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*Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.*  
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

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### *President's Message*

On June 16, 2020, PVS had its first ZOOM Meeting!!! It was a great success thanks to host Marianne Sopenis and her efforts to put the meeting together. It was wonderful to see everyone and to hear what we have been doing during the pandemic. We were happy to see that everyone is doing well, keeping busy, staying home, observing social distancing, and wearing masks. We were pleased that no one has had Covid-19 and grateful to see members from near and far who have not been able to attend PVS meetings in the past. As the coronavirus continues its spread, I expect that we will be meeting via ZOOM again. During the winter months, we may wish to consider a ZOOM meeting instead of a normal PVS in-person gathering once the coronavirus disappears, especially for evening meetings, so as to include those who do not wish to drive in the evening or in bad weather.

I am hopeful that the virus will eventually be brought under control in some way. But until then, we need to be mindful of what we do and how we interact with each other.

This, of course, may well affect the 2020/2021 ski season. We are not sure which ski areas will be open and with what limitations. As a result, I think many, including Mary and I, are delaying decisions about skiing until at least the fall. I personally am not prepared to fly commercially for skiing or any other reason until the virus has been contained and/or

there is a vaccine. I may, however, consider East coast skiing. It will be easier and safer for me to drive to these areas than to take the risk in flying. This option will also depend upon the ski areas that are open and the limitations. Up to now, Vermont, for example, has been able to keep the virus fairly under control. However, that may change as folks from other states converge on the mountains of New England. It will require close monitoring of the coronavirus status and the availability of ski areas and their social distancing requirements. (Mary says, "We are not traveling until there is a vaccine.") As for the summer months, the weather is very pleasant and I am enjoying reading, watching movies, gardening, swimming in my back yard, and walking in the neighborhood. It is a time to slow down and enjoy what we can and have available to us.

I wish everyone a safe and happy summer!

*Tom Tycz*



## PAST EVENT

### **A First - PVS Holds Its First Monthly Meeting on Zoom<sup>1</sup> - June 16, 2020!!**

Tuesday evening, June 16, 2020, at 7:30 p.m., twenty-seven members of the Potomac Valley Skiers joined host Marianne Soponis for our first meeting in several months; each of us at home, joined together by the wonders of Zoom technology. Except for a few challenges with connecting and finding the “mute/unmute” buttons, the evening went well. Everyone had the chance to share some of his or her stories over the last few months. Listed below is news as collected by Clare Soponis and reinforced by her sister Marianne. Apologies if we have misspoke or elaborated on stories but we challenge you to really remember all the details!

Marianne opened the introductory part of the meeting by saying that “Joy of Cooking” cookbook had become her best friend, helping with creative cooking for three meals a day. Her sister Clare mentioned that OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) at American University carried her through three days of learning each week. Volunteer teachers had to quickly adapt to teaching on Zoom and did so very well. A recent class focused on the book *Tough Cases*, which told the stories of judges, the hardest decisions they ever made, how they came to a decision, and what happened afterwards.

Liz Triau and her husband Serge looked happy as they told of not staying home much, instead taking lots of neighborhood walks. They do food takeout too, so are treating themselves to less time in the kitchen. What a nice situation!

Ingrid Dallaire is working as a realtor, minimizing contact with clients to almost half the usual time, but managing several sales anyway! She recommended a good book: *American Dirt*.

Memorial Day weekend found Jan Marx in Richmond, attending the graduation of her grandson. She is weathering the pandemic well, enjoying nature walks, talking to neighbors, and winking at strangers walking by!

Don Vierimaa joined us from Big Lake, Minnesota, where the weather was in the 90s (it was cooler here). He mentioned seeing about 100 marchers, some not wearing masks....

Marvin Hass just celebrated his 90th birthday. He misses skiing and bicycling but keeps busy on the Internet and was one of the first to connect to our meeting. Happy Birthday, Marvin!

