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Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.
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President's Message

Cheers to all the PVS skiers who braved the snow, cold and travel delays on our recent Snowmass trip. While the snow was a little sparse in places at the beginning (somehow, I always find the rocks and scrape up my skis), the conditions were quite good by the end of the week. Those of us who qualify as “older skiers” should feel very satisfied that we are still able to engage in this challenging sport. I hope that we all have many more years of skiing left in us.

Off the slopes, many of us enjoyed the huge Wienerschnitzel and hot mulled wine at The Edge restaurant, located in the Timberline Lodge. We discovered that taking the local Snowmass bus makes getting to the Timberline Lodge quite easy and convenient. The Timberline is quite accommodating and provided shuttle service back to the Mountain Chalet. Bob and I, along with Kal Nossuli and Bruce King, had an excellent dinner at Kenichi, the Japanese restaurant at the Snowmass base village. Many people enjoyed Il Poggio, a long-time Snowmass favorite. Other Snowmass restaurants frequented by PVS members included Venga Venga, Big Hoss, The Stew Pot, and GrubThai.



Getting out of Snowmass proved difficult due to heavy snow on our scheduled departure date. Fortunately, the airlines cancelled our flight before we went to the airport, unlike last year when many of us spent the day at the airport, only to head back to the Mountain Chalet at the end of a long day of sitting, waiting to see if our flights would go. While skiing that extra day was an option, I do not believe that any of us took advantage of the opportunity to brave yet another day of snow and cold. Bob and I took the bus down to Aspen and had a nice lunch at Element 47 (in the Little Nell Hotel near the base of Aspen Mountain). We then walked over to the Art Museum, which was displaying the work of John Chamberlain, an abstract artist whose sculptural work utilized crushed parts from old cars as well as foam, foil, resin, paper, steel, and dismantled appliances. A few pictures are attached. According to the brochure at the Museum, Chamberlain

“generated a radical visual world in which motion, pressure, and color crystalize within manufactured objects.” To my mind, the works were strange and disorienting, even somewhat disturbing, but undoubtedly creative. We spent the remainder of the afternoon at the movie theatre in Aspen, watching “The Boys in the Boat,” a movie I highly recommend. After many years of only watching movies on our home TV, it was amazing what a difference a large movie theatre screen makes.

FEBRUARY MEETING

**Saturday, February 17,
2024 at 1:00 PM**

**8312 Oakford Drive,
Springfield, VA 22152**

I am planning to head back to Aspen at the end of the month for a 3-day mogul clinic run by Bumps for Boomers. As many of you know, I participated in this program last year and skied some slopes that I never thought I could handle. This is the last year that Bumps for Boomers is offering this program. I am hoping that the Snowmass trip was a good warm-up for the rigors of the bumps and that I still have enough strength to endure three days of bump skiing. I will report on any new approaches that I have learned.

I enjoyed skiing with a large group of PVS members on the Snowmass trip and hope that all will return to Snowmass next year. Enjoy the remainder of the ski season! I hope to see many PVS members at our next meeting.

Cara Jablon



ExCom News

Inge Lesjak has resigned from her position on the ExCom Board and Jill Nelson has been appointed to serve the remainder of Inge's 2023-2025 ExCom term. Thank you Inge for serving and welcome Jill.

We have three candidates for the 2024-2026 ExCom term. These candidates are **Salli Diakova, Kathy Lake, and Don Vierimaa**, whose election will be held at the April annual meeting.

(In accordance with our By-Laws, 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.)

Following are the profiles of the nominees:

SALLI DIAKOVA - CANDIDATE FOR EXCOM

Skiing and spending time on the beach are my two favorite activities. My husband, Nick Young (also a PVS member), and I, moved to the US almost 30 years ago from Bulgaria and the UK. We live in Alexandria and the one thing I miss most from my days in Bulgaria is the proximity to mountains allowing me to spend most of the winter days on skis. In the US, I have been skiing mostly at Snowmass (since joining PVS) and Crested Butte, and have enjoyed visiting Lake Tahoe ski resorts in previous years.

