

Volume 57
Number 11

Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

November 2022

www.pvskiers.org

info@pvskiers.org

President's Message

The lower temperatures are a really good indicator that we've slid into fall and the onset of winter is almost upon us. I am writing this at my desk overlooking my front yard, and the view looks like I'm peering into a blizzard, with the never-ending onslaught of falling leaves. They are covering the yard better than a thick blanket of snow, and I don't know how I'm going to catch up with getting rid of them since I haven't made much progress on my winter prep to-do list as I expected. I can only imagine that the folks living in condos are enjoying the free time they have to do more enjoyable activities than fight with these leaves.

Seems what I heard last month about the flu bug in Australia appearing early this season is an accurate description of what we are already experiencing in the Midwest, with a bad combination of flu like events already wreaking havoc there. I hope everyone by now has had their flu shot/booster, as well as their fifth Covid booster.

We had a wonderful face-to-face October meeting at Jan Marx's house in Springfield, Va. Look for the write-up later in this TOOT.

As I mentioned last month, several of us represented PVS at the Blue Ridge Ski Council (BRSC) Fall meeting up at Ski Liberty, where the council of ski club representatives picked the winning vendors for the upcoming 2024 BRSC trips. Look for a more complete write-up on the meeting later in this TOOT.

I'm happy to report that both of this year's planned ski trips are full. We were able to replace the needed single male roommate for the Snowmass trip, and I believe there are about 37 people going on the trip. I expect it to be a fun trip as usual, and it will be nice to see all the folks that we haven't seen since the trip last year. The BRSC Club Med Val d'Isère trip is full as well, with six PVSers participating. I, for one, am looking forward to having the Club Med experience, and see how it pairs up with skiing.

There isn't going to be a November club meeting this year as it would hit too close to Thanksgiving, so we are combining the November and December meetings together into a December Holiday party get-together that will be hosted at Bob and Cara's house in DC. Look for details in next month's TOOT. Look forward to seeing many of you there.

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

Please Note: Our next PVS meeting will be in December for our Holiday Party at the home of Bob and Cara Jablon on Saturday, December 17, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. More details will follow in the next TOOT.

Coming Event

Greetings Book Lovers!

November 1 is "Author's Day," November 15 is "I Love to Write Day," and November 19 is "Equal Opportunity Day"! So, it's only fitting that we will host a "Book Lover's Event" on November 19, at which time we will enjoy hearing from PVS members who have either written a book, are thinking about it, are close to publishing, have considered writing a memoir, or just enjoy learning about the process. It's your opportunity to join us in any capacity you want!

Saturday, November 19, 2022

2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

At the home of Marianne and Clare Soponis

3513 Quebec Street N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20016

202-363-5250

cell: 301-332-3039

Please let Marianne know (Marianne.soponis@gmail.com or 202-363-5250) if you will come and if you will need directions. There is a possibility of having part of the meeting on Zoom, if we have someone who would enjoy the meeting but cannot make the trip.



Past Event

Jan Marx hosted a great October membership meeting. There was a very good turn-out with a few folks attending that had not been at meetings in a while. Attendance included 15 members, one guest, and one dog. There were plenty of appetizers, hot entrees, a variety of drinks, and delicious desserts for one and all. The happy faces and indications of lively conversation in the pictures below indicate that those attending had a most enjoyable time. Thanks much, Jan.





Past Event

Roosevelt Island Hike
Organized by Rosemary Schwartzbard
10/15/22

On a beautiful, crisp October morning, my friend Peggy, Rosemary, and I joined a National Park Service volunteer and a woman from London on a hike through Roosevelt Island. We visited the plaza where the 17-foot statue of Theodore Roosevelt greeted us. From there we continued our hike around the lush island, which is known for its variety of birds, wildflowers and diverse vegetation. We learned about the rich history of the island. During the Civil War troops were trained there. John Mason had a large house and farm on the island around 1796. A ferry reached the island from Georgetown and a causeway was built to the island from Virginia. We walked the boardwalk over the marsh viewing ducks, exotic birds and views of the Kennedy Center, Watergate, and Georgetown. Throughout the hike our guide gave us details about the history of the island and stories about Teddy Roosevelt. It became Roosevelt Island in the 1930s when the memorial was built and dedicated. The National Park Service maintains the island. Thank you for organizing, Rosemary.