Not having to drive from Lexington, Virginia, was a highlight of attending our Zoom meeting for Mary Ellena Ward and Jim Slack. He is recovering from a recent hospital stay. Mary Ellena warned that if you don't have to have a test for the virus, good for you - it's not pleasant. She is also part of “The Maskateers” who are in the mask-making business. A suggestion was made that she make some with the PVS logo!

Bonnie Sweeney joined from Indiana where she is hunkered down with her dog, helping to combat the loneliness of her daughters being in Japan and Virginia. She is making sourdough bread, sewing masks, and teaching an on-line class on fall prevention. We are worried, though, since she said that she and her dog are communicating well!

Wanting to find a bike partner, Sharon Mulholland posted a request on line. It turns out that there is a bike club in Frederick that is looking for a leader! We are waiting to hear how this story plays out. In the meantime, Sharon is cooking new dishes and still working in real estate on-line.



<sup>1</sup> The photos in this article are actually from the ZOOM EXCOM meeting on 23 June but quite representative of the Business Meeting as well.

Jill Nelson called in from Chevy Chase. Her most recent trip was with her family to the Galapagos. She is sharing “grandmothering” duties with Rosemary Schwartzbard for their young grandson. Jill has also offered to host the next PVS meeting once there is a return to normalcy.

Nancy and Ray McKinley were pleased to announce that they had sold their lake home and are enjoying life in their Crystal City condo. Nancy recommended watching the folk singer, John Prine’s performance (the NPR version) of “I Remember Everything.” Ray commented how nice it was to see everyone.

Manfred Boehringer told of his son’s family’s departure from Brooklyn and arrival at his home in Reston, Virginia. It’s been over a month and he noted that their desire to return to New York is not very strong. Manfred is hoping to get some skiing in during the upcoming season.

Two employed members are Kathy and Barry Lake. Barry changed jobs and his new one is keeping him quite busy. Kathy’s real estate work has slowed, so she walks the dog several times a day (despite his causing her to break her arm last year). Barry enjoys his trips from the bedroom to the living room each day!

Bing Van Nuys has been spending time cleaning out old taxes, but opted out of doing mediation on line since numerous documents had to be transferred back and forth. His wife Betty was covering another meeting the same time as ours, so sent her greetings via Bing.



Dave and Marsha Warthen have been living at Riderwood for a year. This retirement community has served them well these days, delivering dinner to their door. David has had two hospital emergency visits this year and is now on non-seizure meds. Marsha shared that it was a challenging time for both, but things are settling down.

Mary Rose de Valladeres told the story of returning from a business trip via Charles de Gaulle airport in France. She saw boxes and boxes of masks and wondered about their prominence. Now, in her office building where many worked before, she is one of three who come there each day. She misses seeing her children

and swimming but is grateful for being safe.

Neck fusion surgery has kept Cara Jablon more immobile than usual, but her husband Bob is busier than ever. Since she cannot lift anything over five pounds, Bob cooks, cleans, and takes care of the dog. Cara is grateful for his help and also said the operation was easier than she’d expected. They recently celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary, and a trip to Portugal to celebrate has been moved to a future time.

Jon Armao’s last ski trip was to Salt Lake City. On the departure day, there was an earthquake as he got on the plane. It took off, but it took ages until he safely arrived home. He and wife Lexi have seen the whole “West Wing” TV series. He says the same problems seem to still exist today!

Kal Nossuli is recovering from shoulder surgery. His hopes of being better for this ski season are tempered with the idea of balancing desire and safety – how much risk is one willing to take? Kal is still in the thinking stage.

Carolyn and Dave DeVilbiss were both volunteering – she manned the virus hotline for Alexandria; he doing Meals on Wheels food deliveries. Both, because they were over 65, were sidelined from their duties and asked to stay home. Carolyn is still hosting Zoom meetings for different organizations and is known as “the Zoom Queen”!

Kerry and Marianne Hines had to say goodbye to their 14-year old dog recently and now have a 2-year old pooch. It’s bigger and stronger, making Kerry wonder if this was a wise move! They still are enjoying the beauty of nature in their Delaplane, Virginia, location.

