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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

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President's Message

I'm writing this while still in a food-induced coma the day after Thanksgiving. I think that Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday since most of our family is local, and it's a great opportunity to gather with family and friends. I hope that all, or at least many, of you had the same opportunity. I'm wishing everyone a belated Happy Thanksgiving, and an early Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year!

Being December means that we are well into the final stages of arranging the club's ski trips for this coming ski season. As you get this TOOT, it's hard to believe that the 2023 Snowmass trip is only a little over a month away – WOW – this year has been going so much faster than the Covid years. The Snowmass trip keeps growing little by little, and I believe that we are around 38 people going on various portions of the trip now. I'm very much looking forward to seeing all the folks that we haven't seen since the trip last year. And for those keeping up with PVS's ski trip plans, the BRSC Club Med Val d'Isère trip is still planned and on-track with six PVSers participating. I'm looking forward to the pampering and fun skiing there in France.

Now, I think I should address a few administrative items as we close out the year. First off, we are heading into the club's election period/cycle, and the nominating committee is looking to find candidates for some upcoming leadership positions for Vice-President, as well as several Ex-Com committee members. If you have interest, please reach out to Kerry Hines. Next on the list of the volunteer opportunities available, which need club member support, are the Chair positions for Membership and Ski Committee. As many of you probably know, after over 15 years of serving as Membership Chair, Dave Warthen has relinquished the position. If you are interested, we could use a permanent replacement. Also being vacated is the Chair position of the Ski Committee. After over 11 years of serving in that position, Rosemary Schwartzbard has decided that it is time for someone else to take over those duties. Again, if you are interested, we could use a permanent replacement for this position also.

Also, you may have noticed that we have turned the Members' Corner column into a column for members to write about adventures that they may have undertaken during the year. So, if you have taken a fun trip/adventure that you would like to share with the other members, write up the experience and send it/pictures to Ellie Thayer, the TOOT coordinator, for publication.

There wasn't a November club meeting this year due to the proximity to Thanksgiving, so no write-up in this TOOT detailing the fun. Hopefully, we will see a number of you at the December Holiday party planned for later this month, being hosted at Bob and Cara's house in DC. Look for details in this TOOT.

In closing, if you feel comfortable in hosting a monthly membership meeting at your house, please reach out and let us know, so we can build up the calendar for the rest of the winter meetings.

Cheers, Barry

Holiday Luncheon – December 17 at 1:00 PM, next page

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
Saturday, December 17, 2022 at 1:00 PM
At the Home of Cara & Bob Jablon

It is almost time for the PVS Holiday Party. This year, we are having an in-person luncheon at the home of Cara and Bob Jablon on Saturday, December 17, 2022 at 1 pm. The address is 4573 Indian Rock Terrace, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007. Directions are attached. We ask that all attendees be fully vaccinated.

As has been the tradition, members have the option of bringing an appetizer, salad, or dessert. There will be no charge at the door, just the opportunity to celebrate friendships and good skiing memories.

Please let Cara know by Tuesday, December 13 if you plan to come and what you plan to bring. Her contact information is rcjablon@aol.com or 202-333-5332 (home) or 202-669-5322 (cell). We look forward to seeing you in December.



Directions to the home of Cara and Robert Jablon, 4573 Indian Rock Terrace, N.W., Washington, D.C.

From Northwest D.C.: Take Nebraska Avenue to the beginning of Foxhall Road. Go south on Foxhall Road one traffic light past the intersection of Foxhall and Reservoir to Q Street. Right on Q Street. Continue on Q Street for 1 block to the stop sign (45th St.) and make a right on 45th. Go two blocks and make a left (Q Lane). The street will dead end into Indian Rock Terrace. Make a right and go up the hill. The Jablons' house is the fourth house up the hill on the right (a red brick and frame contemporary house).

From Potomac/Rockville/Gaithersburg: Take 270 South to 495 towards Virginia. Exit at Cabin John Parkway and continue south on the parkway until Arizona Avenue (1st traffic light after light at Chain Bridge). Make a left on Arizona and a right on MacArthur Boulevard (1st light). Continue on MacArthur Boulevard for about 1½ miles past the Safeway on the left. Shortly after passing the Safeway, MacArthur forks to the right and Reservoir Road goes to the left. Continue on MacArthur to Q Street (the next light after the light at the fork). Make a left on Q Street. Go 1 block to the stop sign (45th St.), and make a left on 45th. Go 2 blocks and make a left (Q Lane). The street will dead end into Indian Rock Terrace. Make a right and go up the hill. The Jablons' house is the fourth house up the hill on the right (a red brick and frame contemporary house).

