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President's Message

Last year at this time I wrote about the fabulous skiing at Snowmass and Salt Lake City, having just returned from those adventures in the Rockies. And this would normally be the ideal time to report on skiing this season. Alas, it is not the case this year. Since Mary and I have yet to receive the Covid-19 vaccine, this ski season is not happening for us. I must console myself with thinking about next year and anticipating that ski season by perusing the BRSC ski vacation information for 2022 and listening to Rosemary Schwartzbard report on plans to return to Snowmass in January 2022. Nevertheless, at the most recent PVS Zoom meeting discussion, several PVS members noted that they are fortunate to have received the vaccination and are skiing or are planning to this year. I wish them well and that they enjoy their alpine adventures. We will be thinking of you.

Although we, in the Washington DC area, have had some snow this February, I am grateful that it was not as cold and not as much snow as Texas, which turned into a catastrophe from which recovery for many will be a long haul. Mary and I were particularly concerned because son Zac lives in Austin with Angela. They experienced electricity outages for more than two days as the temperature dipped to 8 degrees at night. Fortunately, none of their pipes burst. They boiled their water for five days - after the electricity returned. They are getting back to COVID-19-normal. However, there have been some longer consequences. For example, many of the iconic Texas cacti froze and hundreds of the legendary Austin bats (Mexican Free Tailed bats) that lived under the Congress Street Bridge fell victim to the freezing temperature. The last day of February is forecasted to have a high temperature of 80! Although the Austin snow and cold are long gone, they have had a devastating effect.

Mary and I are still staying at home. As I wandered about the yard a week ago, I noticed crocuses poking through the snow. Since this is March and the beginning of spring, soon they will be followed by daffodils, tulips, forsythia and more. As the weather is warmer, I will do a yard spring clean up, begin planting and work on outdoor projects that I have thought about over the winter. I am looking forward to that... I'd rather be skiing.

(Continued on page 2)

Monthly Meeting

On ZOOM

March 16, 2021

7:30 P.M.

Directions to follow via email



The PVS Annual Meeting is April 20, 2021 when PVS elects officers for the upcoming two-year terms. The Nominating Committee, chaired by Kerry Hines, nominated a slate of excellent candidates for the positions that need to be filled. Their bios appeared in the February TOOT and again in this TOOT. I'm sure you will agree that they are well qualified to represent and lead PVS for the next two years.

Due to the Covid-19 situation, ExCom decided to conduct the election by acclamation, again using the procedure we followed in 2020. It is described in this TOOT. I recommend that everyone review it and if you have any questions, please contact me or Kerry Hines.

My best wishes to everyone to stay well,

Tom Tycz
President



Austin Snow

Join Us at Our March 16, 2021, PVS Virtual Meeting

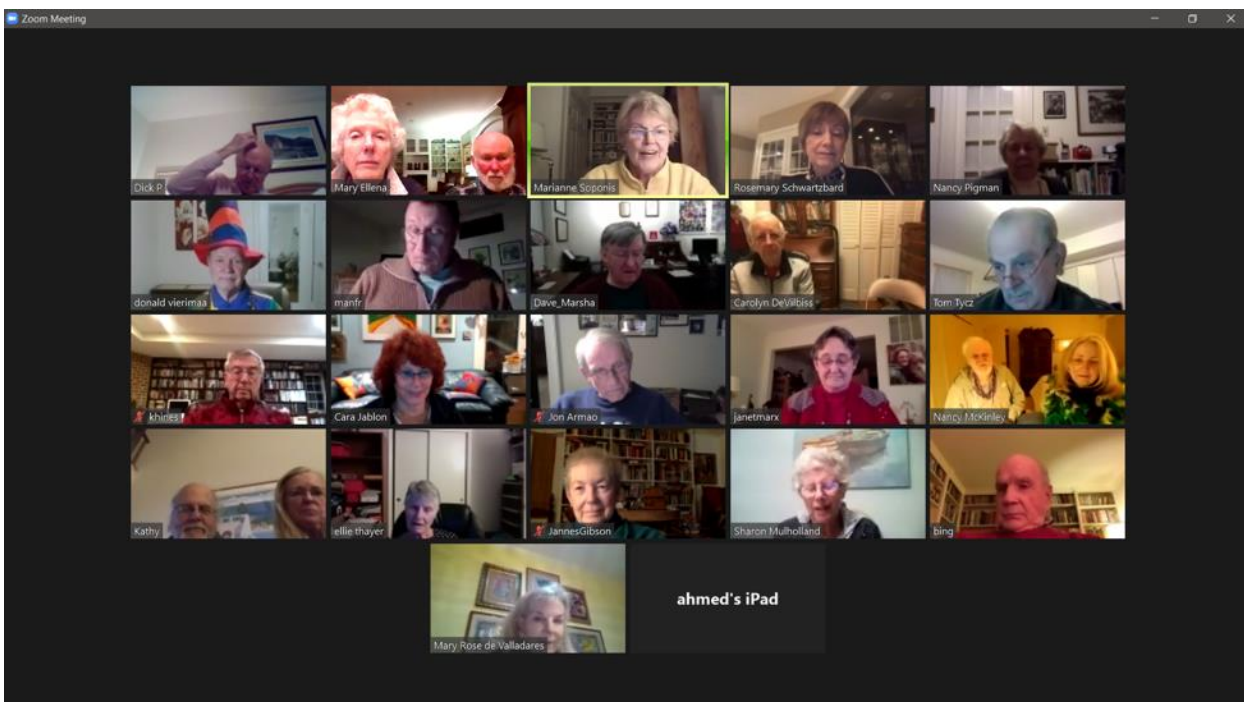
We will again be holding our PVS monthly meeting via Zoom. The meeting will be on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. For those of you who have used Zoom, you know that we will be able to see other attendees, share some stories, and watch our president, Tom Tycz, and others, cover some agenda items.

