

Volume 55
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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

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President's Message

How life has changed with the coronavirus! My skiing season was curtailed this year because of the virus, and many of yours have, too. Ski areas around the world closed early. Travel overseas and to Canada and Mexico and much of the Southern Hemisphere is restricted or banned. We are all facing the new reality of staying home, not venturing outside to any place where one might have human interaction and taking extra precautions, if we do. There is a serious discussion that this coronavirus threat may last several months. There is also speculation that it may return in the autumn. If it does come back next season before a vaccine is readily available, there may be a significant curtailment of 2020-2021 skiing as well.

Most of us are in one or more of the most vulnerable category groups. Any of us who get this virus could be in serious difficulty since there is no known specific therapy that can thwart the illness known as "coronavirus disease 2019" (COVID-19). Currently, as with the common cold, there are only therapies to address the symptoms. Enough gloom and doom! Stay well!

So, what can we do while we are stuck at home? For our part, Mary and I have been staying home. We only venture outside our home and yard for groceries and meds and will probably use delivery services for those next. We have been keeping up with the news on the situation by monitoring information in newspapers, on TV and on-line. This can be difficult, and we look to other activities to relieve the stress that can develop. Exercising every day for an hour or so has helped me to relieve that stress and keep me moving. There are other activities, of course, that one can do. Watching in-home movies or bingeing on TV shows or streamable series helps to divert (or numb?) the mind and provide some relaxation. Reading novels or studying a subject, a language, or playing or listening to music can bring some lightness to your day. Listen to informative "Ted Talks" on YouTube. (I cannot believe the only one on skiing is "[Why did I ski to the North Pole?](#)" Though, this talk is interesting.)

Working outside in the garden is also great for the spirit. Of course, socializing by phone helps as well. Call friends and family to catch up. These activities provide enjoyment and reduce the feeling of isolation. Taking a vacation from the news for a day or two can also be beneficial.

Switching gears, regarding PVS, given federal, state and local government recommendations not to gather in groups of ten or more and to stay six feet away from one another, ExCom cancelled the April PVS meeting. At the April ExCom teleconference meeting, ExCom will determine whether or not the May and June PVS meetings will be cancelled.

As far as the elections for the new 2020-2022 ExCom members, the Nominating Committee has recommended three nominees for the three ExCom positions that are becoming available owing to the expiration of the terms of three current members. Since we have three nominees for three positions, the decision of ExCom is that we will conduct the election by email. Dave Warthen will be sending an email about it to the entire PVS membership around April 14. A non-response will affirm your positive vote for all nominees. Please follow the instructions in Dave's email if you have a comment or objection. In this way, we minimize the emails and have an election very similar to a vote by acclamation at a meeting.

ExCom Members Barry Lake, Melissa FitzGerald and John Holt are rotating off ExCom. On behalf of all PVS members, I express sincere appreciation for their dedicated service over the past two years. They have been stalwart ExCom members who provided excellent input, advice and support during their tenures. I also wish to express my sincere gratitude to Bob Jablon, our immediate past-president and Ex Officio ExCom member this past year, for all his support and wisdom in guiding ExCom and me. His term as Ex Officio member also ends. Bob's in-depth advice has been greatly appreciated.

Please take care, stay healthy, and enjoy the coming months as best you can.

Tom Tycz, President

PVS Officers continuing for the completion of their two-year term, 2020-2021:

President: Tom Tycz

Vice-President: Kal Nossuli

Candidates for PVS ExCom Board, 2020-2022:

Cara [Jablon](#)

Kathy [Lake](#)

Don [Vierimaa](#)

Additional nominations may be made by the signatures of any five active members in good standing and must be presented at a business meeting at least one month prior to the election, which will be held on April 21, 2020. .

Submitted by the Nominating Committee:

Inge Lesjak (Chair)

