inspirational and triumphant experience.

This performance is at the Signature Theatre in Shirlington, VA. Nelson Pressley, stage critic for The Washington Post, just pronounced Signature Theatre his favorite of all the many stages in the Washington area due to its "terrific" shows, its location with free parking and proximity to restaurants, and the design of its lobby and theaters. Pressley calls Signature "an appealing combination of elegance, intimacy, accessibility and panache."

After the show, those who are interested may join us for dinner at a nearby restaurant.

Tickets are \$70 per person, non-refundable group/senior rate.

We have a very limited number of tickets so don't delay!

If you're interested, first please contact Nancy McKinley ASAP at 703 595 8375 or by email at nancymckin@gmail.com.

Then pop your check in the mail, made out to Nancy McKinley and send to 1805 Crystal Drive #813, Arlington, VA 22202.

Also, please note if you expect to join us to eat after the show.

Coming Event

PVS IS GOING FOR SOME GERMAN DANCING

Saturday, November 24, 2018

American Legion Post, College Park, MD

Available Hours: 7:30 – 11:00pm

For nearly 80 years, the Blob's Park German Beer Hall in Jessup, MD was the place to go for good German food, beer, and dancing. Unfortunately, it closed about four years ago. I led a PVS group there just before it closed. The patrons of Blob's Park really missed it and formed a *Friends of Blob's Park* group, and they hold dances twice a month at the American Legion Post in College Park, MD. I attend frequently and recently went there with several PVS members. I will be going again, on Saturday, November 24, and invite you to go with me.

Mike Surratt, who performed at Blob's Park, will provide the music, which consists of all types of dancing music - waltz, polka, swing, foxtrot, mambo, tango, samba, etc. Doors open at 7:30 and music runs from 8 to 11, during which time I intend to dance with most of the ladies and expect the gentleman to ask most of the ladies to dance. There are typically 60 to 80 attendees.

The American Legion Post is located at 9218 Baltimore Ave (Route 1) in College Park MD. It is located about eight blocks inside the Beltway on the right with a large American Flag flying and plenty of parking. The entrance fee is \$10 - cash only - and low cost drinks and food are available, again for cash only.

If you are interested in attending, please contact me at john.holt@nreca.coop or 703 534 2512 so I can reserve a table for us. See you there.

Submitted by John Holt



Past Event

October Meeting - Saturday, October 20, 2018

Phil and Eugenia Ufholz welcomed 22 happy friends into their lovely home on a very nice fall (finally) day. Shirley and her sister, Beverly, joined us having just returned from Paris. It was good to see seldom-seen Suzanne Boisclair.



Eugenia served lovely nibbles including her homemade spanakopita. There was a wheel of brie with crackers, and sausage slices with mustard dip. With the chips was a delicious crab/horseradish spread and crab/salsa that Eugenia brought from the Eastern Shore. To accompany these, various wines, beers, and



soft drinks were available.

President Bob Jablon called the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone and gave special kudos to our hosts. Nancy McKinley talked about upcoming events and meetings. Kathy Lake brought us up to date on the Snowmass trip and Bob Jablon told us more about the Steamboat trip. Bob and others described the advantages of



Sun Valley in Inge's absence. Local mid-week ski days will be organized after we get some snow.

Following adjournment, Eugenia served her famous, delicious, can't-be-beat baklava. Suzanne added a very tasty pecan dessert bar. Coffee topped it all off.

Thank you, Eugenia and Phil for hosting!



submitted by Jan Marx

Past Event



PVS Goes Classical Again!

Another fine concert at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria on October 7 again brought out some of PVS' classical music lovers. As we have many times in the past, we enjoyed a spectacular program from the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra inside the imposing venue's auditorium that boasts such amazing acoustics.

The program featured three pieces – just right for a Sunday afternoon. The first, the Overture to the Magic Flute by Mozart, was performed by a small set of orchestra members. Next, we were overwhelmed by the virtuosity of soloist, Eugena Chang, in Haydn's Cello Concerto in C. The final piece, Beethoven's 4th Symphony, took advantage of the full orchestra and capped off a truly exceptional afternoon of music.



Please join us next time!

