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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

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President's Message

It is the beginning of a new year that we all hope will be better and more upbeat than 2020. We can look forward to vaccines that will enable everyone to visit with friends, take group SKI TRIPS and just to enjoy an in-person life with friends, neighbors, sports mates, and church and club members. We can look forward to returning to restaurants, gyms, SKIING and other activities we normally enjoy. And let us not forget all the young people who will happily be able to actually attend schools. I, for one, am looking forward to a more open and vibrant lifestyle and going to restaurants, meetings, family gatherings, church activities and SKIING.

In reviewing the TOOTs of 2020, I think PVS was able to maintain an active club. In the beginning of the year, PVS members enjoyed skiing at Snowmass, Park City, and local resorts. Many thanks go to Barry and Kathy Lake, Bob and Cara Jablon, and John Smith for leading these skiing activities. Each trip was special with great skiing and camaraderie amongst members. Owing to COVID-19, PVS skiing trips have been curtailed. At the end of last season, many ski resorts closed or developed new requirements that significantly restrained group ski trips. The new ski season is also difficult for group ski trips. And, most of us are reluctant to fly or congregate. As a result, PVS is not sponsoring any ski trips this season. Skiing is possible but it will need to be done solely or in small groups who must follow the new restrictions that apply at each resort.



PVS held a meeting at the home of a member only in February 2020. Beginning in March, we suspended in-person meetings and either did not meet or conducted Zoom meetings. Thanks to host Marianne Sponis, these Zoom meetings for both the monthly ExCom and PVS club get-togethers have been very successful. Zoom allows PVS members to "attend" our gatherings even though they live outside the Washington DC metropolitan area: a definite plus of our Zoom meetings. PVS members also found and enjoyed other activities. Before the virus, and thanks to Shirley Rettig, we attended a production of the Little Theater of Alexandria. Since COVID-19 started in March, PVS has undertaken most activities remotely or when safe distancing could be maintained, e.g., the NASA tree survey, the bring your own book monthly meetings, walks, (a visit to Glenstone and a walk around Lake Accotink). It is evident that PVS is an active club and that members like to continue the camaraderie of the ski trips even on Zoom by sharing stories of what has transpired in our daily lives each month. There was even some festive caroling during the December Zoom meeting.

As you all know, many are needed to take on the various Club responsibilities. PVS is a success because members are willing to devote their time and talents to accomplish all the work necessary to maintain the club. My thanks go to ExCom members, the Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Chairs, Membership Chair, TOOT Coordinator, TOOT layout editors and columnists, TOOT

distributors, Ski Trip coordinators, coordinators of other activities, Historian, Webmaster, BRSC Liaison and all members who participate in PVS activities.

With the new year we have a new Vice President, Barry Lake, replacing Kal Nossuli, who resigned as of December 31. My thanks and gratitude go to Kal for his service and my congratulations to Barry for assuming the Vice President's duties until our April Annual Meeting, when new officers will be elected. My thanks and appreciation also go to Kerry Hines, Chair of this year's Nominating Committee, and the members of the committee for their steadfast work to nominate members, who will fill President, Vice President and ExCom positions, for election in April. Please see the Nominating Committee article in this TOOT for more information on the committee's work and the nominees.



May everyone have a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Tom Tycz
President



Coming Event

Join Us
PVS Monthly General Meeting
January 19, 2021, 7:30

We will again be holding our PVS monthly meeting via [Zoom](#) on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. For those of you who have used Zoom, you know that we will be able to see other attendees, share some stories, and watch our president, Tom Tycz, and others, cover some agenda items.

You will receive an invitation via email on the day of the meeting. If you are not familiar with Zoom, there is a short tutorial in last month's TOOT and also free information on the Internet. If you have any additional questions, you can contact Marianne Soponis at Marianne.Soponis@gmail.com.

Looking forward to "seeing you" on January 19!



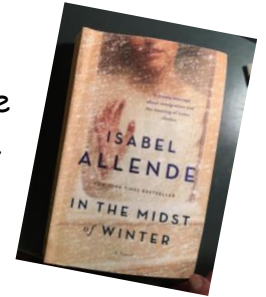
Past Event

PVS' Virtual Book Group (BYOB) - more good reading!