I was an agricultural policy evaluation consultant and hold a doctorate in civil engineering. I retired in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Without the restriction of available vacation days, Nick and I plan to spend more time travelling and visiting with our children and grandchildren who live in the UK and Germany.

I am honored to be a candidate for ExCom and look forward to serving another term on ExCom, if elected.

KATHY LAKE – CANDIDATE FOR EXCOM

I was born in Cheverly, Maryland. However, most of my childhood was spent in Massachusetts, outside of Boston, which is where I first learned to ski. My high school and college years were in Ohio where I graduated from Miami University. After college, I moved back to the DC area to work on Capitol Hill. After a few years there, I decided to switch careers and became a real estate agent, which still keeps me busy today.

While originally learning to ski as a kid, I didn't take up skiing in earnest until Barry and I met. Both of us have enjoyed skiing together for over 35 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 a couple of ski trips a year, mostly to Colorado and Utah. We have also skied in France, Switzerland and Austria, as well as skiing on two trips to Canada.

Since joining PVS in 2015, we have thoroughly enjoyed numerous trips to Snowmass, having been trip leaders on at least seven of those trips. We have also had great fun on PVS trips to Val d'Isere, Steamboat, Big Sky, Sun Valley, and Snowbird/Alta. We are looking forward to many more PVS trips. I am presently the Ski Trip Coordinator and write *Ski Talk* for the TOOT.

Barry and I currently live in Oakton, Virginia with our collie girl, Vail. When not skiing or working, we also enjoy time at the beach.

I am honored to be asked to serve another term on ExCom.

DONALD VIERIMAA – CANDIDATE FOR EXCOM

I have been skiing off and on since 1954, growing up in Minnesota and using rope tows at a ski resort in Wisconsin. I really learned to ski in 1963 while working for Boeing in Washington State. I then skied little between the years 1965 to 1990. Since my sister lived in Denver in the 1990s, I would ski with my sister and brother-in-law and my brother from New Orleans. Around 2003, I joined the Chesapeake Chapter of the Over-The-Hill Gang and began skiing with them.

The Chesapeake Chapter dissolved and members formed the Capital Golden Skiers with myself as its president for eight years. Capital Golden Skiers dissolved and most members, including me, joined the Potomac Valley Skiers. My favorite ski resort is Snowmass. I cross-country ski whenever there is four inches or more of snow in the DC area.

My passions are family and friends, outdoors, music, travel, and science. I have a Bachelor of Physics degree from the University of Minnesota and worked in aerospace, education, railroad, and trucking industries. I retired January 1, 2000.

I am honored to be asked to serve another term on ExCom.

Coming Event

***The PVS Monthly Meeting is Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 1:00pm
at the home of Jan Marx***

8312 Oakford Dr., Springfield, VA 22152
703-314-7361 (cell) or 703-451-9158 (home)

FROM NORTH ON THE BELTWAY:

Take Exit 54A west onto Braddock Rd. Go to the fifth stop light and angle **left** onto Burke Lake Rd. Turn **left** at next stoplight onto Rolling Rd. Go to fourth stoplight and turn **left** onto Forrester Blvd. (called Hillside on the right side of Rolling). Go two short blocks and turn **right** onto Oakford Dr. (opposite the school on your left). Go about two blocks, past the Dead End sign to 8312 on your **left**.

FROM SHIRLEY HIGHWAY AND I-95:

Exit 95 SOUTH at Old Keene Mill Rd (Hwy 644) West. (Franconia Rd and the Mall go to the East.) Go to the seventh stoplight and turn **right** onto Rolling Rd. Go through one light, past McDonalds and turn **right** onto Roxbury Ave. (opposite the post office). Turn at the **second right** (road curves around to the left) onto Fenwood Dr. Go one block and dead end into Oakford Dr. Turn **right** and the house is the fourth on the **left**, 8312 Oakford Drive.