Canceling trips to Greece and London were part of John and Polli Brunelli’s “to do” list. Since traveling was out, they turned to reading books. One of their recommendations was The Splendid and the Vile.

Rosemary Schwartzbard, as mentioned before, is sharing babysitting duties with Jill Nelson for their grandson. Rosemary keeps busy with her exercise and is hoping to go kayaking in the near future. Dick Schwartzbard, who was partially on his cellphone and then on video for the meeting, suggested that should someone have “tech” challenges in the future, just shut down the computer and start again. It works!



Maryann Rozzell has been enjoying her lovely home nestled in the woods. She has been reading, done some writing, and just living life. She is open to sharing her home once again for a meeting once things settle down. She has plenty of time to clean and get ready.

The highlight of the last three months has been this Zoom meeting for Tom Tycz and being able to see everyone. He has been home since his ski trip to Salt Lake City in February, exercising, doing yard work, watching Netflix, and reading Jane Austin’s *Pride and Prejudice*. His wife Mary does the shopping, is busy with political work, and is good at Zoom!

NOTE: We heard from Inge Lesjak, Jannes Gibson, Ellie Thayer, and John and Blanca Hotaling who were sorry to miss the meeting....



#### THE BUSINESS MEETING

At about 8:30 p.m., Tom Tycz officially welcomed everyone and started the meeting.

- The shortened events list was mentioned by Marianne Soponis who said nothing official was yet “on the books.” It remains to be seen as to when our next in-person meeting would be or when a trip to Glenstone or other venues might take place.
- Kerry Hines said he and Marianne are still planning on hosting the “Steak and Swim” on August 15 with the proviso that it might be cancelled. The challenge would be to arrange for social distancing for the attendees while they socialize and eat. The pool should be open and

warm, so he is hopeful.

- Carolyn DeVilbiss explained that the PVS 55th anniversary luncheon planning group (Jan Marx, Nancy McKinley, Rosemary Schwartzbard, Marianne Soponis and Carolyn) has decided to move the time from October to the spring, and hold it on a weekend so that those working can attend. If anyone has any memorabilia or ideas, please feel free to contact any of the committee members. Jan Marx has faithfully kept the Time Capsule and will be ready to open it when we get together.
- Rosemary Schwartzbard discussed the challenges with committing to the 2021 ski trips at this early date. She and the trip leaders are working with our travel agents to diminish the challenges of paying deposits while trying to guarantee their return if a trip is cancelled. Flying was another concern. There is still time for decisions to be made. Care will be taken to offer the best choices to the members.
- Tom Tycz thanked everyone for his or her attendance at the meeting, explaining that we may have another one in the fall if we can’t meet in person. A comment was made that perhaps we should just have another one anyway since it was so nice!
- After the meeting was officially ended, a few members stayed on to chat until the 9:00 p.m. bewitching hour!

Submitted by Marianne and Clare Soponis

## *Special Event (maybe)!!!*

Join us at PVS' 30<sup>th</sup> (\*not\* annual)



# “STEAK AND SWIM”

At the HINES'

Saturday August 15, 2020 -- 3pm Rain or Shine

This is PVS' oldest annual club event!

Celebrate summer in the Blue Ridge foothills in Delaplane, VA.  
Enjoy good food, camaraderie and maybe, even a dip in the pool!

Limited to 20. Reserve Now!

Deadline to sign up or cancel is August 7th.

**BRING:** Your own bathing suit and towel and either an **appetizer or dessert**.

**INCLUDED:** steaks, baked potatoes, salads, and fixings, beverages and (hopefully) sunshine!!

**Cost:** Approximately \$15 per person.

**NOTE:** We are basing the scheduling of the event on the anticipated continued improvement in the COVID situation.

All participants will be asked to follow the then in-place State of Virginia COVID guidelines as to personal separation, masks, etc., to the extent practicable.