The December 10th gathering of PVS' BYOB - Bring Your Own Book - book group on Zoom is (dare I say it) "in the books!" This monthly get-together is always a fun chat with friends along with a bit of talk about what most recently has caught our reading fancy. See the info at the bottom for how to join us in January!

This past month, the choices from our members included:

- "In the Midst of Winter" by Chilean award-winning author Isabel Allende was offered by Ellie Thayer. Allende presents the stories of three disparate characters who by chance come together one night over the discovery of a dead body in the trunk of a car.
- Bonnie Sweeney told us about "The Stationery Shop" by Marjan Kamali. Through Kamali's engaging novel, Bonnie learned more about how everyday people were impacted by the political upheaval in Iran in 1953. Kamali then brings her characters forward to present day.
- Jan Marx can be counted on to find interesting reads that highlight her native state. This month she brought us "The Lager Queen of Minnesota" by J. Ryan Stradal, a novel about 2 sisters who grow up to live separate lives in the beer industry. Now Jan knows more about the production of beer than she ever thought she would!
- "Hell and Other Destinations: a 21st-Century Memoir" by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was Marianne Soponis' choice for a good read. Albright has led a fascinating life and Marianne was taken with her energy and her self-deprecating manner.
- Nancy McKinley brought "The Cold Millions" by Jess Walter. It tells, through the often-rollicking adventures of two young men, the story of labor's ill treatment at the turn of the century and the early years of union activism.



Happily, Clare Soponis was able to join us as well to again bring her questions and comments to the lively discussion. And you can too! No need to make a formal presentation - just a few words about what you're reading or wish to read.

Coming Again - BYOB

PVS Virtual Book Group (BYOB) meets again!

The next BYOB Zoom call will be held on **Thursday, January 14 from 4 to 5 pm**. Let

Marianne Soponis know at marianne.soponis@gmail.com if you're interested in joining us. Questions? Get in touch with Nancy McKinley

at nancymckin@gmail.com or 703 595 8375.



Past Event



‘Twas the week before Christmas and all through the room, PVSers were drawn toward the light of the ZOOM.

And so, on December 15, 2020, PVS held its holiday party via Zoom. Thirty-three PVSers joined the meeting hosted and facilitated by Marianne Soponis.

President Tom Tycz conducted a short business meeting following the round-the-screen discussion about favorite holiday food and drink and whether one thought he or she would gain or lose weight over the holidays. The latter was a loaded question and the vast majority said that they expected to gain two to three pounds, which meant that the entire group could possibly expand by close to 100 pounds.



The favorite drink winner was eggnog. Those weighing in for eggnog as one of their favorites were Marianne Soponis, Marianne Hines, Herb Bennett, Salli Diakova, Nick Young, Sharon Mulholland, Carolyn DeVilbiss, and Dave Warthen. Dave tempered his enthusiasm by saying that he liked light eggnog and the retort was heard that he could shed pounds by shedding his festive reindeer antlers. Barry Lake remarked that eggnog was overrated and he would stick to wine. Other beverages, such as champagne (Mary Rose de Valladares and Cara Jablon), hot buttered rum (Don Vierimaa), cream sherry (Jon Armao), Prosecco (Ingrid Dallaire), black coffee with Irish Whiskey (Bob Jablon), ginger beer (Blanca Hotaling), beer and schnapps (Jannes Gibson), and Glühwein/Glögg/Gløgg (Jill Nelson and Marianne Hines), nostalgically emerged as other holiday favorites.



We were all missing John and Blanca Hotaling’s in-person holiday party with venison stew. Cara Jablon, Kathy Lake, and Rosemary Schwartzbard also added beef as holiday favorites. Other new and old traditional food picks were Mary Tycz’s pirogues, Rosemary Schwartzbard’s latkes, Marianne Hines’ rouladen, and Dorian Janney’s Christmas cookie baking spree with her granddaughter. Shirley Rettig reported that she would choose a top-of-the-line frozen meal. Stollen lovers were Tom Tycz, Jan Marx, and Bing Van Nuys. There were also pie lovers, albeit different kinds of pies: Bonnie Sweeney (pumpkin), Ellie Thayer (pecan), Kal Nossuli (apple), and Herb Bennett (rum cream). Kerry Hines and Dick Schwartzbard were heard to say that they appreciated whatever their wives cooked.