From Virginia (Chain Bridge): At the end of the Chain Bridge, make a right. Continue to the first light (Arizona Avenue). Make a left on Arizona and follow the directions immediately above from that point on.

From Virginia (Key Bridge): Stay in one of the left lanes at the end of the Key Bridge. Make a left at the end of the bridge to M Street (may be called Canal Road at that point). Get in the right lane and continue up the hill to the light at the beginning of Foxhall Road. Continue on Foxhall to the next light (Q Street). Make a left on Q Street. Go one block to the stop sign (45th St.) and make a right. Go 2 blocks and make a left (Q Lane). The street will dead end into Indian Rock Terrace. Make a right and go up the hill. The Jablons' house is the fourth house up the hill on the right (a red brick and frame contemporary house).

Coming Event

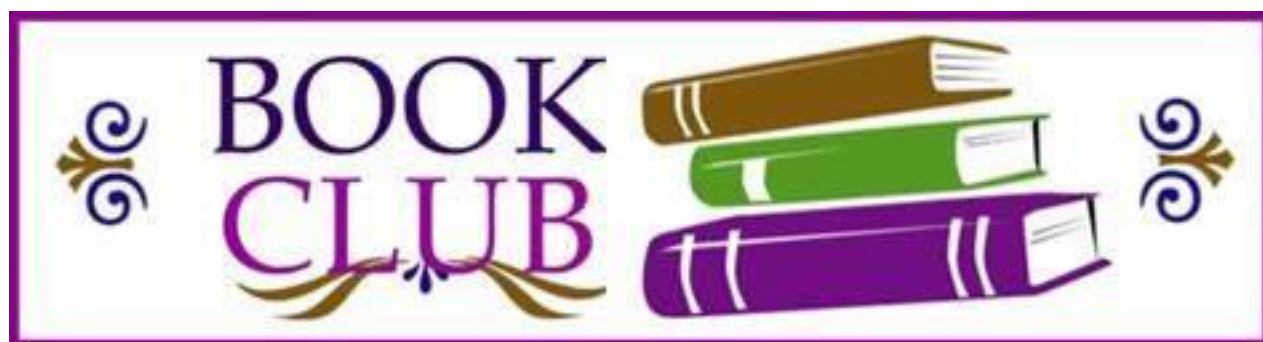


PVS – BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) group

This month, the message is to read twice as many books twice as fast as usual. No time, you mutter to the Elf on the Shelf who is crowding the bookshelf space and monopolizing your precious reading time. Ah, next year.

In that spirit, next month's TOOT (January 2023) will have a summary of the books the group read in both November and December.

Consider joining us on Zoom on the 2nd Thursday of each month. It's easy and it's fun. The next BYOB Zoom call will be held on Thursday, December 8th from 4 to 5 pm. Let Marianne Sponis know at marianne.sponis@gmail.com if you're interested in joining us, and she'll put you on the list to get the link to the Zoom call. No commitment! Questions or comments? Contact Nancy McKinley at nancymckin@gmail.com or 703 595 8375.



Book Lover's Event Postponed

The salute to authors and potential authors, which was to be held on November 19 at the home of Marianne Sponis, was postponed and will be rescheduled at a later date. Obviously, this gives you additional time to get your materials ready. Marianne will let you know a future date for the rescheduled get together in ample time to prepare. Write on!

SKI TALK December 2022

We are now in December, and it seems like the right time to talk about endings. This will be the last Ski Talk column I write on a regular basis. I took on the job as Ski Trip Chair in 2010. I started the Ski Talk column in January 2011 as a way to keep the PVS membership aware of ski trips and other ski-related information. It has been fun thinking about what to write. I tried to have a variety of topics, including the latest information on skiing, fitness, BRSC information, and ski tips, the latter often written by guest columnist Cara Jablon.