You will receive an invitation via email on the day of the meeting or the day before. If you are not familiar with Zoom, there is a short tutorial in the December 2020 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 March 16!

Past Event

PVS MONTHLY MEETING – 16 February 2021



Laissez les bons temps rouler!

Marianne Sponis was our Zoom Maestra for the meeting on Mardi Gras, 16 February. Although Don Vierimaa was the only one who came in full costume, several attendees sported bead necklaces. Twenty-nine people attended.

We started out discussing skiing, of course. Dick Parlow has been skiing twice at Snowshoe and reported excellent conditions. Mary Ellena Ward reported a good day at Wintergreen with Bruce King. Warm restrooms and the availability of hot meals was a bonus at both places. Snowshoe is stricter on mask protocol, but both areas were conscientious. Advance ticket purchase is required at both places. Don Vierimaa has been cross-country skiing locally. Jon Armao is planning a trip to Salt Lake City after he gets his second COVID jab, and Cara Jablon is headed for the Canyons at the end of March.

The “farthest travelled” for the meeting was Sharon Mulholland who was Zooming from Indian Shores, FL. Not much skiing there!

Most of the attendees had been able to score at least their first COVID shot. Some had already gotten two. The second shot is said to have a higher potential for achiness and other malaise, but no one reported any severe problems.

A brief events survey brought reports from:

The BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) club meets at 4:00 on the 2nd Thursday of the month. The group has nine or so members who gather to discuss who is reading what. Fiction and non-fiction qualifies. There are no fixed reading lists. Let Marianne know if you want to join.



The Zoom Quiddler players are hosted by Carolyn and Dave DeVilbiss on Monday nights at 7:30. There are currently four regulars, but more are welcome. The special cards and dictionary are available from Amazon. Notify Carolyn if you want to sit in and observe or play.

Marianne is trying to get another set of tickets for Glenstone. There were good reports from a visit last fall.

Rosemary Schwartzbard reported on ski trip plans. The Mountain Chalet in Snowmass is under new ownership, but still doing business. Doug Horstman is negotiating our 2022 trip and the Lakes have agreed to lead. Mark your calendars for 12-19 January! Mary Ellena Ward and Jim Slack have already spoken with The Stew Pot about hosting their 45th wedding anniversary party.

BRSC is planning a 2022 western trip to Jackson Hole at the end of January and Rosemary is looking for PVS leaders. If the stars align, the European trip will be to Sölden, Austria, and Inge Lesjak may lead the PVS contingent.

Kerry Hines reported that the nominees for officers (I always liked it better when PVS had “officers” instead of officers) are complete and bios were in the most recent TOOT. ExCom will review the Zoom election protocol, but it will probably be the same as last year.

There is still no plan for the delayed anniversary celebration and time capsule opening, but we’re hopeful that an in-person gathering will be possible sometime in the fall.

The next meeting will be at 7:30 on 16 March via Zoom.

*Submitted by **Mary Ellena Ward***



SKI TALK

March 2021

It's hard to believe that it has been a year since everything shut down because of Covid-19. When it happened last March, I was thinking it would be four to six weeks of quarantine. Who knew a year later we would still be restricted? Some of the things we missed this past year includes skiing, traveling, theater, going to restaurants, dinner with friends, and having PVS meetings and social events other than on Zoom. Who even knew what Zoom was last March? Finally, vaccines are available. Some of us in the advanced age group have been lucky enough to get our two shots. Others are still waiting. About half of the people who attended the last PVS Zoom meeting had at least one dose of the vaccine. Hopefully, by summer most people will be vaccinated, and we can all begin to live more normal lives.