Anyone who may have been exposed to the virus within the 14 days preceding the event is requested not to attend.

To sign up or for directions phone Kerry or Marianne 540 364-4810, or email [mchines@erols.com](mailto:mchines@erols.com) and tell them what you'll bring.

## River Trips

For anyone longing for healthy, outdoor recreational opportunities this summer, Kerry Hines has recommended a canoe float on the Shenandoah River --- or a kayak or a raft trip. The operator, Front Royal Outdoors currently is offering 3 trips - 3 miles (1-2 hours duration), 8 miles (3-4 hours), and 11.5 miles (4-6 hours). These options may change when Virginia goes to Phase III on 1 July. The River is at an ideal paddling level with some nice small rapids to play in, and water temperature is 75+ degrees.



Just in case you are interested or just can't wait (I am not organizing any PVS activities at the current time), the group is called Front Royal Outdoors. They offer a 10% discount for mid-week trips. Their web site, <https://frontroyaloutdoors.com/shenandoah-river-trips/>, has detailed information.

The canoe/kayak trip could be followed by a visit to a local winery for a light lunch and wine tasting [<https://bluevalleyvineyardandwinery.com>]. You can do this on your own or if interested in doing this as a small group, contact Kerry [klhines@erols.com or 540-364-4810]



Marianne Soponis

////////////////////////////////////

SKI TALK  
is on summer sabbatical

# *Snowmass, Colorado 2021*

## *January 6-13, 2021*

We are ***planning and hoping*** to go back to Snowmass next year from January 6-13, 2021. Due to the current situation we are proceeding cautiously and still in negotiations with our travel agent. We will strongly recommend travel insurance, in particular the “cancel for no reason” policy. As it turns out, the insurance companies are revising their terms and conditions. Most companies will refund only 50 – 75% of the cost of the trip when cancelling for any reason. Note: you will need to get the “cancel for no reason” insurance within 10-14 days of first deposit, which is why we aren’t asking for deposits at this time.

The plan is to stay at our favorite Snowmass Mountain Chalet which offers a convenient ski in, ski out location. As in recent years it will be a “Land Only” package that will include lodging and a 5-day lift pass. We anticipate pricing to be similar to last year.

At this point we are NOT asking for deposits until we iron out most of the wrinkles. However, we would like to know if you are interested in participating. If so, when would you be willing to sign up? Please contact us at 703-625-2715 or at [kathylakehomes@yahoo.com](mailto:kathylakehomes@yahoo.com)

Stay safe and healthy!

***Kathy & Barry Lake***  
***Trip Leaders***



**SAVE THE DATE  
BRSC EUROFEST  
DAVOS, SWITZERLAND  
FEBRUARY 26 - March 6, 2021  
With Post-Trip Option to Portugal  
Led by Inge Lesjak and John Hotaling**

Downhill and cross country ski areas at **Davos** include Jakobshorn, Pischa, Rinerhorn and Parsen; plus the “Glacier Express,” a scenic train ride, connects Davos to the Matterhorn. **The cost is approximately \$2,200 per person in a Double Room (add additional \$200-250 for 6-day lift ticket).**

**Package Includes:**

- **Roundtrip air transportation** between IAD, DCA, BWI to Zurich, Switzerland and ground transportation.
- **Seven nights lodging in Davos at the 4 Star Hilton Garden Inn: with welcome reception, full hot and cold breakfast, buffet daily, - 5 night’s dinners at the hotel, Mid Week Après Ski Party, wellness center, Farewell party.**
- Medical Evacuation Insurance. (This does not include cancellation. More information will be coming about trip insurance.)**

Because of the travel uncertainty with Covid-19, we are not accepting reservations at this time until we are clear about cancellation policies and trip insurance. However, we do need to know who is interested in going on this trip. Please let Inge Lesjak know if you would sign up for Davos.