Submitted by Don Vierimaa



SKI TALK November 2022

Tom Tycz, Kathy Lake, and Barry Lake attended the semi-annual BRSC meeting the end of September. This is a semi-annual business meeting where representatives from all the local ski clubs meet and vote on future ski destinations. The task of finding ski resorts that will accommodate groups seems to be getting harder because of limited hotel rooms and/or air availability. The airlines have cut some routes to the resorts. Also, the cost keeps going up making some resorts too prohibitive for some of the clubs. The 2024 Western Carnival was supposed to go to Whitefish or Snowbird. But air and cost were issues.

BLUE RIDGE SKI COUNCIL (BRSC)

Here is a rundown of the BRSC ski trips for 2023 and 2024:

- **2023 Western Carnival: Crested Butte** (January 28-February 4) run by Winter Ski and Sport. PVS is not participating in this trip but if you want to go you can go with another ski club. Seven clubs are participating.
- **2023 Eurofest: Club Med, Val d'Isere** (March 12-23) run by Encompasse Tours. A group from PVS will be joining this trip led by Kathy and Barry Lake. Four clubs in addition to PVS are going on this trip.
- **2023 Winterfest: Lake Placid, NY** (March, 2023.) The planning committee says the hotel at Lake Placid is first class.
- **2024 Western Carnival: Lake Tahoe, CA** (February 3-10, 2024.) This trip will be run by Doug Horstman of Encompasse Tours. Most of the events would be held in Heavenly. Groups will fly to Reno. No decision has been made if PVS will participate in this trip. If you are interested in going and/or leading, let me know.
- **2024 Eurofest: Kitzbuhel, Austria** (March 15-23, 2024.) Ski.Com will be running the trip. More information will be coming.
- **2024 Winterfest: Tremblant, Canada** March - more information will be coming.

It was mentioned at the BRSC meeting that Whitetail and Ski Roundtop (Vail properties) need ski instructors and retail people. The pay is \$20 per hour plus ski lessons if anyone is interested. This would be a great way to improve your skiing.

Also, in 2025 Alpine X, an indoor ski facility, will be opening in Lorton. It will be bigger than the one in Dubai!

See information on the **PVS Snowmass** and **Val d'Isere** trips in this TOOT. We are looking forward to going to the Mountain Chalet in Snowmass again.

Stay healthy. Keep moving and stay balanced.

Rosemary Schwartzbard and Kathy Lake



PVS - BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) group

Always reading! A congenial group of PVS readers meet once a month to share the latest book each of us has had on the bedside table. Consider joining us on Zoom on the 2nd Thursday of each month. It's easy and it's fun. **See the info at the bottom for how to join in on Thursday, November 10th, 2022.**

Here's what we discussed in October:

Karen Knopes spoke about "The Last Painting of Sara de Vos," historical fiction by Dominic Smith. It was a "good read" set in Amsterdam in the 17th century. A painting by a fictional (but very believable) woman artist becomes the center of drama in different centuries with artist guilds, women, the tulip bulb disaster, thefts, and forgeries - always able to keep you involved in the story!

Bonnie Sweeney brought us "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett, a best-seller published in 2020. The story is about twin African American sisters who lived in poverty, lost their father, became inseparable, and eventually left home to discover the world. They took different paths depending on the shade of their skin and had varied experiences. HBO plans to produce a series from the book.

Jan Marx told us about a "friendly kind of book" with a not-so-friendly title: "Murder at the Blueberry Festival" by Darci Hannah, part of a series of mysteries set around a lighthouse in Michigan. Jan told us about a blue-tooth amplifier that enables listening to books on cell in the car.

Marianne Soponis has been reading "Lessons from the Edge" the memoir by Marie Yovanovitch, former US Ambassador to Ukraine, who famously testified with grace in Donald Trump's impeachment inquiry. Her stellar diplomatic career in hot spots around the world was brought to a halt by a smear campaign that removed her from her post in Ukraine.

Nancy McKinley discussed "A Separation" by Katie Kitamura. The novel is full of symbolism while telling a tale of a broken marriage and the search for the missing husband in Greece. The wife in the story moves through life passively accepting each event wrought by others who move with passion.

The next BYOB Zoom call will be held on Thursday, November 10th from 4 to 5 pm. Let Marianne Soponis know at marianne.soponis@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.



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
Under 65	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

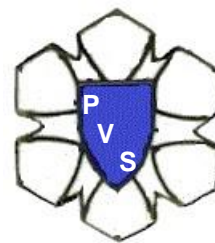
Payment Schedule

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-Trip is Full

BRSC Eurofest at Club Med's Flagship Resort



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.