Carolyn DeVilbiss

Melissa FitzGerald

Kerry Hines

Bob Jablon

Jan Marx

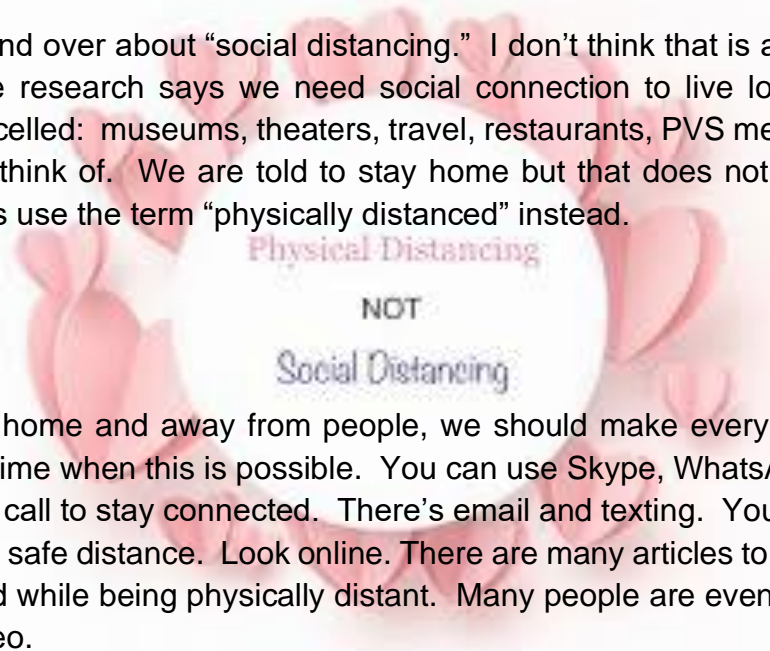


SKI TALK APRIL 2020

The world has changed since I wrote my last Ski Talk column. Our primary concerns back then were where are we going to ski next and what restaurants do we want to try. A group of us went to Park City

early in March (see write-up in this TOOT). That was the week a Pandemic was declared. We were so focused on skiing and dinners that we did not watch much of the news. We were shocked to find out that all Vail ski resorts closed the day after we left Utah. The Snow Searchers Ski Club was not as lucky. They went to Engelberg, Switzerland mid-March and, when they arrived at the resort, they were told it was closed. They then had to leave the hotel, get back to Zurich, and find flights home. I'm sure there are many stories like this.

We hear over and over and over about "social distancing." I don't think that is an ideal term. We are social beings and all the research says we need social connection to live long and healthy lives. Everything has been cancelled: museums, theaters, travel, restaurants, PVS meetings, and just about everything else you can think of. We are told to stay home but that does not mean we have to be "socially distanced." Let's use the term "physically distanced" instead.



While we should stay at home and away from people, we should make every effort to stay socially connected. We live in a time when this is possible. You can use Skype, WhatsApp, FaceTime, Zoom or just an ordinary phone call to stay connected. There's email and texting. You can go out for a walk with a friend if you keep a safe distance. Look online. There are many articles to give you ideas of how to stay socially connected while being physically distant. Many people are even planning dinners and cocktail parties using video.

This is a good time to do those things you keep putting off, because you don't have time: clean those closets, read more, write more, keep a journal, learn a new language, try that new recipe, learn to play a musical instrument, and get more exercise. Read those books on improving your skiing or watching ski instruction videos! Don't forget to get more sleep. Enjoy the lull and remember that this, too, shall pass.

Hopefully, by next ski season, we will be back to a more normal world. We need to keep planning. Kathy and Barry Lake have agreed to lead a trip to Snowmass next January 6-13, 2021 and ExCom has approved the trip. We also have leaders for BRSC Davos 2021, the end of February. More to come on that. If you would like to lead BRSC Telluride early February, 2021, let me know.

PRW SKI TRAVEL SHOW HAS BEEN CANCELLED!

Also, the Spring BRSC meeting has been cancelled.

Rosemary Schwartzbard
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PARK CITY SKI TRIP March 7 – 14, 2020

By *Cara Jablon*

WOW! What a time we are living through. A day after we returned from Park City, the resort closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Before that happened, twelve brave PVS members and friends enjoyed a week on the slopes of Park City, Deer Valley, and the Canyons portion of Park City. A group of the ladies even went to Sundance one day – no, we did not see Robert Redford, but the views from the resort were stunningly beautiful. Although the conditions during the week were not perfect (some “crisp” snow, heavy snow on the lower mountain and, near the end, a mixture of hard snow (otherwise known as



“ice”) and “sludge” spring skiing snow, both on the same slopes), we had a good ski week. The weather was generally warm, with some sun and many overcast days.

The Peaks Hotel, where we stayed, is located a short bus ride from Park City or the Canyons. Deer Valley is only a few miles away



from Park City. Every hour the hotel ran a van to Park City or to Deer Valley. A bus stop for the free public bus was right outside the door of the hotel. The hotel was attractive, with a rustic lobby, an included buffet breakfast, a large exercise room, a swimming pool (indoor/outdoor) and hot tubs. Bob and I had a suite, which had ample space for our après-ski parties, but essentially no cooking equipment or serving dishes. After several requests, we were able to obtain enough wine glasses for the group.

The first night we encountered a little glitch – the hotel did not have the dinner reservation that we had made three weeks earlier, although the restaurant manager acknowledged that he remembered my making the reservation. He did accommodate us by setting up tables in the lobby and we had a nice dinner to the music of the band playing in the lobby.