We are beginning to plan for next ski season – 2022. PVS has been going to Mountain Chalet in Snowmass for the past twenty years. Many of our members will only ski at Snowmass so we were dismayed when we heard that the property had been sold. However, they plan to be in business as usual at least through next year according to the hotel management and our vendor, Doug Horstman. We are in the process of getting more information before making any commitments. The other good news is that Kathy and Barry Lake have agreed to lead the trip next January 12 - 19. While nothing is guaranteed at this time, we are hopeful we will be having a more normal ski season next year.

The Blue Ridge Ski Council (BRSC) is planning two trips next year:

Jackson Hole, Wyoming
January 29 - February 5, 2022

Sölden, Austria
February 18 - 26, 2022



At this point, we are not committed to either trip. We will have more information in the next few months. If anyone is interested in leading a BRSC trip or a trip to anyplace else, please let me know.

There are currently questions about what documentation will be needed to travel in the future, especially to Europe. Most airlines currently allow passengers to fly unvaccinated, but some require a negative coronavirus test. Qantas has announced that it will begin mandating proof of vaccination for international flights. It is believed that most cruise lines will require proof of vaccination when they start up again.

Your vaccination status could affect access at your next destination. According to some travel experts, once the vaccine is offered to the general public, proof of vaccination may be the golden ticket to travel and events. Some expect airlines to require proof as early as June. It is conceivable that ski resorts could require proof of vaccination next season.

Once you are vaccinated, treat your Vaccination Record Card like gold. Take a picture of it. Put it with your Passport. Laminate it. This may be an important travel document in the future.

Just in case you are forgetting how to ski, I have included a picture of Mikaela Shiffrin so you can work on your form. Wow! To be able to ski like that is amazing.

John Smith has not reported any activity on the local ski front at Ski Liberty or Whitetail. Some of our members have been able to ski at relatively local slopes. Mary Ellena Ward and Bruce King have skied at Wintergreen. Inge Lesjak goes to Massanutten. Dick Parlow has gone to Snowshoe.


Let me know if you have any skiing news.

Rosemary Schwartzbard
rosemaryschw@gmail.com



Coming Event - Annual Elections

Nominating Committee Report for PVS Officers (2021-2023)

<p>Candidates for PVS Officers for 2021-2023: President: Barry Lake Vice-President: Cara Jablon</p> <p>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) Dave DeVilbiss Salli Diakova Marianne Hines Kathy Lake Ellie Thayer</p>
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Candidates for Officers and Board Members for 2021-2023

BARRY LAKE – CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT



I was born in Leavenworth, KS, into an Army family. After a few years in Colorado Springs, the family took up more or less permanent residence in Arlington, VA. I attended George Mason University receiving a BS in Mathematics, and received an MS in Information Technology Administration from George Washington University. I am currently a Senior Cybersecurity Engineer for a Fairfax based information technology company, supporting the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) of the federal government.

While I originally learned to ski during my college days, I did not take up skiing in earnest until I met my future wife Kathy; both of us have enjoyed skiing together for over 30 years. We started out skiing mostly on the east coast, but after our first trip out west to Colorado, we pretty much gave up on east coast skiing. Over the years, we have been lucky enough to be able to take at least one to two ski trips a year, mostly to Colorado, Montana and Utah. We have also taken two European trips, to Switzerland and Austria, as well as two Canadian trips. Since joining PVS in 2015, we have thoroughly enjoyed yearly trips to Snowmass, having led them since 2017, and are looking forward to many more. I finished 2 two-year terms on ExCom last year and am currently serving as acting Vice-President. We currently reside in Oakton, VA. When not skiing or working, we also enjoy time at the beach.

CARA JABLON - CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT



I have been a skier for more than 57 years. My initial ski experience was at Mount Holyoke College (in South Hadley, Massachusetts) at a no longer extant ski area called Mt. Tom. After a single ski experience, I went home for Christmas vacation and bought my first pair of skis – long wooden skis - and lace-up boots. For years, I have enjoyed the challenge of the moguls and worked on improving my bump technique. Currently, the biggest challenge to this type of skiing is the loss of strength that comes with aging

After graduating from Mount Holyoke with a major in chemistry, and a minor in philosophy, I headed to New York City to attend Columbia University in a doctorate program in Biochemistry. Although I eventually finished the doctorate, I decided that I was not destined to be a scientist. What else to do but go to law school! After marrying Robert Jablon, and several months after my first child, Stephen, was born, I started law school in Albany, New York. During that year, Robert joined a law firm in Washington, D.C., and I dropped out of law school. I resumed law school at George Washington University the following year, and also finished writing my doctoral dissertation that year. Halfway through law school, I had another child, Lara.