Submitted by Nancy McKinley





SKI TALK

November 2018



On October 6, Barry Lake and John Smith attended the Fall meeting of the Blue Ridge Ski Council (BRSC) held at the Whitetail Ski Resort. The meeting started out with a brief discussion about the resort. It was announced that the three local resorts (Whitetail, Ski Liberty, and Roundtop) have been sold to Peak Resorts. They will now be a part of the Peak Pass.

Representatives from ski clubs in the Metropolitan DC area, Richmond, Annapolis, and Baltimore gathered at Whitetail Resort for this meeting. The Council meets two times a year and representatives of each club attend. During the meetings representatives vote on future ski destinations for the Council and select the tour operators who will arrange the trips. While our club does not always join the BRSC trips, as a member of PVS any member can go on any of the council trips. Check out trips on the BRSC website at: skicouncil.com.

The following 2020 BRSC trips were selected:

The **Western Carnival** will be held at **Snowmass, Colorado from January 25 to February 1, 2020**. Presentations were made by three potential tour operators. Encompasse Tours (Doug Horstman) was selected as the tour operator. Several different lodging arrangements are available and will be described at a later time.

Instead of Eurofest, in 2020 there will be an **AsiaFest to Hakuba, Japan from February 21 to February 29, 2020**. Holidayz was selected as the tour operator. This is the first time BRSC is doing an AsiaFest.

The **Winterfest** will be held at **Killington, VT from March 1 to March 6, 2020**. The tour operator is Bianchi Outdoor Adventure.

PVS will decide at a later date if they will join the above trips.

Spring 2018 Ski Show

The Paul Weber Spring Ski Show will be on Friday evening, May 3, at the Marriott Hotel located at Tysons Corner. Mark your calendars.

PVS SKI TRIPS: Please support our club and sign up for one of our 2019 ski trips, Snowmass, Sun Valley, and Steamboat. Please see fliers in this TOOT for more information. If you are interested please let the trip leader know as soon as possible.

I hope to see a good turnout at our meeting on November 11 at Sun and Ski.

Rosemary Schwartzbard
Barry Lake
John Smith

Ski Trip



Potomac Valley Skiers

2019 Snowmass, Colorado Ski Trip

Wednesday - Wednesday

January 9 - 16, 2019

Trip Details

Once again we will be staying at the [Snowmass Mountain Chalet \(SMC\)](#), which offers a convenient ski in, ski out location. Check the web site at www.mountainchalet.com. The “**Land Only**” package includes: transportation to and from Aspen airport (7am -11pm); 5-day senior lift pass ([good for all four ski areas in the Aspen complex, free shuttle bus](#)) with option for extra days; 7 nights lodging (double occupancy); daily breakfasts; daily soup-lunch; luggage-handling; a welcome reception, an “all guest” hotel sponsored party, a pizza party and a farewell group dinner to celebrate our trip. Additional nights at Snowmass are an option **based on availability**. Trip insurance is available through Encompasse Tours and is [highly recommended](#). For trail information check www.aspensnowmass.com.

The basic package at \$1,650 includes a 5-day lift pass for skiers 65 and over. Skiers under 65 will have to add \$104.00.

Costs:

Basic Snowmass Package (65 and older)

Under 65

add

Single Supplement

add

Extra hotel night (pending availability)

add

Non-skiers

deduct

Extra ski days (65 and older)

add

Under 65

add

Silver Pass (70+ skiing 8 or more days)

add

Price

\$1,650

\$ 104

\$1,044

\$ 310 per room per night

\$ 248

\$ 70 for a **6-day senior pass**

\$ 120 for a **7-day senior pass**

\$ 188 for a **6-day pass**

\$ 184

Payment Schedule

\$300 deposit is due with application.

Second payment of \$750 is due **August 15th**.

Final payment is due **September 15th**.

To sign up please send:

(1) the [Application form](#) -- one per person or one per couple residing at the same address

(2) a [Deposit of \\$300 per person](#) and/or your [payment due](#), and

(3) the [signed Waiver of Liability Agreement](#) by each party taking the trip

Checks should be made out to **Kathy Lake** and mailed to 11677 Fox Glen Drive, Oakton VA 22124 (put [PVS Snowmass 2019](#) on the check memo line).