On Sunday, our first day of skiing, snow was falling, and Bruce King, Matt Etter, and I exhausted ourselves skiing ankle-deep heavy snow. Rosemary Schwartzbard, Bonnie Sweeney, and Burr Schuler went on the Park City Tour, with its focus on the mining history of the area and the many remaining mining structures scattered all over the ski area. Among other things, they learned that



there are still many miles of mining tunnels under the Park City Mountain. That night, we had an après-ski party, attended by Kitty Imdahl, a former PVS member who has been living in the Park City/Deer Valley area for

many years. Participants went to a variety of different restaurants – some to the hotel restaurant (Versante), others

to Sammy's Bistro or to the Purple Sage – both of which got good reviews. Bob and I tried Squatter's, a casual restaurant within walking distance of the hotel (a healthy walk), and found it to be good.

Monday, many members of the group went on a tour of Deer Valley – those of us in the “slow” group were very pleased with our guide, who stopped at every intersection where there was a choice of trails. Apparently, the guide for the faster group was not as considerate and following him was a challenge. Burr took a fall and pulled a muscle – his skiing was limited for the remainder of the trip, but he was able to drive (he drove all the way from Virginia to Park City and back). After an après-ski party, eight members of our group went to the Boneyard Restaurant, a casual restaurant where we had a nice meal.

On Tuesday, a group of us (Cara, Bonnie, Kay Christensen, Rosemary, Matt, and Bruce) decided to try the Canyons. After taking the city bus, we walked up the steps to the “cabriolet,” the little open-air gondola that goes from the bus stop to the base of the Canyons.



Despite some mixed information from guest services at the base about the availability of space on the 10 am guided tour, we took the gondola up and all were able to sign up for the tour. Rex, our guide, gave us a good tour of about half the mountain – the Canyons portion is considerably larger than the original Park City part. We never had the chance to ski the portion of the Canyons that is closest to Park City. However, we had a good tour and enjoyed the beautiful vistas and the generally mellow intermediate trails. By the end of the tour, the snow was getting heavy; we took a few more runs and took the gondola back to the base area (this is the way to avoid a lift called “short cut” that almost immediately after “take-off” goes over a deep canyon before there is even time to put down the bar).

Walking back to the hotel proved to be a bit of a challenge, as the bus stop for our return was several long blocks away from the hotel.

Tuesday evening, we had an après-ski and then five of us went to an excellent Japanese restaurant, Yuki Yama. Rosemary and Kay were invited by Kitty Imdahl to visit the Zermatt resort, where they were treated to dinner. They were very impressed with this resort, which is about a fifteen-minute drive from Deer Valley.

Wednesday brought a fairly warm, windy overcast day, with decent conditions on the lower part of Park City in the morning and ice on the upper mountain. Most of the group did some skiing that day. In the evening, we went as a group to Fletcher's, a restaurant in downtown Park City. Thursday, another warm day, Cara, Bonnie,



Oldest & Youngest

Linda Rice, Rosemary, and Kay took an Uber to Sundance. Linda went snowshoeing on the Sundance cross-country trail, while the rest of the group took a tour led by Maxine, from the Zermatt resort. As the top of the mountain was rather “crisp” and the bottom “mushy,” the best part of the day were the amazing vistas. Sundance, although small, is an interesting area and, on a good snow day, is well worth a visit. Our dinner Thursday was at the Prime, one of the many steak houses in Park City.



Celebrating the gold

Friday, members of the group who skied stayed mostly on the middle of the mountain at Park City, as there was ice on top and mush on the bottom. Our final dinner Friday night was at Reef’s Restaurant, an Israeli restaurant on the top of Deer Valley in Silver Lake Village. We had a huge variety of appetizers, including hummus, baba ghanouj, falafel, tahini, Israeli salad, sesame cabbage salad, beet arugula salad, and burnt eggplant and cherry tomato salad. For the main course, there was a choice of Moroccan salmon, chicken schnitzel, or braised short ribs. Dessert included two cakes and cookies. To get to Reef’s and back, we had to take two buses – the restaurant is up a long winding mountain road with amazing views of Deer Valley. Definitely an adventure worth having!

Over the course of the week, Linda Rice, a friend of Bonnie Sweeney, took two lessons and greatly improved her confidence on the slopes. Jerry Murphy, who had not skied for quite a number of years, took a lesson one day and visited the Olympic facilities on another. Bonnie enjoyed visiting the Park City Museum, which details the mining history of the area. Members of the group explored the attractive, historic town of Park City, with its many galleries (expensive!), shops, and restaurants.



Waiting for the bus

With the concentration of Park City, the Canyons (now part of Park City, but with its own unique feel), and Deer Valley in a limited area, there is a huge variety of skiing. The free public bus system is reliable and easy to use. However, without the ski-in, ski-out access that we have at Snowmass, there is a lot of walking in ski boots. To get to the Park City resort from the bus stop requires climbing two sets of stairs (for some of us who found the walk to the ski area a bit challenging, there is an elevator that avoids one set of stairs). Overall, members of the group seemed to enjoy the trip. We certainly were fortunate not to have the mountain close during our ski week.