*Inge adds: We are planning (hoping) to again ski in Switzerland. Hoping for the corona epidemic comes to an end.*

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# Members' Corner

By J. David Warthen, Jr.  
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- Roster Changes:** contact <[dwarthen409@gmail.com](mailto:dwarthen409@gmail.com)>

## White Grizzly Bear Spotted near Banff



*Locals of Banff have named the bear Nakoda*

## Skiing in July/August in the Southern Hemisphere

A trip to the Southern Hemisphere is always a dream for those who live in the Northern Hemisphere. Escaping the heat of summer and heading to the snow-covered slopes is very inviting.

### **South America**

The Andes is the longest chain of mountains on Earth and second only to the Himalaya regarding height – from equatorial peaks to Patagonia.



### **Chile**

Chile is over 4000 km from the northern border with Peru and Bolivia to the southern tip at Tierra Del Fuego. Valle Nevado is Chile's biggest resort. Ski Arpa is currently the only catski operation in South America.



### **Argentina**

Down in Patagonia, Las Lenas has world famous off-piste terrain.



### **New Zealand-The Southern Alps**

Resorts like The Remarkables and Cardrona are close to Queenstown. Heliskiing in New Zealand has been going on since the 1970s, and it remains a great option for accessing more remote areas in the Southern Alps

*Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July--*



## **NAME THE PHOTO Contest**

For your entertainment we are offering this NAME THE PHOTO contest. All of the photographs are either taken from the PVS website or considered to be of scenes that should be familiar to most PVS members.

You can copy the attached answer sheet, paste it into an e-mail, fill in your answers, and send the e-mail to Kerry Hines [skobelev@gwu.edu], or complete the answer sheet that is being sent separately from the TOOT and send it to Kerry.

First (and only) prize for the most correct answers is a bottle of wine - multiple awards if there is a tie.

PHOTO 1      When:  
                  Who:

PHOTO 2      Where:  
                  When:

PHOTO 3      State:

PHOTO 4      Resort or mountain name:

PHOTO 5      Country:

PHOTO 6      Mountain in background:

PHOTO 7      When completed:

PHOTO 8      Christian churches larger than the one pictured:

PHOTO 9      Country:

PHOTO 10     When:

PHOTO 1: Who? When?



PHOTO 2 Where? When



PHOTO 3 Which State?



PHOTO 6 Mountain in Background?



PHOTO 4 Ski Resort or Mountain Name?



PHOTO 7 When Completed



PHOTO 5 What Country?



PHOTO 8 Name three Christian churches that are larger than this one?



PHOTO 9 Where? When?



PHOTO 10 When



**PVS 2020 Calendar**

- Aug 15 Sat Steak & Swim, Hines, Delaplane, VA, 3:00 PM
- Sep 8 Tue September EXCOM Zoom Meeting, 7:00 PM
- Sep 15 Tue September Zoom General Meeting, 7:30 PM



*Louann's Peonies*

**2021 Ski Trips**



January 6-13, 2021, Snowmass, CO, Kathy and Barry Lake

February 26 - March 6, 2021, Davos/BRSC,  
Inge Lesjak and John Hotaling

**Useful Ski "Links"**

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

**ExCom**

<b>Officers:</b>	<b>Chairpersons:</b>
President – <i>Tom Tycz</i> Vice Pres. – <i>Kal Nossuli</i> Secretary – <i>Ellie Thayer</i> Treasurer – <i>Dick Schwartzbard</i> Ex Officio - <b>Board Members:</b> <u>First Term:</u> <i>Cara Jablon</i> <i>Kathy Lake</i> <i>Don Vierimaa</i> <u>Second Term:</u> <i>Jannes Gibson</i> <i>Jan Marx</i> <i>Mary Rose de Valladares</i>	Ski Trip Committee – <i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i> Events – <i>Marianne Soponis</i> Membership Records – <i>Dave Warthen</i>  TOOT Coordinator – <i>Ellie Thayer</i> TOOT Layout Editors – <i>Jan Marx, Kerry Hines &amp; 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.