As I was thinking of what to write, I read Ski Magazine's rating of 30 Top Resorts in the West. It was interesting in so many ways. First, it was shocking to read that Park City fell from a ranking of 13 to 30! Park City was the last resort I skied before the Covid lockdown. It was crowded; it was hard to get food at lunch with the long lines; the grooming was not great. I have to agree with the rating. Vail management was not doing a good job. I hope it gets better. I recommend reading the article and the pros and cons of each of the resorts. The top 5 resorts were:

1. Sun Valley
2. Deer Valley
3. Aspen Snowmass
4. Banff
5. Whistler



Sun Valley was not one of my favorite ski areas, but the town and the wonderful Lodge make it worth a visit. I have not been there for many years, and I believe there have been some improvements on the slopes. It's hard to not like the ambiance and grooming at Deer Valley and, of course, Aspen Snowmass is the PVS favorite resort. Check out the list at the following address:

https://www.skimag.com/ski-resort-life/resort-guide/top-30-resorts-in-the-west-2023/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=onsiteshare

Going through the list of resorts, I find that I skied at 20 of them. Through the years I have tried to ski as much as possible. I went on most PVS ski trips and then some. My first western ski trip was to Vail almost forty years ago and I was hooked. No more eastern skiing for me. I couldn't believe the size of Vail or the number of slopes. As my skiing life is slowing down, I am happy just going to Snowmass.

I believe it is time for someone else to take over the PVS Ski Chair position. Through the years, I have had help from Nancy McKinley, Inge Lesjak, and Kerry Hines. Some years back, Eloise Strand was on the committee and back even further, David Lerner. Jan Marx was instrumental in getting me started and Carolyn DeVilbiss was a fountain of knowledge about the Ski Trip Guidelines. I am now ready to hand over the baton to a more active skier.

If you are interested in getting involved, let me or Barry Lake know.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS. KEEP SKIING!

Rosemary Schwartzbard
rosemaryschw@gmail.com



Ski Trips



Potomac Valley Skiers
 2023 Snowmass, Colorado Ski Trip
 Wednesday - Wednesday
 January 11 – 18, 2023

Trip is Full

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 website 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; soup lunches; luggage handling; a welcome reception, 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 (Room price varies for King vs. Double Queen) includes a 5-day lift pass for skiers 65 and over. Skiers under 65 will have to add \$103.00.

<u>Costs:</u>	<u>K-Price</u>	<u>QQ-Price</u>
Basic Land Only Package (65 and older)	\$2,060	\$2,102 per person
Under 65	add \$ 103	\$ 103
Single Supplement	add \$1,418	\$1,459
Extra hotel night (pending availability)	add \$ TBD	\$ TBD
Non-skiers	deduct \$ 360	\$ 360
Extra ski days (65 and older)	add \$ 102	\$ 102 6 day Senior pass
	add \$ 174	\$ 174 7 day Senior pass
Under 65	add \$ 208	\$ 208 6 day pass
Silver Pass (70+ skiing 8 or more days)	add \$ 269	\$ 269

Payment Schedule

Final payment is past due **October 1st**

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



VAL d'ISÈRE—2023

BRSC Eurofest at Club Med's Flagship Resort

Price Includes:

- Ground transportation in France
- All lodging, food & drink in Val d'Isère • 6 day lift tickets
- Daily guide/ski instructor

Club Med has announced plans for its first **Exclusive Collection** mountain resort in Val d'Isère. The new five-star property will open on December 18, 2022 following a major renovation and expansion of the brand's existing hotel.

Saturday 11 March 2023 – Sunday 19 March 2023

The slope-side location provides ski-in/ski-out access. Mountain guides/ instructors are available each day at no extra charge to take participants to the best runs on the mountains.

Rental equipment is extra. There are many options in the village.

Final prices are now available for this trip (double occupancy):

- **Land only:** \$3,050/person (includes ground transportation between Geneva & Val d'Isère as long as you synchronize arrival & departure times and your flight is not delayed.)



**Make checks payable to:
Barry Lake**

**Mail to: Barry Lake
11677 Fox Glen Dr.
Oakton, VA 22124**

FINAL FULL PAYMENT was due November 1, 2022

Note—New Trip leaders for the final portion of this trip: Barry and Kathy Lake.

For info or questions you can contact us at Barry_lake@yahoo.com, or via phone at (703) 929-1545.