I hope that everyone stays healthy and makes good use of our national quarantine time. I look forward to a return to “normal” as soon as possible.

By Cara Jablon

Rosemary adds to Cara’s account on behalf of the group: We want to thank Cara and Bob for planning, organizing, and leading this wonderful trip to Park City. The Jablons always go the “extra mile.” In addition to happy hours in their suite, they organized dinners each night at a variety of restaurants and signed us up for mountain tours,



Members' Corner

David Warthen, Jr.

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J.

Annual Meeting for 2020:

At the April 21 Annual Meeting, the PVS Active Membership will probably not be considering any Applicant Members for new Membership.

However, PVS for sure will be considering three active members for the ExCom Board, 2020-2022:

Cara [Jablon](#)

Kathy [Lake](#)

Donald [Vierimaa](#)

TOOT Distribution to 119 Members:

-pdf: 107; USPS: 2

Thanks to:

-TOOT Coordinator - E. Thayer

-TOOT April Layout Editor – J. D. Warthen

-Electronic TOOT - J. D. Warthen

Roster Changes: dwarthen409@gmail.com)

Changing Times

It is hard to believe that times have changed so much in such a short time. 2020 ushered in an entire set of new challenges. Who would have thought that in a matter of days a pandemic invasion made its way around the world and entered our homeland? A plague in this day and age? Life is so very fragile. Stores closed, social isolation, houses of worship closed, economic chaos, hospitals overwhelmed, travel curtailed, unemployment soaring. It is hard to know how to deal with such turmoil. Most turn to above in houses of worship for assurance that we will survive no matter what befalls us. However, it is still difficult even when there is some semblance of peace and hope. In time, all of this will eventually come to pass for it always has.

The very best to you all in these trying times. Hang in there no matter what, and don't give up keeping on!

April always signifies the beginning of SPRING. It is the awakening of plants, the rebirth of life and hope in the future. It is the perfect way to transition from blue skies of the slopes and the coldness of winter to the warmth and color of Spring. Look forward to the predictable greening of trees and the color of flowers:



PVS 2020 Calendar



- Apr 21 Tue Annual Meeting CANCELLED
- Apr 28 Fri Excom Meeting, telephonic, 7:00 PM
- May 01 Fri Spring 2020 Ski Travel Show, Marriott Tysons Corner, CANCELLED
- May 21 Thu Glenstone Grounds Tour, CANCELLED
- May 30 Sat May General Meeting, Nelson, TBD
- Jun 27 Sat SummerFest, Kathi Daylor, TBD
- Aug 15 Sat Steak & Swim, Hines, Delaplane, VA

PVS Ski Trips 2020:



Useful Ski "Links"

[Potomac Valley Skiers](#)
[BRSC Sanctioned Trips](#) (Norton blocks viewing by Safari)
[DC Ski Online News](#)

ExCom

Officers:	Chairpersons:
President – <i>Tom Tycz</i> V. President – <i>Kal Nossuli</i> Secretary – <i>Ellie Thayer</i> Treasurer – <i>Dick Schwartzbard</i> Ex Officio - Board Members: <u>First Term:</u> <i>Jannes Gibson</i> <i>Jan Marx</i> <i>Mary Rose de Valladares</i> <u>Second Term:</u> <i>Melissa FitzGerald</i> <i>John Holt</i> <i>Barry Lake</i>	Ski Trip Committee – <i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i> Events – <i>Marianne Sopolis</i> Membership Records – <i>Dave Warthen</i> TOOT Coordinator – <i>Ellie Thayer</i> TOOT Layout Editors – <i>Jan Marx, Kerry Hines & Dave Warthen</i> TOOT (E-Distribution) – <i>Dave Warthen</i> Webmaster – <i>Mary Ellena Ward</i> Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</i> Historian – <i>Jan Marx</i>

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.



Potomac Valley Skiers 55th Anniversary Celebration

We are looking forward to better times! In anticipation of our 55th PVS anniversary in the fall, the planning committee of Carolyn DeVilbiss, Jan Marx, Nancy McKinley, Rosemary Schwartzbard, and Marianne Sponis is working on plans for a celebratory luncheon, probably in October. We will also open the "Time Capsule," which has paraphernalia from January 2000, and share some of the stories as to how the items were chosen.

At the moment, we are meeting virtually to share thoughts, ideas and make plans. Should you have information, such as old newsletters, pictures, memories, etc. please let us know! Send a note or call any of our committee members.

We are looking forward to making and sharing more memories together. See you in the fall, if not before!

Submitted by Committee Chair, Marianne Sponis

I Wandered Lonely As a Cloud - William Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