Price Includes:

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

Saturday 11 March 2023 - 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 is 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.

Club Med Val d'Isère

MEMBERS' CORNER

By guest columnist Rosemary Schwartzbard

A FEAST FOR THE EYES AND PALATE A TOUR FROM LA TO SAN FRANCISCO THROUGH BIG SUR JULY 2022

We had been talking for several years to our son Mark and daughter-in-law Amanda, who live in LA, about going on a trip with them from LA to San Francisco through Big Sur. Due to mudslides, fires, road closures, Covid and work schedules we had just about given up on the idea when we got a call in early July from Mark asking if we were still interested and available in a week or so. We jumped on it and had plane reservations before they could say Big Sur. We got to LA a day later than expected due to a flight cancellation. While we missed a night in LA, we got on our way up the coast when Mark and Amanda picked us up at the airport in a comfortable minivan.

Le Tour Begins

Our first stop after our flight was the **Carhartt** winery tasting room in Los Olivos, near Santa Barbara for a sampling of five wines! By this time we were fully into vacation mode. We drove for a couple more hours to a small town called **Los Alamos**. We checked in to the **Alamos Motel**, which was surrounded by a little park and lots of cactus. After settling in, we walked across the street to **Bell's** Restaurant for our prix fix five-course dinner (for \$75). The lovely courtyard and French waiter transported us to Europe. Our first course was Sea Urchin caught the previous day by a local diver! The lettuce was picked that morning; the meat was from a local cow, as was the cream in our dessert. Fabulous dinner! How could this happen in a town only two blocks long. Oh, and did I mention, Bell's has one Michelin star?

After breakfast the next morning at a local bakery, we were on our way. We stopped at the **Madonna Inn** in San Luis Obispo to see this over-the-top restaurant and event space with lavishly decorated pink rooms. We then made a stop at **Morro Bay** to see the famous Morro Bay Rock. We were able to catch a glimpse of the volcanic rock through the fog, which kept coming and going. The views were spectacular. We made one more stop, in **Harmony**, a town boasting 19 people, a chapel and an ice cream truck. Of course, we had the ice cream.

We arrived in **Cambria** early enough in the evening to be able to wander through this delightful beach town, walk on the boardwalk and watch the surfers. It was cold and windy but our room at the **Cambria Beach Lodge** was cozy, with a gas fireplace that instantly warmed us. We could sit on the bed and look out our picture window to see the ocean. Dinner was at **Madeline's**, a lovely French restaurant in town.

The next morning, after a walk on the boardwalk and a quick breakfast, we were off to **Hearst Castle** at San Simeon, a few miles down the road. I'm not sure what I expected, but this is truly a magnificent castle built on top of a mountain, with fantastic views of the ocean and surrounding countryside. A bus takes you from the visitor center near the ocean up the mountain to the castle and back through a steep windy road reminiscent of being in the Alps. We took a tour of the Grand Rooms, the pools and gardens. It was a beautiful, sunny day and I was transported back in time, fanaticizing being a guest at this magical estate where Hearst lived and entertained in the 30s and 40s.

There is another "must see" in San Simeon if you can go from the sublime to the silly. The **Elephant Seal Rookery** is located on the beach just down the road. These 2000-to-5000-pound seals are playful, funny, smelly, ugly and delightful. They come to the rookery to mate and give birth. They spend most of their life at sea but at any given time there may be hundreds on the beaches, especially in the summer. Volunteer docents wander among the tourists watching the seals. They give information and keep the crowd away from the seals, who are unpredictable and potentially dangerous, but so much fun to watch.

BIG SUR

Big Sur is a rugged, mountainous 80-mile stretch of road in Central California between San Simeon and Carmel. The mountains and the seashore make the views spectacular. Although there is not a real town, some shops, restaurants and hotels are scattered in the woods. We stayed two nights in Big Sur at two different Inns. The first night was spent at **Deetjen's Big Sur Inn**, which is a National Historic Site opened in the 1930s on the edge of a Redwood forest. Not much has changed from the 30s. Heat is provided by wood-burning stoves; there are no TVs, no phones, no Wi-Fi, and no locks on the doors! The restaurant where we had breakfast was warm and cozy, with fireplaces, candlelight and classical music. Walking through the edge of the forest near the Inn, statues of Buddha were found in crevices in the trees.