Fee of \$5.00 will be collected at the door. See you there!

Please RSVP to Jan if you plan to attend!

Past Ski Trip

Snowmass – January 10 to January 17, 2024

OK, let's spill the snowy beans on the 2024 Snowmass adventure! Picture this: loads of snow, low clouds, low temperatures, some fog, and plenty of wind. But you know what? Nothing could stop our diehard skiers from hitting the slopes. Snowmass gifted beautiful powder on our first day which formed an excellent base for the rest of the week, and we even caught occasional glimpses of sunshine, especially on the grand finale, our last day. Sadly, our ski fun got a bit bumpy with an unfortunate accident and some broken bones. Meanwhile the more cautious crew found joy in non-skiing activities, and everyone had time to mingle with friends, old and new.

Traveling midwinter always brings the potential for delays and the classic game of "Where's My Bag?". Some PVS members were delayed (sans a bag or two), and a few had to extend their stay thanks to canceled flights. But hey, we are seasoned pros and take these hiccups in our stride. Take Mary Ellena Ward and Jim Slack's journey home. They conquered the transportation Olympics with an initial RFTA bus trip, a 6-hour-late train dash (yes, they took the train!), and the synchronized planes routine (featuring the 1-hour and 3-hour late arrivals) – truly a gold medal performance! After all, who needs efficiency when you can have a magical mystery tour with spectacular scenery from the train and a touch of tardiness and time travel thrown in for good measure?

Now, let's talk about the Snowmass HQ – the Mountain Chalet hotel. It's been our go-to for years. Sure, there were some changes, good and bad. But the Mountain Chalet is unique and no matter the positive and negative quirks, it is an ideal location for a week of skiing - excellent ski in/ski out opportunities and proximity to Snowmass Mall, the Village, and easy bus connections to Aspen and other local ski centers. We mourned the disappearance of those complementary bathroom robes, which kind of dampened our hot tub dreams. And the burning question remains – how long can this accommodation streak keep rolling?

Kathy Lake hosted the Welcome Reception, setting the stage for the week ahead. With lift passes and ski patrol numbers in hand, we were all set to conquer the slopes. Rosemary Schwartzbard, our trailblazer, briefed us on the changes since our last visit and spilled the beans on local activities and restaurant hotspots.

Now, skiing preferences? We're all over the map – some like manicured trails, some crave bumps and moguls, and some want to zoom down the slopes while others like gentle carving at a leisurely pace. On our first ski day Snowmass delivered ample and forgiving powder of the highest quality and our various preferences for snow conditions were met during the week but sadly, those dreamy sunny skies played hard to get. Flat light and wild winds tested our skills, sparking debates on the best ski goggles and forcing careful navigation along the wooded sides of the slopes that offered more contrast and aided visibility.

Oh, the wind! It caused a few comical dismounts from the lifts and even turned Tom Tycz into a wind-driven snowball. Luckily, he bounced back with no serious injuries. One day the wind closed all the lifts on the upper mountain and several, luckily none of our crew, were stranded on the Alpine Springs lift because of mechanical failure.

An accident did happen, and we're sending healing vibes to Sharon Mulholland. Skiing in small groups is a must – just in case. Those skiing with Sharon quickly mobilized the ski patrol and associated medical services to get her to the clinic and local hospital for treatment. The ski patrol had its ups and downs. Sharon was dealt with efficiently. But Doug Lundgren and Rosemary Schwartzbard had different takes. Neither received requested Ski Patrol help when Doug was trying to coach a terrified newbie skier down the mountain, and Rosemary was helping a member hit by a double whammy of altitude sickness and anxiety. Talk about tackling the downsides of mountain adventures!

While we are talking about accidents, gold stars should be awarded to Burr Schuler and Dick Parlow who collided with each other last year. They were back for more and reportedly were overheard agreeing to ski different sides of the slope this year! They're rolling with it.

And props to the Schwartzbard/Nelson family for diving into Nordic skiing from the Snowmass Rec Center despite baggage delays. Few of us knew of that service.