Blanca in Holiday Sweater

Thank you Marianne for initiating this fun and creative exercise. It triggered great holiday memories to share and brightened our pandemic-tinged holiday spirits.



A brief business meeting followed, directed by Tom. Events coordinator, Marianne S., asked Dick to report on the dramatic implosion of the Holiday Inn, formerly across the street from his condo. It was reportedly dramatic. Sharon offered the option for PVS “word people” to join with a few other members in a phone game of Quiddler. Rosemary, Ski Committee chair, noted that Alice McNulty had skied at Mt Snow, where the amenities were minimal. Jon Armao reported that he had happily skied with the covid-mandated restrictions at A-Basin for seven days. Kerry Hines, chair of the nominating committee, announced the committee members, i.e., Dave DeVilbiss, Salli Diakova, Marianne Hines, Kathy Lake, and Ellie Thayer, had selected a slate of officers to be voted upon at the April 2021 meeting. The candidates are: President – Barry Lake; Vice President – Cara Jablon; ExCom Board Members – Mary Rose de Valladares, Jannes Gibson, and Manfred Boehringer. Tom thanked Kal Nossuli, who is resigning as Vice President on December 31, 2020, for his service and thanked Barry Lake for being Kal’s replacement for the remainder of the VP term.



After Tom declared the meeting adjourned, the after-hours entertainment began. Kerry, Don, and Bonnie recited *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*. Then, Sharon and Dorian, with guitar and voice, led the group in singing Christmas carols. The rest of us were muted, so no one will ever know if we added our scratchy voices to their excellent musical leadership and example.

Submitted by Ellie Thayer



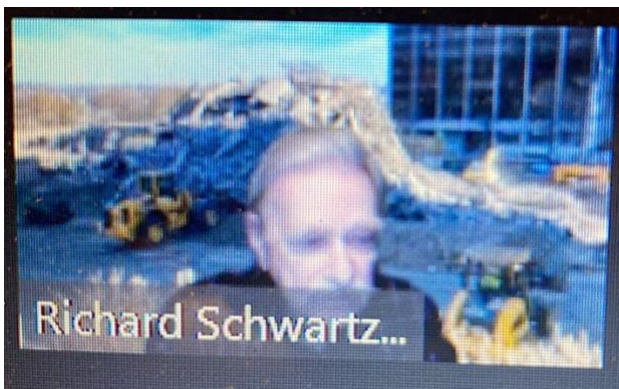
Nominating Committee Report for PVS Officers (2021-2023)



<p>Candidates for PVS Officers for 2021-2023: President: Barry Lake Vice-President: Cara Jablon Candidates of PVS Board Members for 2021-2023: ExCom: Mary Rose de Valladares ExCom: Jannes Gibson ExCom: Manfred Boehringer</p> <p>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 20, 2021.</p>	<p>Submitted by the Nominating Committee:</p> <p>Kerry Hines (Chair)</p> <p>Dave DeVilbiss</p> <p>Salli Diakova</p> <p>Marianne Hines</p> <p>Kathy Lake</p> <p>Ellie Thayer</p>
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SKI TALK January 2021

2020 ended with a bang for us – literally. In fact, there were 12 small blasts and then one sonic boom before the building across the street from our condo collapsed into itself. The pandemic and the Holiday Inn implosion will be forever connected in my mind. In April, when there was a shutdown, the Holiday Inn closed earlier than planned. Once it closed, we watched the interior taken apart bit by bit. Living directly across the street from the hotel we participated in numerous zoom meetings, several in-person meetings, inspections of our condos by their engineers and ours, and inspections of the infrastructure of our seven-story condo building. Once the date for the implosion was set, the communications and actions increased dramatically. Dick was closely involved with the implosion team to properly protect our building. All air conditioning and exhaust units on our roof were covered; we were given plastic and tape to cover our windows and wrap balcony furniture; and then they draped our building with a wire mesh. We were instructed to leaving the building by 7am before the 8am implosion. Getting back in



the building would depend on how everything went. Dick and I and many of our neighbors and friends gathered just beyond the red zone to watch from about two blocks away. Wow! Anticipating this for so many months and being so invested in the outcome made it quite an emotional experience. It went off exactly as planned at 8am on Dec. 13, and within a minute the building was reduced to smoke and rubble. Other than a little dust, our building seems to be intact. Here is a link if you are interested in watching the implosion: <https://tinyurl.com/y7gead8k>