The next night we moved down the road to **Big Sur River Inn**, which also opened in the 30s. It overlooks Big Sur River and the most popular activity is to sit on a deck chair in the river and let the water ripple over your tired feet while sipping the drink of your choice. While this Inn was a little more modern than the first I described, it was also quite rustic.

We had two memorable dinners during our stay in Big Sur. The first night was at **Nepenthe**, a large restaurant located on the side of a cliff, with views of the ocean. Sipping wine on the deck while watching the sun go down over the ocean will be a memory I will keep forever. While the food was good, the setting was so spectacular, it is hard to remember what we ate. In addition to the restaurant, there is a huge gift shop. It was closed when we went to dinner so we had to stop by when it opened the next day. I was able to buy a warm wrap for the cool evenings.

The next night we ate at a small out of the way rustic restaurant and bakery, **Big Sur Bakery**. I do remember the surprisingly delicious dinner of fresh red trout, cooked to perfection, with a crisp skin. Each setting was unusual and memorable.

Our son is a cinematographer who has spent time in Big Sur shooting movies. Amanda is also very familiar with this area. They were able to take us to places not easily found. One unique spot was **Pfeiffer Beach** down a long narrow unpaved road surrounded by cliffs and grass and huge rocks. We visited several out of the way places including **McWay Falls**, a short hike from the highway. We even stopped for lunch at one of the few upscale resorts on Big Sur, **Alila**, where the rooms go for as much as \$2500 a night. Lunch was outdoor on the top of a cliff looking out over the ocean – again.

It was now time to end our stay in Big Sur and drive to Carmel, stopping along the way to see the views and take pictures. The most memorable was **Bixby Bridge**, probably the most popular spot to take photos on Highway 1.

CARMEL

We stopped in the charming town of Carmel for lunch and to see the beach, the galleries and shops. This is always a fun town to visit. It felt big and cosmopolitan after spending a couple days on Big Sur. From there we went to ...

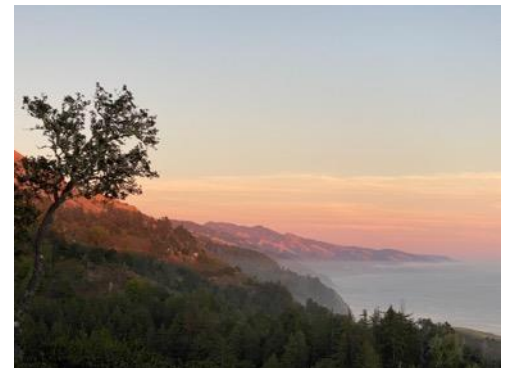
SAN FRANCISCO

We checked into the Omni and spent the next six days in San Francisco. Amanda and Mark stayed for only two nights and then drove back to LA. I will list our memorable experiences without going into great detail, as this write-up is already too long.

- **The Morris Restaurant** a trendy place on Mariposa Street famous for whole smoked duck. Delicious!
- **Tadisch Grill** on California St. is a SF mainstay which has been open since 1849 and is the 3rd oldest restaurant in continuous operation in the US. It specializes in seafood.
- **Top of the Mark** in the Mark Hopkins Hotel on Nob Hill. Fantastic views of the city. Go for Happy Hour.

- **Tommaso Restaurant Italiano** on Kearny St. in North Beach, celebrating 80 years in business. Order the clams.
- **The Buena Vista** on Hyde St. near Fisherman’s Wharf has been open since 1916 and serves the best Irish Coffee and Ramos Fizzes around.
- **Beach Chalet and Brewery** on the beach near Cliff House for good food and views. Housed in an historic grainery with impressive murals on the walls.
- **Hog Island Oyster Bar** in the Ferry Building is a must visit. Order the Hog Island oysters.
- **Hog Island farm** in Marin County is a long drive over mountains but a great setting to get fresh, plump oysters.
- **Tiburon** is a 40-minute ferry ride from San Francisco. It boasts the shortest Main St. in the U. S., just two blocks long. Eat on the deck at **Sam’s Anchor Café** and don’t miss the trendy shops and very interesting museum. Or just sit on a bench and look at the bay and the modern houses on the cliffs.

Keep traveling. The world is a beautiful place. Rosemary



Calendar

Thu Nov 10 BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) Zoom at 4:00 p.m., N. McKinley
Sat Nov 19 Book Lover's Event at 2:00 p.m., Marianne Sophonis
Sat Dec 17 PVS Holiday Party at 1:00 p.m. hosted by Bob and Cara Jablon.
Tue Jan 24 EXCOM ZOOM meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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 Chairpersons

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

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.