Now let's talk about non-skiing activities.

- Books were devoured, games were conquered, and spas were visited (and preferred masseurs named!).
- Mary Ellena Ward led the January Bring Your Own Book Club with an all-star crew. She was joined by Bob Jablon, Marianne Soponis, Lexi Armao, and Bonnie Sweeney and on Zoom were Nancy McKinley, Ellie Thayer, Jan Marx, Dorian Janney, and Karen Knopes.
- Some stayed updated on NFL matches - as in previous years Barry and Kathy Lake occupied the best seats in the house.
- Sharon Mulholland chauffeured the squad (Bonnie Sweeney, Mary Elena Ward, and Marianne Soponis) to Sunday services at Snowmass Chapel.
- A small number braved the hot tub to experience frozen hair and hands freezing to the rails.
- Some took advantage of the free public transport to Aspen for restaurant, museum and shop exploration (the Wheeler/Stallard Museum is a must).

And of course, Kathy and Barry arranged the Saturday night pizza party. Members shared good times and memories with the help of our facilitator Marianne Soponis. The grand finale? At the Farewell Dinner in the Artisan Restaurant Bonnie Sweeney presented gifts to Kathy and Barry in appreciation of all the work they had put in to make this another successful Snowmass trip. Thanks were said there were goodbyes all around.

Until next time, Snowmass – once more you've been epic!

Submitted by Nick Young

Postscript: On a non-humorous note, current reports suggest at least 10 of our members, including yours truly, returned home to test positive for Covid! Wishing all of us a rapid recovery.







February 2024 SKI TALK

SKI SAFETY by *Kathy Lake*

The Ski Patrol should be your friend. It is so important to have the Ski Patrol number with you while skiing, and saved in your cell phone. During our recent trip to Snowmass three of our club members ending up having to call the Ski Patrol. Many of you may have heard by now that Sharon Mulholland unfortunately fell and broke her leg. Her skiing buddies quickly realized the seriousness of the situation and immediately called Ski Patrol. When the Ski Patrol arrived, Sharon was evaluated and taken to the Snowmass Clinic and then on to Aspen Hospital. Later that day Barry ended up running in to one of the Patrols who assisted getting Sharon down the mountain. She was very concerned about Sharon and wanted to follow up on her status. Barry took her number in order to give her updates. Over the course of the next day or so, she continued to check in and wanted to make sure that Sharon was receiving good care. It was so refreshing to know that the Ski Patrol was so concerned. Kudos to Charmaine with the Snowmass Ski Patrol for her compassion and concern! A Very Big Kudo to the PVS group skiing with Sharon!



Earlier in the week there were two other calls to Ski Patrol with not quite as satisfactory a response. Rosemary was skiing with another member who was having issues and fell on the trail, then was having trouble getting back up. So, Rosemary called Ski Patrol for help. They asked if the person was hurt or not and, if not hurt, then they really couldn't help due to what was described as more pressing concerns. Luckily, a Good Samaritan came by to help them out.

A day or so later Doug came upon a very beginner skier, apparently on her 1st day, all by herself and totally out of control. She didn't know how to stop or slow down. So, Doug called the Ski Patrol and was told that they were working on more important situations. Per chance, a ski instructor happened by and helped the young lady down the slope.

The moral of these two stories is that if you think a situation is serious enough to call Ski Patrol, then it is. Trust your gut! Let Ski Patrol know that it is a serious situation and that help is needed. You are not a doctor, well most of us aren't, and therefore we can't assess the situation. The expertise of the Ski Patrol is necessary.

Kudos to Rosemary for helping a friend! Kudos to Doug for helping another skier!

Ski safely and don't hesitate to call Ski Patrol when needed!!!