Kathy and Barry Lake are the trip leaders. For more information, feel free to contact us at 703-625-2715 or kathylakehomes@yahoo.com

Application and waiver - http://pvski.org/ski_trips/Snowmass2019+Waiver.pdf#page=3

[The Mountain Chalet](#)

The **Snowmass Mountain Chalet** is an independent lodge, managed on-site, with easy access to the slopes. Each of the 64 rooms has either 2 queen beds or 1 king bed, **depending on availability**. All rooms have: hair dryer, TV, small refrigerator, etc. The lodge has a nice lounge on the main floor with chairs, game tables, fireplace, and large windows overlooking the slopes. There is an elevator, exercise room, outdoor pool, a hot tub and laundry facilities. A full breakfast is served family style each morning. A complimentary soup lunch is served from Noon to 1:30 PM. The lodge has no restaurant for dinner. However, the Snowmass Mall, on the level above, and hotel area below (via the small gondolas) has diverse restaurants at all price levels. Bus service stops are nearby for trips to a nearby grocery store, into the town of Aspen, to other Aspen ski areas, and to Glenwood Springs.

Trip Insurance

Trip insurance is recommended. Travel Guard is available through our travel agent, Encompasse Tours, at [Encompasse.com](#). (The insurance link will connect you to Travel Guard.) The insurance provides coverage for accident, illness, injury, or death to attendee or immediate family member. There are several plans available, depending on your situation. You will have more reimbursement options by purchasing shortly after sending in your trip deposit. Please read carefully before choosing. And, be sure to save all receipts concerning your trip!

Cancellation Policy and Fees

If it becomes necessary for you to cancel your trip, the trip leaders will try to minimize your losses, although some fees are mandated by the hotel and tour operator. All cancellations must be in writing. [We strongly urge you to purchase trip insurance](#) (see above).

Please take the time to ensure the information you provide is correct, and take note of deadline dates!

Cancellation fees are as follows: *Dates and costs are consistent with requirements and penalties imposed by vendors per contracted agreements.* LAND Only Package: \$300 after September 28th until December 1st; after December 1st, cost is entirely non-refundable.

If you are a “single” participant requesting space on a PVS-endorsed ski trip and need a roommate, we recommend each of you purchase insurance to cover both of you if one of the roommates cancels. Otherwise, you will be offered the choice of one of the following three options:

- 1) Helping the trip leader find a replacement trip participant who will fill the space vacated; **or**
- 2) Staying on the ski trip by paying the “single supplement” **or**
- 3) Canceling from the ski trip and paying all currently due penalties.

Ski Trip

Come ski with PVS at Sun Valley, Idaho

Blue Ridge Ski Council (BRSC) Western Carnival

February 2 - 9, 2019

ROOMS STILL AVAILABLE

ROOMS STILL AVAILABLE

Bald Mountain - Top Elevation: 9,150 feet, 100+ Trails, 10 Lifts + Gondola, Mountain Dining



We now offer a lower package price INCLUDING United Airline Flights in and out of Sun Valley.

Sun Valley Lodge Apartments

Two Bed/Two Bath, One King/2 Twins **\$1,700 /pers***
Single Supplement add \$648

Sun Valley LODGE Rooms

Single Supplement add \$890

\$1,940 /pers.*

Sun Valley INN Rooms

Single Supplement add \$682

\$1,725 /pers.*

* Deduct \$400.00 for the package without airfare

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Seven nights lodging as presented
- Baggage handling
- BRSC Welcome Reception
- BRSC Après Ski Western Barbecue
- PVS happy hours and dinner
- BRSC Final Farewell Dinner and Dance
- BRSC NASTAR Race
- Mountain tours
- Five of six-day Sun Valley lift tickets

-Guests have access to all resort amenities including outdoor pools and the new Sun Valley Resort SPA.

-All properties are a shuttle ride to the slopes.

-WiFi is available throughout the resort.

-Seniors 65+: Deduct \$5.00 from package price above for package with a 5-day lift pass.

-Add \$30.00 to package price for a 6-day pass.