After finishing law school, I started work in the Office of General Counsel of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, where I practiced pesticide law for thirteen years and was involved in limiting the use of wood preservative chemicals and Compound 1080, and taking arsenic ant baits off the market. My third child, Joel, was born in 1984.

Near the end of my time at EPA, I did a detail at the U.S. Attorney's Office in DC. Over the course of four months, I tried numerous misdemeanor drug cases. My subsequent legal career, over a period of about twelve years, was at three different law firms, where I wrote countless briefs and memoranda in the area of chemical regulatory law.

I retired early from law – despite my father's advice never to retire – and turned my attention in a different direction to beading. I have a small jewelry business and make necklaces, earrings, and bracelets that I sell at local craft shows. I am currently the president of the Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild and co-chair of the

Guild's Thanksgiving weekend arts and craft show in Vienna, Virginia. I am also the vendor chair for a holiday show at Temple Sinai in DC.

I enjoy spending time with my dog Tila, going to dance aerobics three times a week, swimming regularly in the summer, working in my garden, and enjoying concerts, opera, and theatre. I am also a member of a Toastmasters Speaking Club, and have been the club treasurer for many years. Bob and I enjoy collecting art, particularly folk art, and have not been able to resist the sand paintings sold on the square in Santa Fe and other art objects from western ski trips.

Stephen, our oldest son, lives with us in DC and is running a chess business. Our daughter, Lara, and her husband live on a 40-acre farm in southern Washington State, replete with goats, sheep, llamas, alpacas, chickens, dogs and cats. Lara runs a wedding business and does landscaping and carpentry when not taking care of six-year old Nathan. Joel teaches high school English in Portland Oregon.

A number of years ago, I served as president of PVS. I have participated in the PVS Snowmass trip for many years, and have also been on many other club trips, including trips to Sun Valley, Sun Peaks, Andorra, Austria and France. Bob, who also served as the club's president, and I have run ski trips to Mt. Bachelor, Steamboat, and Park City.

MARY ROSE DE VALLADARES – CANDIDATE FOR EXCOM



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 a 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. From there 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 a while 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 two years later.

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. I am now restructuring my management/consultancy in Clean energy/hydrogen. Remaining in touch with PVS during this process and during COVID has been a major morale booster for me.

I am honored to be asked to serve on ExCom for a second term and am looking forward to skiing with PVS Members!

JANNES GIBSON – CANDIDATE FOR EXCOM



I started skiing at Aspen in the 1950s. So, of course I chose to attend the University of Colorado where I met my husband in the 1960s. He was also a keen skier. I lost my favorite skiing partner in 2002 and some time after heard about PVS.

I have lived in Potomac since 1974 with assignments abroad in Afghanistan (where we built a rope tow outside Kabul), Indonesia, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Malawi. In Europe, we skied in Arosa, Switzerland, Val d'Isere, France and Bormio, Italy. In the U.S., most of the skiing was in Colorado or near DC at Bryce or Canaan Valley. Since my husband died in 2002, I have travelled a lot, but want to be sure to ski while I still enjoy it so much.

I volunteered and worked at The Textile Museum in Washington, DC from 1979 to 1994. Currently, I am on the board of Dance Place and Andean Textile Arts, which supports ten communities of weavers in Peru and the Andes.

(PAUL) MANFRED BOEHRINGER – CANDIDATE FOR EXCOM



Yes, my first name is actually Paul, but nobody calls me Paul so we can stick with Manfred. I was born in southwest Germany near the city of Stuttgart. Before I could go to college, I was drafted into the Luftwaffe (Air Force) for 18 months. There was no flying involved, I was a telephone guy.

I learned to ski at college near Lake Constance. This was a great place close to the Swiss and Austrian Alps. It was the time chairlifts had one seat and a chain to protect you from falling out.

After college, I moved to Munich to work. Munich is a great location if one wants to go skiing, as there are many places close by. I met my wife in Munich; she is from New York. After many work assignments in Asia, South America, Africa, and Florida, we moved to Reston, VA, and have lived here for 20 years. Now I am a US citizen and plan on staying in the area.