PVS - BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) group

Hmmmm... Skiing? Or reading? For some of us, it's both! Just look at the PVS January BYOB Zoom gathering. Five PVSers took time out from skiing at Snowmass to join in the book chat. How fun is that? And you too can join from wherever you happen to be. Join us on Zoom for our monthly (no commitment) chat about our latest and greatest reads. See the info below and come along via Zoom **next time on Thursday, February 8th from 4 to 5 pm.**

Books we discussed in January:

Karen Knopes brought a little book by a highly acclaimed Irish writer, Claire Keegan. Keegan's tiny novel (novella?), "Small Things Like These" displays Keegan's "clear as crystal" expository writing in her fable-like story within the backdrop of unwed mothers in Ireland. **5***

Mary Ellena Ward dug into her interest in Jane Austen by finding Austen's juvenile writing. As a teenager, Austen produced a few pieces that show her penchant for farce and that she could be other than just prim and proper. Mary Ellena thought that, unless you are a die-hard Austen fan, these may not be for you. **3***

Ellie Thayer tried another in the series "The Thursday Murder Club" by Richard Osman. Ellie quipped that this third in the series set in a retirement home, "The Bullet That Missed," actually missed Ellie herself. The "preposterous" plot warranted a rating of **3.5***.

Lexi Armao has been reading about an extraordinary man's efforts to extricate the wrongly accused from life imprisonment and Death Row in "Just Mercy." In this award-winning memoir, Bryan Stevenson describes his beginnings as a young idealistic Black lawyer who later founded the Equal Justice Initiative to continue his work for the disadvantaged in prisons. **5***

Dorian Janney brought a "light read for a cold night." "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" by Taylor Jenkins Reid chronicles the life of a socialite with modest beginnings who makes a life for herself in Hollywood with many twists and turns. **4***

Jan Marx, though always on the lookout for books set in Minnesota, this month chose to tell us about "Impartial Witness" by Charles Todd. This well-written mystery, set in World War I, concerns a nurse on leave in a small town outside of London where she meets people connected to her family. **5***

Bonnie Sweeney has been traveling and researching. Her trip to Iceland led her to read "On Time and Water" by Andri Magnason. The author weaves the history and culture of Iceland

with the story of his family. The culture and the extraordinary geology of Iceland were an engaging read. 5*

Bob Jablon has delved into "The Times," by New York Times political reporter, Adam Nagourney. Nagourney lays out how the Times weathered scandal and dramatic changes within journalism over the past 40 years and notes how the owners and editors influenced what has gotten printed. 5*

Nancy McKinley lugged around 700+ page epic "The Covenant of Water" by Abraham Verghese though never resented the time it took to enjoy this story set in India across 70 years from 1900. British rule and the caste system all play a part in this tale along with a medical mystery. 5*

Marianne Sponis wants to tell us about a book by her neighbor, John Reeves, called "Soldier of Destiny" about Ulysses S. Grant and she will when she reads it first! Next time, Marianne!



The next BYOB Zoom call will be held on Thursday, February 8th from 4 to 5 pm. Let Nancy McKinley know at nancymckin@gmail.com or on 703 595 8375 if you'd like to join us or if you have questions or comments.

MEMBERS' CORNER

An Icelandic Adventure by Kathy and Barry Lake



A few years ago, Barry and I were planning to go to Iceland to celebrate our 30th anniversary. Well, that was in 2020 and we all know what happened that year! So, our plans were tabled and research was saved. Fast forward to October of 2023, we started seeing ads for trips to Iceland. One from Icelandair caught our attention and we decided to make it an anniversary/birthday trip in December - 4 days in Reykjavik with multiple tours included.

After a 6-hour flight we arrived in Reykjavik. Then after 2 bus rides, we thought we would be dropped off at our hotel, instead it was on a darkened street corner, with no hotel in sight, at what seemed like the middle of the night. Our adventure was about to begin. It was then 8:30am and still dark, as sunrise wasn't until around 11:40am. Our bus driver was not very helpful in directing us to our hotel; in fact, he wanted to send us in the wrong direction. We stood on the deserted sidewalk with our bags trying to figure out which direction to go. My cell phone was no help since the international travel plan had not kicked in yet. Barry spotted a photographer taking pictures of the Christmas displays and asked if he knew where our hotel was. He hadn't heard of it. After a few more minutes of us fumbling through papers and fooling with the cell phone, the photographer took mercy on us, looked it up on his phone and pointed us in the right direction. Luckily it was just a few short blocks away!