MEMBERS' CORNER

By guest columnist Ellie Thayer

Our family developed a traveling Thanksgiving tradition beginning in 1998 that continued on and off for the next 20 years. We had a slow start with a lot of gap years and then sped up as our love for this tradition increased. So what was this tradition? We made a fast trip to Europe and packed in as much fun as possible. Jack and I were the constants and our traveling companions were my brother and sister-in-law, my son and his fiancé (now wife), Jack's daughter and husband, or my daughter and family. Sometimes my nephew and his wife, who live in Norway, joined us.

The parameters were straightforward: we flew out on late Tuesday and returned on Sunday. As some or all of us were working this schedule optimized taking as few days of leave as possible as Thanksgiving and often Black Friday were already days off. We chose a nonstop destination because of the shortness of the trip and we stayed in the city center. We often scheduled a one-day side trip outside the city, traveling by train. We wore raincoats and warm clothing. I organized our hotel and air through Expedia. We never ate turkey for Thanksgiving dinner (mussels were my favorite).

The first trip in 1998 was to Paris with my brother and sister-in-law to celebrate her 50th birthday and Jack's 60th birthday. Vienna was next and then Brussels with a side trip to Bruges.



Gargoyle on Notre Dame roof



Ribs in Vienna for Thanksgiving



Bruges/Jack, me, son, nephew, son's fiancé

We were getting the hang of this whole thing, so we next took off for Amsterdam where my son proposed to his now wife in Dam Square. Photo is a reenactment.



SIL, nephew, and brother in Vienna



Bruges



the proposal

Next up was Rome with Jack's daughter and her husband. Our side trip was to Pompeii. There, we first encountered a problem with our American credit cards not working in a train station kiosk. Fortunately, my nephew's wife, who is Norwegian, used her European chip and pin credit card and bought us return tickets to Rome. In Rome, the old maxim about throwing a coin over your shoulder into Trevi Fountain to ensure a return trip to Rome, worked for Christine and me as we have both been back, albeit not together.

Two years later, we broke our rule about nonstop destinations only, and headed north to Quebec where we stayed at the Chateau Frontenac (a strong desire of mine).



Rome - Trevi Fountain



Quebec - Chateau Frontenac

Not satisfied with going to warmer climes, we hopped over to Iceland where there seemed to be only four or five hours of daylight. Iceland is a geologist's paradise. Sadly, Jack, who had declined quite a bit by this trip in 2013, did not enjoy it as much as he once would have.



Brother and SIL in Iceland



Daughter and family at Windsor Castle and Tower of



My last Thanksgiving trip was in 2018 to London with my daughter and her family. Windsor Castle was our day trip. In London, we enjoyed *Hamilton*, where the audience roared at the King George appearances and jokes.

Happy Thanksgiving

Calendar:

Dec 08 Thu BYOB Zoom, 4:00 - 5:00 PM

Dec 17 Sat Holiday Party at the home of Cara and Bob Jablon, 1:00 PM, Washington DC

Ski Trips



January 11-18, 2023, Snowmass, Colorado,; **K. & B. Lake**

March 11-19, 2023, BRSC Club Med to Val d'Isere,; **K. & B Lake**

**ExCom Officers, Board Members,
and Committee Chairpersons**

<p style="text-align: center;">Officers:</p> <p>President – <i>Barry Lake</i> Vice Pres. – <i>Cara Jablon</i> Secretary – <i>Ellie Thayer</i> Treasurer – <i>Dick Schwartzbard</i> Ex Officio –</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Board Members:</p> <p>First Term: <i>Salli Diakova</i> <i>Kathy Lake</i> <i>Don Vierimaa</i></p> <p>Second Term: <i>Manfred Boehringer</i> <i>Jannes Gibson</i> <i>Mary Rose de Valladares</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Chairpersons:</p> <p>Ski Trip Committee – <i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i> Events – <i>Marianne Sponis</i> Membership Records – <i>vacant</i> TOOT Coordinator – <i>Ellie Thayer</i></p> <p>TOOT Layout Editors – <i>Jan Marx, Kerry Hines & Dave Warthen</i> TOOT (E-Distribution) – <i>Barry Lake</i></p> <p>Webmaster – <i>Mary Ellena Ward</i></p> <p>Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</i></p> <p>Historian – <i>Jan Marx</i></p>
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Useful Ski "Links"
pvskiers.org
<http://ski-council.com/sanctionedAll.html>
<https://dcski.com/>

Reminder: It is club policy that contact information in the club's roster should 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.