Application and Waiver -

<http://pvskiers.org/ski_trips/SunValley2019+Waiver.pdf#page=3>

TRIP DEPOSITS:

\$300.00 deposit per person due with sign-up----->\$500.00 per person due August 15, 2018

\$500.00 per person due September 31, 2018----->Final payment due October 31, 2018

Deposits and final payments should be made to Inge Lesjak;
please mail to: Inge Lesjak 8123 Kingsview Ct., Springfield, VA 22152

LOOKING FOR A SINGLE MALE SKIER TO SHARE ROOM

AIR: United Airlines (Subject to change)

IAD/DEN/SUN 2/2 #1950 8:30am - 10:37am #5697 11:35am-----1:40pm
SUN/SFO/IAD 2/9 #5962 2:00pm ---3:11pm # 517 - 4:20pm -- 12:24pm

Download Winter Trail Map & Guest Guide

<http://d26zlhfpkdbmm.cloudfront.net/files/pdf/SV Winter Trail/Map 2017 18.pdf>

Mountain Base Amenities: Lockers/ Ski Storage, boot dryers, lounge, bathrooms, affordable tuning and repair service

Sun Valley LODGE Apartments provide privacy and comfort while being close to all amenities at the Lodge: heated pool and sauna, bowling alley, dancing. These apartments come in two-bedroom units; each has a large bath, gas fireplace, living room, kitchen, refrigerator and a dining table.

Sun Valley LODGE 2 Queen Suite or LODGE King Suite have been newly decorated and include a fold-out sofa in the sitting area, spacious bathroom with soaking tub, walk-in shower and double sink vanity, built-in dressers and a convenient ski closet. 2 TVs, a safe, refrigerator, and free wi-fi.

Sun Valley INN Deluxe Rooms are available with either one King Bed or two Queen Beds. The bathroom features a marble tub, vanity with sink plus bathrobes. There is a TV with a DVD player and pay-per-view, plus a refrigerator and high-speed internet access.

BLUE RIDGE SKI COUNCIL EVENTS – be sure to bring your neck wallet to each event.

WELCOME RECEPTION, **Monday** 6:00pm – 8:00pm at the Sun Valley Conference Center

BRSC NASTAR RACE, **Tuesday** Warm Springs 10:00am – 1:00pm

APRÈS-SKI PARTY, **Tuesday** 3:00pm – 5:pm at the River Run Lodge.

FINAL FAREWELL DINNER and DANCE, **Thursday** evening 6:00pm – 10:00pm

Upscale buffet and Sun Valley's top-rated service. Dance the night away at Sun Valley's Conference Center

PVS DINNER downtown, restaurant/time TBD

If you have any questions, please contact Inge, PVS Trip Leader at Lesjak.inge@gmail.com

Ski Trip

Return to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, March 9-16, 2019

We are conducting a Steamboat Springs ski trip that we hope will excite PVS Skiers. PVS frequented Steamboat Springs for many years. We now return. Steamboat Springs has varied terrain for all skiing levels; a large, well-kept mountain; long runs; 18 lifts, 165 trails, 2,965 acres; a historic town; unique restaurants; art, Western stores, antiques, museums; free ski area/town bus service.



Included trip highlights are:

- **ROUNDTrip NONSTOP AIR: Dulles to Hayden, March 9, 9:15 am--11:34 am; Return: Hayden to Dulles, March 16, 1:00 pm--6:31 pm.**
- **AIRPORT TRANSFERS TO GRAND HOTEL.**
- **STEAMBOAT GRAND HOTEL – 7 NIGHTS, 2 PER ROOM – HIGH END HOTEL - POOL, SPA AND SAUNA, FULL SERVICES, STORES AND AMENITIES - WALKING DISTANCE TO GONDOLA, LIFTS AND PLAZA FOOD, DRINK, SHOPS AND ACTIVITIES.**
- **SKI TRANSFERS FROM GRAND TO SKI STORAGE NEAR GONDOLA.**
- **LIFT TICKETS – 5 DAYS.**
- **PRE-TRIP PARTY; WELCOMING PIZZA-TYPE INITIAL GET-TOGETHER; GROUP FAREWELL DINNER; HAPPY HOURS.**
- **ESTIMATED COST - \$2,700 per person. MINIMUM PARTICIPATION NECESSARY TO GUARANTY AIR AND LIFT TICKET GROUP ARRANGEMENTS.**
- Trip details and changes in trip coverage and pricing to meet individual needs are available, such as non-participation in air or different lift ticket arrangements and scheduling.