I am very happy with the great ski trips and have enjoyed the PVS companionship a lot. My favorite US ski areas are Snowmass and Taos. Taos is a little like my first Austrian ski areas.

Since the club gave me opportunities for a lot of great experiences and fun, I think it's time that I help a little bit with the work the club is doing.



NOTICE REGARDING THE ELECTION OF PVS OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATES FOR 2021-2023 IN VIEW OF THE CANCELLATION OF THE ON-SITE APRIL ANNUAL MEETING

In view of continuing COVID guidelines and restrictions, ExCom decided at the February 23, 2021 ExCom meeting that the April election would be conducted in the same manner as the election was conducted in April 2020, that is it would be conducted as follows:



Because this election would have occurred at the April 20, 2021 annual meeting, ExCom wishes to adhere as closely as possible to the By-Laws and the recent practice of voting by acclamation in instances where there is a single slate of officers and there are no candidates running in opposition to the slate. This year, the candidates are all running unopposed. **The candidates are Barry Lake for President; Cara Jablon for Vice President; and Jannes Gibson, Mary Rose de Valladares, and Manfred Boehringer for two-year ExCom positions.**

By-Law Section III (B) provides that the “President and Vice President shall be elected by the highest number of votes cast for those offices by the active membership on or before the annual meeting. The Executive Committee candidates shall be elected by the highest number of votes cast for the number of Executive Committee positions available by the active membership on or before the annual meeting....”

In view of the By-Laws and the past practice of voting for a slate of candidates by acclamation, when an unopposed slate is presented at the annual meeting, ExCom has determined that receipt of this notice and a non-response satisfies the requirement of voting for the slate of candidates by acclamation. Thus, NO RESPONSE to this notice is deemed to be casting an affirmative vote. If a member has an objection, contrary vote, or comment, such should be directed to President Tom Tycz’s email no later than April 19, 2021. email: tstycz70@gmail.com

The election shall be deemed closed on April 20, 2021, which would have been the date of the regularly scheduled annual meeting.



Members' Corner



J. David Warthen, Jr.
dwarthen409@gmail.com

March



March is a time for winds and the beginning of Spring with daffodils, azaleas, and tulips and none too soon. We have had a rough time this year with the Covid-19 pandemic, but there is light and hope at the end of the tunnel. Isolation has not been easy. Many of you have had the first shot and some of you have had both shots. We are still obediently wearing masks, or should be, as immunity grows within our bodies while we are dealing with variants of the virus. Hang in there; this too shall end, and skiing will become a reality for those who can still ski.

The Future:

How touching, honorable, and empathetic it was to view the tribute to those who have died from Covid-19 at the reflecting pool at inauguration time. And, how appropriate to have the candlelight service at the White House when this nation passed the deaths of 500,000 souls. It is just unbelievable that that number of individuals is more than those who lost their lives in World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War combined. That number was also more than those interred at Arlington Cemetery, and more than those who live in the city of Atlanta, GA. May we never forget the horror that this nation has experienced and the unbelievable grief that relatives of this enormous number of souls has endured.



Happy St. Patrick's Day !

Saint Patrick, who lived during the fifth century, is the patron saint of Ireland and its national apostle. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16. He later escaped but returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to its people.

A tradition is tied to folklore that says wearing green makes you invisible to leprechauns, which like to pinch anyone they can see. Some people also think sporting the color will bring good luck, and others wear it to honor their Irish ancestry.



Bells of Ireland

A shamrock is a young sprig, used as a symbol of Ireland. Saint Patrick, Ireland's patron saint, is said to have used it as a metaphor for the Christian Holy Trinity. The name shamrock comes from Irish seamróg [ˈʃamˠrʲoːɡ], which is the diminutive of the Irish word seamair óg and simply means "young clover".

Don't forget to wear your green on March 17, particularly if you are Irish.

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-TOOT Coordinator - E Thayer

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March TOOT – J Marx

-TOOT Electronic Distribution – D Warthen

Roster Changes: contact <dwarthen409@gmail.com>

Although we are not skiing as a club presently, we all have the slopes on our minds. This period of drought will eventually end and we will be back on the slopes. It has been unprecedented for all of us.

Calendar

Thur March 11 BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) Zoom at 4:00pm.
Tues March 16 March General Meeting Zoom at 7:30pm.
Tues March 23 ExCom Meeting Zoom at 7:00pm.



Note: Marianne Sponis has five tickets for the Glenstone Museum for Friday, April 30, 2021 at 12:45pm. If interested, contact Marianne. More information in the April TOOT.

ExCom, Board

Officers, and Committee Chairs

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

Useful Ski “Links”

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

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.