One of the displays that the photographer was taking pictures of was the Christmas Cat. Icelandic Folklore has it that a black cat will eat naughty children! During the next few days we would see groups of pre-school children walking around and playing near the cat display. One morning we could see a boy crying and trying to pull away, obviously afraid of it. Hope Santa was good to him.



So, after breakfast and a short nap we were ready to hit the road. We were originally supposed to have gone directly to the Blue Lagoon from the airport, but the earthquakes that were occurring and the fear of a volcanic eruption put an end to that plan. In retrospect we were glad to have had the time for breakfast and the nap. Instead, we spent the afternoon at the Perlan Museum – Wonders of Iceland.



The first presentation was the Northern Lights Planetarium Show. The "Goddess Aurora" was guiding us through the galaxy explaining how/why the Northern Lights occur. It was like a trip through the solar system! Amazing! Next stop was a walk through an ice cave. And yes, it was cold! Time to warm up watching a film of a live volcanic eruption. On the upper level of the museum is a 360-degree outdoor observation deck with fabulous views of the city and beyond. It was a great way to spend our first day in Iceland.

Heading back to the hotel, jet lag was definitely setting in. So, we decided not to venture out for dinner. Instead, we had a hot dog from the famous Icelandic Boejarins Beztu Pylsur hot dog stand which was just outside our

hotel. The delicious hot dog was made of ground lamb, beef and pork, which we washed down with a fine local beer.

Next day was The Golden Circle Tour, which was an 8-hour bus ride with four stops. En route to the first stop we could see the Blue Mountain ski resort off in the distance. We had some thoughts about what it would be like to ski Iceland, but we were less than convinced that it would be worth the travel time to ski partly in the dark.

Our first stop was the Friðheimar Greenhouse where various types of tomatoes, from grape (Piccolo) to heirloom, are grown all year around. It's a very interesting process. The roots are put in sponge containers and when the plant gets tall enough, it is "hung" from the ceiling and the stalks are allowed to grow continuously, with most being much longer than 10 feet and are very thick (saw some stalks that were at least 1-1 ¼" thick. 80% of the tomatoes are consumed in Iceland with 20% being exported. They use bees imported from the Netherlands to cross-pollinate the tomato plants with other flowers grown in the greenhouses. Outside the greenhouse were some Icelandic horses, which are short and stocky, compared to those in the U.S, that they have been breeding and showing since 1995.



Next stop was the Geyser geothermal area with lots of geysers. Awesome! Can't say that these geysers have anything up on Old Faithful in Yellowstone though. Being atop all the volcanic and plate shifting activity with its related steam generation has provided all the citizens of Iceland a number of advantages. First it was said that every household in the country gets its heating – free - by virtue of harvesting all the geothermal energy (i.e., steam). As we traveled through the countryside, it wasn't unusual to see steam "furnaces" in the yards of the properties that we passed by. Additionally, they harness the steam to produce electricity, which is provided to all citizens at a reduced rate, and even with that they are able to sell 80% of the electricity generated to other countries.

Third stop was the Gullfoss waterfall, which is actually a double waterfall. It was beautiful to see and one of many, many waterfalls throughout the country, which can be visited during the non-winter periods when travel is less daunting.



Last stop was the Thingvellir National Park where you can see and walk along the tectonic plates, where the North American and European plates meet up. It was said

that they are spreading apart 2 cms per year, which causes some of the seismic activity periodically. Quite interesting to walk along and see that.

It was a long, but very interesting and educational day. Our tour guide would point out various sites of interest and give historical bits of information as we traveled along. The land of fire and ice is such an interesting country. Through the years Iceland has been under Norwegian and Danish rule. In 1944 Iceland gained independence from Denmark.