We seek trip cohesion, including coordinated group skiing and activities opportunities, as desired, in what should be a peak ski weather week. Steamboat offers daily no-charge skiing opportunities with volunteer guides, skiing possibilities with Billy the Kid and discounted lessons. It has a renowned children's program for any with younger family members. We shall advise group participants of non-skiing recommendations, including special Steamboat restaurants like Café Diva, Bistro CV, the 8th Street Steakhouse (grill your own steaks) and the Laundry. The trip is being actively coordinated by Doug Horstman of Encompasse Tours. For details please contact us (rcjablon@aol.com; robert.jablon@spiegelmc.com) and see Trip Addendum below.

Bob and Cara



Steamboat Springs PVS March 9-16, 2019 SKI TRIP Addendum

PVS' Steamboat Springs ski trip will be between March 9 16, 2019. The trip's timing should allow for both good weather and good skiing conditions. As we state in the Steamboat Springs ski trip flier, with the help of Doug Horstman of Encompasse Tours, trip participants will have lodging in the Steamboat Grand, a superior hotel within walking distance of the ski slopes and plaza; non-stop air fare at a group rate; Hayden airport shuttle service; discounted ski tickets; and, most important, PVS member participation. Currently, nine people are committed. Additional attendees are invited and welcome.

The Grand Hotel has a near monopoly of what it calls "beautifully appointed" hotel rooms proximate to gondola square and the ski lifts. We have guaranteed two additional rooms to the five that are now committed. If the Grand has any vacant additional rooms available, it is obligated to make them available to PVS so that we can further increase our room reservations, but this additional vacant room availability is not guaranteed. **WE ARE LOOKING FOR A SINGLE MALE SKIER TO SHARE A HOTEL ROOM.**

We have 26 reserved air reservations. We can cancel space through November 30, 2019. We need ten reservations by people who will fly on the group fare to guaranty the group rate (including those with upgrades, but not including those who pay with frequent flyer tickets). If we are short, participants may have to book air transportation on their own or may have to pay a higher price. Airport shuttle service to and from the Grand will be provided in any event.

We need 20 participants to hold the group lift ticket pricing, but we need not specify final arrangements until February 1, 2018. Obtaining individual lift tickets, if necessary, should not be a problem.

Initial payments for new participants are \$600, which covers Grand Hotel deposits and is credited against Grand room rates. Additional payments will not be due until November 20, 2018.

The Steamboat Springs ski mountain has interesting, varied, well-serviced terrain in a unique Western town. We are working to achieve a successful trip.

Bob and Cara


THE STEAMBOAT
GRAND



Members' Corner



By J. David Warthen, Jr.
dwarthen@verizon.net

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Roster Changes: (contact dwarthen@verizon.net)

See November 1, 2018 PVS Ro

VIKING RIVER CRUISE ON THE DOURO RIVER - Ellie Thayer

September 20 – 30, 2018

Anne, a friend of 45 years, and I set out for Portugal leaving behind the remnants of Hurricane Florence and water, water everywhere. We arrived in Lisbon, bused to Porto, and unpacked on the Viking ship Hemming to blue skies and quite warm temperatures. By the end of the trip I wondered if Portugal even had clouds.

We stayed in the nicely located Tivoli Hotel in Lisbon. It was fortunate that it was centrally located because the taxi drivers were on strike protesting Uber while we were there. Our city tour took us to the Tower of Belem, the beautiful Mosteiro dos Jeronimos and Cloister, and, more importantly, to the famous pastry shop selling the scrumptious pastel de nata, a kind of crème brulee custard in a tart shell topped with lots of cinnamon. We continued on to the narrow, windy streets of the Alfama neighborhood, one of the few sections of Lisbon spared by the 1755 earthquake. Alfama is noted for its soulful Fado singers, but fortunately we were spared that experience.