Tales from PVS Members of Skiing during Covid

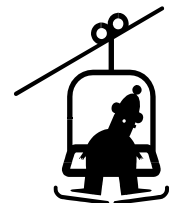
Jon Armao attended ski camp at A-Basin in early December. He reports few slopes were open, but the snow was good, and he had some sunny, bluebird days.

“The experience was different in that Colorado prohibited all indoor dining. Only one mountain restaurant was opened. No one cared if you took a water or bathroom break and hung out for a while just inside the doors of the restaurant. You could get carry-out and eat on the outdoor deck. I only did that once. The rest of the time (after about 5 hours of skiing with few breaks), I was ready to head back to the hotel and order carry out at restaurants that were close by.

“The only place to boot up was in your car. That wasn’t much of an inconvenience for me. Obviously, if you rode the ski bus, you would need to wear your boots on the bus as the locker rooms were only open for using the bathrooms. Masks were required to get on a lift, and it was stringently enforced. Sharing a lift was your choice.

“I had a great time in spite of the inconveniences. I might add, the hotel in Keystone (Hyatt Place) had only about a dozen guests. It was easy to social distance and they also enforced the mask policy. Guests picked up breakfast in the lobby at designated times and you had to eat in your room.”

Alice McNulty, who lives in Connecticut, has skied a few times at Mt. Snow in Vermont. According to Alice, they drove to the mountain and dropped off their skis before parking. The lodge was closed so they had to boot up in the car. Alice has an apartment nearby, so they dressed and had lunch there. The lift lines were not too bad mid-week, although the staff required social distance in the lines. They load family groups together or only two singles on the 6-pack chair.



“Starting this week, we will have to fill out health scans before we go. I do appreciate the care the resort is taking, but it’s awkward at best. Technically, we are supposed to quarantine in Vermont for two weeks after entering the state. Then quarantine another two weeks and test when we return to Connecticut. Part of me feels bad about not following the rules, but we only see people outdoors with masks six feet apart, have lunch at my apartment and drive home.”

Kay Christensen, who has skied at Vail, has a similar report. Masks are mandatory. People may share a lift with you or choose not to. There are limited eating and facilities on the mountain. She also reports that Pitkin County (Aspen) requires an affidavit that you have tested negative 72 hours before arriving and you are symptom-free.

LOCAL SKIING by John Smith

Both Liberty Mountain and Whitetail are open. Local skiing has gotten more complicated this year. Half-day tickets are no longer available. The only single day tickets are for all day from 8:00 AM until 11:00 PM. The single day tickets are \$72 and \$59 for people over 65 years old. The tickets can only be purchased on-line or by telephone. The number of tickets available each day is limited so a reservation, made at the time the ticket is purchased, is required to be allowed on the mountain. Season pass holders have priority for the reservations so single day ticket purchasers can only get a reservation if there is still space available; availability is updated each Wednesday for the following week. Reservations are currently available for December and January.

For **Liberty Mountain**: Order on-line at:

<https://www.libertymountainresort.com/plan-your-trip/lift-access/tickets.aspx>

Or call: 717-642-8282

For **Whitetail**: Order on-line at:

<https://www.skiwhitetail.com/plan-your-trip/lift-access/tickets.aspx>

Or call: 717-328-9400

Other possibilities for local skiing that are a little far for a day trip are:

Wisp - free anytime for over age 70.

Bryce and Canaan Valley - free, midweek for over age 70.

Massanutten - \$19 anytime for over age 70.

Wintergreen - \$54 midweek for over age 65.

Timberline - \$55 for over age 65.

Please let John <johnhsmith@juno.com> know if you want to be on the local skiing list.



***HAPPY NEW YEAR
WE ARE HOPING
FOR A BRIGHTER 2021.***

Rosemary Schwartzbard
rosemaryschw@gmail.com

Members' Corner

J. David Warthen Jr.
dwarthen409@gmail.com



At Long Last - 2021 - Happy New Year!