The morning of our third day we spent at the Sky Lagoon, which is just on the outskirts of Reykjavik. It was such a relaxing and enjoyable way to spend a few hours. The lagoon with geothermal heated water is like an infinity pool that overlooks a bay that flows into the ocean. Absolutely gorgeous views!



Our package tour had originally included a visit to the Blue Lagoon, which was closed indefinitely due to seismic activity near a volcano. Over 3,000 residents were evacuated from the neighboring town of Grindavik. After we returned home the volcano did eventually erupt. Scientists are still closely monitoring the activity.

After a relaxing morning at Sky Lagoon, we ventured to a Lava Show where a display of an actual lava flow was demonstrated. Fascinating! Then we walked over to Flyover Iceland. After being strapped in to our seats, the experience was about to begin. It is a simulated ride over the entire country. This gave us the opportunity to see

parts of Iceland in various seasons that we weren't going to see in person on this trip.

In addition to the famous hot dogs, we wanted to try other Icelandic dishes. One night we had fish and chips at The Reykjavik Fish & Chips Restaurant. Fish, probably cod, tasted so fresh and delicious. The chips - not so much. But who goes to Iceland for French fries. Another evening we had a lamb platter at Bistro 101. It was very good. The lamb tasted a little different from lamb in the U.S., but not a lot. The Icelandic sheep are all free range and are supposed to have a different taste. At the airport before boarding the plane we had a reindeer burger. Quite tasty.

Now it was time to see Northern Lights. Our package included a boat ride out away from the city to better see the lights. The tour was canceled the first night due to cloudy skies. The second night our tour was on. Unfortunately, after a few hours out, there were no sightings. However, we did see the Peace Light that Yoko Ono had erected as a memorial to her husband, John Lennon. The tour company has a policy that if there is a cancellation or if there are no sightings you can rebook, which is exactly what we did. So, our third night

(three's a charm, right?) we went out again. This time the trip was successful! We were finally able to see the Northern Lights!

Our stay in Iceland was coming to a close. We never did adjust to the limited sunlight. While we were there, sunrise was at 11:40am and sunset at 3:40pm. It felt like the middle of the night most mornings. Some locals say it's worse in summer with sunlight all the time that makes it hard to sleep at night.

On our last morning, we walked up to Rainbow Street, a very colorful and vibrant area with many shops and cafes. At the top of the street you could see the huge Hallgrimskirkja Cathedral, the largest church in Iceland. Then it was time to make our way to the airport for our flight home. In our time there we managed to do and see everything that we wanted to. It was an awesome trip! Would highly recommend. By the way, our tour guide on the boat to see the Northern Lights told us that the solar system is supposed to be the strongest in 2024 and that October – December could be the best time to see the Northern Lights! Well worth the trip!



Calendar

Thu Feb 8 BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) Zoom at 4:00 p.m., N. McKinley
Sat Feb 17 PVS Meeting at 1:00 p.m. hosted by Jan Marx.
Tue Mar 19 EXCOM ZOOM meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Ski Trips:

January 8-16, 2025, PVS Snowmass Trip: K. & B Lake

ExCom Officers, Board
Members, and Chairpersons

| Officers: | Chairpersons: |
|---|--|
| President – <i>Cara Jablon</i> Vice Pres. – <i>Bob Jablon</i> Secretary – <i>Ellie Thayer</i> Treasurer – <i>Dick Schwartzbard</i> Ex Officio – <i>Barry Lake</i> | Events – <i>Marianne Sophonis</i> Membership Records – <i>Barry Lake</i> Ski Trip Committee – <i>Kathy Lake</i> |
| Board Members: <u>First Term 2022-24:</u> <i>Kathy Lake</i> <i>Salli Diakova</i> <i>Don Vierimaa</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> |
| <u>Second Term 2023-25:</u> <i>Bob Knopes</i> <i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i> <i>Jill Nelson</i> | Webmaster – <i>Mary Ellena Ward</i> Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</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.