On the bus trip to Porto, we stopped for lunch in Coimbra, a beautiful university town where the students float around in black robes, which were the inspiration for the attire of Hogwarts' students in the Harry Potter series. More impressive than the University was King John's Library, full of books and gold leaf and, in the evenings, bats who keep the books insect free. Alas, our lunch was at a Fado place, but the performance was short and the guitar player excellent.



We arrived at the Viking Hemming in Porto (actually in Gaia on the other side of the Douro River from Porto) where we were greeted with a white Port spritzer and settled in for seven days of sailing on the Douro River. The big difference in this cruise from the other Viking cruises I have been on was the demographic profile of the passengers. Well over half were British. Invariably, they would ask upon introduction, "what is going on with your president?" In return, I would ask, "what is going on with Brexit?" Since neither party could satisfactorily answer either question we would proceed with sharing a glass of wine and getting to know each other.

Before sailing, we toured Porto, Portugal's second largest city, an excellent town where we unsurprisingly learned a lot about Port wine.

Over the course of the week we learned more and tasted a lot also. Am I a fan? Not so much, but the still red and white wines of Portugal were excellent. Porto also boasted a beautiful cathedral, Bishop's Residence, train station whose walls were covered with Portugal's famed blue and white tiles, and charming streets where J K Rowling wandered, sipped coffee, and formulated the intricate plots of the Harry Potter novels.

The Douro offered extraordinary sights. The grapevines climbing high on the hillsides along the river were unlike any others I have seen. They were planted horizontally, vertically, and at every angle in between. We took a side trip to the Mateus Palace and Gardens. Remember the Mateus "starter wine" of our generation in the iconic bottle? The Palace is pictured on the bottle. The grounds were beautiful with enchanting formal gardens. We were not offered a taste, which was unfortunate, because our next stop was the Quinta do Seixo (also referred to as Sandeman) up an extremely narrow hair-pinned road with no shoulder, but with a dramatic drop off, the

likes of which only a skilled bus driver could navigate. Whew. Many closed eyes or held breaths on that ride up to the hilltop. The view was worth it and the Port never tasted so good.

The next day we drove to the Castelo Rodrigo, a tiny hilltop town near the Spanish border. The cobblestones, which are ubiquitous in Portugal, were particularly cobbly, stoney, and very steep. The town boasted a 14th century castle and a few houses, but not much else. We returned to the ship not knowing whether we would be tied up in Portugal or Spain. Barca d'Alva, Portugal won.



The following day was a special day trip to Salamanca Spain. We visited a good-sized indoor market with a lot of ham and fish vendors. At one stand, we were offered bread, cheese, olives and a variety of local sliced sausages. All this was accompanied by a glass of white or red Spanish wine. Well, it was nearly noon. We then visited the old medieval University of Salamanca (13th century), the Pontifical University (pfff - not even a hundred years old), the Old Cathedral (12th century), and the New Cathedral (began in 1513).

In all the souvenir shops we saw tacky, plastic frogs. Our guide explained that the frog was a medieval symbol of lust and the large ornate gate into the Old University sported a tiny frog atop the head of a skull. A not-so-subtle reminder to the students.... In our free time, Anne and I visited the Art Nouveau/Art Deco Museum. It was utterly charming with its glass collection, sculptures, dolls, and more. All in all, I loved Salamanca.

On our last touring day, we visited Favaios (pronounced Fa-voosh or something like that). The little town is the home of a number of traditional bakeries where the pillow-shaped bread is made by hand and baked in a long narrow wood-heated oven. The bread is then sold in nearby towns, Porto, and as far afield as Lisbon. In the bakery we visited, a single woman made over 500 loaves a day starting her day at 4am and working seven days a week. She was fast and steady, kneading each piece of dough exactly 12 times. The town also boasts a wine cooperative where the local grape producers, large and small, bring their grapes for weighing, sale, and processing. Our final stop was at the Quinta da Avessada where the entertaining and humorous owner, Luis, (who looked like Mr. Bean) served as host for a lunch in a beautiful room.

Alas, the river cruise was over and we soon headed home.