I am sure everyone has been voicing these words. 2020 has been the longest year of a lifetime. It has been rough on all of us. Isolation, boredom, schools closed, restaurants closed, sports arenas closed, entertainment curtailed, travel hindered, no ski trips, appointments delayed, and meetings cancelled. What was normalcy like? Also, throw in a contentious election to aggravate the situation.

However, the light at the end of the tunnel has been seen with numerous vaccines on the horizon.

Hold on to those masks for after the vaccine shots, while immunity builds within our bodies. Joy! Who would have ever thought that the attire of a bank robber would become the new norm.

I have also begun to hate the word, "Patience." We wait and wait some more as science provides the reputable answers.

All this will come to pass, *Eventually*. Thanks go to our frontline research scientists, MDs, and nurses. What sacrificial service they have provided for the public.

TOOT Distribution to 118 Members: -pdf: 108

Thanks to:

- TOOT Coordinator - E. Thayer
- TOOT Layout Editors – J Marx, K Hines, D Warthen
Layout Editor for January - J. Marx
- TOOT Electronic Distribution – D. Warthen

Roster Changes: (dwarthen409@gmail.com)

ZOOM

Thanks to M Soponis, PVS has become a regular user of Zoom for monthly PVS general meetings and ExCom meetings. As the facilitator, Marianne has demonstrated that the use of Zoom is a way to remain connected while PVS has coped with social distancing during the coronavirus-19 pandemic. She has enabled PVS to safely survive during these trying times until the pandemic subsides. We thank her for her expertise and patience in setting up these electronic virtual meetings and teaching us how to use this relatively new technique.

Zoom became the best web-conferencing product in the world in less than 10 years. Eric Yuan, a former Cisco employee, started his own company, Zoom, in 2011. Zoom quickly was being used by tens of millions around the world as an excellent web conferencing product. Eric is a 50 year-old Chinese-born American billionaire businessman whose net worth is 16.5 billion (Forbes).



As the monthly TOOT, under coordination of E Thayer, has aided in the connectivity of PVS from month to month during this pandemic, so has the use of Zoom assisted in this same goal.



Looking Back



*Reg, Mike, & Dick
April 2016*



Eloise & Rosemary, April 2016



Kathy & Barry, April 2016



Sue & Jan, October 2013



John, Nancy, Eloise, November 2013

Ski Buddies Over the Years



Louann Eadie, November 2015



Ski Friends

Bob & Cara, April 2014



Blanca & Kathy, February 2016

Fond Memories on the Slopes



*Charlie, Sue, Liz, Dave D,
Charlotte, February 2016*

PVS 2021 Calendar

Jan 14 Th Zoom BYOB, 4:00 - 5:00 pm, M. Soponis, N. McKinley
Jan 19 Tue Zoom Monthly Meeting, 7:30 pm, M. Soponis, Host
Jan 26 Tue Zoom ExCom Meeting, 7:00 pm, M. Soponis, T. Tycz

2021 Ski Trips



**DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
PVS CANNOT RUN ANY GROUP SKI TRIPS
THIS SEASON.**

Useful Ski "Links"

[Potomac Valley Skiers](#)
[BRSC Sanctioned Trips](#)
[DC Ski Online News](#)

ExCom

Officers:

President – *Tom Tycz*
Vice Pres. – *Barry Lake*
Secretary – *Ellie Thayer*
Treasurer – *Dick Schwartzbard*
Ex Officio –

Board Members:

First Term:

Cara Jablon
Kathy Lake
Don Vierimaa

Second Term:

Jannes Gibson
Jan Marx
Mary Rose de Valladares

Chairpersons:

Ski Trip Committee – *Rosemary Schwartzbard*
Events – *Marianne Soponis*
Membership Records – *Dave Warthen*

TOOT Coordinator – *Ellie Thayer*

TOOT Layout Editors – *Jan Marx, Kerry Hines*
& *Dave Warthen*

TOOT (E-Distribution) – *Dave Warthen*

Webmaster – *Mary Ellena Ward*

Meeting Records – *Sue Lyon*

Historian – *Jan Marx*

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.