Traveling sometimes involves quirky experiences and fascinating stories and we had and heard a few. An amusing one occurred in the hotel elevator in Lisbon. The elevator showed the safe number of passengers and maximum weight. We had quite a few passengers and then a slight man walked on and the elevator went berserk with “overweight overweight” flashing in fluorescent green. He quickly backed out. In Lisbon, during the introductory Viking briefing, Daniel warned us not to take two popular bus lines because “they are half filled with tourists and the other half are pickpockets.” An amusing guide in Porto explained that she and the terrible trumpet player outside the cathedral had a love/hate relationship: “He loves me and I hate him.” (He was loud and awful.) A restored section of sculpture on the massive door into the Old Cathedral included a space age astronaut. Our guide told us if storks begin to build a substantial nest on one’s roof, there is only one thing to do: “Move.” During the Inquisition, the Jewish people who became “new Christians” fooled the inquisitors by making chicken sausage and hanging it in their homes. (We had some and it was delicious.) Every guide, every Viking staff person who gave a talk, every-everybody negatively and bitterly spoke of Salazar, the fascist dictator who ruled Portugal with an iron fist from 1932 – 1968. Indeed, the Salazar Bridge in Lisbon was renamed the 25th of April Bridge in 1974. I was reminded that the original head of Slytherin House was Salazar Slytherin. Enough stream of consciousness tidbits. Anne and I had an excellent trip.




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**PVS Calendar 2018**

- Nov 11 Sun Monthly Meeting, Sun & Ski, Falls Church, VA, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM
- Nov 24 Sat Dancing, American Legion Hall, College Park, MD, J. Holt, 7:30-11:00 PM
- Nov 27 Tue ExCom Meeting. Telephonic. 7:00 PM
- Dec 1 Sat "Billy Elliot" at Signature Theatre, McKinley, Shirlington, VA, 2:00 PM
- Dec 11 Tue Monthly Meeting/Holiday Party, Hotalings, Arlington, VA, 7:30 PM

**PVS Ski Trips 2019:**



- January 9-16, 2019  
**Snowmass, CO** (Kathy & Barry Lake)
- February 2-9, 2019  
**Sun Valley, ID** (Inge Lesjak)
- March 9-16, 2019  
**Steamboat Springs, CO** (Cara & Bob Jablon)

**Useful Ski "Links"**  
[Potomac Valley Skiers](#)  
[BRSC Sanctioned Trips](#)  
[DC Ski Online News](#)  
[Best of Times Ski Club](#)

**ExCom**

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| <p><b><u>Officers:</u></b><br/>         President – <i>Bob Jablon</i><br/>         V. President – <i>Janet Marx</i><br/>         Secretary – <i>Ellie Thayer</i><br/>         Treasurer – <i>Dick Schwartzbard</i><br/>         Ex Officio -</p> <p><b><u>Board Members:</u></b><br/> <u>First Term:</u><br/> <i>Melissa FitzGerald</i><br/> <i>John Holt</i><br/> <i>Barry Lake</i><br/> <u>Second Term:</u><br/> <i>Inge Lesjak</i><br/> <i>Nancy McKinley</i><br/> <i>Tom Tycz</i></p> | <p><b><u>Chairpersons:</u></b><br/>         Ski Trip Committee – <i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i><br/>         Events – <i>Ray and Nancy McKinley</i><br/>         Membership Records – <i>Dave Warthen</i><br/>         Membership PR Reps – <i>Inge Lesjak &amp; Marianne Sophonis</i><br/>         TOOT Coordinator – <i>Ellie Thayer</i><br/>         TOOT Layout Editors – <i>Jan Marx, Kerry Hines &amp; Dave Warthen</i><br/>         TOOT (E-Distribution) – <i>Dave Warthen</i><br/>         TOOT (USPS Distribution) – <i>June Read &amp; Liz Triau</i><br/>         Webmaster – <i>Mary Ellena Ward</i><br/>         Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</i><br/>         Historian – <i>Jan Marx</i></p> |
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**Reminder:** It is club policy that contact information in the club's roster not be used for promoting personal business, for advertising, or for personal financial gain without the advance permission of the individual member to be contacted. Membership contact information shall not be distributed outside PVS.